



**PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Natural Areas Overview

Saanich Parks 2021

Natural Areas

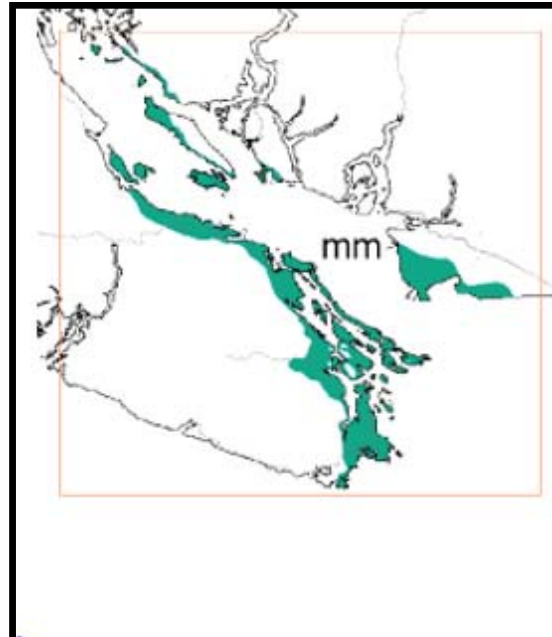
- What are they?
- Where are they and how much?
- How has the program evolved?
- How do we manage them?
- Where are we going?



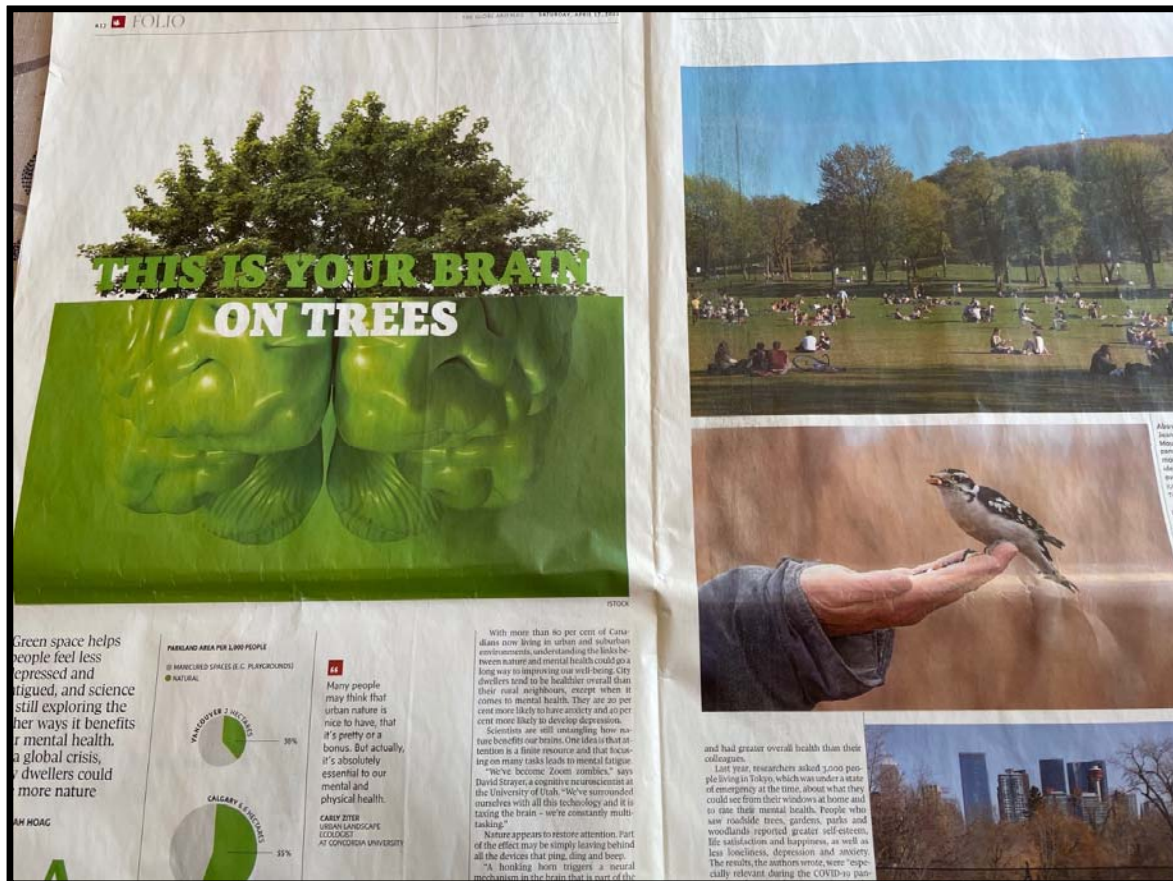
Ecological Context



Coastal Douglas fir zone – only 0.3% of BC with only 1% protected. Over 200 species at risk



