



*As Aldo Leopold advised us, let us 'think like a mountain', with a sense of permanence and a long view, looking ahead to be certain that our actions today will make the world a better and richer and more varied place for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.*

– Robert Bateman

# Living With Nature

A Guide for New Property Owners on Salt Spring Island





## Welcome To Salt Spring

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy would like to welcome you to Salt Spring Island. With this booklet we'd like to introduce some helpful information and tips that we have found valuable for living more sustainably on the Island.

We imagine your first sight of the Island made your hearts leap. Ours did. Leaning green hills guide valleys through wood and farm and hamlet. A rocky coast seems to divide distinct realms of green and blue, but in truth it is a boundary of give and take. Slender roadways weave and dodge as if looking for directions, every turn and tangent combining human and natural histories.

Our Island's story truly is one of constant interaction between people and nature. Long ago, Coast Salish people protected and expanded the Garry oak meadows, using fire and cultivation to nurture a rich food source of wild camas bulbs. Far bigger changes came when the ploughs and axes of settlers struck Island ground, creating today's pattern of wooded and open land. Beginning in the 1970s new residents, with incomes from diverse sources, came here on their quests for a pleasant place to live. Individually they cleared only an acre or two, but the cumulative effects on the Island's special ecology have been immense.

**Today, the future of wild species on Salt Spring depends on homeowners who control six of every seven acres of the Island. Fortunately, many Islanders share a commitment to care for nature.**

While introducing you to Island living and Island stewardship, this booklet skips lightly across a lot of ground. We hope to link you to a rich array of information and resources that will help you to explore and protect this Island we all love.



## Salt Spring's Fragile Ecosystems

People love the stunning beauty, gentle climate, and rural character of the archipelago of 470 islands known as the Gulf Islands. In 1974 the Province of British Columbia designated these islands for special protection and governance, recognizing their beauty and vulnerability as places to live for humans and wildlife. But why are they so special?



*The yellow montane violet is an endangered species recently discovered on Salt Spring Island.*

Picture the map of North America. On its western edge a cloud-catching rainforest stretches from northern California to Alaska's Kodiak Island. This forest itself is a world treasure, but imbedded within it is another treasure, the Gulf Islands. Sheltered by mountains to the west and southwest, these Islands and small strips of adjacent shorelines have far less winter rain than the rainforest region as a whole.



Summers are sunny and dry. It's a Mediterranean climate combining northern and southern characteristics, which leads to plants and animals uniquely adapted to the combination. Where else, on an island in a salty sea, can you photograph prickly pear cactus on a rocky bluff only meters from an old tree festooned with moss and epiphytic ferns?

Examples of ecological rarities are all around us on Salt Spring Island. Our most common tree, the Douglas-fir, is the signature



species of the dry coastal Douglas-fir forest, found in Canada only from Victoria to the Sunshine Coast. Within these forests, on especially dry and shallow soils, the Garry oak meadows form another ecosystem – one that is only found in parts of Washington and Oregon and reaching its northern limits here. Lovely arbutus trees, sure sign of a winter-wet and summer-dry climate, mingle with the oaks and the adjacent firs. These woods are home to dozens of plant species found nowhere else in Canada.



*With over 65 species of butterflies, the Salt Spring / Southern Vancouver Island region is the butterfly hot spot of Canada.*

No surprise: the Island animal array is pretty special, too. Many of our butterflies and other insects are on official lists of rare or endangered species. This diversity in such a small area is highly unusual. Many species of insects inhabiting the dry coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem are found nowhere else. The Island supports red-legged frogs, alligator lizards (Don't panic: they are small!) and the harmless, small, endangered sharp-tailed snake. Birds abound. Mild winters entice many songbirds to stay, but winter is most notable for the throngs of seabirds around Island shores. Summer is the season for nesting songbirds and fleet-winged hawks. Among mammals are some that are uncommon, like several species of bats, the short-tailed weasel, black bears and cougar; and at least one – the black-tailed deer – that is all too numerous to suit casual gardeners.



*The endangered sharp-tailed snake is found in Canada only on Salt Spring Island and a few nearby locations.*



Salt Spring's natural ecosystems have been stressed during the 150 years of expanding settlement. Our forest trees, cut repeatedly over the decades, are very young; the unique environments of ancient forests are almost gone. The changes in forests have hindered the work they normally do in cleaning water, replenishing soil, recycling nutrients and producing oxygen. Natural wetlands are much reduced. The ocean around us is still blue and sparkling, but unfortunately is less full of life because of pollution and overharvesting. The orcas in our region have huge burdens of toxins in their bodies from the polluted salmon and other fish they eat.



