

Saanich Open Data Portal User Guide



opendata-saanich.hub.arcgis.com

Contents

Introduction	2
Exploring Saanich Open Data Portal	2
Downloading Data	6
Interacting with Data – Select, Filter, Style	10
Viewing Metadata	15
Download File Types	17
Contour Layer	18
Legal Annotation Layer	19
Help	20

Developed by
District of Saanich IT Dept GIS
July 9, 2024
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Introduction

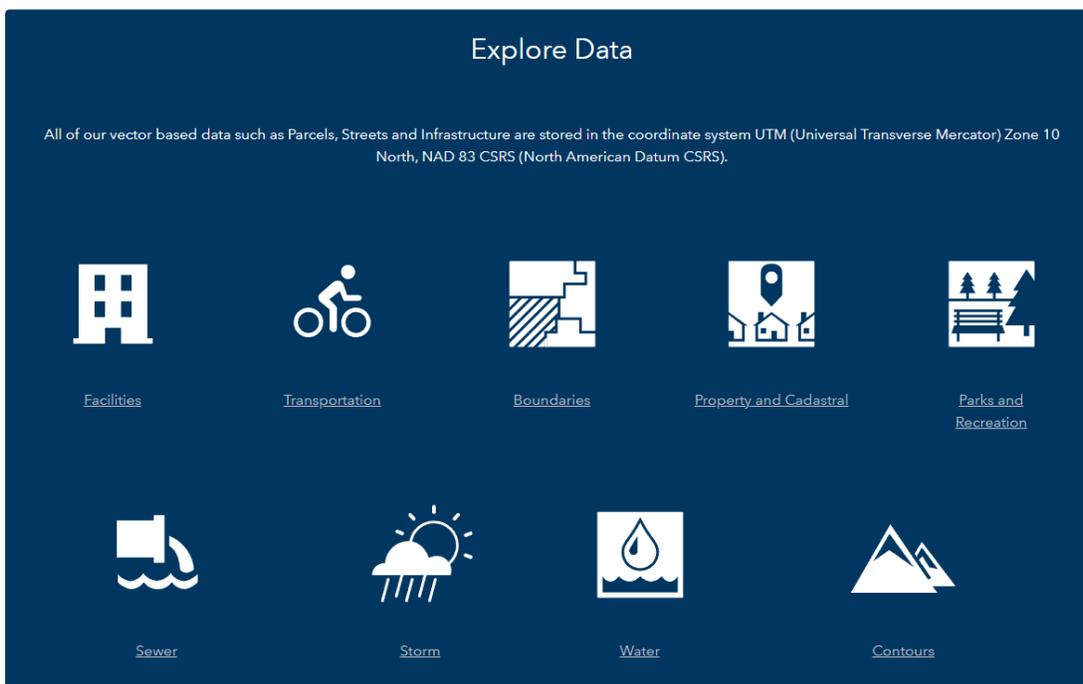
The District of Saanich Open Data Portal enables geo-spatial data to be explored, viewed, analyzed, filtered, and downloaded in many different formats. It can help with building web and mobile applications and engage others to solve important issues.

Exploring Saanich Open Data Portal

To access the portal, go to opendata-saanich.hub.arcgis.com



Scroll down the landing page to view what data is available and grouped by category.



Click on a **category** to see the list of available layers.

For example, click on **Facilities** and any available related data will be listed, in this case Building and Facilities.



Each dataset has descriptive information such as what it represents and when it was last updated.

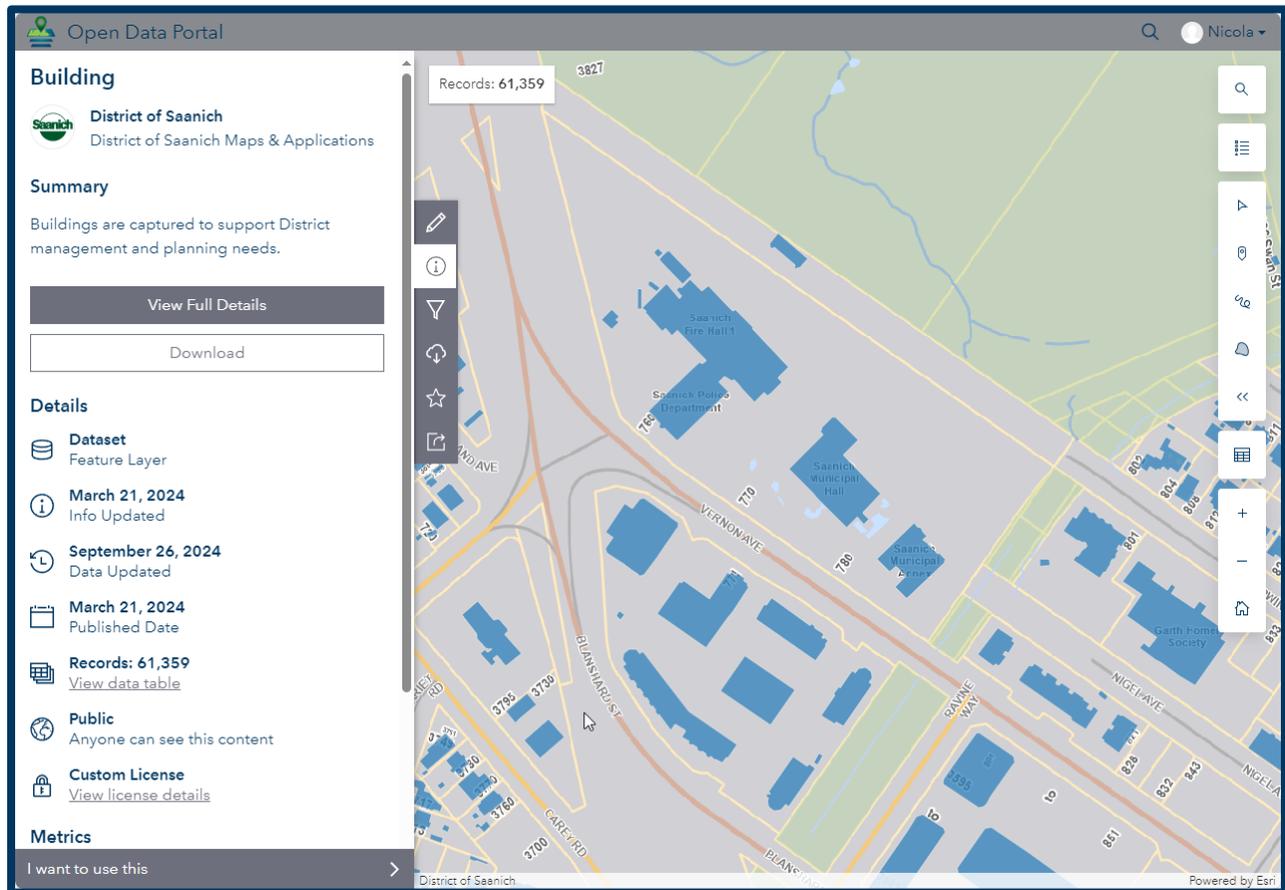
Type describes the nature of the data and with a few exceptions, most are a 'Feature Service'.