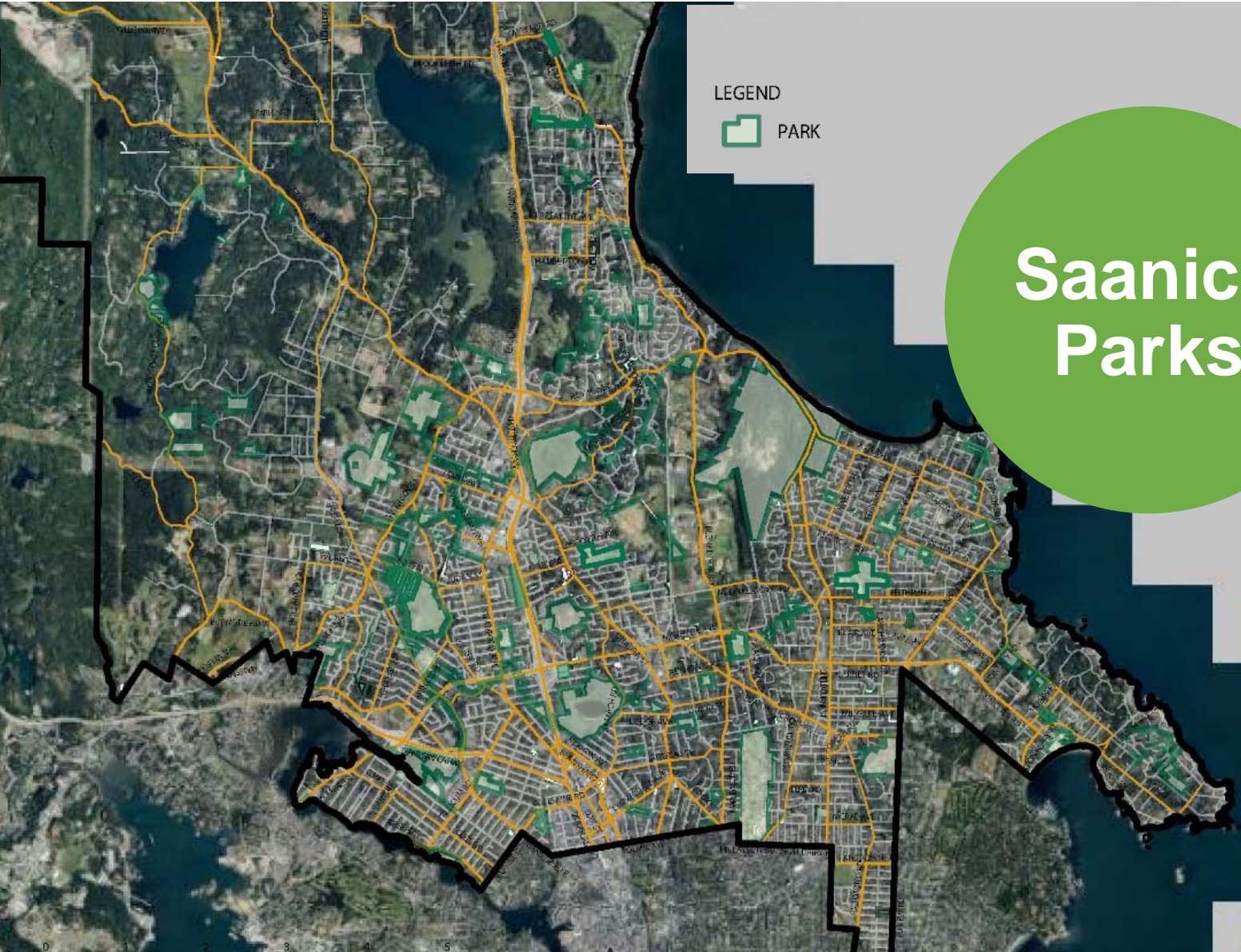
Social Context



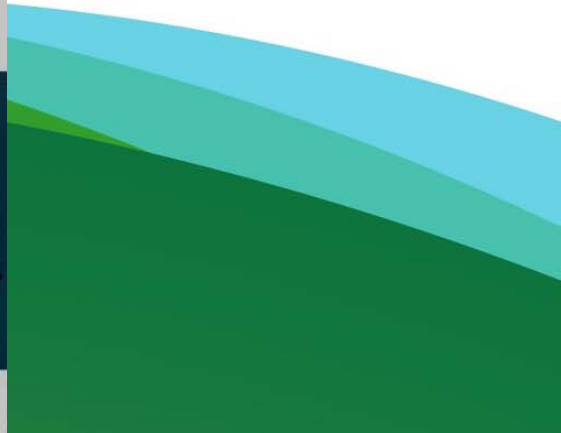
- Globe and Mail centre spread
- Saturday Apr 18, 2021



