

Conservation status of Gabriola Island Local Trust Area

The Gabriola Island Local Trust Area is one of 13 local trust areas and island municipalities that make up the Islands Trust Area. The Gabriola Island Local Trust Area, located six kilometers east of Nanaimo, includes 20 other islands such as Mudge, DeCourcy, Entrance and the Flat Top Islands. It is within the traditional territories of numerous First Nations who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial.

Gabriola's beautiful and vibrant islands are home to some of British Columbia's rarest ecosystems, which are facing continued impacts from habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change.

The Islands Trust Conservancy does "nature check-ups" to measure the state of island ecosystems to see how well we are meeting the Islands Trust's mandate to "preserve and protect". Guided by a science-based Regional Conservation Plan, our work is important because, like the species and habitats that support us, the quality of human life depends on ecosystem health. We all have a part to play in protecting these fragile islands in the Salish Sea for future generations.

Species at risk



Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

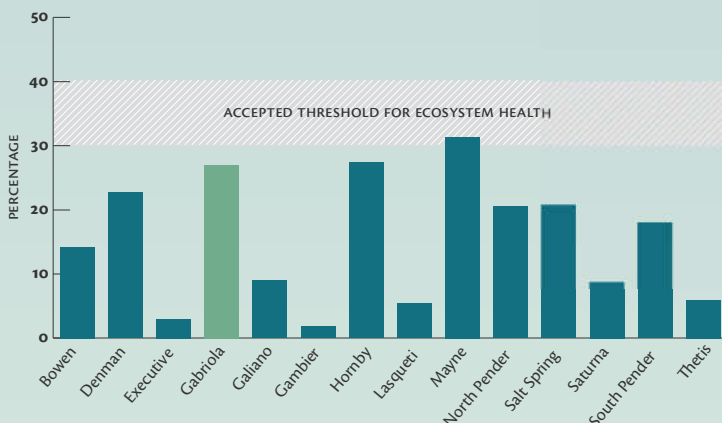
Blue listed (Provincially), sensitive to human activities



Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)

Species of concern (Federally), red listed (Provincially)
Critical habitat mapped on federal/private lands and ITC nature reserve

Land Converted to Human Use in the Islands Trust Area

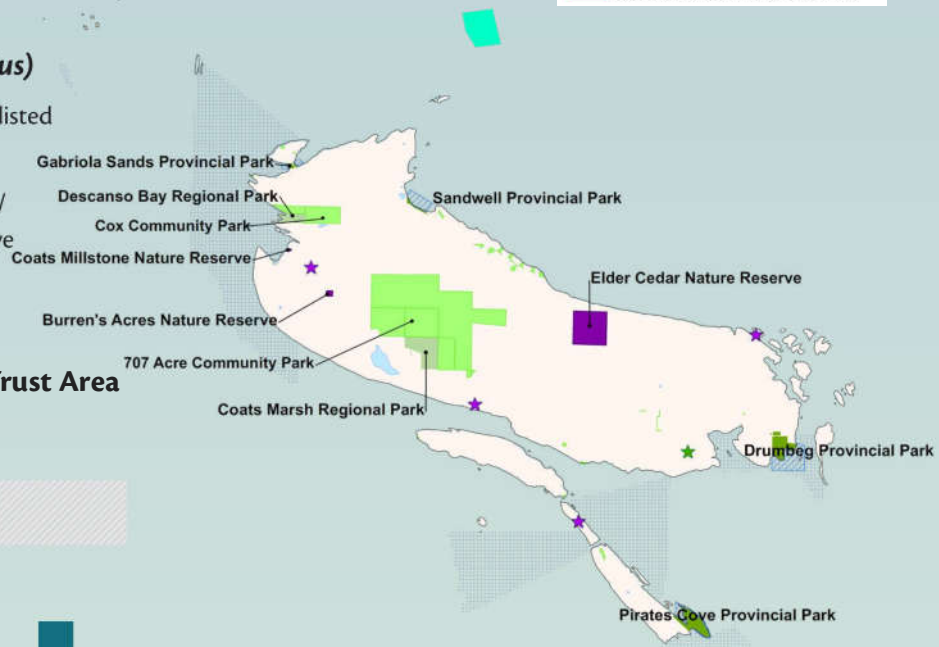


Once land is converted for human use, that land is less available for nature. As land conversion reaches or goes above a 30-40% threshold, the number of species in a given habitat decline more rapidly.

Parks & protected areas



12% PROTECTED

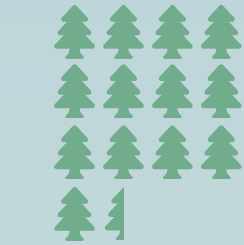


Learn more at islandstrustconservancy.ca

How do forests help us?