A Feature Service is a data hosting service that allows serving of feature data over the internet. This enables the data to be available for use in web clients, desktop apps and field apps. Other types can include 'Layer Packages' as with Legal Annotation, and 'Vector Tile Service' as with Lidar Contour Layer.

Categories and Tags display the broad category, or the tag the layer is associated with. This is relevant if you want to filter layers.

Data Updated displays the last upload date of the dataset to the Portal. This is generally daily.

Click on the **Title** of the dataset (e.g.: Building) to see more details and access more options.



Click on **View Full Details** to see additional metadata about the dataset such as Number of Records, Capture details, Attributes, and Terms of Use.

Building

District of Saanich
District of Saanich Maps & Applications

View Map Download More ▾

Summary

Buildings are captured to support District management and planning needs.

Buildings represent the rooflines for permanent buildings within the District of Saanich. They include commercial, industrial, institutional, single and multifamily residences, and out buildings. Buildings were compiled using 2021 aerial photography.

[Building_Metadata](#)

[Structure](#)

Looking for something else? See other datasets nearby →

Details

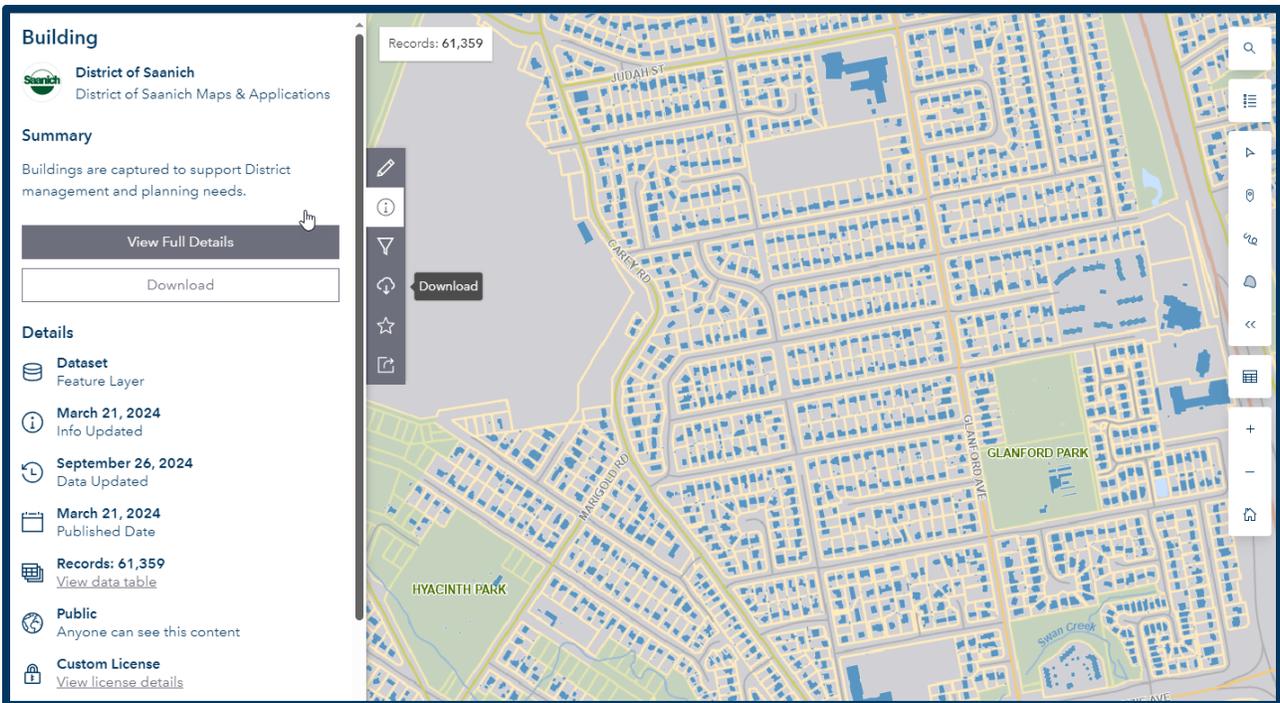
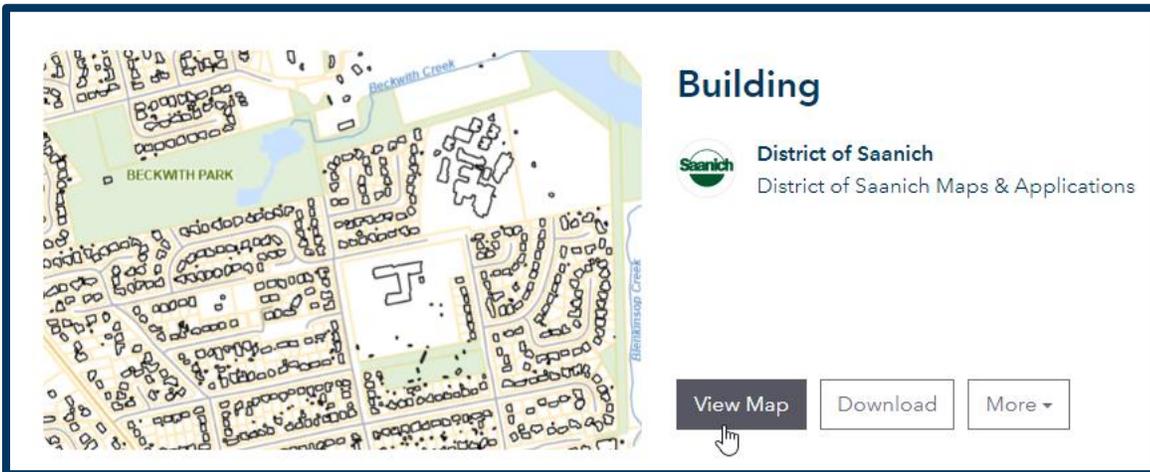
- Dataset**
Feature Layer
- March 21, 2024**
Info Updated
- September 26, 2024**
Data Updated
- March 21, 2024**
Published Date
- Records: 61,359**
[View data table](#)
- Public**
Anyone can see this content
- Custom License**
[View license details](#)

Scrolling down this page, the **I want to...** menu shows different ways you can interact with the data.

I want to...