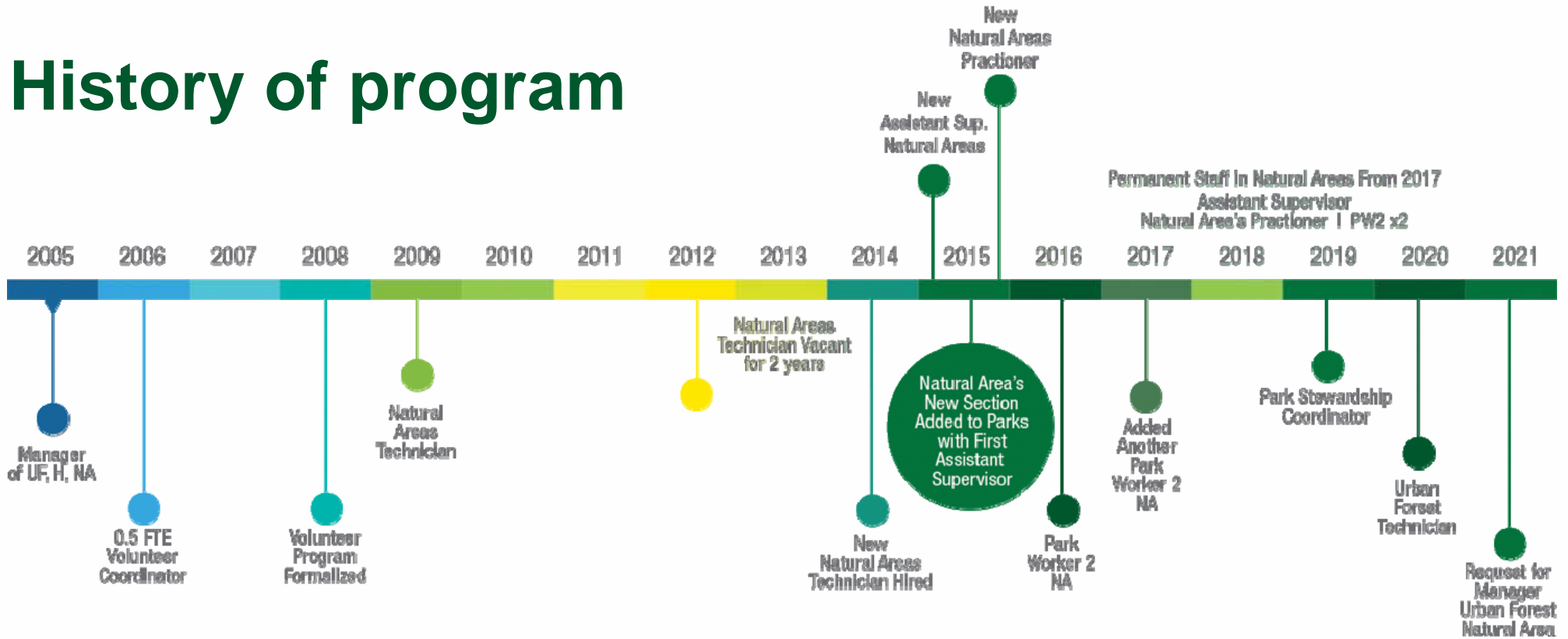
Natural Intelligence



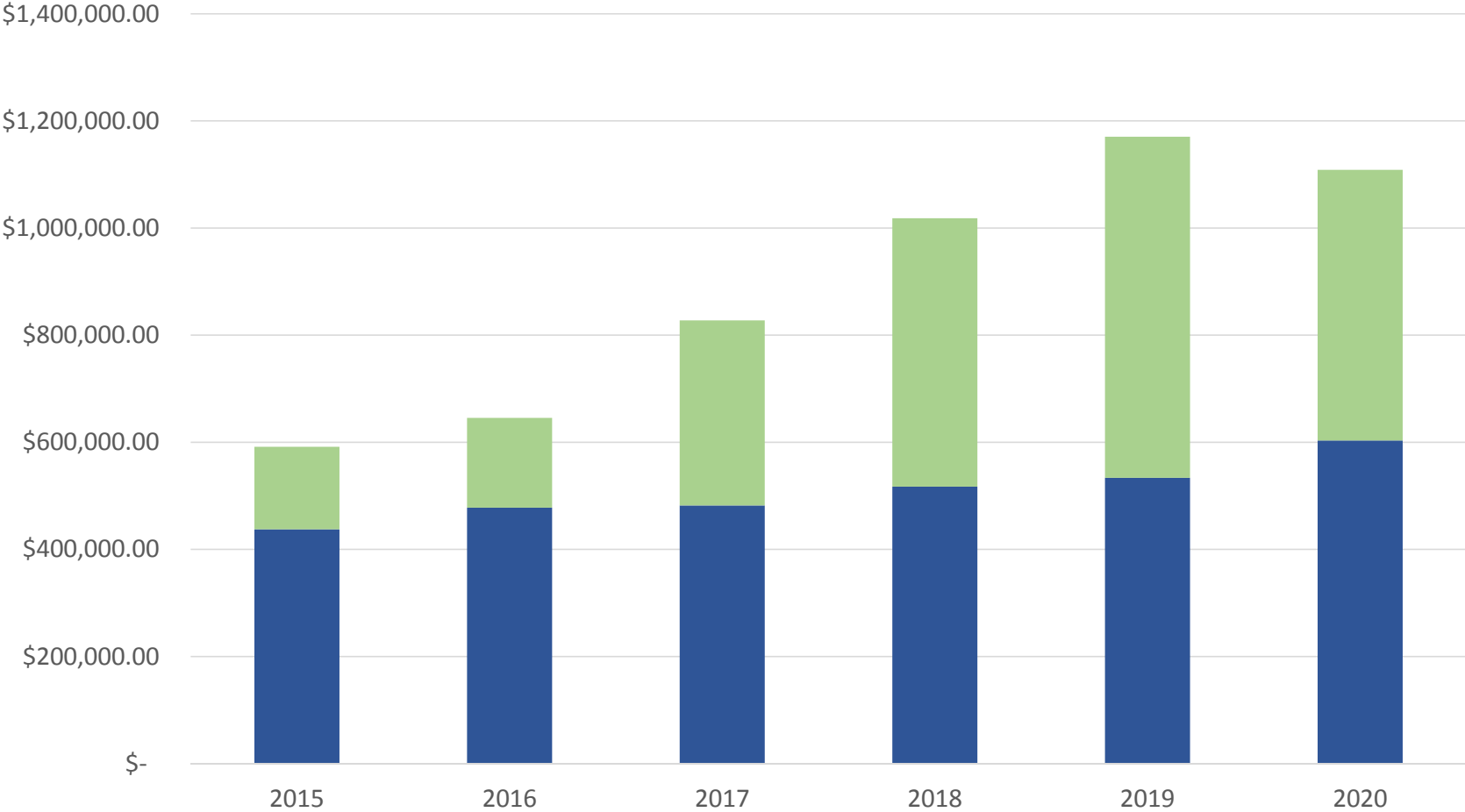
Saanich Parks



History of program



Program Growth in 5 years



Natural Areas Action Plan 2011

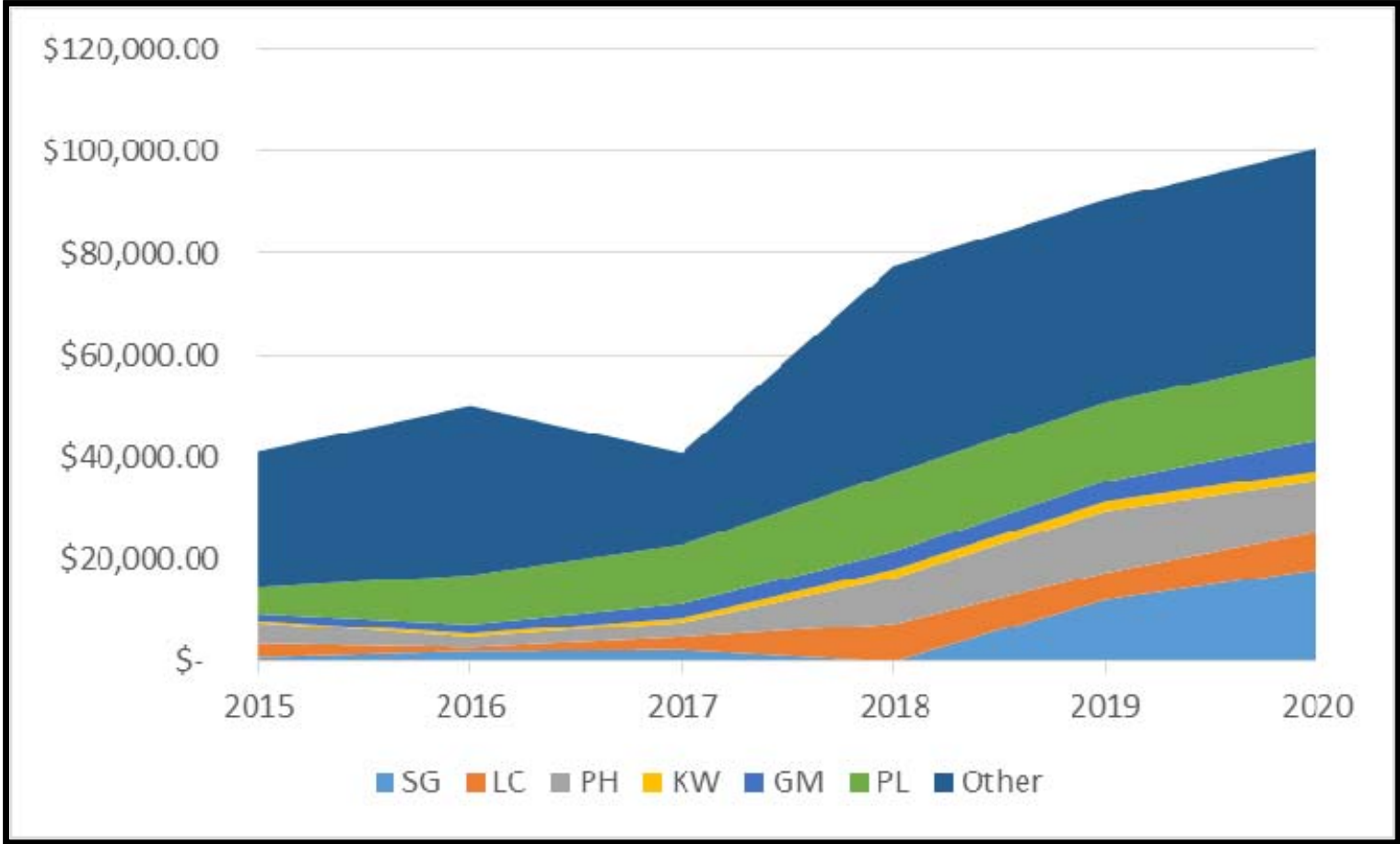
- Invasive species
- Mapping, inventory, monitoring
- Community Outreach
- Best Management Practices
- Park Management Plans

