

Results of Online Public Survey re Stewardship Education Speaker Series

Between August 31, 2023 and September 15, 2023, the public was invited to undertake a survey regarding topics for the Stewardship Education Speaker Series in 2024-2025.

Three hundred and one members of the public completed the survey. One hundred and forty-two respondents supplied extra suggestions for the speaker series topics.

Appendix A features the raw data of all responses to Question 2.

Appendix B of this report includes the full text of the survey.

Where duplicate answers exist, they were provided in different survey responses.

About this Survey

What is the purpose of this survey? Islands Trust is seeking feedback on topics for its next virtual speaker series.

Islands Trust has offered online education from time to time. Previous topics included eelgrass protection, ecosystem-based adaptation, and rainwater harvesting. The Islands Trust Conservancy has also completed a speaker series. All recordings can be found on the Stewardship Education webpage.

What happens to your input? Staff will provide the feedback to Trust Programs Committee who will consider topics for future speaker series, and consider whether to support a speaker series in 2024-2025.

Survey length: Two minutes to complete (estimate).

Survey deadline: September 15, 2023 at 11:59 pm

Navigating the survey: Please use the 'preview' and 'next' buttons at the bottom of each page to navigate the survey, answer questions, and review your responses. When finished, please go to the final page and click 'submit'.

Thank you for your participation, we value your feedback!

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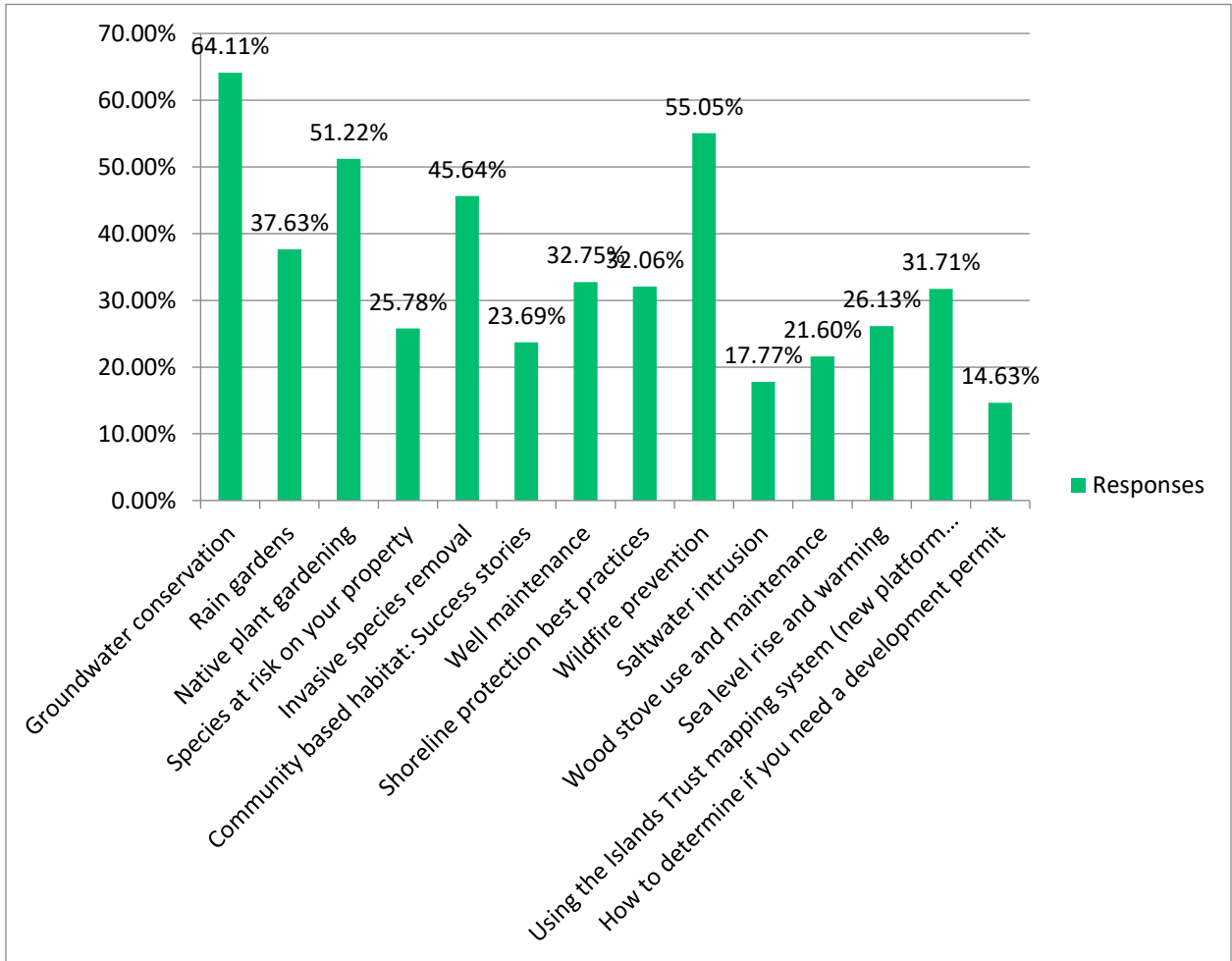
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Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Question 1:

