Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment

Final Report

March 12, 2025



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1. PROJECT CONTEXT

The Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment was undertaken as a technical study, guided by the BC Complete Communities Guide, to analyze key indicators of "completeness" such as housing, daily needs, transportation, and infrastructure. This data-focused approach—supplemented by limited public engagement—offers valuable insights into the island's current conditions and potential paths for enhancing community well-being. While the findings contribute to broader regional planning and sustainability efforts, they represent just one step in addressing Salt Spring Island's diverse land use and housing challenges.

WHAT IS A COMPLETE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT?

A Complete Communities Assessment is a planning tool used to evaluate how effectively a community meets the needs of its residents in four foundational areas:

1. **Housing**: Ensuring a variety of affordable, accessible, and diverse housing options to accommodate different household types and income levels.
2. **Daily Needs**: Providing convenient access to essential services such as groceries, healthcare, education, and recreational spaces to reduce travel time and promote equity.
3. **Transportation**: Promoting active transportation options, reducing reliance on private vehicles, and ensuring robust connectivity to improve accessibility and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. **Infrastructure**: Developing efficient and sustainable systems for utilities, waste management, and other essential services to support growth and environmental resilience.

These assessments help communities identify gaps, prioritize areas for improvement, and create evidence-based strategies to promote sustainability, equity, and resilience. The provincial government's Complete Communities Program supports these projects with grants, recognizing their role in addressing housing affordability, climate goals, and quality of life for residents.

The Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment sought to apply this framework to evaluate the island's unique characteristics and challenges, generating actionable insights to guide future planning and policy development.

SALT SPRING ISLAND'S COMPLETE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT

Salt Spring Island pursued this project to address several interconnected challenges and opportunities that have become increasingly pressing in recent years:

1. **Housing Challenges:**
   The island faces significant housing affordability and availability issues, with limited options for workforce housing and diverse demographic groups. These challenges have been documented in previous studies but remain unresolved. The Complete Communities

Assessment provided an opportunity to analyze these issues comprehensively, identifying barriers and proposing targeted interventions to meet the community's needs.

2. **Environmental and Infrastructure Considerations:**
   Salt Spring Island is home to sensitive ecosystems and rich biodiversity that are central to its identity. The project aimed to integrate conservation goals with infrastructure planning, ensuring that future development respects ecological limits while addressing infrastructure gaps, such as those related to transportation and utilities.

3. **Community Engagement:**
   The project emphasized meaningful engagement with residents to ensure that their perspectives were captured in the findings. Through a community survey and open house sessions, residents provided valuable input that shaped the assessment and its recommendations, reflecting the community's shared vision and priorities.

4. **Alignment with Provincial Goals:**
   The project aligns with the provincial government's objectives to increase housing affordability, enhance walkability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainable infrastructure development across British Columbia. By participating in this program, Salt Spring Island demonstrated its commitment to these goals while addressing its unique local needs.

This assessment represents a forward-looking approach to addressing Salt Spring Island's challenges and opportunities by analyzing current conditions and envisioning potential improvements. Through the geospatial analysis of local information, the Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment provides a foundation for potential actions to address the community's completeness.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment was launched to evaluate and enhance the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area's (SS LTA) capacity to meet the evolving needs of its residents. This initiative was rooted in the framework of the BC Complete Communities Guide and focused on fostering a sustainable, equitable, and livable future for the island. Through data collection, stakeholder engagement, and the development of a high-level, integrated scenario, the project aimed to provide a robust foundation for policy development in key areas such as housing, transportation, infrastructure, and daily needs.

2.1 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment were twofold:

1. **Comprehensive Assessment**:
   To conduct a thorough collection, synthesis, and analysis of local infrastructure, studies, and technical data, identifying areas suitable for housing and supporting the SS LTA's evolution into a complete community. The assessment focused on:
   - Diversifying housing options for the workforce and various income and social groups, including purpose-built affordable housing.
   - Ensuring equitable access to safe housing with appropriate infrastructure and community services.
   - Increasing housing supply in locations aligned with existing infrastructure, transportation options, and walkability.
   - Promoting climate adaptation and resiliency while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through sustainable design, green transportation infrastructure, and complete streets.
   - Discouraging or mitigating development in environmentally sensitive or hazardous areas while encouraging density near infrastructure and amenities.
   - Protecting the natural environment and archaeological heritage.
2. **Engagement and Communication**:

   Reflecting the primarily technical nature of this assessment, engagement efforts centered on sharing information with the community at key milestone points while incorporating equity principles where possible. The process aimed to:
   - Communicate important project updates effectively.
   - Inform and educate interest holders about key concepts and project deliverables.
   - Gather input from key stakeholders through targeted engagement activities.

- Strengthen working relationships with governance partners, local organizations, and the broader community.

2.2 Key Deliverables

The project was structured into several deliverables, culminating in a comprehensive final report that synthesized findings and recommendations:

1. **Kick-off Meeting and Island Visit (April 2024)**
   The project began with a kick-off meeting and site visit to confirm objectives, deliverables, and timelines. These initial activities provided a shared understanding among the project team and stakeholders.

2. **Development and Approval of Engagement Plan (May 2024)**
   A comprehensive engagement plan was developed, reviewed, and approved, outlining how stakeholders would be informed and involved throughout the project.

3. **Identification of Key Indicators (June - July 2024)**
   Key indicators and data sources were identified and socialized with stakeholders during an indicator workshop. This process ensured that the assessment reflected community priorities.

4. **Creation of a Map Book (August – September 2024)**
   A detailed set of maps was created to visualize the data for each of the key indicators selected for inclusion in the assessment. These maps highlighted areas suitable for housing and opportunities for improvements in transportation, infrastructure, and daily needs.

5. **Map Book Socialization and Feedback Gathering (October – November 2024)**
   The maps created were socialized with residents through multiple open house sessions. Residents were invited to learn about the maps and ask questions. Residents were also provided with the opportunity to share feedback through an online or paper survey.

6. **Final Report (December 2024)**
   The culmination of the Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment is this final report, which brings together all elements of the project into a comprehensive document. It includes a detailed **Project Context** and **Overview**, providing background on the assessment's purpose and objectives, as well as an explanation of how key indicators were selected to guide the development of the final maps. The **Map Book**, a centerpiece of the report, visualizes data for each indicator and highlights areas suitable for housing while identifying opportunities for improvements in transportation, infrastructure, and daily needs. The report also features an **Engagement Summary**, analyzing feedback from stakeholders and community members gathered through open houses and surveys, and demonstrates how this input was integrated into the findings. Finally, the report presents the **Scenario Development**, outlining the potential impacts of key actions and interventions, shaped by the maps and community feedback, to provide actionable recommendations for future planning.

3. INDICATOR SELECTION PROCESS

The process of identifying and selecting indicators for the Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment was a thorough and collaborative effort involving community stakeholders, technical experts, and the project team. This process ensured the final set of indicators aligned with the assessment's objectives, reflected community priorities, and provided actionable insights for planning. These indicators became the foundation for nearly 60 maps included in the Map Book.

3.1 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

On June 24, 2024, a workshop was held with key stakeholders from various community organizations, governance bodies, and social service groups to gather insights and feedback on potential indicators for the assessment. This session began with an overview of the Complete Communities Assessment framework, emphasizing the importance of indicators as visual tools to map and analyze aspects of community completeness.

Participants reviewed proposed indicators across key domains from the BC Complete Communities Guide, including population demographics, housing, transportation, infrastructure, and environmental features. The initial list of indicators proposed by the project team included data points such as housing density, proximity to services, and transportation accessibility. Workshop participants provided critical feedback on the relevance of these indicators and identified additional areas of interest specific to Salt Spring Island's unique context, such as mapping unconventional housing (e.g., liveaboards, RVs), proximity to small farms and cultural facilities, and natural hazard risks such as wildfire vulnerability and tsunami exposure.

3.2 INDICATOR REFINEMENT

After the workshop, the project team worked closely with members of the Islands Trust to evaluate the feasibility and utility of the proposed and suggested indicators. These discussions focused on:

- **Data Availability and Quality**: Determining whether reliable and accurate data were available for mapping specific indicators.
- **Relevance to Project Objectives**: Ensuring each indicator aligned with the assessment's focus on housing, infrastructure, transportation, and daily needs.
- **Community and Environmental Priorities**: Balancing stakeholder feedback with considerations for protecting sensitive environments and addressing pressing community issues.

Through this iterative process, the initial list of indicators was refined to focus on those that were both feasible to map and most likely to generate actionable insights. This refinement ensured that the selected indicators addressed the needs identified during the workshop while remaining within the scope and resources of the project.

3.3 Final Indicator Set and Map Development

The final set of indicators included a diverse array of data points designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of Salt Spring Island's community completeness. Key indicators included:

- **Housing**: Housing density, tenure types, rental housing, and the distribution of affordable housing.
- **Transportation and Mobility**: Proximity to public transit, walking and cycling paths, and road network density.
- **Daily Needs**: Accessibility to health services, grocery stores, recreational facilities, and cultural spaces.
- **Environmental and Geographic Features**: Mapping environmentally sensitive areas, natural hazards, and biodiversity.

This focused list enabled the development of nearly 60 maps, each visualizing specific aspects of the indicators. These maps provided detailed spatial analyses of Salt Spring Island, highlighting areas suitable for housing, gaps in infrastructure, and opportunities to improve transportation and service accessibility. The maps also identified environmentally sensitive areas requiring conservation or careful management.

3.4 Supporting the Engagement Process and Scenario Development

The maps played a crucial role during public open houses, where data was shared with the public for review. Residents and stakeholders provided feedback on their accuracy and utility, which informed subsequent adjustments to the maps and guided the development of the final scenario. The selected indicators and resulting maps ensured that the assessment remained data-driven and reflective of the island's unique characteristics.

By carefully selecting and refining indicators to the unique characteristics of Salt Spring Island, the Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment provided a robust foundation for understanding the island's strengths, gaps, and opportunities, supporting the development of a final scenario in line with complete communities goals and principles.

4. ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

As part of the Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment, several engagement activities were implemented to document community reflections on community completeness and the mapping outputs from the technical exercise. These activities were included as a component of the broader overall analysis, providing a factual record of community input rather than serving as the primary driver for the scenario development. The engagement process included:

1. **Open House Sessions**
   Three in-person open house sessions were held on October 16, October 18, and November 24, 2024. These sessions provided members of the public with an opportunity to review detailed maps generated through the assessment, ask questions, and offer feedback on their accuracy and clarity. A total of 50 residents participated across these sessions. The feedback received was used to refine the maps and validate the technical outputs, rather than directly shaping the development of the final scenarios.

2. **Community Survey**
   An online survey was conducted from October 1 to November 24, 2024, gathering input from over 300 participants. The survey collected reflections on key aspects of community life—such as housing, transportation, essential services, and environmental factors—serving to corroborate the technical findings from the mapping exercise. This input provided additional context for the analysis but was not used as the sole basis for creating actionable scenarios.

Overall, the engagement activities documented community reflections on the technical outputs of the assessment. While this feedback helped validate and adjust the mapping and analysis process, it was one component among several in a comprehensive technical review of Salt Spring Island's community completeness. The following section summarizes the survey findings, highlighting key themes and community perspectives on topics critical to building a more complete and sustainable community.