Natural Area Program Elements

- Invasive Species Management
- Large Restorations – Creeks
- Trail Work and Restoration Planting
- Community Outreach and Partnerships
- Natural Areas Habitat Structures
- Tree Appreciation Day



Invasive Species Spending



Invasive Species Management

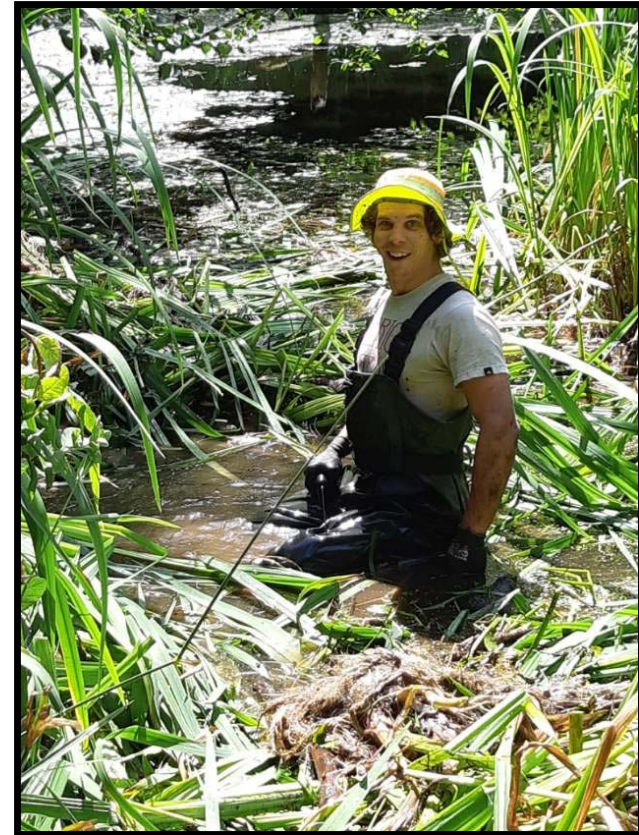


- 400+ staff managed sites (Poison Hemlock, Yellow Flag Iris, Purple Loosestrife, Knotweed, Lesser Celandine, Garlic Mustard, Gorse, Hogweed)
- New GIS layer with Environmental Services
- ~50 PT Volunteer parks (Holly, Ivy, Daphne, Broom, Blackberry)
- Herbicide reduced over the years
- Most sites manual removed
- Shiny Geranium – provincially sponsored
- CRISP – excellent partnerships