- Create a Map**
Start a map with this data
- Create a Story**
Open in ArcGIS StoryMaps
- View API Resources**
Try out the API Explorer
- View Data Source**
Select to open in a new tab
- View All Metadata**
Select to open in a new tab
- Open in ArcGIS Online**
Select to open in a new tab

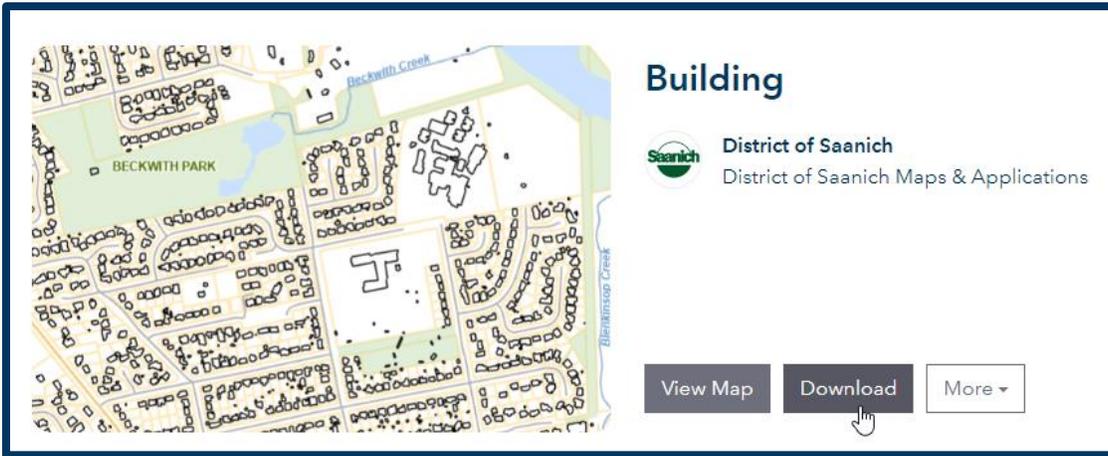
Click on **View Map** to pan around Saanich and see the features spatially.



Downloading Data

Downloading is a process requesting a complete or filtered file for a content item. Various file formats are available depending on the type of item.

When viewing details for selected content in Portal, click on **Download** to access a dataset.



Here are formats currently available for download.

Download Options ☆ Hosted Downloads
Building
Records: 61,359

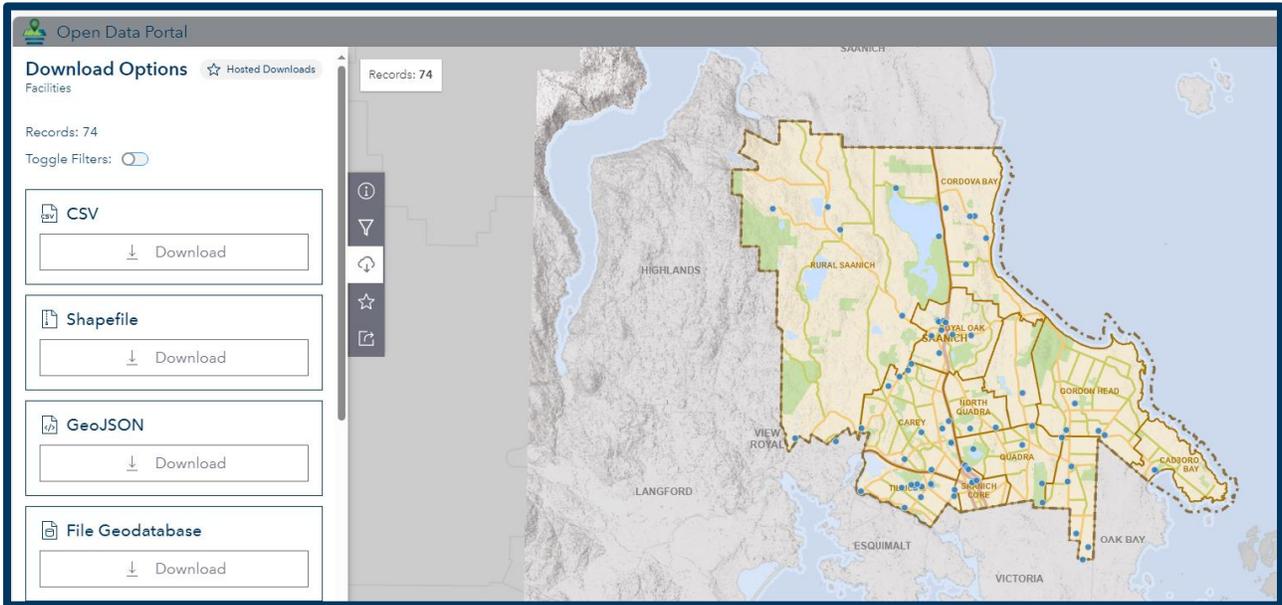
- CSV**
Download
- Shapefile**
Download
- GeoJSON**
Download
- KML**
Download
- File Geodatabase**
Download

- Feature Collection**
Download
- Excel**
Download
- GeoPackage**
Download
- SQLite Geodatabase**
Download
- DWG**
Access

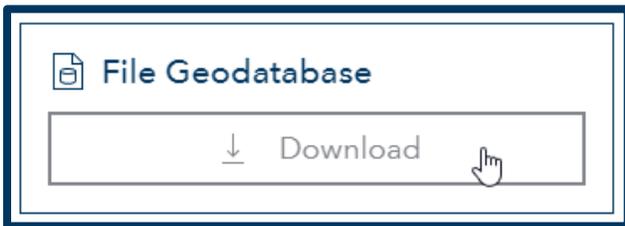
- Sewer Collection GDB**
Access
- Sewer Collection DWG**
Access

For a few datasets, there are Geodatabase and DWG collections available for download.

To download data of interest, select the format you want to receive it in.

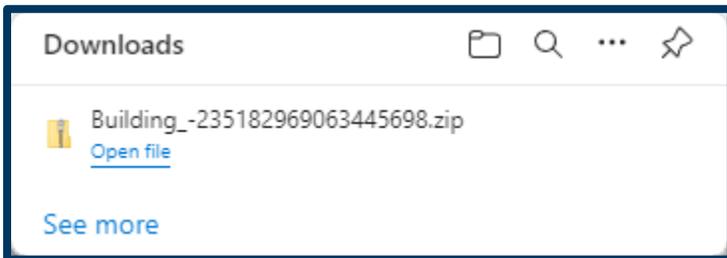


For this example, Download is selected for File Geodatabase.



Depending on the size of the dataset selected, the download could take a few seconds to a few minutes.