*The SSI Conservancy has a protection program for the endangered Western painted turtle.*



*The SSI Conservancy's bluebird nesting box program is designed to attract this beautiful endangered bird back to the Island.*

On the positive side we are learning all the time about what nature requires and how we affect natural processes. Scores of things we do when designing and building homes and gardens make all the difference. There is no single recipe or cookie-cutting instruction manual that fits all wildlife and human needs. We have to tailor what we do to the place we do it.

Our hope is this booklet will make it easier for everyone to make good stewardship, second nature. We think you'll discover, as so many have, that protecting the extraordinary beauty and well being of nature is one of the most enjoyable benefits of living here.



## A Short History

At first glance, our Island's earliest history is a microcosm of British Columbia's story, characterized by over 5,000 years as an aboriginal homeland, followed by the gutsy frontier society of loggers, fishermen, and farmers. Events that would define Salt Spring were initiated in 1859 when Governor James Douglas began to encourage settlement on outlying native lands. Anxious to increase population quickly in order to quell the threat of United States' expansion and aware that available land near Victoria was scarce and expensive, he offered immigrants an enticing deal: settlers would pay 5 shillings (\$1.25) an acre, greatly reduced from the previous cost of 5 pounds; families could acquire up to 200 acres; and no payment would be required until a land survey had been requested by a majority of homesteaders.

It was this offer that marked the transition of Salt Spring from a native homeland to one populated by hopeful settlers from all over the world. About half of these first settlers were African-Americans, many of whom were freed slaves. They were optimistic about Douglas' promise of both equal rights and cheap land. Although many returned to the United States after the Civil War, some families stayed to establish the Salt Spring we know today.



Many people journeyed from Australia, United States, and Europe in search of British Columbia's gold, eventually making Salt Spring their home. Some were former Hudson Bay Company employees, including several Hawaiians. Japanese also came to fish, farm and labour. By 1895, Salt Spring was dotted with farms, pastureland, and orchards – home to a multicultural array of Islanders.



Despite enormous challenges, the hospitable climate, spots of fertile soil, and abundant seafood sustained the newcomers as they had aboriginal people for centuries. By 1900, Salt Spring was known for its rich harvests of fruit. Dairying prospered and, in 1904, the Salt Spring Island Creamery began producing its well-known butter. Poultry and sheep also thrived, establishing the Island's worldwide reputation for its lamb.

Gradually, services improved, and the population of the Island climbed. By the 1930s, travellers had discovered the Island, and resorts opened to welcome them. Cottagers from Vancouver and Victoria also began to arrive. Fueled by this influx of vacationers, a growing number of Islanders began subdividing their land in the 1950s, sparking an ongoing spiral of growth. By the 1960s, another wave of immigrants arrived – artists and craftspeople. Today, most employment is in tourism, education, health services, construction, real estate, and retail.



*Fulford Harbour - Salt Spring Island Archives*

Salt Spring society contains a wide assortment of beliefs, economic levels, careers, and other interests, although it is not as ethnically varied as it was a century ago. Salt Spring is home to about 10,000 people, a population with more seniors and fewer youngsters than the provincial average.



## Tips for Treading Lightly

Salt Spring Island is home to many species of wild plants, animals, and other life forms that enhance our environment. Plants deliver oxygen to the air and absorb atmospheric carbon, insects pollinate flowers, birds disperse seeds, bats control mosquitoes, fungi create soil, and pond life filters water. It is in our best interest to “tread lightly” and conserve these wild organisms. This requires some attention to the etiquette of island living, as outlined below.

### Landscaping and Gardening

#### Conserve Natural Features

Many of us are eager to create a garden setting for our home. Before significant landscaping and garden development, including tree removal, it is helpful to make an inventory of the plants, wildlife, and habitat features of your property. There are several dozen wild species at risk on Salt Spring, some of which may inhabit or feed on your land.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy may be able to help with a biodiversity inventory and a nature restoration plan appropriate for your property. The SSI Conservancy also offers assistance protecting private land through a registered conservation covenant, which can result in lower property taxes.

Plan to conserve wild ecosystem or at least corridors of native plants, and protect natural features used by wildlife.