4.1 SUMMARY OF THE COMPLETE COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT SURVEY

5.1.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

Most respondents (92%) identified as full-time residents of Salt Spring Island. A significant portion (36%) reported being retired on the island. Other notable groups include visitors and shoppers (31%), individuals working on the island (27%), and business owners (15%).

Please indicate your relationship(s) to Salt Spring Island (please check all that apply):

Responses	#	%
I am a full-time resident of Salt Spring Island	285	92%
I am retired on Salt Spring Island	110	36%
I visit and shop on Salt Spring Island	95	31%
I work on Salt Spring Island	83	27%
I own a business on Salt Spring Island	50	15%
I am a part-time resident of Salt Spring Island	12	3%

I am looking for work on Salt Spring Island	7	2%
I am an indigenous person with relationships to Salt Spring Island	2	0%
Other (e.g., volunteer work, non-traditional businesses and housing, unable but seeking work)	8	10%
Total	**304**	**100%**

Categories are not mutually exclusive; totals may not sum to 100%

Most respondents indicated that they own their homes (85%) while a smaller portion of respondents rent their homes (11%).

I am a...

Response	#	%
Owner	256	85%
Renter	33	11%
Unhoused or Precariously Housed	5	1%
Other (e.g., living with family, regular visitors)	7	3%
Total	**301**	**100%**

Over half of the respondents identified as being 65 or older (52%), the next most common age groups were 55-64 years (21%) and 25-54 years (25%).

My age group is...

Age Groups		%
15-24 years	3	1%
25-54 years	76	25%
55-64 years	64	21%
65+ years	157	52%
Total	**300**	**100%**

Most respondents do not have school aged children (83%) while a minority of participants (14%) do.

I have school aged children

Response	#	%
Yes	40	14%
No	240	83%
Other (e.g., kindergarten or university, grandchildren in school)	9	3%
Total	**289**	**100%**

5.1.2 Key Priorities

Availability, Diversity, and Affordability of Housing Options

This priority focuses on the availability, diversity, and affordability of housing options to meet the needs of current and future residents, and how housing accommodates various population groups, including families, seniors, and low-income individuals.

Two thirds of respondents consider this priority to be very important or extremely important, with 67% of participants rating it a 4 or 5. A smaller portion of respondents (33%) view it as moderately important, slightly important, or not at all important.

Availability, Diversity, and Affordability of Housing Options

Rating	#	%
5-Extremely important	100	33%
4-Very Important	101	34%
3-Moderately important	55	18%
2-Slightly important	32	11%
1-Not at all important	12	4%
Total	**300**	**100%**
Average Rating:	**3.8**	

There were 127 open ended comments about the availability, diversity, and affordability of housing, of which approximately one third responses expressed concerns about the lack of affordable housing on Salt Spring Island (36%). Around one quarter of responses (24%) express that housing developments should be balanced or should not compromise the island's natural environment. Around one fifth of responses (19%) emphasize the need for government policy and regulation to improve housing on the island, such as governmental housing, subsidies, limitation of Airbnbs.

Comments on the Availability, Diversity, Affordability of Housing Options

Themes	#	%
Lack of Affordable Housing	47	36%
Preservation of Island's Character and Environment	31	24%
Improve Government Regulation of Housing	24	19%
Need for Diverse Housing Options	21	17%
Concerns Over Population Growth and Overdevelopment	14	11%
Impact of Short-Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs)	13	10%
Other (e.g., expanding infrastructure and housing to attract talent)	**1**	4%
Total responses	**127**	**100%**

Themes are not mutually exclusive; totals may not sum to 100%

Theme Explanations

- **Lack of affordable housing:** Respondents emphasize the critical need for affordable housing on Salt Spring Island. For example, one respondent indicated that there needs to be creation of housing that is affordable to the working class to sustain the community.

- **Preservation of Island's Character and Environment:** A significant number of respondents are concerned about preserving the island's natural environment and rural character, emphasizing that housing development should not compromise these values. For example, respondents expressed concerns about the population exceeding comfort levels and harming the environment.

- **Improving Government Regulation of Housing:** Respondents discuss the role of government and policy in addressing housing issues, including the need for regulation, subsidies, and strategic planning.

- **Need for Diverse Housing Options:** Respondents highlight the need for a variety of housing types that are more affordable, such as co-op housing and non-market housing, and housing to accommodate different demographics, including seniors, low-income families, and workers.

- **Concerns Over Population Growth and Overdevelopment:** Many respondents express concerns about overpopulation, such as crowding, and express the need to limit population growth.

- **Impact of Short-Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs):** Respondents express concern over the impact of short-term vacation rentals on housing availability, suggesting that these rentals reduce the availability of long-term housing for residents.

Accessibility of Essential Services

This priority focuses on how close and accessible essential services (e.g., grocery stores, healthcare, schools, recreational facilities) are to residents. It considers whether people can easily meet their daily needs within their community, reducing the need for long-distance travel.

Roughly half (49%) of respondents indicate that the priority is important, rating it a 4 or 5, while 27% rated it as moderately important and 25% rated the accessibility of essential services little to no importance.

Accessibility of Essential Services

Themes	#	%
5-Extremely important	52	18%
4-Very Important	91	31%
3-Moderately important	79	27%
2-Slightly important	44	15%
1-Not at all important	29	10%
Total Responding	**295**	**100%**
Average Rating	**3.3**	

There were 112 open ended responses about the accessibility of essential services, of which around one quarter of responses (25%) mentioned the need for improved transportation (e.g., bike lanes, public transportation coverage and frequency) and services (e.g., healthcare) on island. Another quarter of responses (25%) indicate that there are sufficient services in Salt Spring Island that are reasonably accessible (e.g., low commute times). Around one fifth of responses mention that services should be centralized in one area with housing near it, to eliminate urban sprawl (thus protecting the environment) while maintaining accessibility.

Comments on the Accessibility of Essential Services

Themes	#	%
Need for Improved Transportation and Services	30	27%
Accessible Services and Transportation	28	25%

Centralized and High-Density Housing	24	21%
Environmental Concerns	15	13%
Rural Character and Lifestyle	10	9%
Self-Sufficiency and Personal Responsibility in Accessing Services	8	7%
Criticism of Surveys and Maps	7	5%
Other (e.g., building malls or markets for services)	2	9%
Total Responding	**112**	**100%**

Themes are not mutually exclusive; totals may not sum to 100%

Theme Explanations:

- **Need for Improved Transportation and Services:** These comments indicate the need for improved transportation to access services, as well as the need for specific types of services such as healthcare, recreation, retail in Salt Spring Island. One respondent mentioned the need to improve bike paths and public transportation.
- **Accessible Services and Transportation:** These comments indicate that the public transit system on Salt Spring Island is strong, or good access to services.
- **Centralized and High-Density Housing:** Discussion on the need to cluster housing in one area near Ganges to reduce ecological footprint, improve accessibility to services.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Respondents indicate they wish Salt Spring Island's natural environments to be preserved with lack of development. For example, one respondent indicated that the charm of Salt Spring Island is that it is not littered with buildings. Another indicated concern that trees will be taken down when development of services occurs.
- **Rural Character and Lifestyle**: Emphasis on maintaining the rural character of the island and the lifestyle choices associated with it. For example, one comment mentioned that there should be no expectation of accessible services because that is the lifestyle that is expected when living rural.
- **Self-Sufficiency and Personal Responsibility in Accessing Services:** Emphasis on personal responsibility and self-sufficiency in meeting daily needs. For example, one respondent described enjoying long distance travel for services. Another respondent described that they can easily and independently travel off island for services.

Availability and Reliability of Essential Services

This priority looks at the availability and reliability of essential services such as water and sewer. It assesses how well infrastructure supports both current needs and future growth while being resilient to environmental changes.

The majority of respondents this priority to be highly important, with 78% of participants rating it as very or extremely important, while 16% rated it as moderately important. A small percentage (6%) rated this priority to be slightly or not at all important.

Availability and Reliability of Essential Services

Themes	#	%
5-Extremely important	125	43%
4-Very Important	102	35%
3-Moderately important	48	16%
2-Slightly important	11	4%
1-Not at all important	7	2%
Total Responding	**293**	**100%**
Average Rating	**4.1**	

Open ended responses about the availability and reliability of essential services (e.g., water) consists of one quarter of responses expressing that the limited water supply cannot support further increases in population growth (e.g., beyond the OCP growth limit of 17,000). Around one fifth (19%) of responses indicate an aged water infrastructure system that requires upgrading or repair to support increased present or future population numbers. Around one fifth of responses (19%) indicate the need to preserve the environment by refraining from overuse of water, especially in the context of climate change (e.g., increased droughts) and increased population growth and development.

Comments on the Availability and Reliability of Essential Services (e.g., Water)

Themes	#	%
Population Limits to Water	28	25%
Need for Improved Water Infrastructure	21	19%
Environmental Protection of Water	20	19%
Need for Increased Water Collection Systems	19	18%
Concerns about Water Scarcity	18	17%
Proper Planning for Population Growth	18	16%
Need for Reduced Utility Costs in Water	5	5%
Negative Impact of Tourism on Water Supply	4	4%
Other (e.g., unconcerned due to own household water systems, against water expansion)	7	6%
Total Responding	**108**	**100%**

Themes are not mutually exclusive; totals may not sum to 100%

Theme Explanations

- **Population Limits to Water:** These comments indicate that the water supply in Salt Spring Island is near its limit and the island's water supply cannot support any further population growth.
- **Need for Improved Water Infrastructure:** These comments indicate that the water infrastructure systems (e.g., septic, sewage) is outdated and there is a need to upgrade these systems to support current or future needs.
- **Environmental Protection of Water:** These comments indicate the need to preserve the environment (e.g., to not drain lake systems), and concerns with water ecosystems in the context of climate change (e.g., droughts).

- **Need for Increased Water Collection Systems:** These comments indicate the need to improve water collection systems, such as increased water catchment, improved reservoir systems, for sustainable water supply.
- **Proper Planning for Population Growth:** These comments indicate that, if population growth were to occur, proper planning with water supply in mind must be taken into consideration.
- **Need for Reduced Utility Costs in Water:** These comments indicate high or inequitable pricing in the consumption of water, with a need to reduce water prices.
- **Negative Impact of Tourism on Water Supply:** These comments indicate that the tourism industry negatively impacts water supply.

Availability and Quality of Transportation Options

This priority evaluates the availability and quality of transportation options within the community, including public transit, walking, cycling infrastructure, and road networks. It considers how well the transportation system supports mobility for all residents, including those with limited mobility or no access to private vehicles.

Most respondents (63%) rated the availability and quality of transportation options within the community to be either "Very Important" or "Extremely Important," indicating a strong emphasis on the significance of transportation infrastructure. A smaller portion of respondents (26%) rated it as "Moderately Important," while a few (11%) considered it "Slightly Important" or "Not at all Important."

Availability and Quality of Transportation Options

Themes	#	%
5-Extremely important	66	22%
4-Very Important	122	41%
3-Moderately important	76	26%
2-Slightly important	18	6%
1-Not at all important	15	5%
Total Responding	**297**	**100%**
Average Rating	**3.7**	

There were 111 open ended response about the availability and quality of transportation options. Approximately two in five responses (39%) indicated the need for improving walking or bike roads, such as expanding coverage of these roads to more areas of the island, or greater number of bike lanes. 37% of responses expressed concerns about the safety of roads for bicyclists and walking, such as lack of road shoulders poorly maintained bike lanes being hazards. Lastly, 16% of respondents indicated that there could be further improvements to the public transit system that would be beneficial to people on the island, such as increased bus routes, more frequent services, more punctual services.