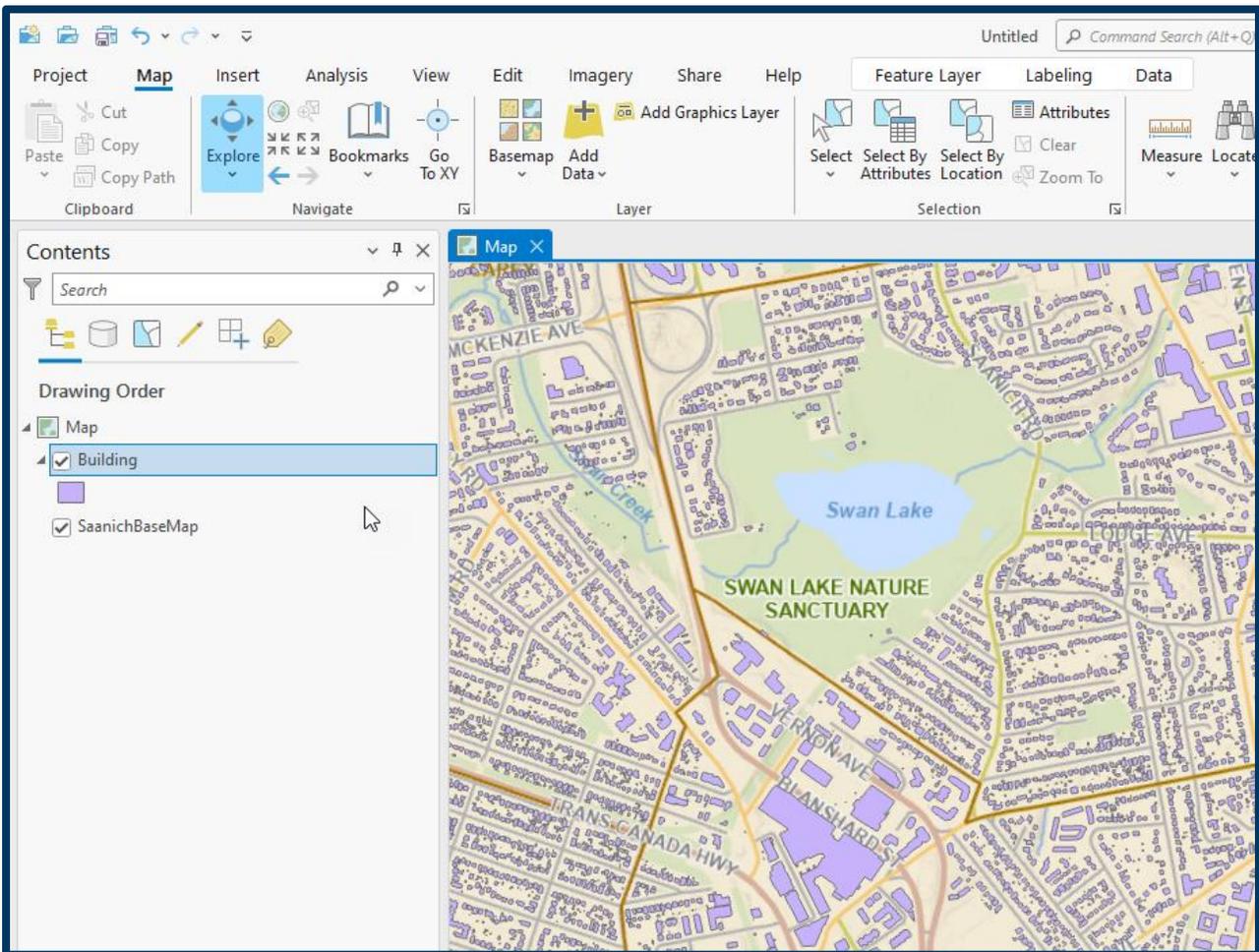
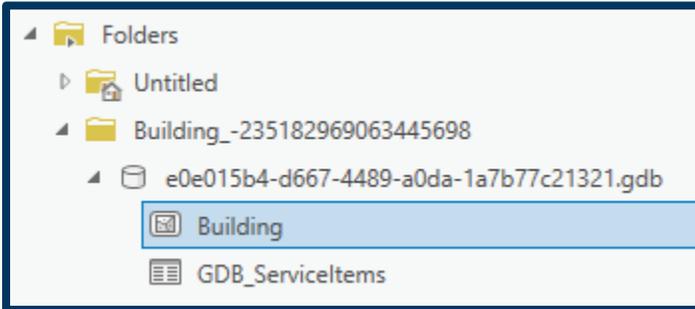
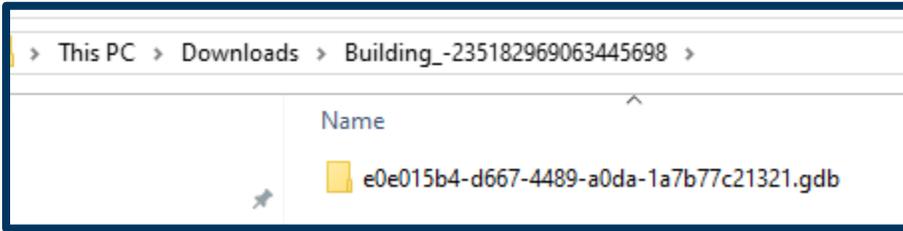
When completed, a zipped file will be created on your local computer that you can work with.



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
▼ Today (1)			
Building_-235182969063445698.zip	10/7/2024 10:08 AM	Compressed (zipp...	9,808 KB

Extract the geodatabase from the zip file.

Note – you can rename the file to something more descriptive as it defaults to the unique id.



Interacting with Data – Select, Filter, Style

When exploring a map layer such as Street, there are many ways to interact with the data.

Create a Data Subset Selection

a. Select one feature on the map

Expand the tools on the right side of the map.
The first tool is **Select**.

With **Select** active, click on a street of interest displayed in the map to show more details.