These features include trees, snags, bluffs, rock piles, woody debris, ponds, streams, and seepage areas. Fragile areas or rare and unusual plants can be protected from trampling and grazing with use of netting and fencing.





Native trees are home to many species, including insects, lichens, birds, and bats. (A single bat can consume 1000 mosquitoes per night!) Trees also provide wildlife forage, such as acorns, seeds, and berries. Old veteran trees are especially valued by large birds, bats, and other animals.

Wildlife trees are dead and dying trees, which provide food and nest sites for woodpeckers, and tree cavities provide nest sites for dozens of other species including owls, flycatchers, chickadees, squirrels, ducks, frogs, and salamanders. If a dead tree is a potential hazard, it can be topped, leaving a stub of at least three metres that will serve as a valuable habitat.

Woody debris – logs and branches lying on the ground – protects the soil from erosion, conserves soil moisture, nurtures the growth of plants and fungi, and provides nest sites, shelter, and feeding areas for many small animals.

Loose rocks are used by many insects, spiders, snakes, and lizards for concealment and sun basking.

Wildlife occupancy can be further encouraged by erection of birdhouses, bat houses, mason bee houses, and by creating ponds and other natural habitats, such as rock piles. When possible, leave meadows wild.

They support a greater diversity of plants and wildlife than mowed lawns and require less water.



*Hooded merganser, one of many tree-nesting bird species.*



Although we like wildlife to live nearby, note that it is illegal to capture and possess most native wildlife, including their bones, feathers, and other parts, without special license or permit.

Don't feed wildlife other than birds, bees, and butterflies, as feeding concentrates animals, promotes the spread of disease, and may increase the density of predators, such as raccoons, which prey upon species at risk.

### Avoid Invasives

Plantings for ornamental gardens should be chosen carefully to avoid introducing foreign invasive species and plant diseases. Native grass seed is available on the Island. If invasive species (such as Scotch broom and English ivy) are introduced, they can displace native plants and increase the risk of fire (broom and gorse are highly flammable). Entrenched invasive plants should be pulled and replaced by native or benign plants.

The impact of invasive bullfrogs (see the Conservancy web site to distinguish bullfrogs from native frogs) can be reduced by ensuring garden ponds remain as natural as possible.

### Leave Leaves

Fallen leaves have many benefits. They enable nutrients from trees to be recycled back into the soil, they serve as food for numerous animals and soil organisms, and they create a habitat for many small creatures, including the larvae of butterflies. Fallen leaves can be collected for vegetable or flower bed mulch to provide nutrients and to protect plants and soils over the winter.



*'Broom pullers' for removing Scotch broom from your land can be borrowed from the Conservancy.*





## **Construction and Conservation**

### **Minimize Blasting**

Blasting destroys the natural topography of the land and can convulse groundwater aquifers. Careful planning can often adapt driveways and building foundations to natural surface features.



### **Minimize Driveways, Roads, Paths and Parking Areas**

Although most dwellings require a driveway, excessive construction of roads, trails, and parking areas can impact nature. Driveways eliminate habitat for a variety of plants and animals and alter rainwater dissipation patterns. Road sediment is a major source of waterway pollution, and poorly designed driveways and parking sites can spread gasoline, oil, and other pollutants. Random parking of vehicles on vegetated areas can compact soil, impeding natural water infiltration and closing air spaces required for plant roots.

Paths and driveways can be designed to complement existing topography by minimizing steep side slopes, steep grades, and extensive cut-and-fill. Paths and driveways should be contoured to shed water gently rather than over long slopes that increase water velocity and erosion potential.



Wetlands should be left undisturbed whenever possible. Stream crossings



should be at right angles, well above flood-prone areas. A buffer of vegetation should always be maintained between wetlands and driveways, roads, and paths.

When possible, avoid using asphalt, which contains pollutants that can leach out into adjacent soil. Also, asphalt manufacturing creates a wide array of air pollutants. Surfacing of driveways with porous concrete, gravel, soil, grass, or other natural materials is usually preferable.

### **Conserve Energy**

Maximize the efficiency of your home heating and lighting by using zonal heating, insulation, weatherstripping, and energy-efficient windows. Use clotheslines when possible: sundried laundry smells great.

Home heating systems, using wood as a fuel, should use only certified, efficient, low-emission stoves. Wood smoke includes a wide array of toxic chemical compounds. Dry firewood pollutes less than wet, and is better for the environment. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned annually.