CARBON EMISSIONS ABSORBED BY GABRIOLA FORESTS ANNUALLY

EQUIVALENT CARBON EMISSIONS EMITTED BY PASSENGER VEHICLES ANNUALLY



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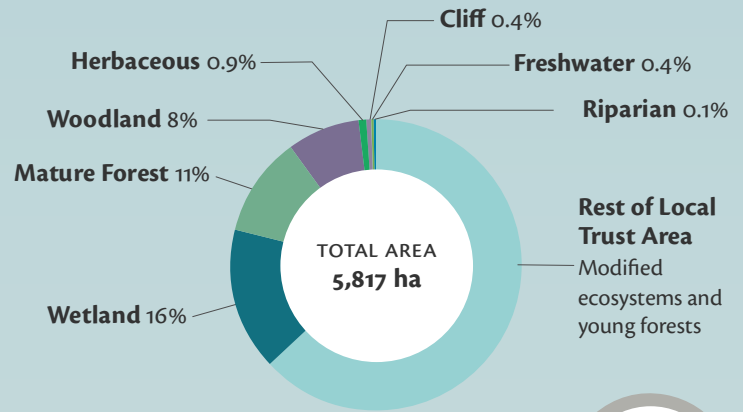


🌲 = 1,000 tonnes of carbon

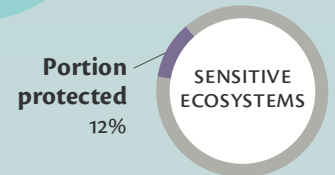
🚗 = 500 vehicles

The forests on Gabriola Island sequester 13,417 tonnes of carbon/year which equates to removing the emissions of 2,834 passenger vehicles per year. That's the equivalent of more than 1/2 the residents of Gabriola giving up their vehicles!

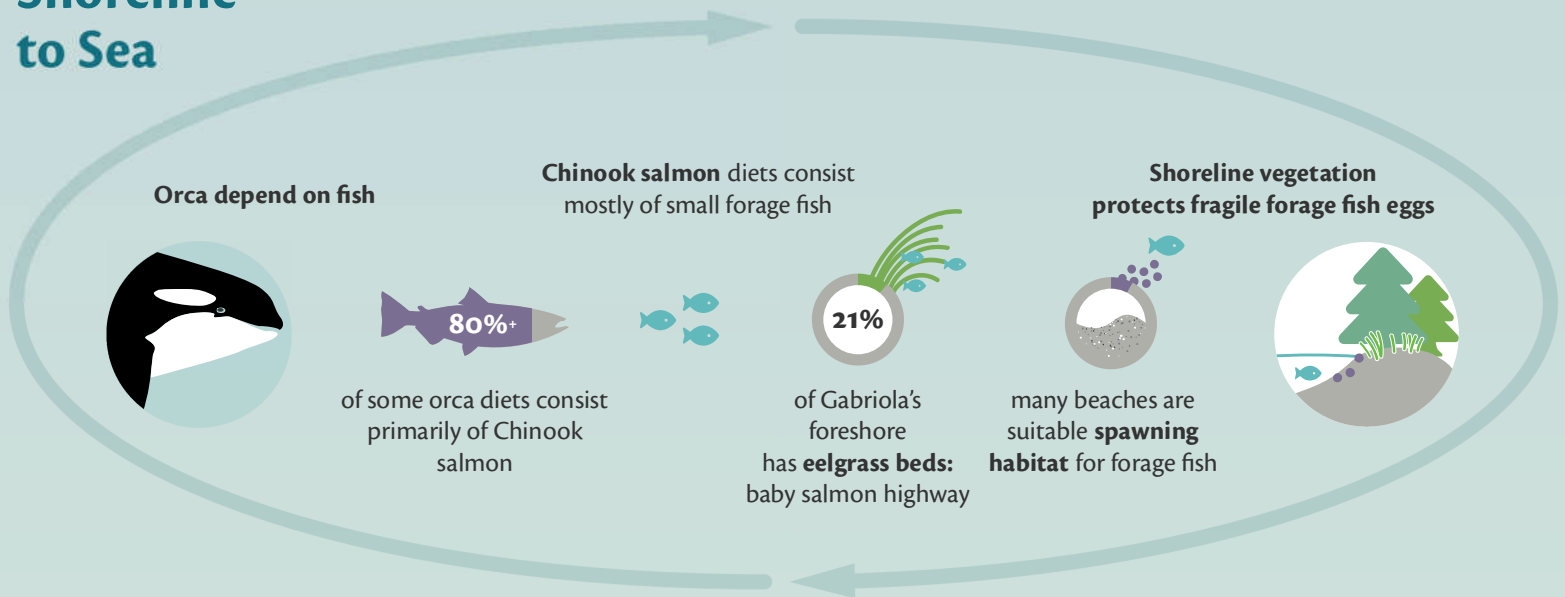
Sensitive ecosystems



Sensitive ecosystems are fragile and are often home to at-risk or endangered species.