In no particular order, below is a list of previously suggested topics.
Which topics would you like to learn more about? Select all that apply.

287 Responses



The top five responses for Question 1 were as follows:

Groundwater Conservation – 184 responses

Wildfire Prevention – 158 responses

Native Plan Gardening – 147 responses

Invasive Species Removal – 131 responses

Rain Gardens – 108 responses

Question 2:

Below, please list additional topics you would be interested in

147 Responses

Comments given can be grouped in several broad themes:

Listed in no particular order

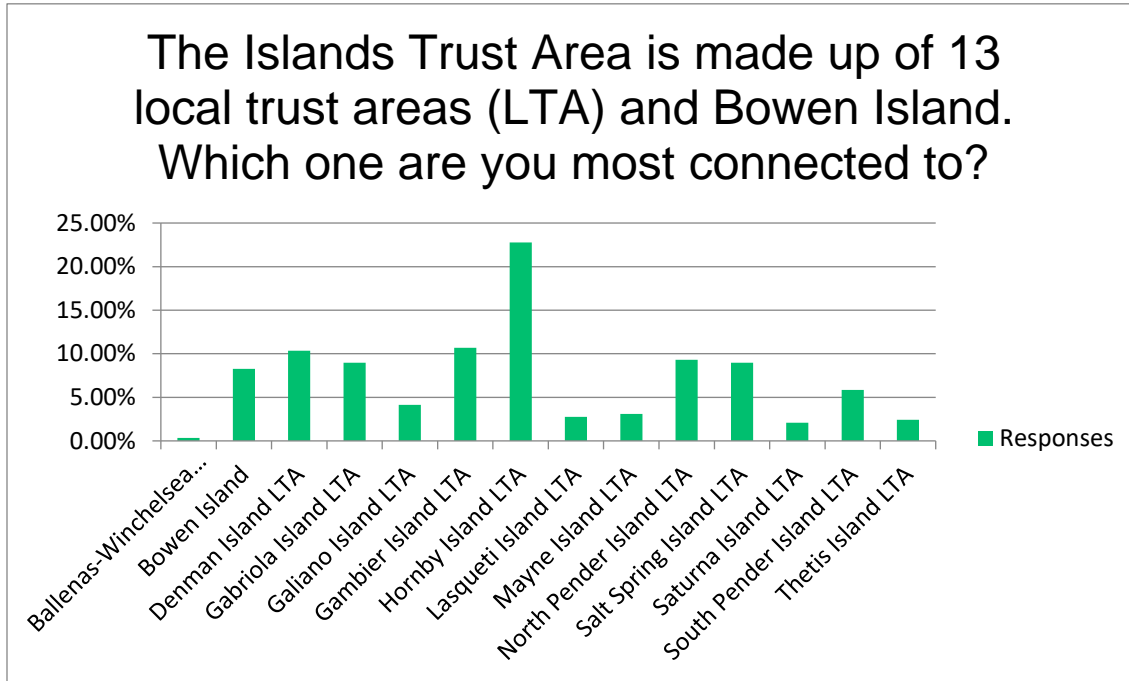
- Wildfires, & FireSmart
- Water collection and disposal
- Septic systems and alternatives
- Ecosystem protection and restoration
- Islands Trust Governance, management and fiscal responsibility
- Affordable Housing
- Marine jurisdiction and protection
- Native History/First Nations
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Electromagnetic radiation (EMF)
- Wildlife
- Planning
- Other

NOTE: The original full text of all comments can be found in **Appendix B** of this report

Question 3:

The Islands Trust Area is made up of 13 local trust areas (LTA) and Bowen Island. Which one do you feel most connected with?