Transportation energy can be conserved by purchasing local produce, using energy-efficient vehicles, patronizing our local bus, and consolidating trips. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through transportation, minimize the use of carbon-emitting lawn mowers, trimmers, and generators. Avoid noise and air-polluting leaf blowers by raking leaves up for organic mulch.

Outdoor fires are a significant source of smoke pollution and may be avoided by mechanical mulching. Salt Spring requires a permit to burn (obtained from the Fire Department) and prohibits outdoor



burning when dry, usually April through September when extreme fire hazard conditions may prevail. Even when fires are permitted, BC Smoke Control Regulation prohibits the burning of many substances.

Composting is a wonderful way to turn kitchen waste into soil, although compost bins should not be used for fish and meat residues, which attract rats. Lids of garbage containers should be well-secured to avoid rat and raccoon problems, and on the rare occasion when bears are nearby, garbage should be kept indoors.

Recycling outlets are available on Salt Spring and are heavily used by residents.

### Conserve Water

As many homeowners depend upon wells for their water, wise stewardship of our water resources is essential to both our health and that of our Island. Water overuse threatens its availability and quality, resulting in well draw-down. (Please note: All wells must have a government-issued identification plate, and unused wells must be deactivated and capped.)



*Especially in the summer, Salt Spring has a very limited supply of fresh water which we share with extensive communities of wildlife.*

To compensate for scarce water resources, many Islanders harvest rainwater, employ drip irrigation systems, and select drought-resistant plants. They also use water conserving appliances, including low-flush toilets, water-miser dishwashers, shower flow restrictors, and only fully loaded washing machines. Reading your water meter frequently allows you to monitor usage and set targets.



## *Living in Harmony With the Land*

### Control Pets

Even well-fed dogs and cats can harass and kill valuable native wildlife, including songbirds, shrews, turtles, snakes, lizards, and bats. It has been estimated that a single pet can kill, or injure, over 1000 native animals each year. (Do remember to locate birdbaths and feeders in areas inaccessible to pets!) Some pets compete with native predators, such as weasels, which are scarce on Salt Spring. Pets can infect native animals with diseases and parasites, in addition to being vulnerable to contracting these illnesses themselves.



It is wise to keep pets and native animals apart. Dogs should be leashed, and cats desexed and kept in an enclosed area, especially after dark. Placing bells on their collars may reduce their success as predators by as much as half, but it is not a substitute for conscientious containment.

Pet excrement can affect water quality, and owners should retrieve the droppings of their pets from beaches, roadways, parks, and other public lands. Exotic pets should be caged and never released into the wild. (Rabbits, for example, are not native to Salt Spring. Imported rabbits can disrupt ecosystems as well as cause considerable expense to gardeners and farmers.) If you can no longer care for your pets, they should be donated to the SPCA.



## Protect Wetlands and Groundwater

Streams and ponds are used by a myriad of life forms. Therefore it is important to protect and restore these precious ecosystems. Wetlands and riparian areas (at water's edge) are essential to wildlife food chains because they serve as water quality filters, water volume regulators, and nutrient traps. In healthy wetlands, mosquitoes will be controlled by native predators such as salamanders, tadpoles, swallows, bats, and dragonflies.



*The long-toed salamander is one of several sensitive amphibian species that rely on healthy Island wetlands.*

An important wetland protection strategy is to preserve a buffer of trees and shrubs between waterways and developed land (trails, roads, gardens, etc.). This vegetation intercepts excessive runoff, prevents erosion of sediment into the water, moderates water temperature via shading, provides a food source for pond life, and offers concealment to amphibious animals. Non-native species that often thrive in these shoreline buffers, such as reed canary grass and yellow flag iris, should be removed.

It is also important to prevent harmful runoff into all water systems: wetlands, groundwater, lakes, and ocean alike. Carefully control household chemicals, antifreeze, and septic effluent, and avoid using fertilizers and pesticides.



*Over 21 species of shorebirds visit our shores, including the greater yellowlegs.*



## Protect Ocean Shorelines

Our shores host a vast array of marine animals, plants, lichens, and algae. Environmental damage can result from dumping yard debris, trampling eelgrass, raking seaweed, quarrying gravel, grading, and driving vehicles on the beach. All beach projects, including grading, pier construction, and mooring platforms, require a permit. In many areas, permit requirements also apply to the backshore and adjacent uplands. Check before you proceed.