Comments on the Availability and Quality of Transportation Options

Themes	#	%
Need for Improved Walking or Bike Roads	43	36%
Safety Concerns for Cyclists and Pedestrians	41	37%
Further Development of Public Transit	18	16%
Positive Feedback for Public Transit	17	15%
Accessibility for People with Disabilities and Seniors	14	12%
Need for Alternative Modes of Transportation	11	10%
Other (e.g., lack of need for bike lanes)	6	12%
Total Responding	**111**	**100%**

Themes are not mutually exclusive; totals may not sum to 100%

Theme Explanations

- **Need for Improved Walking or Bike Roads:** Many respondents indicated that there is a need to make more roads (e.g., more bicycle paths, wider bicycle paths), need to make sure roads are properly serviced (e.g., repainting roads, removing trees from roads), upgrading roads (e.g., emergency access for all roads)

- **Safety Concerns for Cyclists and Pedestrians:** Many respondents expressed concerns about the safety of cycling and walking on the island due to narrow roads, lack of infrastructure, and high vehicle speeds.

- **Further Development of Public Transit:** Respondents highlighted that there is a need to improve public transit services, such as expanding coverage of bus transit routes to more areas of island, improving punctuality in scheduled bus times, and more frequent busses. For example, one respondent mentioned that expanding transit routes on a reasonable schedule into more community areas would be helpful.

- **Positive Feedback for Public Transit:** Respondents provided positive feedback about the public transit system. For example, one respondent indicated that the transportation options on Salt Spring Island is excellent for such a small community.

- **Accessibility for People with Disabilities and Seniors**: Respondents highlighted the challenges faced by people with disabilities and seniors in accessing transportation and infrastructure.

- **Need for Alternative Modes of Transportation:** Respondents expressed alternative ideas to improve accessibility and transport, such as dense housing near centralized services to eliminate need for transport or electric vehicles**.**

Natural Landscape and Environmental Factors

This priority considers the natural landscape and environmental factors that influence the community, such as proximity to parks, forests, bodies of water, and agricultural land. It also includes climate resilience and environmental sustainability and looks at how geographic features are integrated into planning.

The majority of respondents (84%) consider the priority of integrating natural landscapes and environmental factors into community planning as "extremely important" or "very important," indicating a strong emphasis on environmental considerations. A smaller portion of respondents rated it as "moderately important" (13%). Very few respondents (4%) consider this priority to be "slightly important" or "not at all important." Overall, there is a clear consensus on the high importance of environmental and geographic factors in community planning.

Natural Landscape and Environmental Factors

Themes	#	%
5-Extremely important	154	53%
4-Very Important	89	31%
3-Moderately important	37	13%
2-Slightly important	5	2%
1-Not at all important	6	2%
Total Responding	**291**	**100%**
Average Rating:	**4.3**	

There were 108 open ended responses about natural landscape and environmental factors, of which 37% indicated the need to preserve and protect the natural environment. 36% of respondents concerns about the impact of population or building development on the island's ecosystems, with a need to limit these developments. 15% of respondents indicated the need to protect agricultural farmlands from expansion and development.

Comments on the Natural Landscape and Environmental Factors

Themes	#	%
Preservation of Natural Environment	65	37%
Concerns About Development and Urbanization	35	36%
Importance of Agriculture and Food Security	15	15%
Densification of Housing and Services	13	
Access to Public Spaces and Natural Areas	10	9%
Fire Hazard Concerns	5	
Total Responding	**108**	**100%**

Themes are not mutually exclusive; totals may not sum to 100%

Theme Explanations

- **Preservation of Natural Environment:** Preservation of the natural environment involves protecting ecosystems, forests, and landscapes from development and exploitation to maintain biodiversity and ecological health.

- **Concerns about Development and Urbanization:** Respondents indicate they would like to see development in construction and population due to detrimental effects on natural environment. For example, one respondent indicated that they would not like to see further development on Salt Spring Island, another indicated that there must be limits to growth that respect the Trust plan's goal to preserve the area.

- **Importance of Agriculture and Food Security:** The importance of agriculture and food security emphasizes the need to protect agricultural lands and support local food production to ensure sustainability and resilience.
- **Densification of Housing and Services:** Respondents indicate that the natural environment can be protected by centralizing housing and services in one area, reducing urban sprawl to "leave the natural environment unfragmented".
- **Access to Public Spaces and Natural Areas:** Access to public spaces and natural areas involves ensuring that community members can enjoy parks, beaches, and other natural resources.
- **Fire Hazard Concerns:** Respondents indicated concern about potential for forest fires in Salt Spring Island due to climate change.

3.1.3 SUMMARY

The survey findings from the Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment offer a technical snapshot of community priorities and challenges on the island. Although the engagement was limited in scope, the collected data reflects key issues such as housing affordability, transportation accessibility, and the availability of essential services.

Key themes that emerged include the need for diverse and affordable housing options, sustainable development that respects the island's ecological integrity, and improved infrastructure to support mobility and daily needs. Additionally, respondents noted the importance of maintaining Salt Spring Island's strong sense of community, cultural vibrancy, and natural beauty.

Overall, while the engagement primarily served to validate our technical outputs, the feedback provides useful context regarding island priorities and helps inform a broader understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the community.

5. MASTER INTEGRATED SCENARIO

The maps generated through the Complete Communities Assessment indicate that, based on survey results and technical analysis, a practical scenario for Salt Spring Island would involve concentrating planning and development efforts in established village hubs—**Ganges, Fulford, and Vesuvius Bay**. These areas were identified as key priorities for addressing housing, water, transportation, and amenity needs while maintaining the island's natural environment. This scenario is presented as an analytical framework under the complete communities lens, leaving it to the Local Areas Trust (LTC) to decide whether to incorporate this methodology into future planning exercises.

5.1 THE SCENARIO: VILLAGE-CENTRIC GROWTH

The master scenario for Salt Spring Island builds upon a fulsome understanding of the island's current state, derived from detailed mapping and analysis. As shown in the map to the right, the scenario focuses on the villages of Ganges, Fulford, and Vesuvius as key hubs for development, prioritizing concentrated growth and protecting sensitive rural and environmental areas. The map provides a high-level overview of how this approach integrates housing, water management, transportation, amenities, and environmental protections into a cohesive vision for a more complete community.

The numbered sections below outline the key components of the master integrated scenario, each of which is essential to achieving a vision of a complete, sustainable, and vibrant Salt Spring Island. Together, these components form an integrated framework that addresses the island's current challenges, leverages its opportunities, and sets the foundation for long-term growth and resilience.

Each element aligns closely with the insights derived from the Complete Communities mapping exercise, reflecting the real-world conditions and constraints unique to Salt Spring Island. Importantly, the components are not standalone measures but rather interconnected solutions that reinforce one another. This interdependence ensures that the scenario achieves outcomes greater than the sum of its parts by fostering a synergistic relationship between development, infrastructure, environment, and quality of life.

Aligning Housing with Infrastructure

The concentration of housing within the villages of Ganges, Fulford, and Vesuvius is a cornerstone of this scenario. By focusing new development within these hubs, the scenario ensures that housing is closely aligned with existing and planned infrastructure, such as water and sanitation systems, road networks, and public transportation. This approach not only prevents inefficient sprawl into rural areas but also optimizes the use of available resources. Residents benefit from living in well-serviced areas, while the preservation of rural and environmentally sensitive zones safeguards the island's natural assets. This alignment exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to land use and community design.

Creating Connected Transportation Networks

Transportation is the lifeblood of any community, and this scenario places a strong emphasis on creating an efficient, accessible, and environmentally friendly network. By integrating public transit routes with walking and cycling paths, residents can easily travel between their homes, village centres, and key amenities. Improved connections to ferry terminals further enhance accessibility for both residents and visitors, reinforcing Salt Spring Island's role as a vibrant community within the broader region. By reducing car dependency, the scenario helps to lower greenhouse gas emissions, alleviate traffic congestion, and promote healthier lifestyles.

Equitable Distribution of Amenities

Access to essential services—such as healthcare, groceries, childcare, and recreation—is vital to a community's completeness. This scenario addresses existing gaps by establishing new community hubs in Fulford and Vesuvius, while strengthening amenities in Ganges. These hubs bring critical services closer to residents, reducing the need for long commutes and ensuring that underserved populations, such as seniors and families, can access what they need within their local area. This equitable approach enhances social inclusion, economic vitality, and community well-being.

Preserving Environmental Integrity

Salt Spring Island's natural environment is one of its defining features, and this scenario places environmental protection at its core. By identifying critical areas—such as groundwater recharge zones, high-resiliency watersheds, and ecologically sensitive habitats—and enforcing development restrictions in these zones, the scenario ensures the island's long-term ecological health. Conservation measures, such as reforestation, habitat restoration, and the promotion of sustainable practices like rainwater harvesting, further bolster these efforts. These actions not only protect biodiversity but also enhance the island's ability to withstand the impacts of climate change, such as water scarcity and extreme weather events.

Fostering a Vibrant and Resilient Community

By integrating housing, transportation, amenities, and environmental protections into a unified framework, the scenario fosters a community that is vibrant, inclusive, and resilient. The focus on village centres as hubs of activity and connection strengthens social cohesion, supports local businesses, and creates a sense of place that is uniquely Salt Spring Island. Residents are empowered to live, work, and play within their own community, reducing reliance on external resources and reinforcing a culture of sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Planning for the Long-Term

This scenario is not just about addressing current needs; it is a roadmap for the future. The integration of its components ensures that Salt Spring Island remains adaptable and resilient in the face of future challenges, such as population growth, climate change, and shifting economic conditions. By investing in infrastructure, protecting natural resources, and fostering strong community connections, the island positions itself as a model for sustainable rural and island development.

Why This Integration Matters

The holistic nature of this scenario is what makes it truly transformative. By aligning housing with infrastructure, ensuring transportation networks connect residents to their daily needs, equitably distributing amenities, and preserving the island's ecological integrity, the scenario builds a robust foundation for growth and sustainability. This interwoven approach ensures that each action amplifies the impact of the others, creating a self-sustaining cycle of positive outcomes.

For example, higher housing density in village centres increases demand for local businesses and services, which in turn supports economic vitality and justifies investments in transit and amenities. Similarly, protecting rural and environmentally sensitive areas not only safeguards the island's natural beauty but also enhances the quality of life for residents by maintaining access to greenspaces and clean water. These feedback loops ensure that the scenario is not only effective but enduring, enabling Salt Spring Island to thrive for generations to come.

Through these interdependent actions, the master integrated scenario achieves a delicate balance between growth and preservation, positioning Salt Spring Island to meet the needs of today's residents while safeguarding its future as a vibrant, livable, and sustainable community. This scenario is more than a plan—it is a vision for a complete Salt Spring Island that fully embraces its identity and potential.