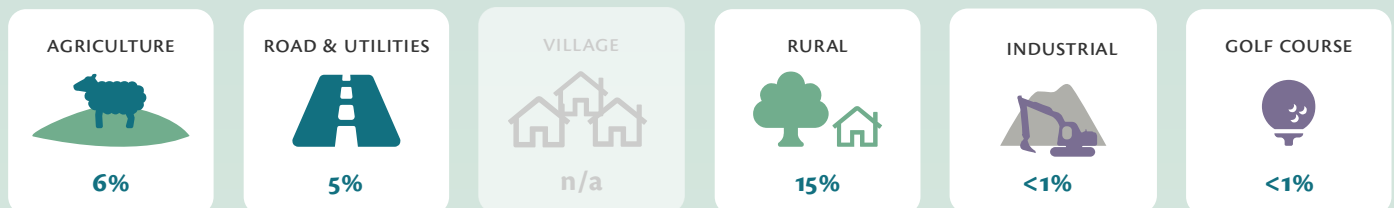
Shoreline to Sea



Marine health starts at the shoreline. Your actions can make a difference!

Modified Ecosystems as of 2017

More than 65% of the Islands Trust Area is in private land ownership. Pressures to develop and change the natural landscape are tremendous. The Islands Trust Conservancy works with landowners to protect private land with conservation covenants, land donations, fundraising for nature, and stewardship.

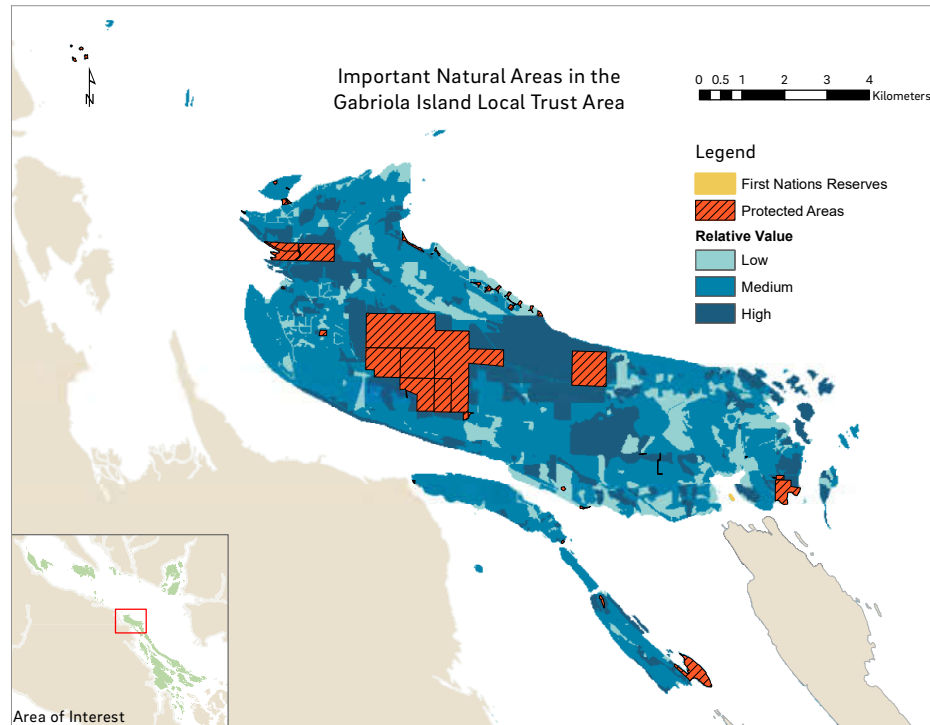


Local Context — Gabriola LTA

The Gabriola Local Trust Area (LTA) is one of 13 local trust areas and island municipalities that make up the Islands Trust Area of British Columbia. The Gabriola LTA is located within the treaty and traditional territory of Coast Salish Peoples who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial. The Gabriola LTA is home to some of the rarest ecosystems in the world that are under threat from development, climate change, and habitat degradation.

The Trust has categorized island ecosystems into low, medium and high biodiversity areas. The Islands Trust has responsibility for conservation through place protection planning and land use regulation. The Islands Trust can also encourage voluntary and cooperative actions that nurture the long-term integrity of the environment and amenities of the Trust Area.