290 Responses



The top six responses for Question 3 were as follows:

Hornby Island LTA - 66 responses

Gambier Island LTA – 31 responses

Denman Island LTA – 30 responses

North Pender Island LTA – 27 responses

Gabriola Island LTA – 26 responses

South Pender Island LTA – 26 responses

Appendix A: Question 2

Below, please list additional topics you would be interested in:

- Carbon Footprint of my home
- No camping on Bowen Island
- All above apply, yet the topic of choice is to secure stewardship in whole -as a path to protect and support health for all. Please support the determination of a council in stewardship - that a community be selected internationally to provide care for land in all communities.
- I think TC would benefit from a presentation by Deborah Curran of the UVIC Environmental Law Society. She is an informative and engaging speaker.
- electrosmog or EMF radiation dangers from cell towers. Please consider licensed EMF professional Chris Anderson from Salt Spring as a virtual speaker.
- electro smog from cell towers
- Rainwater harvesting and water purification systems.
- EMF radiation dangers from cell towers and home routers - who is most vulnerable and what is the actual everyday risk? (check with William Thomas)
- How to protect a small island of finite resources from the ravages of a tourist dependent economy?
- Affordable housing for all full time residents.
- The need for tourist accommodation control on finite-ecology gulf islands.
- Gray water use
- Personal privacy and surveillance cameras.
- Trails along the sides roads for more enjoyable walks, not paved but safe to walk. No ebikes or motorized vehicles, perhaps a few small signs that point out things of interest, like kinds of trees our ant nest types etc.
- Electrical alternatives to burning wood and propane for heat.
- Native history of Hornby Island
- Managing Tourism: i.e How much is healthy for our island? How do we control bad behaviour of tourists? How can we control the number of rentals? (develop a plan and a strategy, no matter how contentious the issue!)
- About Indigenous wildlife
- Greywater systems feasibility and cost
- Trustee engagement with the community:
 - ie: Open hall meetings
 - ie: Q & A sessions without the restrictive formal format of IT meetings.
 - ie: Regular office hours - drop-in access to trustees
 - ie: Opportunities to facilitate open dialogues between islanders and trustees

- ie: A more visible trustee presence within the community.
- Indigenous stewardship and location specific indigenous land relationship and activities.
- Community grant access and disclosure around recipients
- I think it would be great to have a discussion on e-bikes and their (both good and bad) impact on the trust area. e-bikes are allowing many islanders to go car-free for much of their errands, and e-bikes have priority loading on the ferries.
- Greenhouse gas reduction
- Compost curbside collection
- Re-cycling curbside collection
- Waste curbside collection
- Indigenous historical site stewardship.
- Funded Indigenous youth and family engagement programs. Reconciliation efforts to facilitate indigenous relationship to the island. Token events and speakers are not enough.
- Rain catchment - personal and community (reservoir developement)
- Grey water recycling
- Managing air pollution
- Countering automobile dependency - community planning
- Rethinking community planning
- Better understand the role of the islands trust
- How many of the above topics are under the UN Agenda 21? Agenda 2030? I ask as rules are planet wide yet we each live in micro climates. Agenda 2030 is about control, not the environment, not sustainability.
- Riparian Areas Regulations
- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
 - EVACUATION measures
 - REDUCE WILDFIRE fuel from private and public AND ALR lands
 - GROUND WATER AND WELL WATER issues and concerns
- How to navigate a critical health emergency where you have to leave the island for a hospital.
- Legalizing STVR
- Review of existing bylaws wrt various land categories (alr, residential etc.) and sizes (small lot, large lot).
- freighter anchorage impacts
- I have no idea what the IT mapping system is. Can't check that without information
- In each discussion...would be great if there is a To Do List:
- How to get started?
- How to move forward on issues?
- What can we ask Gov at all levels to do?

