



# Resilient Saanich FACTSHEET #6

## Biodiversity & Protected Areas in Saanich



Examples of biodiversity conservation targets at the international/national/regional/local levels are presented in Factsheet #3. This factsheet looks at how Saanich measures up to the most current National/ International targets:

- By 2025, protect 25% of land and 25% of ocean areas.
- By 2030 protect 30% of each.

The table below breaks down where we find protected natural areas in Saanich.

A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (IUCN 2008).

These numbers only tell us about the quantity and ownership of protected natural areas. Biodiversity targets also address species at risk, loss of habitat, long-term resilience, ecosystem services, and conservation measures. For example, 68% of Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron nests are in areas where vegetated buffers are unprotected. 78% of rare species and habitat occur on public land, which is typically in larger parcels and undeveloped with less habitat fragmentation than private land.

Ultimately, Saanich has not yet established biodiversity targets. This factsheet gives a snapshot of some of the main statistics that may aid in the conversation. All figures are estimated, do not consider the condition of natural areas, and are subject to change as more data becomes available.

### Protected Natural Areas in Saanich

| Type of Land                                  | Estimated Protected Natural Area (ha) | Notes about the Data   |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Saanich Natural Parks* and conservation areas | 504                                   | Natural area is defined as Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory, Conservation Data Centre rare elements, Coastal Douglas-fir Mapping, Saanich Ecosystem Mapping, wetlands, Marine Backshore Unit, and Wildlife Trees. |
| CRD Parks                                     | 587                                   |  |
| Streamside Protection & Enhancement Area      | 458                                   |  |
| Saanich Natural Parks—additional natural area | 62                                    | Estimated natural areas not captured in the above inventories (air photo interpretation)   |
| Lakes and Streams                             | 403                                   | Generated by GIS Mapping   |
| Natural State Covenant areas                  | 68                                    | Surveyed measurements  |
| <b>Total protected natural areas</b>          | <b>2058</b>                           | Percentage of Saanich: 19%   |

\*A natural park is dedicated to the preservation and protection of natural areas while allowing access for the enjoyment of their natural conditions without appreciably detracting from them. Natural features can include the flora, fauna, view, topographical, and historical features.



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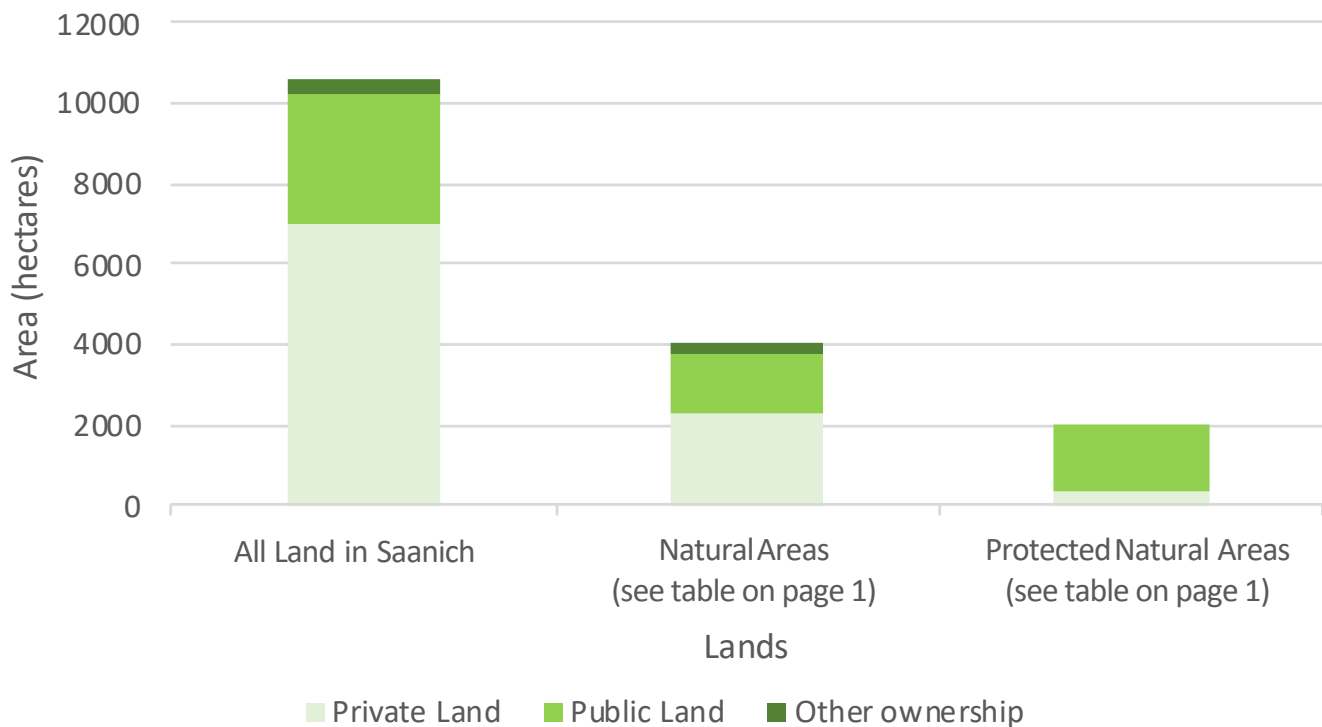


There are approximately 300 hectares of additional natural area owned by municipal, regional, provincial, and federal governments or entities that are not necessarily designated for protection of the natural environment. Additional natural area has not been analyzed on private land.

There are also two protected marine areas off the shores of Saanich—the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the 10 Mile Point Ecological Reserve. 13% of the marine coastline from Cadboro Bay to Central Saanich is publicly owned.

The upcoming new edition of the Saanich Environmental Reference Atlas contains several inventories of natural areas that cover 4090 hectares of land. The figure below illustrates how much of inventoried natural area is protected on private, public, and other land (such as a privately-owned public entity).

**Land Ownership and Protected Natural Areas in Saanich**



This information tells us that:

- 66% of land in Saanich is **privately owned** and contains 56% of Environmentally Significant Areas, of which 17% is protected.
- 31% of land in Saanich is **publicly owned** and contains 37% of Environmentally Significant Areas plus lakes & streams, of which 86% is protected.
- 3% of land is not clearly public or private (“other ownership”) and contains 8% of Environmentally Significant Areas, none of which is protected.