

We are humbly thankful to live and work in the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, K'ómoks, Lək'wəŋən, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, Quw'utsun Tribes, scəwáθən məsteyəxʷ, Scia'new, səlilwətaʔt, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Spune'luxutth, STÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ʔaʔəmen, toq qaymıxʷ, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOŁŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu/ʔop qaymıxʷ, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm.

Islands Trust



Islands Trust

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

It was created by the provincial government in 1974 in response to rates of development in the Gulf Islands and the need to protect the environment.

Implementing the Preserve and Protect Mandate

Today, the Islands Trust works to preserve and protect the Islands Trust Area through land use planning; programs and services; and the Islands Trust Conservancy.

Land Use Planning

Land use planning contributes to preserving and protecting our environment, cultural heritage, and communities through the maintenance of 20 unique official community plans; hosting community information meetings to help islanders understand matters related to land use planning; rezoning; and application processing. This team also develops and delivers longer-term projects to support strategic goals for climate change, freshwater management, and reconciliation.

Programs and Services

The Islands Trust Council supports the preserve and protect mandate through region-wide programs and services. They advocate for decisions that affect the islands; deliver public education on topics such as sea-level rise, wells and groundwater, and climate change; offer a stewardship award program recognizing community members; provide online mapping; and work with other governments, including First Nations, to benefit the Trust Area.

Islands Trust Conservancy

Islands Trust Area ecosystems are rare and fragile and need our protection. Working with landholders, donors, First Nations, and island organizations, Islands Trust Conservancy protects 1,307 hectares of land through conservation covenants and nature reserves. As of March 2021 the Islands Trust Conservancy protects 107 conservation properties, 31 nature reserves, and 76 covenants (of which 25 have NAPTEP certificates).

The Trust Area

The Trust Area, located in Coast Salish territory, is the homeland of over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this Area home since time immemorial. Covering 5,200 square kilometres of land and water in the Salish Sea, the Trust Area has 26,000 residents and 10,000 non-resident property owners. The region features spectacular beauty, extensive archaeological and culturally significant sites, and some of the world's most endangered and precious ecosystems.

Governance

Every four years, island communities – other than Ballenas-Winchelsea, which has very few residents – elect two local Islands Trust trustees to represent the group of islands where they live. There are 13 island groups called local trust areas and each has a local trust committee. These local trust committees, except for one with few residents, are made up of two elected trustees and an appointed chair. Local trust committees are responsible for land use decisions within their local trust area. Bowen Island is the only island municipality in the Islands Trust Area.



In total there are 26 trustees, including two municipal trustees from Bowen Island Municipality. Together they form the Islands Trust Council, which makes decisions that impact the whole Trust Area. The Trust Council meets four times a year. Generally, all Trust meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend. Dates and times are posted on the Islands Trust website.

Tax Savings Opportunity: Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program

Benefits to you

- ✓ For eligible properties, you can save 65% of your annual property tax on the portion of your land protected by a NAPTEP covenant (also known as an easement).
- ✓ You'll gain peace of mind knowing the land you care for will be safe forever, regardless of who eventually owns your property.
- ✓ Islands Trust Conservancy will visit the property annually to ensure ongoing protection; a collaboration between landholders and conservation experts.

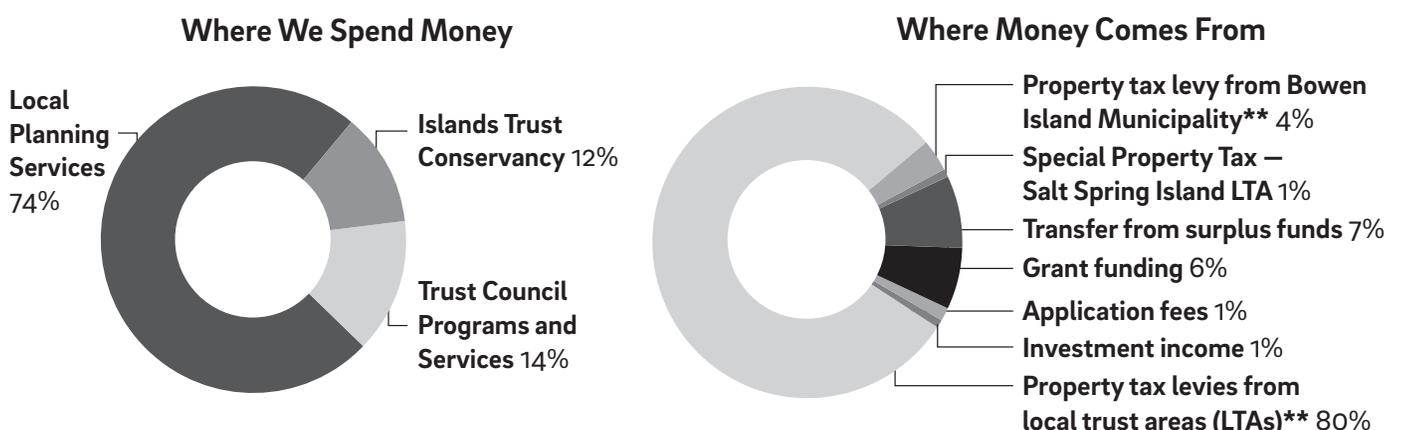
Interested in applying? ✉ itcmail@islandstrust.bc.ca ☎ 250-405-5186

Islands Trust Budget 2021/22

Following a robust public consultation process, Islands Trust Council adopted its 2021/22 budget in March 2021. The budget features:

- Total approved budget of \$9.1M, made up of: operating budget \$8.2M, projects budget \$881,900, and capital budget \$33,500
- The budget is funded by:
 - \$7.07M – local trust area property taxes (excludes Bowen Island)
 - \$75,500 – Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area special property tax for Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance
 - \$311,188 – Bowen Island Municipal tax requisition
 - \$563,000 – external grant funds
 - \$657,660 – transfers from accumulated surplus funds
 - \$120,000 – land-use application fees
 - \$68,000 – investment and other income
- 3.5% general tax increase for the Islands Trust Area as a whole* (excluding Bowen Island) plus 0.87% in new tax funds from new development and construction
- 2.7% tax requisition increase to Bowen Island Municipality

In addition to regular operations, the budget funds the implementation of Trust Council's Strategic Plan for 2018–2022, has a climate-action focus, and facilitates the implementation of Trust Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.



*Actual tax changes by individual LTA may vary based on distribution of property values within the Trust Area

**Includes tax revenue from new construction

For more information or to subscribe to e-news, education events, and governance highlights:

islandstrust.bc.ca

NOTE: The Provincial Surveyor of Taxes issues your Rural Property Tax Notice, and the BC Provincial Government receives your tax payment. Please refer to your Rural Property Tax Notice for payment options. Questions about your property tax notice should be directed to:

BC Surveyor of Taxes Toll-Free: 1-888-355-2700 | E-mail: ruraltax@gov.bc.ca