*Hundreds of animal species such as the ochre star live mostly unseen along our shores.*

Many shoreline protection issues can be addressed by conserving a buffer of shoreline vegetation, observing development setback rules, employing proper waste disposal, and scheduling regular septic field inspection and maintenance.

## Protect Our Heritage Sites

Many millennia before the first settlers arrived, Coast Salish ancestors lived throughout the islands of the Salish Sea. Varied remnants of their villages, houses, sacred burial grounds, and daily activities exist in the islands and speak to a time when cultural and natural environments were more closely intertwined. Concentrated but not limited to the coastal areas of the islands, shell middens are fragile records of traditional island life. These are the most commonly encountered archaeological remains in the region. Please treat these areas and all other First Nations' heritage sites and artifacts with respect. Do not disturb or remove anything. The Heritage Conservation Act (RSBC 1996) prohibits the destruction and/or disturbance of any archaeological remains.





## Our Unique Form of Governance

In 1974, faced with rapid growth throughout the Gulf Islands, particularly the subdivision of large lots into small parcels, British Columbian legislators passed a bold and imaginative initiative. This initiative created the Islands Trust, a special form of local governance designed to regulate land use on 13 major and 450 smaller islands in the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound.

The purpose of this trust is 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, other persons and organizations and the Government of British Columbia.”

In doing so, the provincial government made the commitment to protect the islands from excessive and inappropriate development. The Islands Trust remains our nation’s only institution charged with the stewardship of a particular environment and the preservation of a special, rural quality of life.

### Trust Council and Local Trust Committees

The Islands Trust is governed by a Trust Council, composed of twenty-six elected trustees, two from each major island area. Elected for three-year terms, trustees are charged with the mandate to “preserve and protect” the islands. The Trust Council also makes decisions about overall policy, staff resources, and budget. An Executive Committee of the Council – a chair and three vice-chairs – manages the day-to-day activities of Trust Council.



Decisions about Salt Spring land use issues are made by a Local Trust Committee (LTC) that regulates land use by adopting an Official Community Plan (OCP) and land use bylaws. Salt Spring’s LTC holds monthly public meetings that you are welcome to attend. Each LTC is composed of the two local trustees and an appointed chair from the Trust Council Executive Committee who represents the broader Trust-wide perspective and provincial interests, usually bringing years of Trust experience to the table.



*Burgoyne Bay, with its rich natural and cultural history, was recently preserved through a citizen action campaign.*

Bylaws and planning policies of each LTC must be approved by the Trust Executive Committee to ensure that they comply with the mandate of the Trust. Primary financing for the Trust is derived from a portion of your local property taxes.

### Land Use Regulation

Each LTC administers its own Land Use bylaws which prescribe what can be built on each parcel, including the permitted uses; number, location, height and size of structures; as well as its subdivision potential; and lot coverage. Under existing zoning, it has been estimated that Salt Spring’s current population of about 10,000 could grow to about 18,000 residents.



For properties located in specific designated areas known as Development Permit Areas (DPAs), there are additional guidelines designed to protect a variety of environmental concerns, such as ocean and lake shorelines and community water systems. DPAs are on a map posted in both the Islands Trust and CRD's Building Inspection offices.

### Capital Regional District (CRD)

The CRD provides a wide range of local services to Salt Spring, including building code inspection, several water districts, two sewage treatment plants, parks and recreation, recycling, and transportation services (most notably, the Island's new bus system.) The CRD also enforces various regional bylaws, such as animal control regulations and a noise bylaw. CRD functions are overseen by our elected CRD Director and CRD staff, together with volunteer advisory commissions appointed by the CRD Board.

### Coordination between the CRD and the Islands Trust

Trustees and the CRD Director work together on issues of broad community interest. The CRD Director is invited to attend all monthly LTC meetings, including participation in town hall sessions where anyone can ask questions or present local concerns.



*Riders' guides for the CRD-sponsored Salt Spring bus are available at the Tourist Info Centre.*

### Be Informed

If you are considering purchasing land on Salt Spring or have already done so, it is your responsibility to find out what is and what is not allowed on your property by consulting the OCP and Land Use bylaws. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the



helpful folks at Islands Trust (250-537-9144) and the CRD Building Inspection Office (250-537-2711). Since some regulations impact land clearing conducted prior to obtaining a building permit, it is wise to obtain this information before beginning any projects on your property. Land use maps are available from the Islands Trust at 500 Lower Ganges Road and on its website at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca).