Priority Invasive Plants



Poison Hemlock



Yellow Flag Iris

Large Restorations



Douglas Creek

- Entire stretch (~900m) of creek restored
- Dozens of restoration sites within riparian zone
- Annual salmon carcass toss event
- Fry release with DFO & classrooms
- Many planting events held with youth groups



Colquitz Creek- Eastridge Restoration Area

- Nature benches
- Split rail barrier for restoration planting
- Natural wood chip trail down to viewing area



Colquitz Creek Partnerships

- Example: 2019 - 110m restored
- Total cost \$108,000
- Shared between Saanich Parks, Peninsula Streams & Public Works



Swan Creek Restoration



Bowker Creek



Trail Work and Restoration Planting



- Lindsay Trail
- Glendenning
- Southridge
- Playfair GO
- Phyllis Park

Lindsay Trail Construction & Planting



Southridge Stage 1 - 2017



Glendenning Stage 2 & 3 - 2018



Playfair Trail Construction 2018



Winter 2020/2021 Natural Areas Planting Program



- Over 30 sites planted
- Over 600 trees planted
- Over 4000 shrubs, ferns, forbs planted



Community Outreach and Partnerships



Partnerships with Volunteers, Youth Groups, First Nations, Non-Profit

- Pulling Together Program - ~60 Lead Stewards
 - Park Ambassadors – Mount Douglas Park
 - Youth Groups – Schools, Scouts, Nature Schools
 - Douglas Creek Artificial Salmon Redds (*Friends of Mt. Douglas & Goldstream hatchery*)
 - Delivering Douglas-fir Logs to Tsartlip Bighouse
 - Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society
 - Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society
 - Friends Of Groups (*Swan Creek, Mount Douglas, etc*)
 - University of Victoria
- 



Pulling Together Volunteer Program

- 60+ Lead Stewards
- 15,000+ volunteer hours/year
- ~\$110,000 Staff support per year





Education and Outreach



Park Ambassadors

ND9



Youth Group Volunteers

“Hemi in a Stump”



Mount Douglas High School at Mount Tolmie Park



Tinker Town



A redd refers to a salmon egg "nest" in cobble

Artificial Redds in Douglas Creek





Restoration Site Tree Sources

- 400 potted seedlings from FBSES
- ~250 potted Garry Oaks from GOMPS
- 500-1000 seedling plugs from Arbutus Grove Nurseries