5.1.1 Housing Development Aligned with Infrastructure

- **Insights from Maps:**
    - Housing density maps (**Maps 2-03 and 2-04**) highlight underutilized areas within village cores, demonstrating the potential for increased density without significant land-use expansion.
    - Water and sanitary service area maps (**Maps 5-04 and 5-02**) indicate the feasibility of development within areas already supported by existing infrastructure.
- **Actions:**
    - **Focus Housing in Villages:** Limit new housing developments to Ganges, Fulford, and Vesuvius Bay, where infrastructure is robust, avoiding sprawl into rural or ecologically sensitive areas.
    - **Promote Housing Diversity:** Encourage a mix of housing types, such as townhomes, duplexes, and low-rise condominiums, to address the needs of various demographics, including seniors, young families, and essential workers.
    - **Restrict Zoning in Sensitive Areas:** Prohibit housing development in zones with limited water availability or critical environmental features, such as recharge zones and high-resiliency watersheds (**Maps 6-09 and 6-10**).

- **Rationale:** Concentrating housing in village hubs enhances land-use efficiency, minimizes environmental disruption, and ensures equitable access to services and amenities. This approach also aligns with existing water and sanitary infrastructure, reducing the financial and ecological costs of infrastructure expansion.
- **Outcome:** A diverse, higher-density housing supply in village cores addresses affordability, meets population needs, and prevents unnecessary rural sprawl.

5.1.2 Sustainable Water Resource Management

- **Insights from Maps:**
    - Groundwater recharge potential maps (**Map 6-10**) and well density data (**Map 6-08**) underscore the fragility of Salt Spring Island's water resources.
    - Water system density maps (**Map 5-05**) indicate areas where infrastructure expansion could support additional development.
- **Actions:**
    - **Expand Village Water Infrastructure:** Focus water system upgrades and expansions in the three villages, ensuring new developments are adequately serviced.
    - **Protect Recharge Zones:** Designate high-priority recharge areas as protected zones, restricting development to safeguard long-term water supplies.
    - **Integrate Sustainable Practices:** Mandate rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling, and water-efficient technologies in new builds to reduce pressure on existing water systems.
- **Rationale:** Salt Spring Island's reliance on finite water resources necessitates careful management. Concentrating development in areas with existing or expandable water infrastructure prevents over-extraction from wells, protecting both human and ecological needs.
- **Outcome:** Secure and equitable access to water supports sustainable growth, enhances community resilience, and safeguards natural ecosystems.

5.1.3 Enhanced Transportation and Mobility

- **Insights from Maps:**
    - Drive and walking time maps (**Maps 4-03 and 4-04**) highlight disparities in connectivity and mobility.
    - Trail network maps (**Map 4-01**) and proximity to ferry terminals (**Map 4-06**) demonstrate opportunities for active and sustainable transportation enhancements.

- **Actions:**
    - **Improve Public Transit:** Develop reliable transit routes connecting outlying areas to village hubs, with frequent and accessible services tailored to residents' daily needs.
    - **Enhance Active Transportation Networks:** Build walking and cycling infrastructure within and between villages, improving safety and reducing car dependency.
    - **Expand Ferry Service Coordination:** Work with BC Ferries to optimize schedules and reduce congestion during peak travel times, ensuring efficient connectivity.
- **Rationale:** Improved mobility options foster inclusivity, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance quality of life. A focus on active transportation aligns with community health goals, while enhanced ferry services address the island's unique transportation challenges.
- **Outcome:** A connected transportation network reduces car dependency, supports sustainable travel modes, and ensures equitable access to essential services.

5.1.4 Equitable Access to Amenities

- **Insights from Maps:**
    - Proximity maps for services like healthcare (**Map 3-10**), groceries (**Map 3-12**), and recreational spaces (**Map 3-17**) reveal gaps in rural and underserved areas.
- **Actions:**
    - **Create Community Hubs:** Establish multi-use community centres in Fulford and Vesuvius Bay, offering healthcare, grocery, and recreational services. These hubs reduce reliance on Ganges as the primary service area.
    - **Integrate Housing with Amenities:** Plan new housing developments in close proximity to these hubs to ensure residents can access essential services without the need for long commutes.
- **Rationale:** Decentralizing amenities improves equity, particularly for residents in remote areas or those with limited mobility. Localized hubs enhance quality of life and reduce pressure on Ganges, spreading services across the island.
- **Outcome:** Improved access to amenities fosters a more inclusive, cohesive community while reducing travel burdens.

5.1.5 Environmental Stewardship and Conversation

- **Insights from Maps:**
    - Watershed resiliency (**Map 6-09**) and environmental sensitivity data emphasize the importance of preserving Salt Spring Island's natural ecosystems.

- **Actions:**
    - **Restrict Development in Sensitive Areas:** Enforce strict land-use regulations in high-priority environmental zones, such as watersheds and recharge areas.
    - **Enhance Conservation Initiatives:** Invest in reforestation, invasive species control, and habitat restoration to protect biodiversity and ecosystem health.
    - **Educate and Engage:** Partner with residents and local organizations to foster stewardship and build a collective responsibility for environmental protection.
- **Rationale:** The island's natural beauty and ecological integrity are vital for its identity and sustainability. Protecting these assets ensures resilience against climate change and supports long-term community well-being.
- **Outcome:** A thriving natural environment enhances Salt Spring Island's appeal, safeguards its resources, and ensures future generations can enjoy its unique character.

5.2 How this Scenario Leads to a More Complete Salt Spring Island

This village-centric scenario, informed by detailed mapping and analysis, positions Salt Spring Island to achieve optimal outcomes tailored to its unique rural and island context. It aligns with principles from the BC Complete Communities Guide, ensuring a sustainable, resilient, and vibrant future for the community. Below, we detail how this approach leads to outcomes that address Salt Spring Island's key challenges and opportunities:

1. Enhancing Community Resilience

- **Rural and Island-Specific Challenges Addressed:**
    - Salt Spring Island faces constraints in water availability, limited transportation networks, and environmental sensitivity. A fragmented, sprawling development model would exacerbate these challenges, straining resources and increasing costs.
- **Scenario Contribution:**
    - Concentrating development in village hubs ensures that infrastructure investments—such as water, transportation, and amenities—are used efficiently. This focus minimizes the duplication of services, reduces pressure on rural areas, and protects the island's natural environment.
- **Outcome:**
    - Resilient villages capable of supporting population growth without compromising the ecological or resource integrity of the broader island.

2. Supporting a Diverse and Inclusive Community

- **Rural and Island-Specific Challenges Addressed:**
    - A lack of affordable housing and limited access to services have made it difficult for younger families, essential workers, and seniors to live and thrive on the island.
- **Scenario Contribution:**
    - By promoting diverse, affordable housing options (e.g., townhouses, duplexes, and low-rise condominiums) in well-connected villages, this scenario makes it easier for people across income levels and life stages to settle on Salt Spring Island.
    - Proximity to amenities, transit, and employment opportunities in village hubs reduces barriers to participation in community life.
- **Outcome:**
    - A more balanced demographic mix supports intergenerational connections, strengthens the workforce, and enriches community life.

3. Improving Access to Daily Needs

- **Rural and Island-Specific Challenges Addressed:**
    - Many residents live far from healthcare, grocery stores, and recreational spaces, increasing reliance on cars and creating inequities for those without reliable transportation.
- **Scenario Contribution:**
    - Establishing multi-use hubs in Fulford and Vesuvius Bay reduces the burden on Ganges as the primary service centre. These hubs provide essential services within a short distance for more residents, including those in traditionally underserved areas.
    - Improved transportation infrastructure—such as public transit and active transportation routes—ensures equitable access to these hubs.
- **Outcome:**
    - Villages become vibrant, walkable centres where residents can meet their daily needs locally, reducing travel times and enhancing quality of life.

4. Aligning Development with Environmental Sustainability

- **Rural and Island-Specific Challenges Addressed:**
    - Salt Spring Island's ecological health is critical to its identity and future. Unchecked development threatens sensitive ecosystems, watersheds, and groundwater resources.

- **Scenario Contribution:**
    - Development restrictions in critical zones (e.g., recharge areas, high-resiliency watersheds) safeguard natural assets.
    - Sustainable practices, such as rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling, embedded in village growth, reduce environmental impacts.
- **Outcome:**
    - The island maintains its rural and natural character, enhancing its ecological resilience and sustaining its appeal for residents and visitors alike.

5. Promoting Economic Vitality

- **Rural and Island-Specific Challenges Addressed:**
    - Economic activities on Salt Spring Island are concentrated around tourism, agriculture, and small businesses, which rely on a stable, local population and accessible infrastructure.
- **Scenario Contribution:**
    - Densifying villages supports local businesses by creating concentrated populations that drive demand for goods and services.
    - Investments in transportation and amenity hubs facilitate economic activity, making the island more attractive for visitors and residents alike.
- **Outcome:**
    - Thriving village economies foster job creation, support local entrepreneurs, and contribute to a sustainable economic future.

6. Reducing Carbon Footprint and Enhancing Sustainability

- **Rural and Island-Specific Challenges Addressed:**
    - Car dependency and inefficient resource use are significant contributors to Salt Spring Island's ecological footprint.
- **Scenario Contribution:**
    - Improved public and active transportation networks reduce reliance on private vehicles, lowering greenhouse gas emissions.
    - Concentrating development minimizes the infrastructure footprint and promotes sustainable land-use practices.
- **Outcome:**
    - Salt Spring Island evolves into a model of low-impact, sustainable living, preserving its natural beauty while addressing the climate crisis.

7. Fostering Community Identity and Connection

- **Rural and Island-Specific Challenges Addressed:**
    - The island's dispersed population and car-dependent design can hinder social connections and a sense of shared identity.
- **Scenario Contribution:**
    - Walkable, amenity-rich villages become natural gathering places for residents, fostering interaction and community cohesion.
    - Preserving natural spaces alongside development reinforces the island's identity as a unique and picturesque rural community.
- **Outcome:**
    - Salt Spring Island strengthens its reputation as a close-knit, welcoming, and sustainable community where residents take pride in their shared home.

5.3 Conclusion: Achieving Completeness in a Rural Island Context

This integrated scenario is grounded in a technical analysis of Salt Spring Island's unique characteristics, including its village cores, natural environment, and community dynamics. By focusing development efforts in the villages of Ganges, Fulford, and Vesuvius Bay, this framework offers a practical approach to addressing challenges such as limited resources, uneven accessibility, and the need for environmental protection.

Under this scenario, Ganges is positioned to serve as a regional service hub with enhanced density and access to amenities; Fulford is identified for developing critical infrastructure and community focal points to support equitable access to daily needs; and Vesuvius Bay is considered for integrating transportation improvements with environmental protection measures, maintaining its rural character while accommodating local growth.

By aligning housing, infrastructure, and transportation networks with localized amenity provision, the scenario provides a technical foundation for potential future actions. This approach is intended to support evidence-based decision-making that balances growth with preservation, ensuring that Salt Spring Island remains resilient and sustainable for current and future residents.

6. APPENDIX A: MAP BOOK

The Salt Spring Island Complete Communities Assessment Map Book serves as a central component of the project, visualizing key data points across a range of indicators to inform evidence-based community planning. Developed as part of the assessment, the Map Book translates complex datasets into accessible and engaging visuals. These maps are organized by domains such as Population and Demographics, Housing and Accommodation, Proximity and Accessibility, Transportation and Mobility, Utilities and Infrastructure, and Geographic and Environmental Features.