Island population growth is influenced by land use decisions about zoning, dwelling sizes, and permitted land uses, along with owners' decisions about whether to live in/rent their homes full-time.



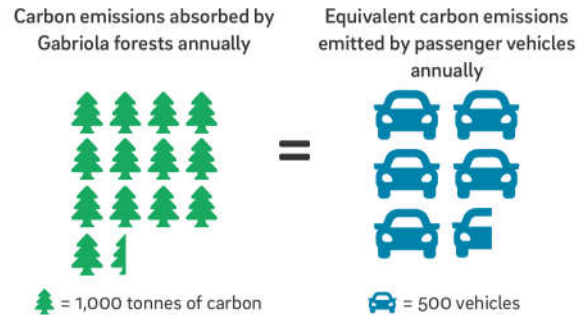
Local Context – Gabriola LTA

The Islands Trust is responsible to the present and future residents of both the Trust Area and the Province of British Columbia. Their needs can only be met and sustained within the limitations of the natural environment and the island communities of the Trust Area.

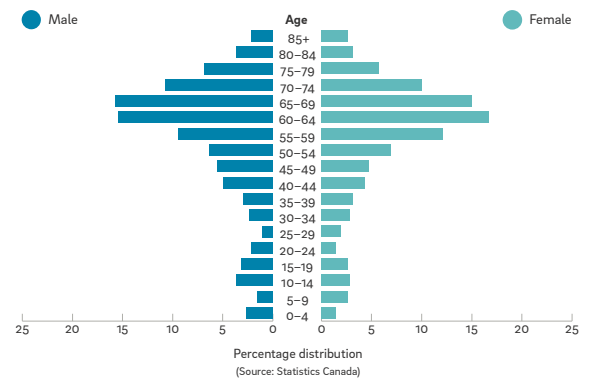
By 2050, many properties on the islands will have been sold or bequeathed. This presents both opportunities and challenges for place protection planning and land conservation.

Gabriola Parcel Sizes (September, 2017):

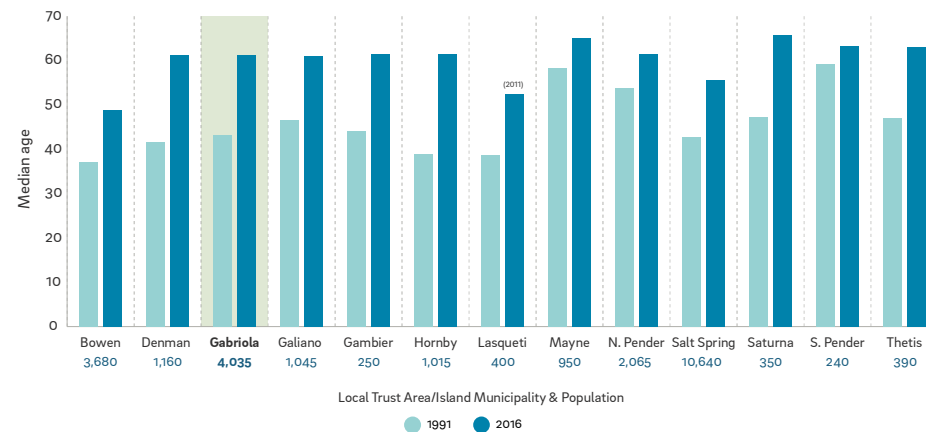
Parcel Size (hectares)	# of Parcels	Percent of Landbase
Less than 0.5	2,901	11.0
0.5–2	342	6.4
2–10	645	33.5
10–20	42	10.1
20–50	36	20.0
More than 50	12	12.8



Population and gender pyramid of Gabriola LTA



Median age trend



What is a midden?

Middens are places of cultural and archaeological heritage for the First Peoples of the Salish Sea and Coast Salish territory. A midden is found by or within a village site or resource gathering area and defines an area that has been utilized for thousands of years. Middens tell us about how vital resources were sustained over time. They also provide scientific understanding of the past that is key to understanding climate change impacts, and human activity.

Sites within the Islands Trust Area can be over 8,000 years old, and any archaeological site on private or public land is protected under the Heritage Conservation Act. Middens can contain archaeological artifacts, tools, and ancestral remains. Removal of items or impacts to middens contributes to the destruction of cultural heritage, language, and knowledge, and has long-term impacts for reconciliation with First Nations.

Preservation and protection of middens, cultural heritage, and archaeological sites is essential. If you find an artifact, ancestral remains, or discover a midden on public or private property, contact the Islands Trust or the Archaeology Branch of the provincial government. We all have a role to play in preserving and protecting the cultural heritage of the Islands Trust Area now and into the future.