Habitat Structures

Habitat
Logs/
boulders

Bat
Boxes

Wood
Duck
Boxes

Swallow/
Wren
Boxes

Great
Horned Owl
Nesting
Platforms

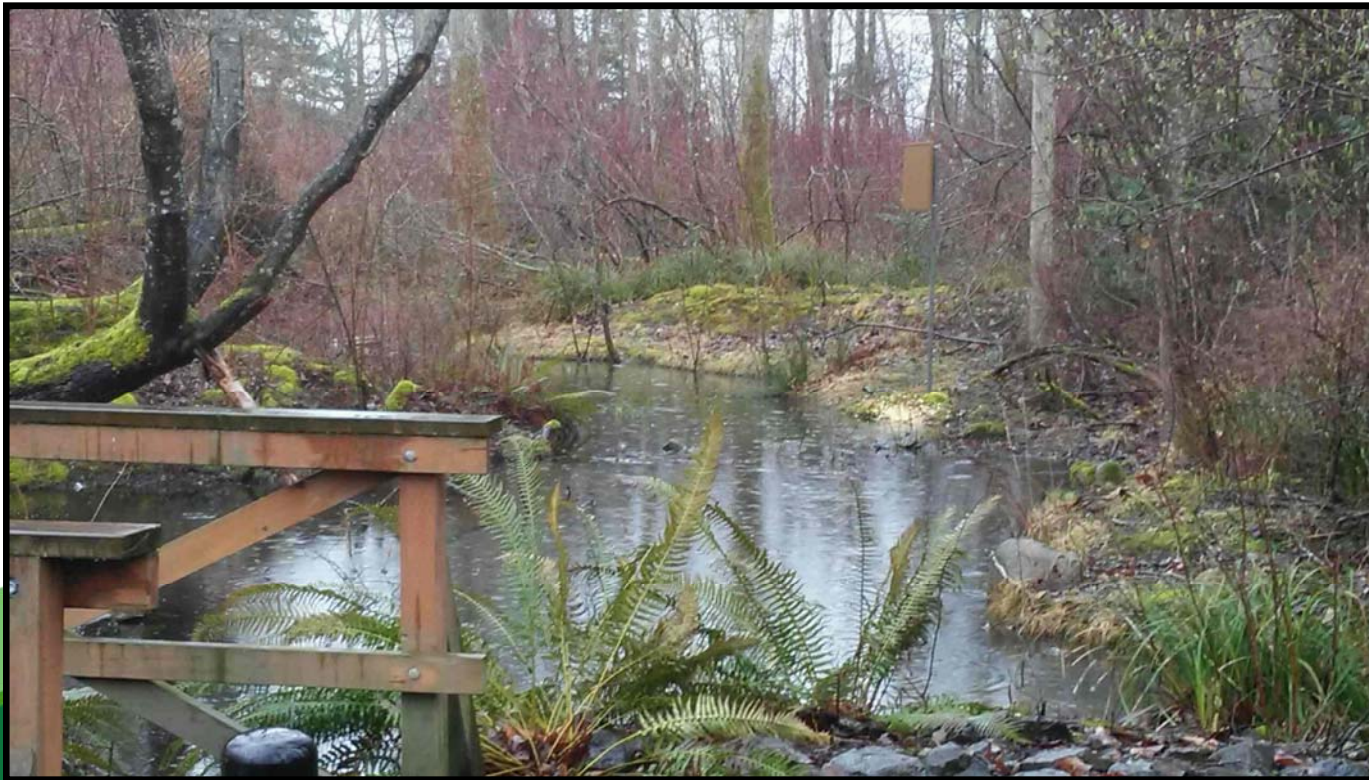


**Creating
habitat
logs**

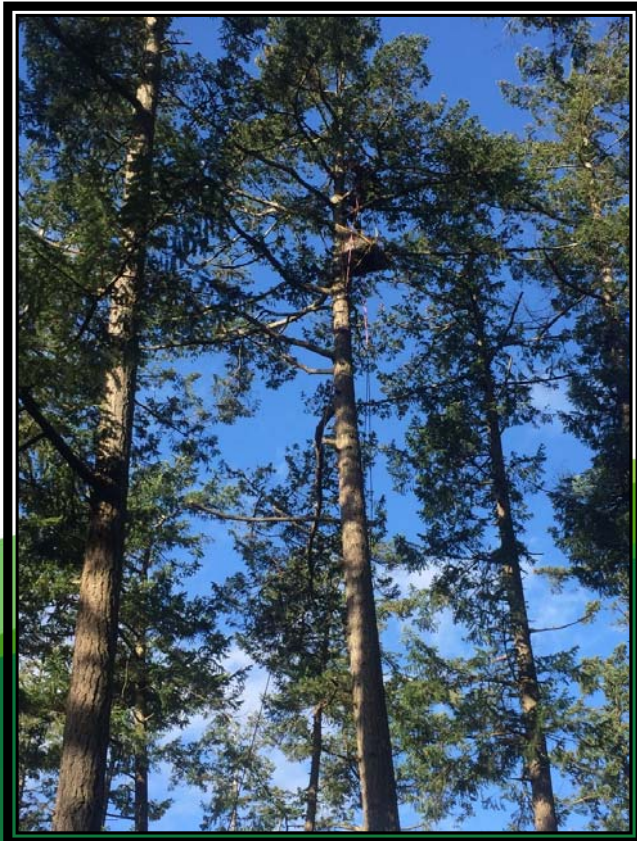


Bat Box Installation

Wood Duck Boxes



Great Horned Owl Nesting Platforms



Tree Appreciation Day November 2, 2019

King Alfred Park




Tree Appreciation Day 2015 - 2020

Year	Site	# of Trees Planted	# of Shrubs Planted
2015	Capital City Allotment Gardens	36	750
	Douglas Creek Weir	65	550
2016	Montague Park	45	NA
2017	Swan Creek & Brydon Park	65	395
2018	Glanford Park	31	170
2019	King Alfred Park	30	350
2020	Mount Douglas Beach Parking	85	760

Creek Viewing Areas



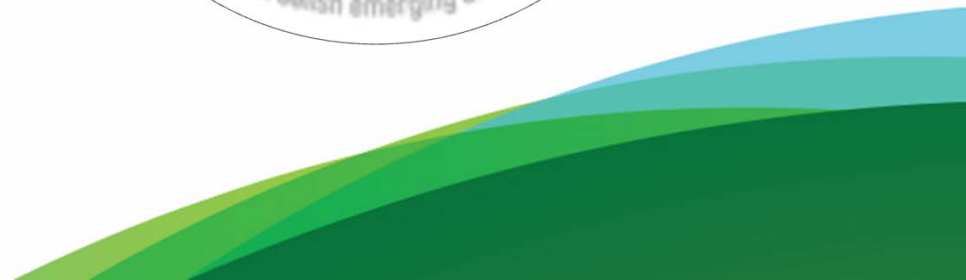
Moving Forward

- Natural Intelligence
 - UN Decade On Ecosystem Restoration
 - Trail Closures and Habitat Protection
-
- Inventory
 - Restoration Plans
 - Updating Plans & Guidelines
 - Strategic Acquisitions and Longterm Protection
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UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