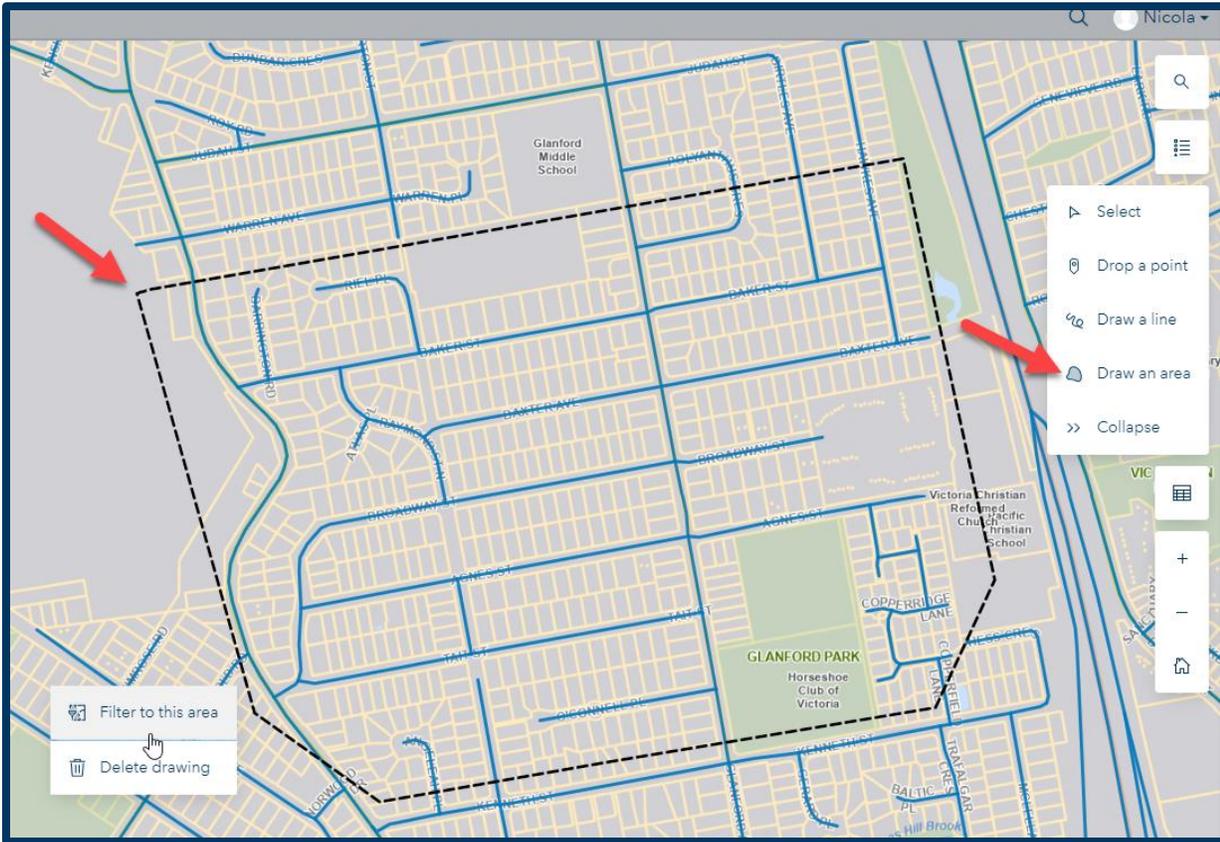
The image shows a map interface with a context menu open on the right side. The menu options are: Select, Drop a point, Draw a line, Draw an area, and Collapse. A red arrow points to the 'Select' option. Below the map, a data table is displayed with the following information:

OBJECTID	956
Class	Residential
Full Street Name	BROADWAY ST
Facility ID	TST001950
Street Name	BROADWAY
Type	ST
Left Address From	504
Left Address To	550
Right Address From	511
Right Address To	551
Prefix	
Suffix	

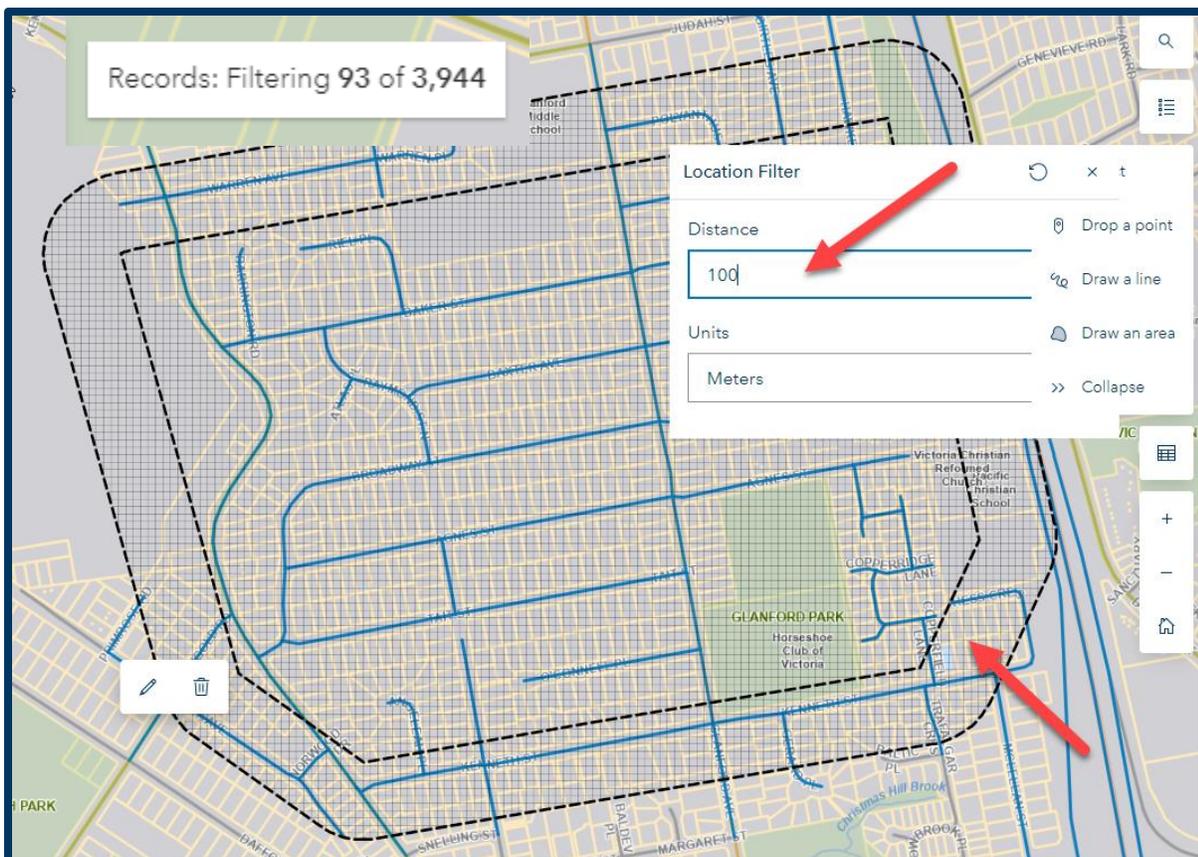
b. Select multiple features covering an area of interest

Choose the **Point**, **Line** or **Area** tool and draw a shape in the map to select anything passing through that shape.

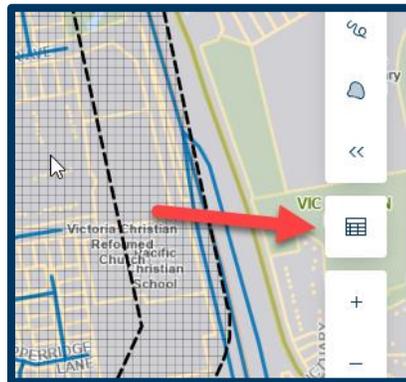
Then, click on **Filter to this area**.



- c. If you wish to **buffer the selection area**, enter a **distance** and **units**. In the example below, a 100 m buffer is added around the area. This creates a subset of 93 streets selected in the area.