*Hours for the Recycling Centre at 349 Rainbow Road are 10 am to 5pm, Tues. to Sat.*

### Provincial Services and Jurisdiction

Road maintenance and police protection on the Island are provided by the Province. In addition, the provincial government has retained authority throughout the province, with limited or no local control, over certain activities such as mining, logging on Private Managed Forest Land, fish farming, and farming in the Agricultural Land Reserve. If you are considering purchasing land in or near Private Managed Forest Land or the Agricultural Land Reserve, you should be aware of permitted and non-permitted activities there.

Thirty-five years ago, our provincial government created the Islands Trust to protect the Gulf Islands. This unique structure continues to symbolize the mission to preserve and protect Salt Spring.



*The RCMP station is located at 401 Lower Ganges Road.*



## Environmental Directory

*Salt Spring is rich with organizations and resources committed to protecting our natural environment. The following are just some of the resources. These were chosen to provide a starting point in your search for more information. A more extensive list is available on the Conservancy web site.*

### SSI Associations, Clubs and Groups

**Salt Spring Island Conservancy** (250-538-0318) Dedicated to protecting the biodiversity of natural habitats and special land features through public education, working with private landholders wishing to place conservation covenants on their land, and acquiring and holding environmentally sensitive land. All efforts and funds stay on Salt Spring. [info@saltspringconservancy.ca](mailto:info@saltspringconservancy.ca)

We are your local conservancy, independent of other conservancies.

We provide:

- Identification guides to plants and wildlife
- Salt Spring species at risk materials and programs
- Information on invasive species
- Tips for green living
- Natural history talks and field trips
- School nature studies for all Salt Spring grade 1-8 students
- Tax information on land covenants
- Volunteer opportunities

[www.saltspringconservancy.ca](http://www.saltspringconservancy.ca)

**SSI Energy Strategy** (250-537-4567 or 250-537-2616)

Promotes saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. [www.saltspringenergystrategy.org](http://www.saltspringenergystrategy.org)

**Farmer's Institute** (250-537-4755) Provides agriculturally oriented courses, runs the Fall Fair and encourages the preservation of Island heritage and community involvement. [www.ssifi.org](http://www.ssifi.org)



**Friends of Salt Spring Parks** (250-537-4007) Supports existing parks, as well as new park acquisitions. [mcgovern@telus.net](mailto:mcgovern@telus.net)

**Garden Club** (250-537-8720) Helping island gardeners with speakers on all aspects of horticulture.

**Gulf Island Alliance** - Dedicated to the protection of the BC Gulf Islands, their natural environment, rural nature, and unique cultures for future generations by supporting the Islands Trust in achieving its legislative objective. [www.gulfislandsalliance.ca](http://www.gulfislandsalliance.ca)

**Hedgerow Preservation Society** (250-538-0185)

Dedicated to the preservation of SSI hedgerows.

**Institute for Sustainability Education and Action**

(250-537-4400) Providing sustainability education opportunities and community project work on the Island and regionally. Web page includes an Eco-Build Directory.

[www.i-sea.org](http://www.i-sea.org) or [sustain@saltspring.com](mailto:sustain@saltspring.com)

**Island Pathways** (250-537-5043) Promotes a safe, healthy, non-motorized environment through construction of pathways, educational events, and making SSI bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

[www.islandpathways.ca](http://www.islandpathways.ca)

**Island Natural Growers** (250-537-5511)

Helping Islanders grow and source local organic food.

**Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre** (250-537-0777)

Dedicated to the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wild animals. [www.sealrescue.org](http://www.sealrescue.org)

**Mary Hawkin Memorial Library** (250-537-4666)

A community library staffed mostly by volunteers that is part of the Island Link Library Federation.

[www.saltspring.bclibrary.ca](http://www.saltspring.bclibrary.ca)



### **S.S. Salmon Enhancement** (250-537-8983)

Dedicated to restoration of all the creeks on SSI.

[salmonladies@saltspring.com](mailto:salmonladies@saltspring.com)

### **Trail and Nature Club** (Box 203, Ganges PO, V8K 2V9)

Purpose is to stimulate interest in walking/hiking and natural history.

[www.saltspringtnc.ca](http://www.saltspringtnc.ca)

### **Transition Salt Spring** (250-537-4859)

Rebuilding a resilient community in a time of transition.