Each map offers detailed insights into the spatial distribution of resources, services, and demographic patterns across Salt Spring Island. By illustrating these elements, the Map Book identifies areas suitable for housing development, highlights gaps in service provision, and uncovers opportunities for sustainable and inclusive community growth. This collection of maps plays a critical role in supporting data-driven decision-making and engaging the community in envisioning Salt Spring Island's future.

The maps were created using an iterative process informed by stakeholder input, ensuring alignment with local priorities and planning needs. The final compilation includes nearly 60 maps, each accompanied by descriptive data to enhance their utility for policymakers, community members, and key stakeholders.

6.1 MAPS WITH INDICATOR DATA DESCRIPTIONS BY DOMAIN

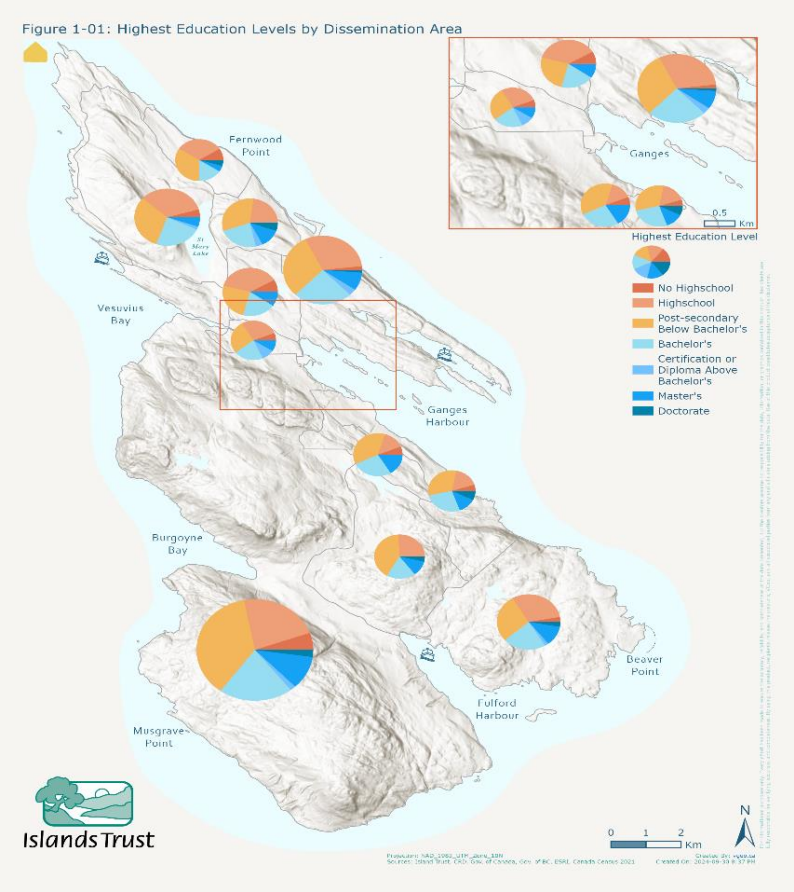
6.1.1 Population and Demographics

Map 1-01 - Highest Education Levels by Dissemination Area

Category: Education

This map utilizes data from Census Canada to depict the highest level of education achieved within each dissemination area. The educational attainment levels range from no high school diploma to the completion of a doctoral degree.

Visualization of this data is important because it provides insights into the educational landscape of different areas, which can influence economic development, workforce planning, and social services. It helps identify regions that may need more educational support or resources and allows policymakers and educators to tailor programs to meet the specific needs of the population. Additionally, it can guide community development efforts by highlighting areas with higher educational attainment that may attract businesses and professionals.



All data is based on “Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree for the population aged 25 to 64 years in private households.” This data is not 100% represented, as it excludes 35 students, or 0.65% of the 5,375 students represented overall, who obtained a degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or optometry, specifically. This category was omitted from the results as it represents an extremely small percentage of the population and is therefore not significant for the study area or purpose.

Map 1-02 - Distribution of Employment by Dissemination Area

Category: Employment

This map utilizes Census Canada data to provide a comprehensive analysis of the labor force and employment landscape within each dissemination area. It shows the number of people actively participating in the labor force versus those who are not, and includes the labor force participation rate, highlighting the percentage of the working-age population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Being **in the labour force** means that a person is either working (employed) or actively looking for work (unemployed). It includes everyone who is capable of working and is either currently employed or seeking employment, but it does not include people who are not looking for work, such as retirees, students, or those unable to work.

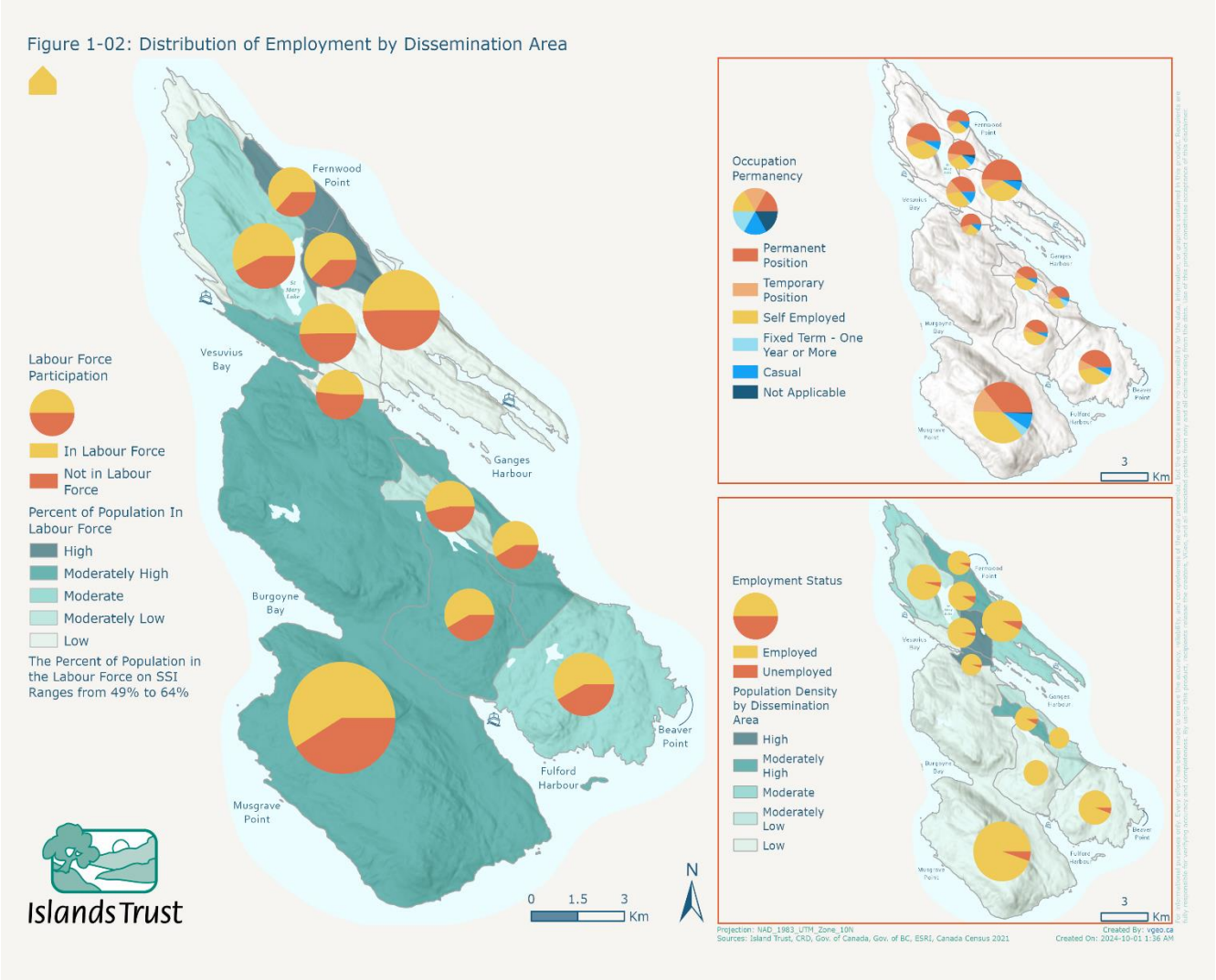
Employed refers to people who have a job and are currently working, whether full-time or part-time. This includes anyone who is performing paid work, or who is temporarily absent from work due to reasons like vacation, illness, or other personal circumstances.

Unemployed status entails individuals who do not currently have a job but are actively looking for work and are available to start working. This includes those who are applying for jobs, attending interviews, or taking steps to find employment.

The map also illustrates the distribution of the population based on the permanency of their occupational positions—categorized as permanent, temporary, or contract-based—offering insights into job security and employment stability. Additionally, it presents data on the employment status of the population, distinguishing between employed and unemployed individuals, while also showing the total population density per square kilometer. This combined data provides a detailed view of economic activity and workforce engagement across dissemination area.

Specific Census datasets used in this map include Total -Labour force aged 15 years and over by class of worker including job permanency and Total - Population aged 15 years and over by labor force status. The population and dissemination data were pulled from the Census Population and Dwellings table for Salt Spring Island, and divided against the total land area per dissemination area.

All data displayed on the map is based on ages 15 and over. Regarding occupation permanency, “Not Applicable” refers to unemployed persons aged 15 and over who have never worked for pay or in self-employment, or who had last worked prior to January 1, 2021.