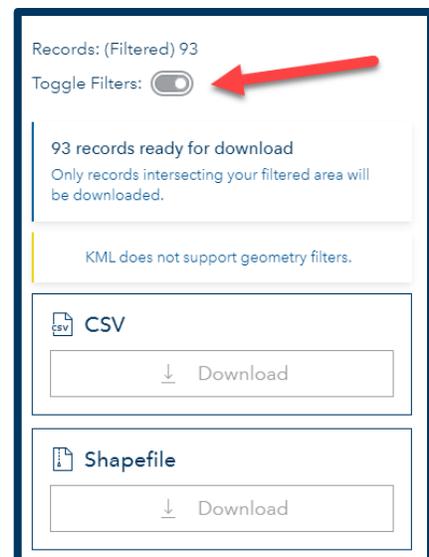
d. To see the selected records, click on the **Table** icon



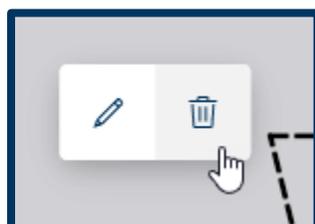
Showing 93 of 93 rows

	Class	Full Street Name	Facility ID	Street Name	Type	Left Address From	Left Address To
	Private	COPERRIDGE LANE	TST003986	COPERRIDGE	LANE	4,059	4,059
	Private	COPPERFIELD LANE	TST003311	COPPERFIELD	LANE	4,052	4,058
	FireAccess		TST003314				
	Residential	BAXTER AVE	TST002381	BAXTER	AVE	552	596
	Residential	KENNETH ST	TST003488	KENNETH	ST	600	600
	Residential	BROADWAY ST	TST001934	BROADWAY	ST	606	640
	Residential	O'CONNELL PL	TST001933	O'CONNELL	PL	562	594
	Residential	KENNETH ST	TST002903	KENNETH	ST	648	656
	Residential	MCLELLAN ST	TST003731	MCLELLAN	ST	4,000	4,034

e. To download only the selected features, **turn on Toggle Filters** in the left panel and choose a download format.



f. To **clear** the selection click on the **trash can** in the map.



Style and Attribute Filters

a. The visual display of features can be adjusted by applying **style filters**.

Under the **Styling Tab**, selecting an **attribute** will classify features on the map by individual attributes.

For example, Streets can be classified by Class (Residential, Major, Collector etc.) Clicking on the Legend will show the varying symbology applied to each category.

The screenshot displays the 'Filters' panel for the 'Street' layer. The 'Styling' tab is selected, indicated by a red arrow. Under 'Style by attribute', the 'Class' option is selected, also indicated by a red arrow. The legend shows the following symbology for the 'CLASS' attribute:

Class	Symbology
Residential	Blue line
Collector	Yellow line
Major	Red line
8 Other Values	Grey line

The map shows a residential area with streets colored according to their class. A 'Legend' window is open, showing the symbology. A 'Select existing location' button is visible on the map. The 'Filters' panel also shows other attributes like 'Full Street Name', 'Facility ID', 'Street Name', 'Type', and address ranges, each with a 'Clear Styling' button at the bottom.

b. Data can be **filtered by attribute**

Under the **Filters Tab**, selecting an **attribute** to filter the layer by will select those features that match.

For example, Streets can be filtered by Private Class where just the 253 private streets are displayed in the map.

Filters
Street

Filters Styling

Filter as map moves

Class

<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	62.98%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collector	14.33%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major	12.63%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private	6.41%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turnlane	1.57%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highway	0.89%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ramp	0.48%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Park	0.28%
<input type="checkbox"/>	FireAccess	0.23%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access	0.13%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge	0.08%

Select attribute filters (13)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class	11 values	tT
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Street Name	1,453 values	tT
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facility ID	2,000 values	tT
<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Name	1,260 values	tT

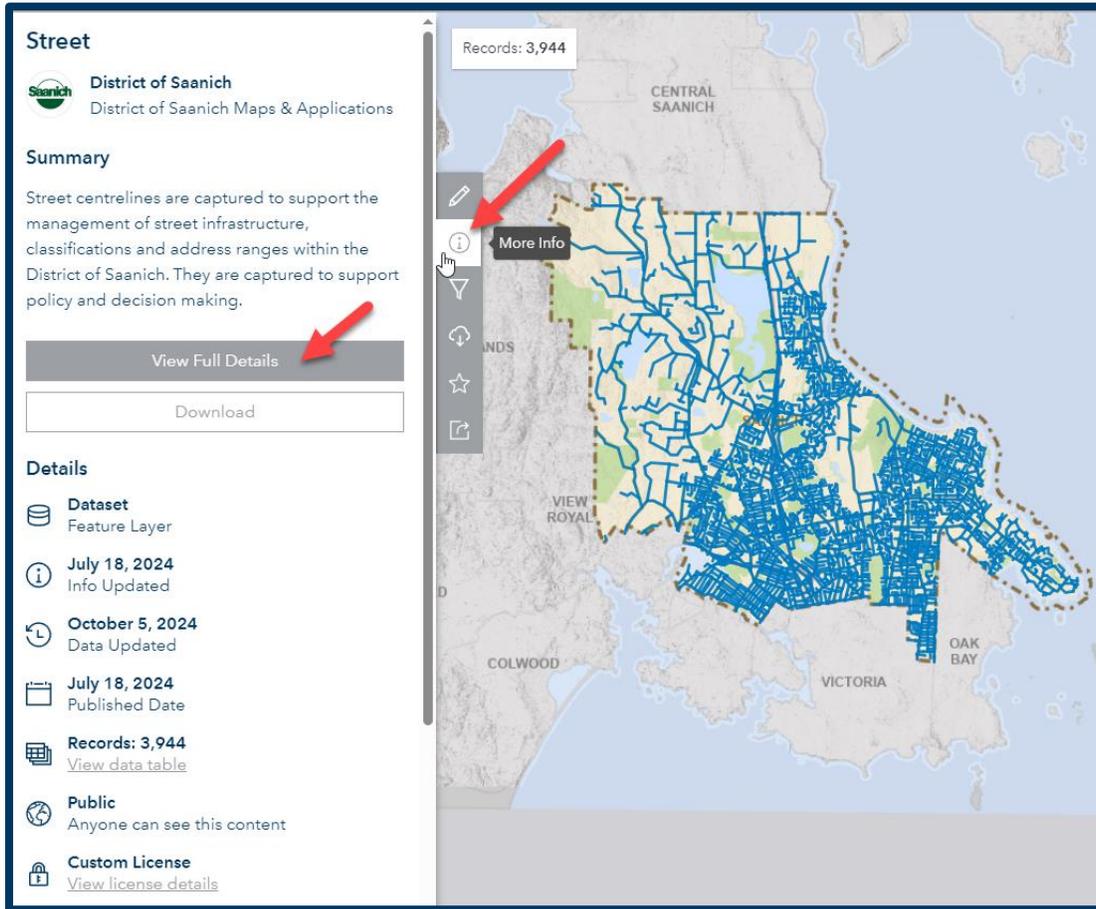
Records: Filtering 253 of 3,944

To return to the original map extent, click **Home** located on the bottom right of the map.