- Watershed protection!
- Creating and keeping track of native species inventories and how societies in Keats Island may promote research
- Preserving the forests on public and private land
- Fire-resistant plants for this (Saturna Island) zone. Thank you
- Affordable Housing strategies for Gulf Islanders.
- How the Islands Trust came about and how they fit in with other levels of government.
- prevention and response to interface fires
- How to run government in a maximally efficient manner by shrinking the size of bureaucracy. This survey and the virtual speaker series are a prime example of something that falls well beyond the scope of what most taxpayers want from the Islands Trust. This highlights the extent of the problem, in that the Trust doesn't even for a moment consider this could be a waste of taxpayer dollars.
- Bylaw enforcement procedures
- We, and the Islands Trust, needs a speaker on fiscal responsibility. Also the need to hire some business admin and commerce grads to teach staff about financial planning and expenditures matching 2% inflation targets
- Community cohesion, communication strategies.
- Emergency planning specific to S Pender where we only have one bridge and one road.
- Meaning of "preserve and protect" in the Islands Trust mandate.
- Creating neighbourhood conservation ownership. Neighbourhoods are a common interests group that can be responsible for conservation in their area.
- Affordable housing. Bylaw enforcement against STVRs. Ferries and tourist traffic.
- Emergency planning, preparedness around climate change induced extreme weather events
- Effectively addressing inadequate affordable housing stock and insecure housing
- Changing framework for conservation to include ecological footprint rather than density as currently defined "
- "Mammals, birds, reptiles that we share the island with. Their needs and how we can support their habitat on our properties to offset for fragmenting their habitats.
- Climate change and what direction it is projected to be taking the forest species (plant and animal) on the island.
- Diverting grey water to create swales as firebreaks on the downhill sides of our homes. Would include how to make swales, how to FireSmart a property, how to filter grey water for garden purposes.
- sustainable island tourism
- Relationship between historic zoning and property values, versus contemporary knowledge and trends: groundwater protection, archaeological discoveries.
- Forest stewardship and restoration

- Working towards sustainability but changing our accepted habits and permit processes.
- How do we get CRD to recognize rainwater collection in permitting process?
- How do we get CRD to recognize composting in permitting process?
- Reducing Island Development
- We have a reliable spring and sufficient storage capacity for water and neither have nor need a well. I am not sure what community based habitat means - communities providing habitat for flora and/or fauna? I am not aware that we have any species at risk or significant invasive species. We are currently planning protection for a part of our our trail and boat shed. Wildfires are a major concern and we are cautious and well informed. What we cannot control is neighbours and the public. We are located in the 93% of Gambier's private property that is water access only and no public roads or trails at all but that doesn't always stop people from hiking so they are of concern when we have been without measurable rain for so long and the forests are so dry. I might be interested in the mapping systems - what I have found in the past wasn't very useful or informative.
- Protecting water from sewage
- Over tourism and how it negatively impacts small communities.
- Suggestions for what to do with woody debris generated by FireSmarting your property
- composting
- our biogeoclimatic zone
- climate change expectations for our islands and what we can do to mitigate negative impacts
- aquifers
- Protecting forests on private and public lands
- Fostering healthy forest ecosystems
- Permaculture
- Alternatives to burning wood and plant waste
- Ecological trail development
- Historical native plant habitat& usage (indigenous)")"
- Wetland protection, restoration, creation, and use (including as green infrastructure)
- Process to disband the Trust.
- Food security and vegetable gardening for climate change
- Alternates to grass that are not a fire hazard but require little to no water.
- The OCP and how it helps us manage our island.
- How to protect your forest/land with selective thinning and berming.
- Water storage - cisterns, rain barrels, dugouts, ponds. How to build them, how to maintain them and regulatory hurdles.
- What our woods and landscape were like pre-contact say 1850's. Then how to restore this condition

- I am concerned that Island Trust has taken on too many issues for its resources and as a result, lacks effectiveness. For instance, when I ask about ship anchorages, I am told about Island Trust official policy and past actions. That is NOT effective when more ships are staying for longer times and the Tsawwassen coal port is expanding. Meanwhile, Puget Sound has much less ship anchorage due in part to a major residents backlash. WHERE IS AN ON-GOING SALISH SEA LOBBY? I would like to see effectiveness measures for each of Island Trust major priorities showing actual to goal measures reported annually.
- I am interested in how we can encourage governments (Provincial) to put policies in place that better protect our forests and oceans. I want to learn more about opportunities for advocacy
- Environmental baselining to measure the effects of climate change.
- The importance of acting locally to do our part in dealing with the climate catastrophe.
- - importance of protecting wetlands on the Gulf Island and ways to protect
- beavers - the new wildfire prevention hero and all round ecosystem protector
- detecting misinformation about our coastal Douglas fir ecosystem
- Deer population control
- Creating habitat like rock and brush piles
- Wildfire risk reduction
- Wildfire fighting on DCDF islands
- Generating Tidal energy for Desalination
- How to be resilient and adaptable in the face of climate change as a topic. Resilient ecosystems. Success stories of our islands forests. And for the education series by Islands Trust, there was not any feedback on the presentations as far as I know. As an example, the Conservancy webinars had to report feedback because half the funding came from the federal government. IT should do the same.
- forest conservation and reforestation for drought tolerance
- Making sense of densities and density transfers
- That's already lots of good topics!
- Bylaw enforcement
- Local economic development opportunities
- How to meet known (2018 housing needs assessments) housing needs within the Islands Trust? The IT has a mandate to preserve and protect nature AND communities. How does the IT make this possible? How will the IT make this possible?
- Citizen Science programs in the Gulf Islands
- invasive species removal including feral sheep
- Building a boat dock
- Effective local governance