Map 1-03 - Family and Household Characteristics by Dissemination Area

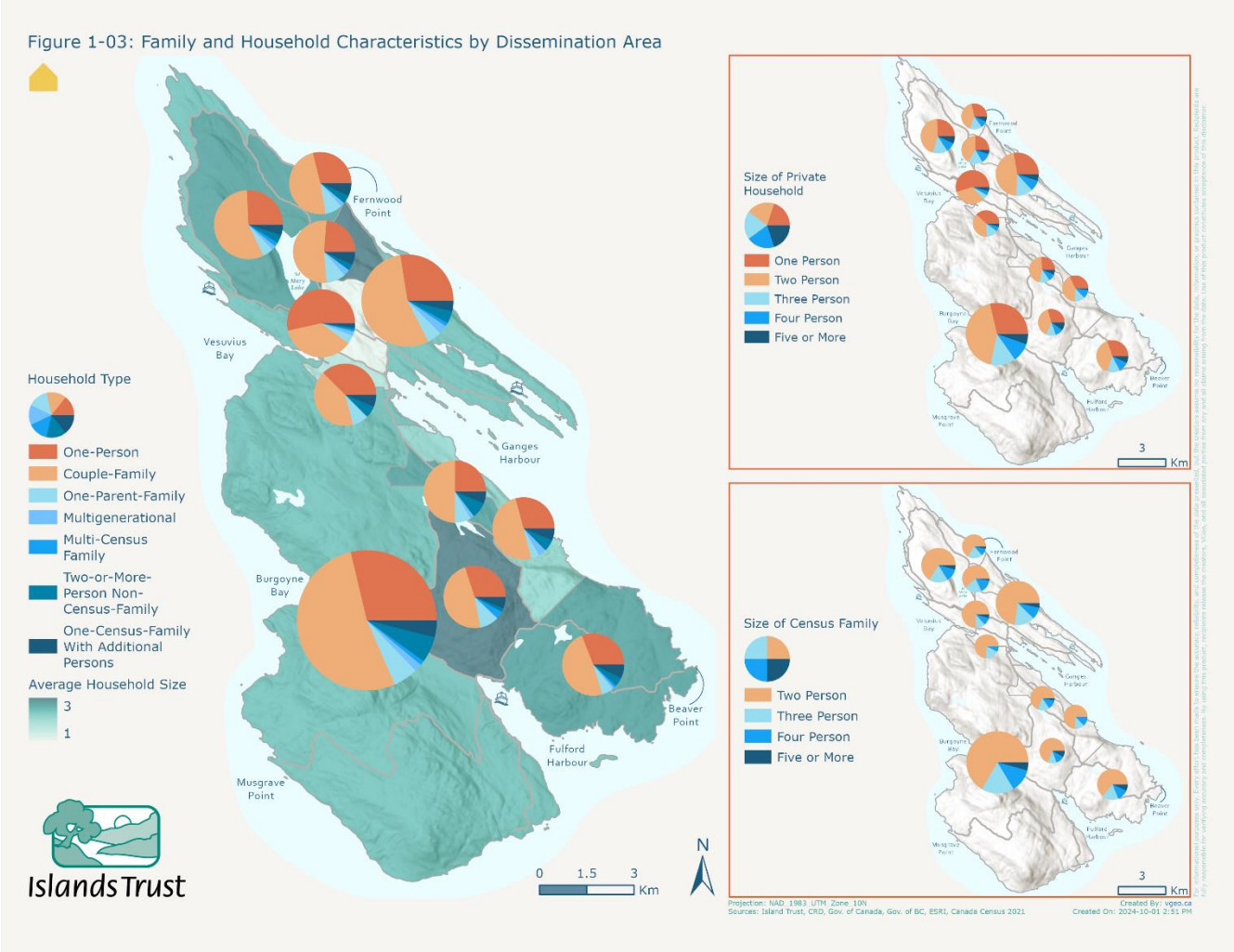
Category: Population

This map leverages Census Canada data to depict the distribution of housing characteristics across each dissemination area. It provides detailed insights into the size of private households and census families, the total number of private households and census families, and the distribution of specific household types. This information offers a comprehensive view of the housing landscape and family dynamics within different regions.

The specific Census datasets used in this map include; Total - Census families in private households by family size, Total - Private households by household size, and Total - Household type.

The statistic "total number of private households" represents the total number of households that are occupied by usual residents. A "private household" is defined as a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad.

The statistic "total number of census families" refers to the total number of families identified as census families. A census family is defined as a married couple (with or without children), a common-law couple (with or without children), or a lone parent living with at least one child in the same dwelling. Children in a census family must be unmarried and do not have their own children living in the household.



Map 1-04 - Total Income in Private Households by Dissemination Area

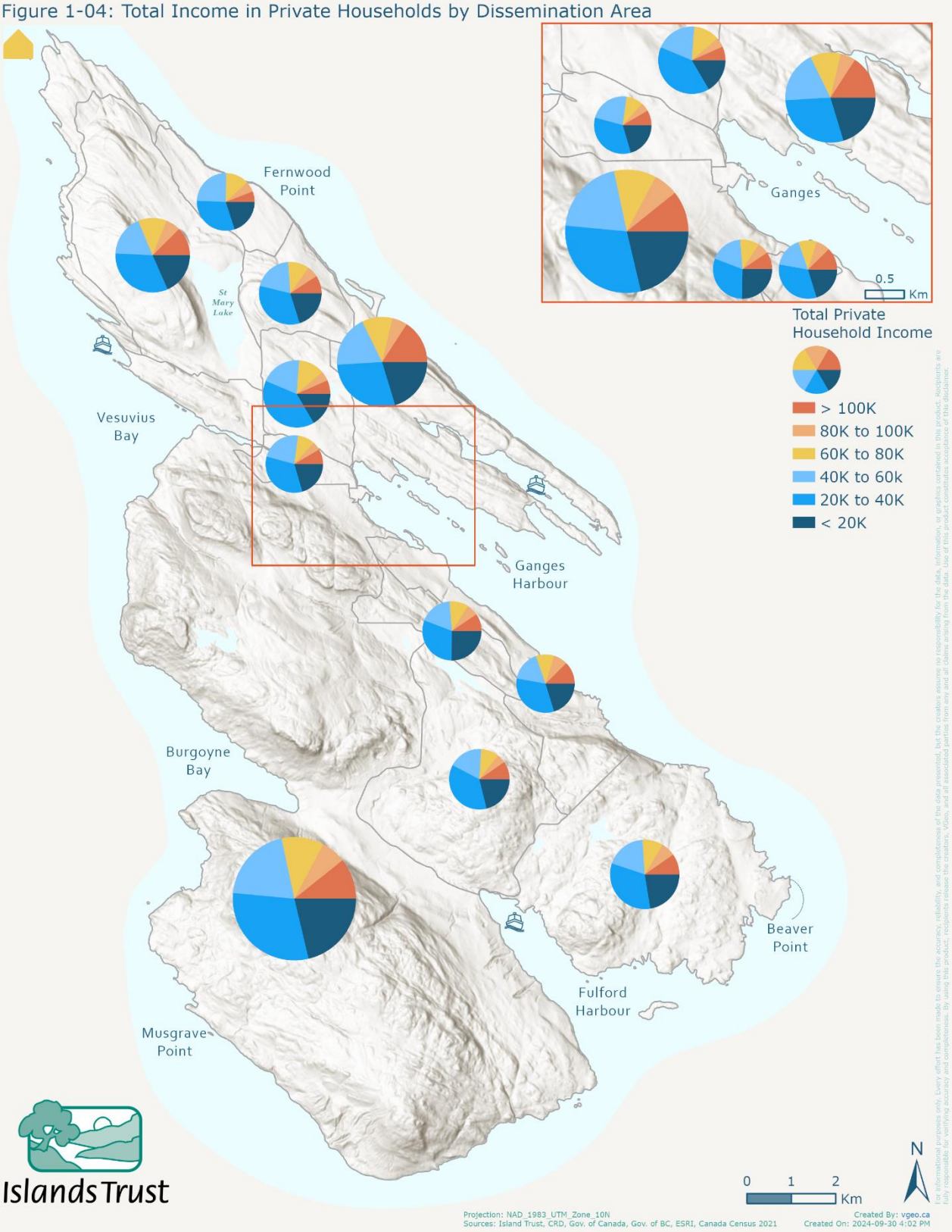
Category: Population

This map illustrates Census Canada data on the distribution of total private household income across each dissemination area. A "private household" is defined as a person or group of persons who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada or abroad. The income data is grouped in increments of $20,000, providing a clear and organized view of income levels and economic variations within different regions.

The Census dataset used in this map is “Total - Total income groups in 2020 for the

population aged 15 years and over in private households.”

Figure 1-04: Total Income in Private Households by Dissemination Area



Map 1-05 - Mobility and Migration Over a One Year Period by Dissemination Area

Category: Population

This map presents Census Canada data on residential movements over a one-year period, detailing the total number of residents who moved, as well as those who did not. It further breaks down the data to show the number of non-migrants, internal movers, and external movers within each dissemination area, providing a comprehensive view of population mobility and migration patterns across the region.

The Census dataset used in this map is "Total - Mobility status 1 year ago."

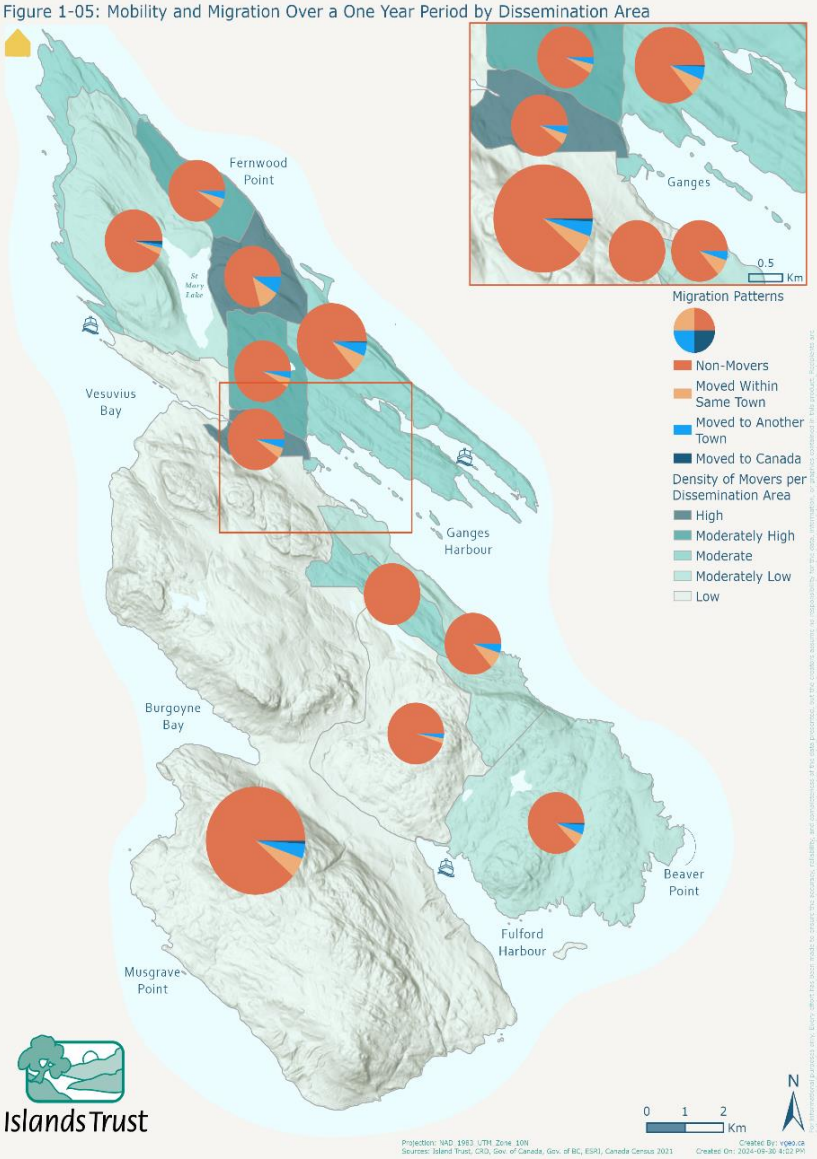
Mobility status 1 year ago refers to the status of a person with regard to the place of residence on the reference day, May 11, 2021, in relation to the place of residence on the same date one year earlier at the provincial level.

There are two overarching categories of migrants, being **Movers** and **Non-movers.** Movers are residents who moved within the specified period, whereas non-movers did not move within that year period.

There are four classes of migrants displayed on this map. This includes; **Non-movers:** Residents who did not move within the specified time frame, **Non-migrants** ("Moved Within the Same Town"): Residents who moved within the same municipality or census subdivision, **Migrants** ("Moved to a Different Town"): Residents who moved from one municipality or census subdivision to another, and **External migrants** ("Moved to Canada"): Residents who moved to Canada from another country.

Migrants, in this map, includes **Intraprovincial migrants**, being Residents who moved within the same province or territory, and **Interprovincial migrants**, being residents who moved from one province or territory to another.