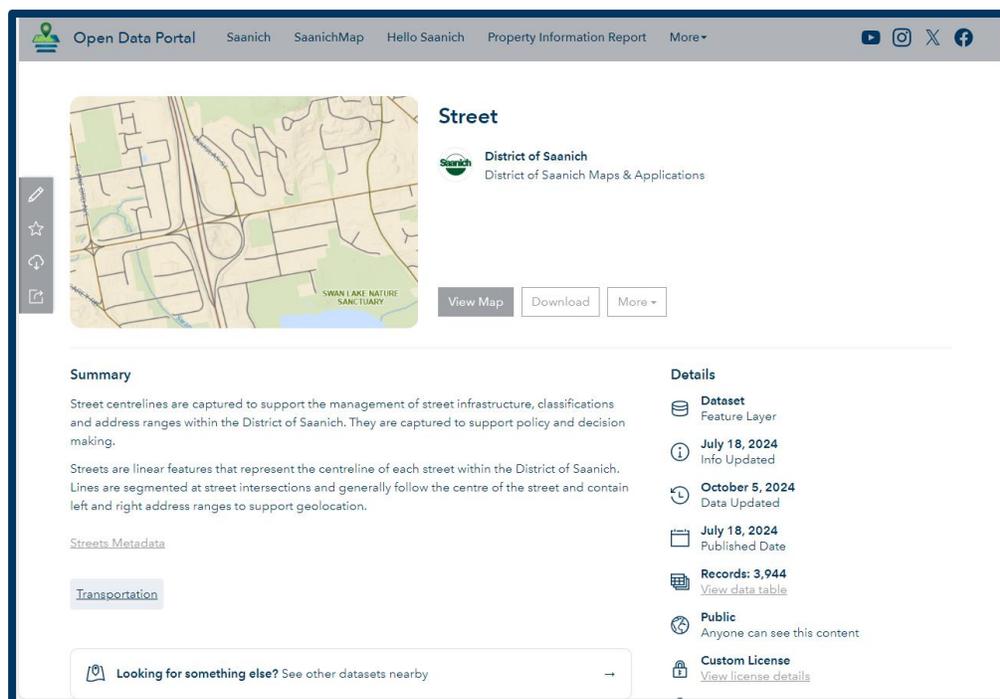


Viewing Metadata

To access metadata about the layer, click **More Info** and click **View Full Details**



Metadata details are provided for each layer including a summary, terms of use, number of records, category etc.



Clicking the **Metadata link** will display further summary information about the layer including update frequency, coordinate system and attribute definitions.



Street

Custodian: The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Publish Date: January 1, 2003

Abstract: Linear features that represent the centreline of each street within the District of Saanich. Lines are segmented at street intersections and generally follow the centre of the street and contain left and right address ranges to support geolocation.

Purpose: Street centrelines are captured to support the management of street infrastructure, classifications, and address ranges within the District of Saanich. They are captured to improve policy and decision making and enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses.

Status: Complete

Update Frequency: Monthly

Credits: The Corporation of the District of Saanich, IT Dept GIS, Engineering Dept, Transportation Section, Roads Section

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 10N (WKID: 3157)

Geometry Type: Line

Attribution Information:

FIELD NAME	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES
OBJECTID/FID	Internal feature number	540
CLASS	Street classification or designation	Residential, Collector, Private
FULLSTREETNAME	Full street name including street type	DOOLEY RD
FACILITYID	Unique identifier created by Saanich	TST000220
STREETNAME	Street name	DOOLEY
TYPE	Abbreviated street type	RD, AVE, BLVD, CRES
LEFTADDFROM	Left low address range	6100

Download File Types

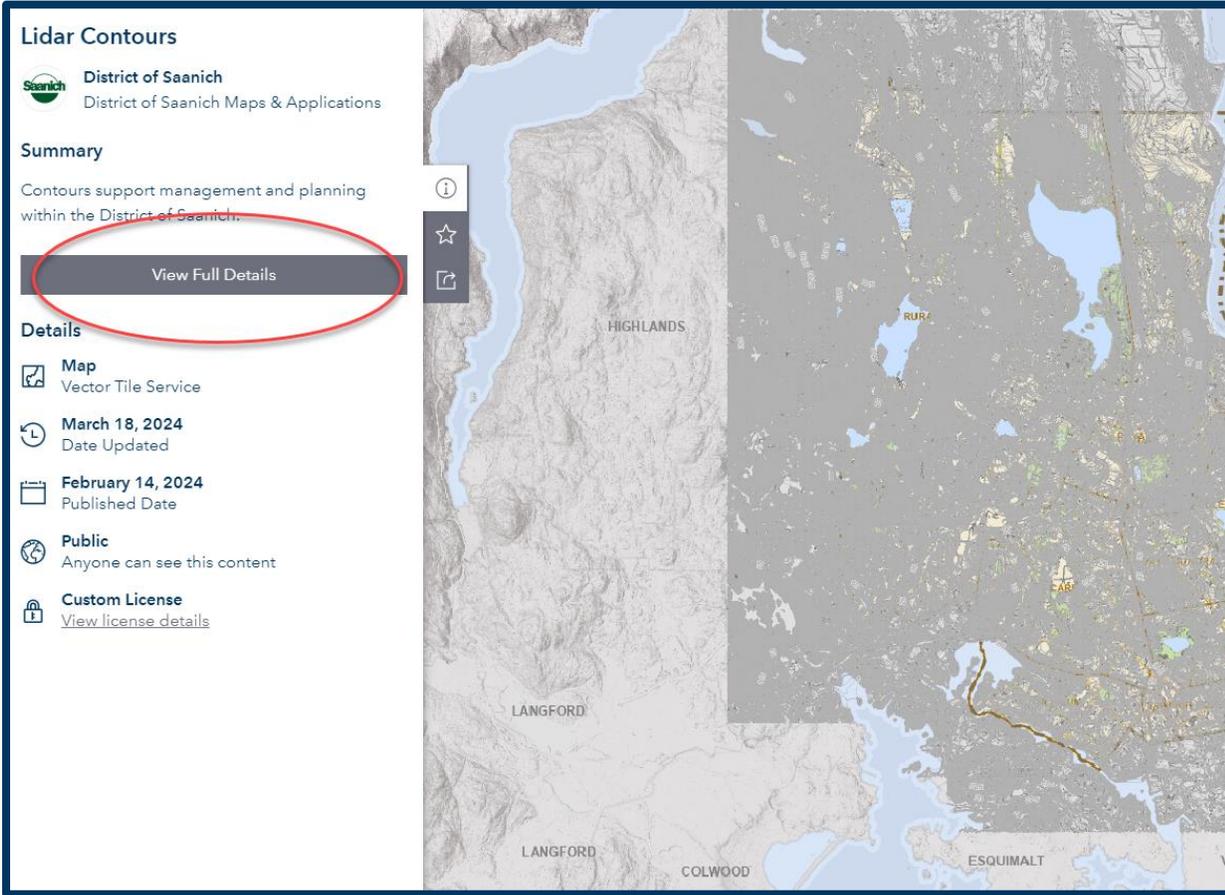
Some of the file types available for download include

