

Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) Report

Regional District of Nanaimo

Area B Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee October 20, 2025 Meeting



GaLTT Activities Since Last POSAC Meeting:

Community Engagement Committee – The GaLTT led community End to End walk took place on Saturday, June 7th to coincide with BC Trails Day. We started at 10 a.m. at the log church on South Rd. across from Silva Bay Marina and ended at the Haven. 70 walkers joined us and at the lunch stop enjoyed a free Nonny beer (non-alcoholic) which GaLTT won from the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC.

From the May long-weekend to Thanksgiving we had volunteers at a table at the Saturday markets. Many people stop by to ask questions about the trails, invasive plants and native plants. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with visitors and Gabriolans.

Our popular Stroll and Sip returned for the summer of '25. This series of four walks began Thursday, July 17th at Ravenskill Orchards. For each event we meet at 4pm for an hour long walk that begins and ends at the venue. We encourage people to stay for a drink or meal after to socialize with your fellow walkers. This year the other dates were - July 31st at The Surf, August 14th at the Gabriola Golf Course, and August 28th at The Haven.

Invasive Species Committee has been re-named the **Habitat Restoration Committee** to better describe its overall activities.

Their work parties take place every 2 weeks, in May/June they concentrate on removal of Broom, then July/August it's Tansy Ragwort. In July 22 young campers from Camp Miriam joined our volunteers to remove Tansy Ragwort from a meadow alongside the trail leading into Haven Woods. After learning about invasive plants and how to effectively remove tansy, they got to work.

Now, as the rainy season begins, the committee will focus on planting as the next step in the restoration process.

GaLTT has been asked if we and our volunteers could help with replanting at Coats Marsh later this year. It is a large and important project and GaLTT has no prior

experience with marshes. We will wait for more information to determine what assistance we can offer.

The Conservation Committee has also been renamed, it's focus will be on **Covenant and Land Acquisition**. Each year in May & June GaLTT has the responsibility of monitoring the five current conservation covenants – Link Island, Elder Cedar, Bachman, Koontz, and Robinson Woods.

Nature Stewards was a program started by GaLTT in 2021 which provided an informal, voluntary way for landowners to pledge conservation of 30% of their property. This has been very successful and we have over 120 pledges. Nature Stewards is now a separate committee and they will operate our native plant depot. The goal is to save native plants that are destined to be dug up and re-home them to someone wanting to restore native plants on their property.

During our Nature Stewards Open House at the end of May about 40 visitors explored the Brockleys' garden featuring 60+ native species. They created the habitat and then many of the native plants in the garden rewilded naturally over the years following land clearing for home construction.

Trails Committee – Work for the Trails team recently is about maintenance:

Work parties:

- Placing metal mesh on boardwalks
- Rebuilding boardwalks on several trails
- On-going work of replacing sign posts in the 707 where the wooden posts have rotted.
- More signage has been ordered for trail licences, safety and share the trails reminders.

Fallen Trees Cleared:

- A few trees have been cleared from trails, fortunately not too many trees fall during the summer.

Several work parties had to be cancelled this summer due to the fire hazard.

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Accessibility sub-Committee – We are encouraged by the feasibility study presented to the RDN in July by Tetra Tech regarding Descanso Bay Regional Park Beach Access. Beach access in general continues to be a high priority for Gabriolans and GaLTT receives monthly requests for improved access.

Submitted by Sarah Kopjar

We strive to conserve and connect responsibly

We respectfully acknowledge that the lands we steward are part of the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.