Figure 1-05: Mobility and Migration Over a One Year Period by Dissemination Area



Map 1-06 - Population by Dissemination Block

Category: Population

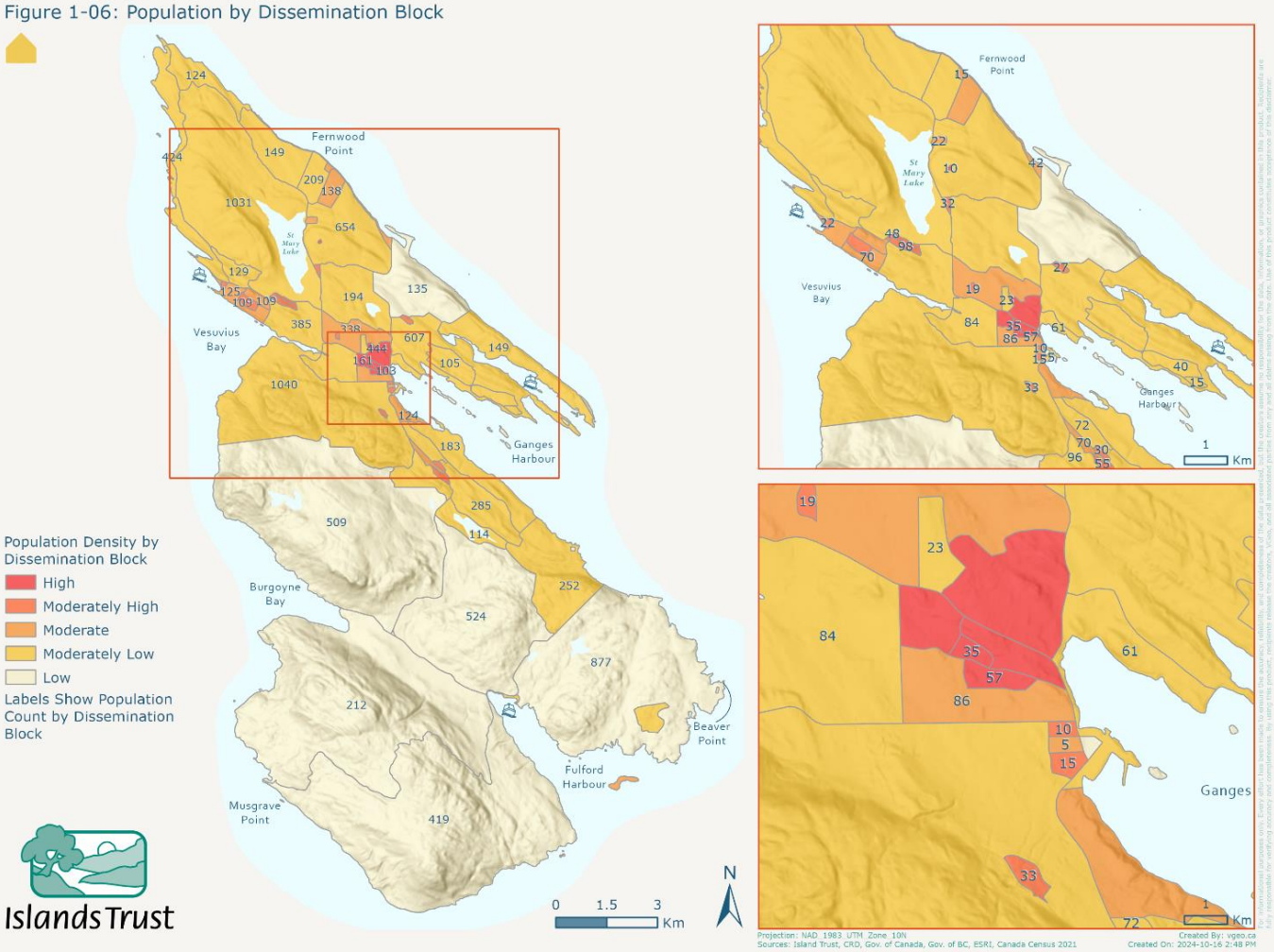
The Population by Dissemination Block map displays the total population density per census dissemination block, per square kilometer, as well as the total population count per block.

This map also includes significant landmarks such as the three ferry terminals and seven major points, bays, and harbors dispersed around the island.

This figure utilizes Census data from the Government of Canada to highlight dissemination block boundaries and population statistics. Population density for each dissemination block is calculated by dividing the total population by the total land area, providing a clear representation of how densely populated each area is.

Understanding population density at the dissemination block level is important because it provides valuable insights into how people are distributed across different regions. This information is crucial for effective urban planning, infrastructure development, and resource allocation.

Figure 1-06: Population by Dissemination Block



Map 1-07 - Population Age Group by Dissemination Area

Category: Population

Canada's Census data segmented by age groups per dissemination area. There are three classes of age groups separating 0 to 14 years, 15 to 64 years, and equal to or greater than 65 years of age.

The Census dataset used in this map is "Total - Age groups of the population."

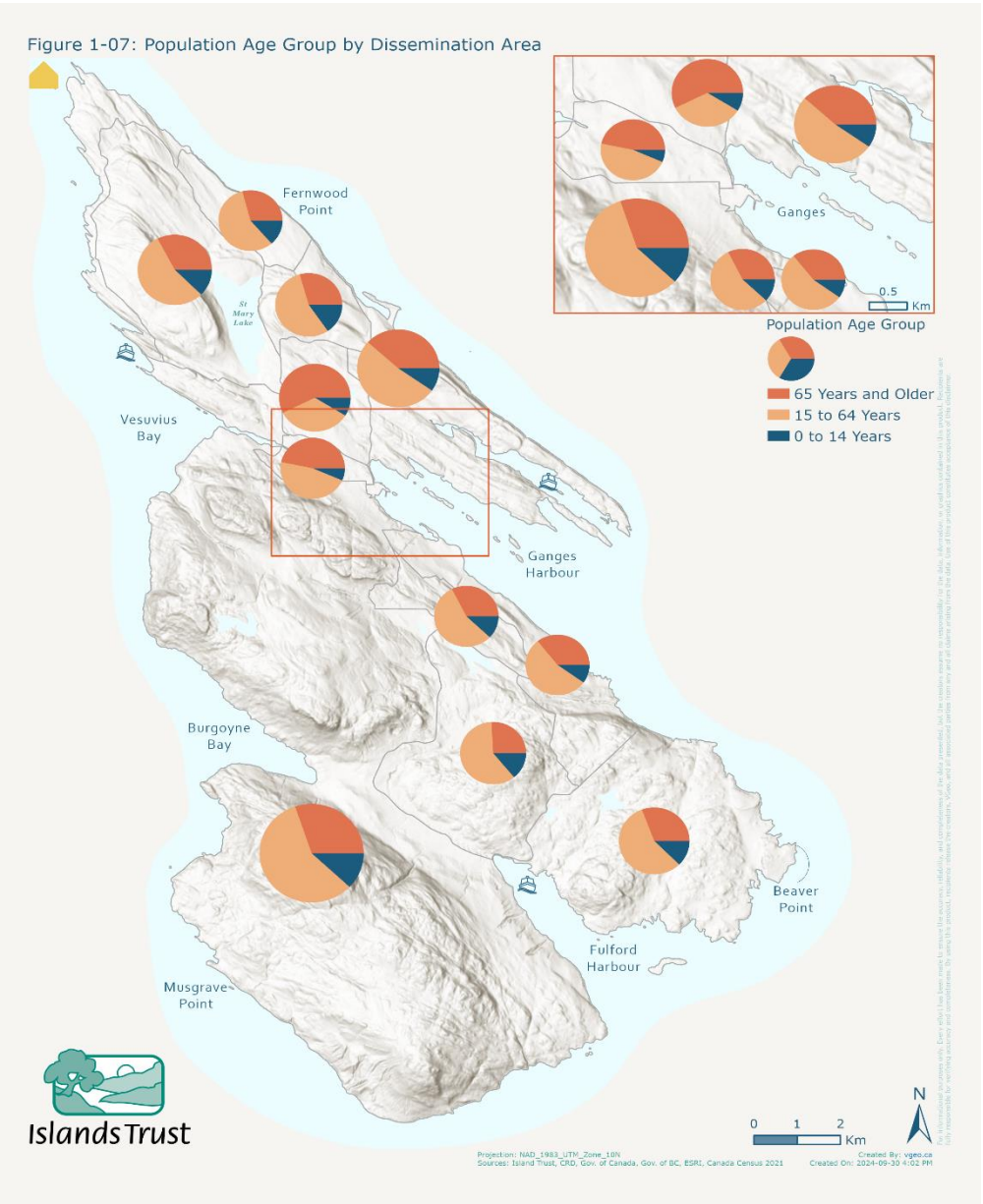
In the context of the Canada Census, "Total - Age groups of the population" refers to the breakdown of the population into different age categories. These categories allow for a detailed analysis of the population's age distribution, which can be important for various planning and policy-making purposes.

The available categories typically include:

1. **Total Population:** The entire population count.
2. **0 to 14 years:** Represents the young population, including children and early adolescents.
3. **15 to 64 years:** The working-age population, typically considered the economically active group.
4. **65 years and over:** The senior population

These categories provide insights into the age structure of the population, which is critical for understanding demographic trends, planning for services like education and healthcare, and assessing the dependency ratio (the ratio of dependents—people younger than 15 or older than 64—to the working-age population).

Figure 1-07: Population Age Group by Dissemination Area



6.1.2 Housing and Accommodation

Map 2-01 - Shelter Costs, Quality, and Occupants by Dissemination Area

This dataset from the Government of Canada's Census provides detailed information on housing conditions across dissemination areas. It includes data on the percentage of tenants in subsidized housing, the quality of housing, types of homeownership, the number of occupied homes, and the percentage of people spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

Subsidized housing is a type of housing provided at a reduced cost for low-income individuals or families. The government or a nonprofit organization helps cover part of the rent or housing costs, making it more affordable for those who cannot pay the full market price. The goal of subsidized housing is to ensure that people have access to safe and stable housing even if they have limited financial resources.

Regarding housing quality, **Suitable housing condition** refers to housing that meets the basic needs and standards for safe, comfortable, and healthy living. This includes adequate space for the household size, proper maintenance, access to necessary utilities (like water, electricity, and heating), and a safe environment. Suitable housing is also free from significant hazards, overcrowding, and in compliance with local building codes.

Non-suitable housing condition refers to housing that does not meet these basic standards. This could include issues like overcrowding, poor maintenance, lack of essential utilities, unsafe structural conditions, or being located in a hazardous area. Non-suitable housing is typically inadequate for healthy living and may pose risks to the occupants' well-being.

For types of home ownership, an **Owner** legally holds the property title and can live in, rent out, or sell it. They are responsible for taxes, maintenance, and mortgage payments, and they build equity over time. A **Renter** pays to live in a property they do not own, signing a lease for a set period. Renters cannot make significant changes to the property without permission and do not build equity, paying rent to the owner instead.