- **CSV:** Comma Separated Values can display information in a tabular format such as Excel and non-geospatial applications and have XY coordinates recorded.
- **Shapefile:** A simple open-source Esri vector format that stores geometric location and associated attributes. Can be represented by points, lines or polygons.
- **GeoJSON:** An open geospatial data interchange format based on JSON that represents geographical features and their non-spatial attributes.
- **KML:** An XML-based format for storing geographic data and associated content and an official Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standard. A common format for sharing geographic data with non-GIS users as it can be easily delivered on the Internet and viewed in a number of free applications, including Google Earth.
- **File Geodatabase:** The native format for ArcGIS developed by Esri. A data storage container consisting of spatial and non-spatial data, simple and scalable.
- **Excel:** Tabular format containing the attributes for the layer. Unlike the CSV, it does not contain the XY coordinates of each asset.
- **Geopackage:** An open-source and compact file for storing geographic information. Accessible in many different programs.
- **SQLite Geodatabase:** A mobile geodatabase facilitating mobile and offline workflows. Stored in a SQLite database as a single file, making it easily sharable.
- **Collection GDB:** Some categories like Sewer, Storm, and Water, give you the option to select the entire collection of related assets by downloading the *Collection GDB*. Feature layers with True Arcs are included in this collection.
- **FGDB with True Arcs:** Same as file geodatabase where arcs are represented as true arcs and not segmented lines. Note - only pertains to multi-part features.
- **DWG:** A drawing file typically associated with AutoCAD.
- **Collection DWG:** Contains a collection of related assets within the drawing in DWG form.

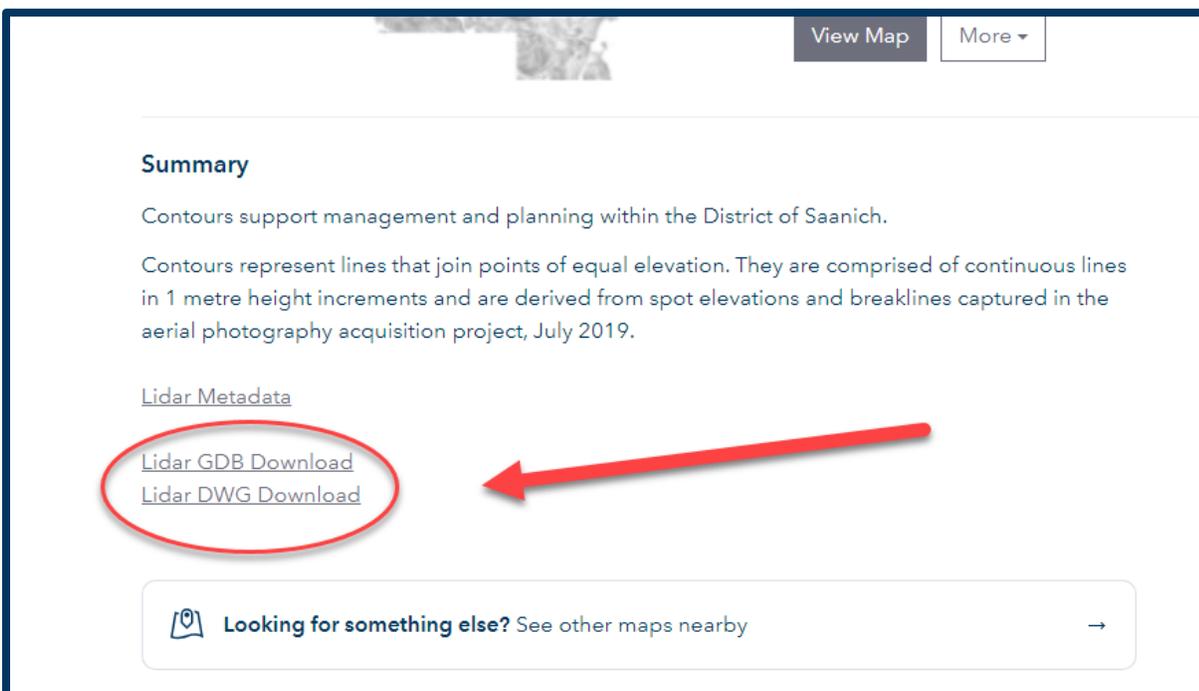
To access data, click on either **Download** or **Access** below the file type.

Contour Layer

To download Lidar derived Contour data, select **View Full Details** while viewing the data in the Portal.



At the bottom of the summary paragraph, choose between either a GDB or DWG format to download.



Legal Annotation Layer

The Legal Annotation Layer, found under the Property and Cadastral category, does not have a map preview. Legal Annotation is a Layer package with several layers grouped together.

From the information page go to the GDB and DWG download links under the Summary text.

The screenshot shows the search results for 'Legal Annotation' on the Open Data Portal. The results are organized into three sections: Dataset, Content, and Dataset. The 'Content' section, which is highlighted with a red border, contains the 'Legal Annotation' layer package. The 'Property Lines' and 'Parcel' datasets are also visible.

Dataset: Property Lines
 District of Saanich Maps & Applications
 Property Line is captured to provide an accurate representation of lot line boundaries to support management, planning and maintenance of properties within the District of Saanich.
 Type: Feature Service | Date updated: 3/11/2024
 Tags: Property, Line, Planning, Cadastre, Property Lines | Categories: Planning and cadastre

Content: Legal Annotation
 District of Saanich Maps & Applications
 Legal capture supports District of Saanich business processes and general public use.
 Type: Layer Package | Date updated: 4/2/2024
 Tags: Legal, Annotation, Parcel | Categories: Planning and cadastre

Dataset: Parcel
 District of Saanich Maps & Applications
 Parcels are captured to provide an accurate representation of lot boundaries and land information to support the management, planning, and maintenance of properties within the District of Saanich.
 Type: Feature Service | Date updated: 3/12/2024
 Tags: Parcel, Planning, Cadastre | Categories: Planning and cadastre

The screenshot shows the 'Legal Annotation' information page. At the top, there is a map preview and buttons for 'Open Content' and 'Download'. Below the map is the 'Summary' section, which contains the following text:

Summary

Legal capture supports District of Saanich business processes and general public use.

Legal represents lines positioned to support cartographic labeling of legal text such as lot, block, section, and plan information. The labeled legal text is best rendered at a 1:5000 scale.

[Legal Annotation Metadata](#)

For the latest updates download the following links. The download link above may be out of date.

[Legal GDB Download](#)

[Legal DWG Download](#)

Read Less ^

[Planning and cadastre](#)

Tags

A red arrow points to the 'Legal GDB Download' and 'Legal DWG Download' links.

Help

For more guidance on using the Open Data Portal, please contact Saanich's GIS team in the IT Department at gis@saanich.ca or call the Help Desk at 250-475-5448 and ask for GIS support.