

Gabriola Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Review - update - July 31 2024

After a great start last year discussing our Vision and Values for this special place we call ‘Gabriola’, the Islands Trust is embarking on Phase Two of the review of our Official Community Plan. We are launching a discussion on the relationship between **Principles**, which are foundational **Values** we identified in the Gabriola Visioning exercise, and **Goals**. Principles underpin any governance framework; they identify actionable and focused areas of a vision statement, and inform the Goals, Objectives and Policies within the Official Community Plan, ensuring that all actions are aligned with the overall vision and the community's values.

If anyone missed the [Gabriola Visioning 2023 Community Engagement presentation](#) at the Haven last Spring by planner Narissa Chadwick, this is a great place to understand how key themes were developed, as well as an illustration of how Values, Goals, Objectives, Policies and Regulations work together. The [Gabriola 2050 What We Heard Engagement Summary Report](#) outlines the steps we've taken so far. It describes how **Themes** (such as Built Environment) relate to **Values** (such as Inclusive Public Spaces) and **Goals** (such as "Community gathering spaces are plentiful, inclusive and accessible"). The Report lists and describes the *draft* **Principles** we are asking for feedback on (Equity, Protection, Reconciliation, Resilience, Stewardship), and how they relate to specific Goals.

And ... none of this is set in stone! This is the point we check in and take the pulse of the community - *did we hear right? And what might be missing?* Three avenues of feedback are available: through a survey, in-person engagement at community events, and email. Throughout the summer, staff and Trustees will be at public locations—the Saturday Farmer's Market, Sunday Silva Bay Market, Concert on the Green, Brickyard Jam, the Salmon BBQ—to canvass community members for their thoughts on the **Principles**, and to give feedback on key **Goals**, such as: Biodiverse ecosystems, Climate Resilience, Cultural Heritage Preservation, Sustainable, Inclusive Communities, etc. The survey is open now until Sept 30 for those who want to give feedback online. All can be accessed at this link on our website: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/gabriola/projects/gabriola-ocpreview/> You can also email your thoughts if you have more to say: gabriola2050@islandstrust.bc.ca

In the Fall 2024 to Spring 2025 will see topic-focussed targeted engagement. We will host discussions on topics such as: Cultural Heritage Protection, Suitable Land Analysis, Ecosystem Policies, Housing Policies. More information will be coming, so stay tuned. As always, you can find all staff reports, information about the project, and correspondence here: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/gabriola/projects/>

I want to give a shout out to our Regional Planner Narissa Chadwick, who has done a tremendous job pulling together all this information and giving us a clear path for public input! I absolutely love working with her, and feel we really lucked out getting a seasoned planner who is trained and passionate about tapping into our grassroots community energy! Also a big thank you to Joan Wandolo, who is our summer co-op planning student! You will see her at many of the community events and she's done a lot of work researching and crafting many of the materials. A final thank you to our excellent Communication Specialist, Morgana van Niekerk,

who is fabulously translating all our work into useable communication products for you to access! I am thrilled to be working with an all-star team at the Islands Trust, and feel our community could not be better served in this process (especially with the very little public funds they have to work with) - they work magic!

I'll be at the Farmer's Market on Aug 10, the Silva Bay Market Aug 18th, and hope to see you at the Wednesday Jam sometime soon! Email me if you have any questions or ideas about the process, or an event we can come to: telliott@islandstrust.bc.ca Looking forward to hearing your thoughts as we shape our community's future together!

~ Tobi