[transitionsaltspring@gmail.com](mailto:transitionsaltspring@gmail.com)

### **Water Preservation Society** (250-537-4649)

Dedicated to the protection and preservation of Salt Spring's lakes and fresh water supplies. [www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca](http://www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca)

### **Waterbird Watch Collective** (250-537-4515)

Monitors and documents waterbird populations around the coast, lakes and ponds of SSI.

## **Government Resources**

### **Islands Trust**

#### **Salt Spring Island Office** (250-537-9144)

[www.saltspringtrustees.ca](http://www.saltspringtrustees.ca)

**Victoria Office** (250 405-5151) Responsible for preserving and protecting the unique environment of the Islands Trust Area, through planning and regulating land use in cooperation with other agencies.

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

#### **Islands Trust Fund** (250-405-5186)

Creates a legacy of special places in the Islands Trust Area, protecting both natural and cultural features forever.

[www.Islandstrustfund.bc.ca](http://www.Islandstrustfund.bc.ca)



## **Capital Regional District**

**Local CRD Director** (250-537-1567) [ssidirector@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssidirector@crd.bc.ca)

**Victoria Office** 1-800-663-4425, local 3030, for environmental issues. [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

**Recycling Depot** (250-537-1200)

**Parks and Recreation Commission** (250-537-4448) PARC is a volunteer Commission responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of all community parks and recreation facilities.

[www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc](http://www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc)

**Building Inspection Office** (250-537-2711)

Responsible for building permits and inspections.

**Transportation Commission** (250-931-1372)

Deals with public transit, pedestrian pathways, bike lanes and other traffic related issues. [www.crd.bc.ca/saltspring/transit.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/saltspring/transit.htm)

Bus Information: [www.busonline.ca/regions/ssi/](http://www.busonline.ca/regions/ssi/)

**Water and Sewer** (250-537-4314)

## **Provincial Government**

(Enquiry BC: Toll Free 1-800-663-7867)

**BC Ministry of Environment** General environmental inquiries. Vancouver Island Region, Nanaimo (250-751-3100). Conservation Data Centre (species at risk), Victoria. [cdccdata@gov.bc.ca](mailto:cdccdata@gov.bc.ca)

**Provincial Government Agent Services** (250-537-5414)

[www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca)



## Government of Canada

**Environment Canada** (604-666-5892)  
Canadian Wildlife Service, Vancouver Island Region  
[www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca)

**Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada**  
[www.pc.gc.ca/np/bc/gulf/index](http://www.pc.gc.ca/np/bc/gulf/index)

## Maps for Land Use Planning

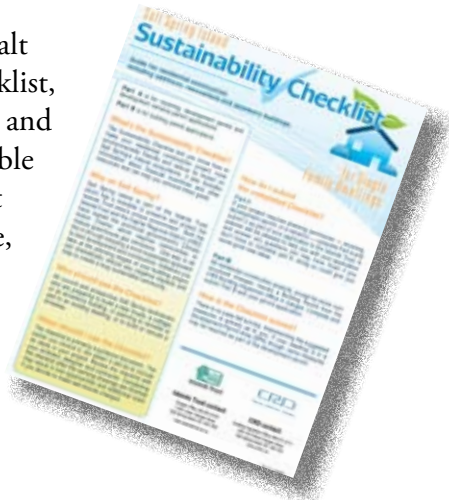
Excellent resources for viewing lot boundaries, natural features, Island parks and protected areas.

**Natural Atlas**  
[www.crd.bc.ca/maps/natural/atlas.htm](http://www.crd.bc.ca/maps/natural/atlas.htm)

**Community Mapping Network**  
[www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/southern-gulf-islands](http://www.cmnbc.ca/atlasgallery/southern-gulf-islands)

## Southern Gulf Island Atlas

Be sure to get a free copy of the Salt Spring Island Sustainability Checklist, which provides further guidelines and resources for ecologically sustainable living on the Island. The checklist is available at: Islands Trust Office, 500 Lower Ganges Road, or the CRD Building Inspection Office, Unit #206, 118 Fullford-Ganges Road.



The Conservancy's **Stewards in Training Program** provides every grade 1-8 student on Salt Spring with hands-on studies of the Island's natural habitats. Contact the Conservancy Office to become a volunteer in this program (250-538-0318).

## Credits

This booklet was conceived, written and designed by members of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

- |                                     |                                     |
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