- Weirs, Mudge Island tidal road, tidal electric projects, Bridge between Islands, desalination plants, rainwater collection, species overpopulation, grey water black water best practices
 - "Rainwater harvesting - non-potable and potable. How do regulations affect the use of water collection as "proof of water" for domestic use.
 - Healthy septic systems. New processing systems and how they can be used.
 - Composting toilets.
 - I would suggest Gord Baird (CRD) for both of these talks.
 - I suggest that the Islands Trust should focus on these kinds of practical issues.
 - (The ITC and Parks Canada cover Invasive Species, Species at Risk etc.)
-
- I like the idea of success stories - what about the statistics that I mentioned in an email I sent to Director Clare Frater (copied to Morgana van Niekerk).
 - Build a presentation around those numbers - and the covenanted areas, the conservancies- and the huge areas of Park.
 - What the Trust looks like really - emphasis on the good !
 - Thanks for this opportunity.
 - Carrying capacity of the islands, how is this determined/defined.
 - importance of wetlands
 - Housing for seniors, housing for employees of Island based businesses.
 - Indigenous land « gardening »
 - Beaver relationship to wetlands"
 - Gabriola Deforestation Policy, Soil Retention on Severe Slopes
 - I believe that transparent education series is a mechanism that will enhance awareness if I.T. Goals and purposes
 - Protecting the lands ability to absorb rainwater so it becomes groundwater
 - An overview of how our islands are governed. How are decisions made? How can individuals have input?
 - No speaker series should be funded with property tax money until the IT's corporate plan is in place. Then no speaker series should be approved or funded until previous speaker presentations have been clearly shown to have explicit goals, performance metrics, verifiable positive outcomes, and annual review for effectiveness.
 - This endeavor is not necessary
 - native bees/pollinators
 - Home solar energy
 - Community clean energy initiatives, mature tree protection on residential properties
 - Alternative housing - Secondary suites with less restrictions - in accessory buildings, above garages, cabins, tiny homes, trailers, etc. RV / Mobile home park. Open your eyes. It is needed and works well all over our province.

- the community/environmental impact of tree clearing and how to best preserve our inhabited forest while making space for housing and gardens
- What is the situation with our island's freshwater sustainability (good, bad, indifferent)?
- Rain Water Collection and how to replace groundwater use with rainwater - no potable water on gardens, using rainwater to flush toilets, etc.
- i would like more of an island based discussion group series regarding issues on our particular island. ie where we can discuss as a group what our goals are both environmentally but also economically, socially. ie how we can develop more affordable housing. how will glow so warming is affecting our island . maybe look at group efforts on invasive species as we could really make a difference in this if we as a group put in more effort. anyway. i think we need some talks looking not just in the environment but also looking at the people. and how people are surviving. and how we could support our businesses andjelo our farms, restaurant etc continue.
- Climate change impacts expected on the islands
- Drought mitigation practices
- Making properties flood and heat-wave resilient
- Effect of tree removal on the water cycle and groundwater supply
- Understanding indigenous world view that was able to integrate with nature - how can we newcomers learn from that
- Limits to population growth on the gulf islands va “buildout”
- How to form groups and inspire/lead positive change and volunteerism
- The role of the Islands Trust...and the complaint process. I'm always surprised at what people get away with (even after being reported) with seemingly little consequence.
- I am interested in the saving of trees to help mitigate the effects of climate change. I realize that property owners are allowed remove trees without additional permission but should this be allowed to continue. Some municipalities no longer allow property owners to remove trees without permission. Is it time tree removal requires permission on our islands?
- How Island Trust can help us with housing for the islands' homeless and/or insecurely housed citizens.
- How to set up a rainwater collection system on your property and associated costs, available grants and suppliers to purchase from.
- Workforce Housing
- "Solar and other alternate energy systems
- Composting toilets and greywater systems
- History and function of Islands Trust"
- Engagement with Aboriginal Nations, vision and impacts to Trust policies. Developing housing security within overall Trust policy and how to ensure OCP's support this issue. Climate Crisis / Wildfire impacts and mitigation.