2021-2030

- Micro-restorations
- Pollinator Gardens
- Creek Restorations
- MOTI Mitigation Funds
- Garry Oak Restoration Project – 9 Original GORP Sites



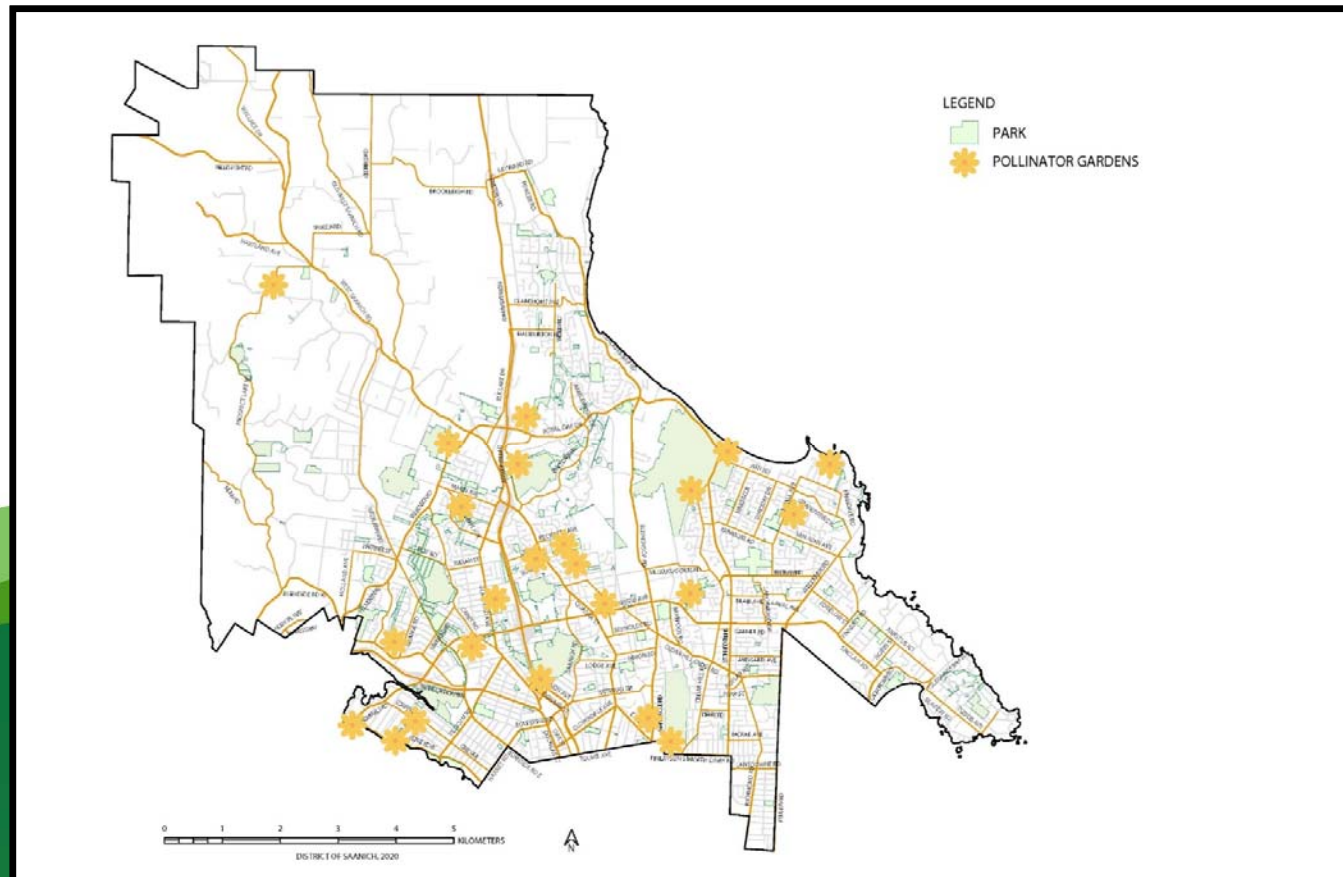
Garry Oak Dripline



Layritz Park - Arbutus Restoration



Pollinator Plantings in Parks



ER15

Quick's Bottom Restoration – Stage 1



Trail Closures & Habitat Protection



Habitat Protection Areas



Strategic Acquisition and Long-term Protection