- Concrete cisterns & rainwater collection. Cleaning of cisterns, recommended water filtration systems.
- Rainwater collection system maintenance
- Putting water collection in all new builds as part of a building permit restricting well use measuring well use charging for well. Use dealing with industrial use Winery's Cidery's and the impact on the water table.
- "Importance of maintaining wetlands, and not draining or filling them
- Importance of forest cover to land, and how to help forests be fire resistant
- Pretty much any other topic on ecological care and importance of maintaining natural ecosystems as much as possible."
- "Importance of Forest protection
- What is the Island Trust & why is it important to preserve & protect?
- How is climate change impacting the Gulf Islands "
- Shore Power and Shore Charging Infrastructure
- "Wildfire response
- Climate change- key effects on Islands Trust ecosystems (forests, wildlife, water supply)"
- rain water harvesting
- Reducing animal ag on gulf islands (while increasing vegetable/fruit/nut farming)
- Reintroduction of native species, indigenous stewardship promising practices, localizing food production, reducing fossil fuel use
- rainwater collection and use.
- Garbage, styrofoam etc washing up on our beaches
- Cohabitation with our water and land wildlife and environment. ie:
- What to do when sea life or eagles, wildlife, etc are in distress.
- Can we spray the shoreline with salt water when super hot temperatures and extra low tides threaten sea life. What to do/who to contact when witnessing illegal dumping, threatening behaviour to sea life by boaters.
- How does being a community within the Islands Trust affect zoning /landuse planning for community ie long term care and low income housing and does the islands trust interact or coordinate with PHC and Island Health...
- Increasing bio-literacy initiatives. OUTREACH.
- Anything restoration or conservation related. Climate effects on biodiversity and ways to mitigate
- Culling fallow deer. They are an Invasive species not native to the gulf islands. They were introduced by early European settlers to hunt.
- Process to remove "problem" trees (dead/dying, dangerous/leaning, damaging foundations or septic field...) including lag time or delays in permitting
- fire fighting water, wild fire evacuation, Emergency Muster locations, Unified command structure

- Affordable housing: What is the Islands Trust's role, what isn't the Trust's role, what are the roles of other levels of government, examples of effective regulations (that support affordable housing while not also opening the door to rampant development, and while protecting groundwater and ecosystems); examples of affordable housing initiatives in the Trust Area
- The importance of trees and forests and how to protect them
- What can we learn from Indigenous Traditional Knowledge that will help us live on our land in more sustainable ways?
- I would likely only participate if it was a topic that was unique to the Trust and the Trust Area. For most of the topics above, I can find plenty of info via a Google search (including good info from the ITC site).
- Protecting native plants on your property. Not cutting down trees, pulling out salal etc, but incorporating them in the landscape
- Conservation covenants and wildfire prevention

Appendix B: Survey Text

About this Survey

What is the purpose of this survey? Islands Trust is seeking feedback on topics for its next virtual speaker series.

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Share your ideas

Islands Trust has offered on-island and virtual education sessions from time to time since 2017. Islands Trust is soliciting ideas from the public on topics for its next stewardship education speaker series.

1. In no particular order, below is a list of previously suggested topics. Which topics would you like to learn more about? Select all that apply.

- Groundwater conservation
- Native plant gardening
- Rain gardens
- Species at risk on your property
- Invasive species removal
- Community based habitat: Success stories
- Well maintenance
- Shoreline protection best practices
- Wildfire prevention
- Saltwater intrusion
- Wood stove use and maintenance
- Sea level rise and warming
- Using the Islands Trust mapping system (new platform to be launched in 2024)
- Determining if you need a development permit

2. Below, please list additional topics you would be interested in:

3. The Islands Trust Area is made up of 13 local trust areas (LTA) and Bowen Island. Which one do you feel most connected with?

- Ballenas-Winchelsea Island LTA
- Bowen Island
- Denman Island LTA
- Gabriola Island LTA
- Galiano Island LTA

- Gambier Island LTA
- Hornby Island LTA
- Lasqueti Island LTA
- Mayne Island LTA
- North Pender Island LTA
- Salt Spring Island LTA
- South Pender Island LTA
- Thetis Island LTA

[insert Islands Trust Area map]

Thank you for your participation

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Give Us Feedback Anytime

We'd like to hear from you! Any time you'd like to give us feedback, go to:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/contact-us/share-your-views/>

Click the **DONE** button below to finalize your survey!