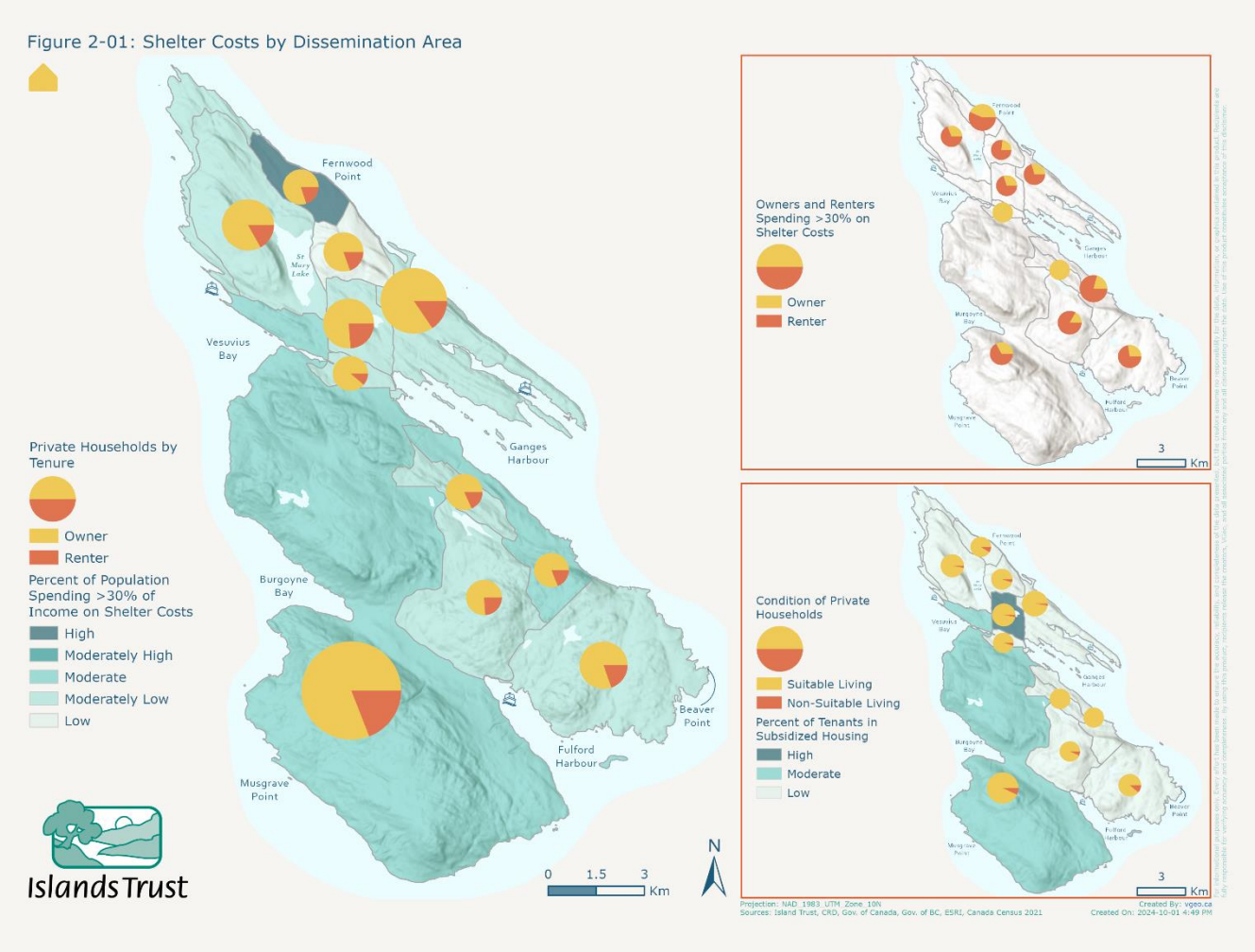
Total Occupied Condominiums refers to the number of private households that occupy residential units registered as condominiums. Condominiums are properties where individuals own their specific unit but share ownership of common areas like hallways, lobbies, or amenities. Owners of condominiums typically pay a monthly fee for maintenance of these shared spaces. **Non-Condominiums**, on the other hand, refer to residential units that are not part of a condominium arrangement. These could include single-family homes, duplexes, or apartments where the entire property is owned outright without shared ownership of common areas.

The census differentiates between these types of ownership to capture various housing arrangements and provide insight into the housing market and living conditions across the country. This data helps in understanding the distribution and types of housing available in different regions.

The number of **occupied homes** refers to the total count of residential units that are currently being lived in by individuals or households, including if they are both owned or rented.

Population spending >30% of income on shelter cost means that any owner or tenant households with household total income greater than zero, in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings by shelter-cost-to-income ratio, are spending 30% of their **total** income on housing.

The Census datasets displayed in this map include; Total - Owner and tenant households with household total income greater than zero - Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs, Total - Private households by tenure, Total - Occupied private dwellings by condominium status, Total - Private households by housing suitability, and Total - Tenant households in non-farm, non-reserve private dwellings - % of tenant households in subsidized housing.



Map 2-02 - Total Occupied Dwellings by Structural Type

This figure uses Census data from the Government of Canada to show dissemination area boundaries, population density, and dwelling occupancy by structural type. Population density has been calculated for each dissemination area to provide further insights into these patterns.

Total - Occupied Private Dwellings refers to the total number of residential units that are occupied by a household at the time of the census. These dwellings include a variety of housing types, such as single-detached houses, apartments, duplexes, and other forms of housing where people live.

Dwelling occupancy refers to the use or occupation of a residential unit by individuals or households. It indicates whether a dwelling, such as a house, apartment, or other residential structure, is being lived in.

Population Density by Dissemination Area refers to the number of people living within a specific, small geographic area known as a dissemination area (DA).

Structural type refers to the classification of buildings based on their physical form, design, and construction. In the context of housing, structural type describes the nature of the residential building, such as whether it is a single-family home, an apartment, a row house, a flat or duplex, or a mobile home. Structural types are used to categorize housing according to its layout, number of units, and how it shares space or walls with other dwellings. These classifications help in understanding housing patterns, urban planning, and market analysis.

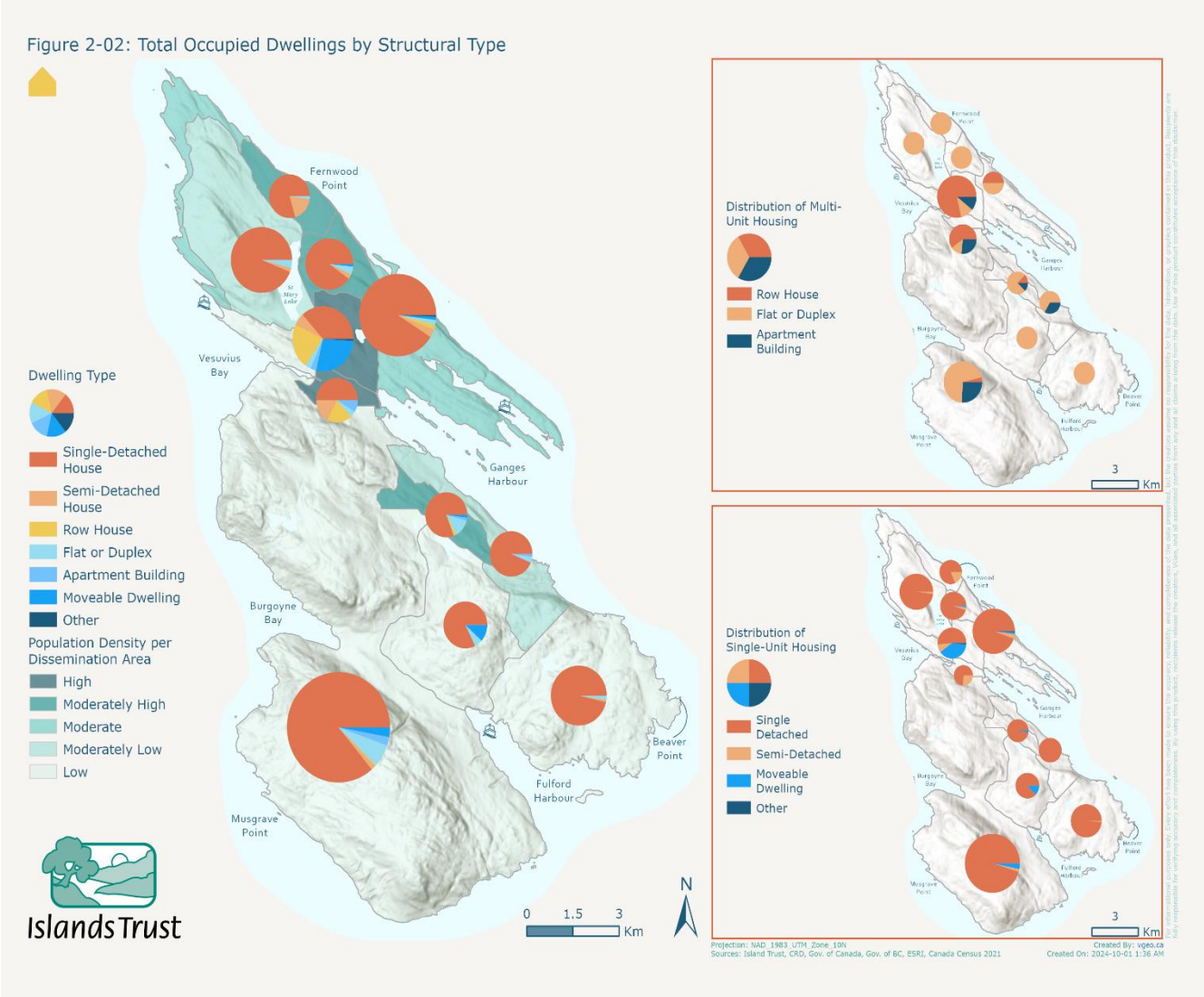
Distribution of Single-Unit Housing refers to the breakdown or percentage of all private dwellings that are classified as single-unit homes. **Single-Unit Housing:** This refers to a standalone residential building designed for one household. Examples include detached houses, cottages, and bungalows. Single-unit housing typically does not share walls, floors, or ceilings with other units and is usually surrounded by its own yard or land.

Distribution of Multi-Unit Housing refers to the breakdown or percentage of all private dwellings that are classified as multi-unit homes. **Multi-Unit Housing:** This refers to a residential building or complex that contains multiple separate housing units within a single structure. Examples include apartment buildings, duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, and condominiums. Multi-unit housing shares walls, floors, and/or ceilings with other units and often has common areas like hallways or courtyards.

The Census data displayed in this map includes **Total - Occupied private dwellings by structural type of dwelling** refers to the classification of all occupied private dwellings based on their physical structure or building type. This includes categories such as:

- **Single-detached houses**: Standalone homes not attached to any other dwelling.
- **Semi-detached houses**: Homes that share one wall with another dwelling.
- **Row houses**: Also known as townhouses, these are attached homes that share walls with neighboring units.
- **Apartments**: Multi-unit buildings, either in structures with fewer than five stories or high-rise buildings with five or more stories.
- **Duplexes**: Homes that contain two separate living units, one above the other or side by side.
- **Mobile homes or movable dwellings**: Portable homes that can be moved from one location to another.

This data helps in understanding the distribution and prevalence of different types of housing structures across Canada, providing valuable insights for urban planning, housing policy, and demographic analysis. It highlights the variety of living arrangements and how they are distributed across urban and rural areas.



Map 2-03 - Dwelling Occupancy per Dissemination Block

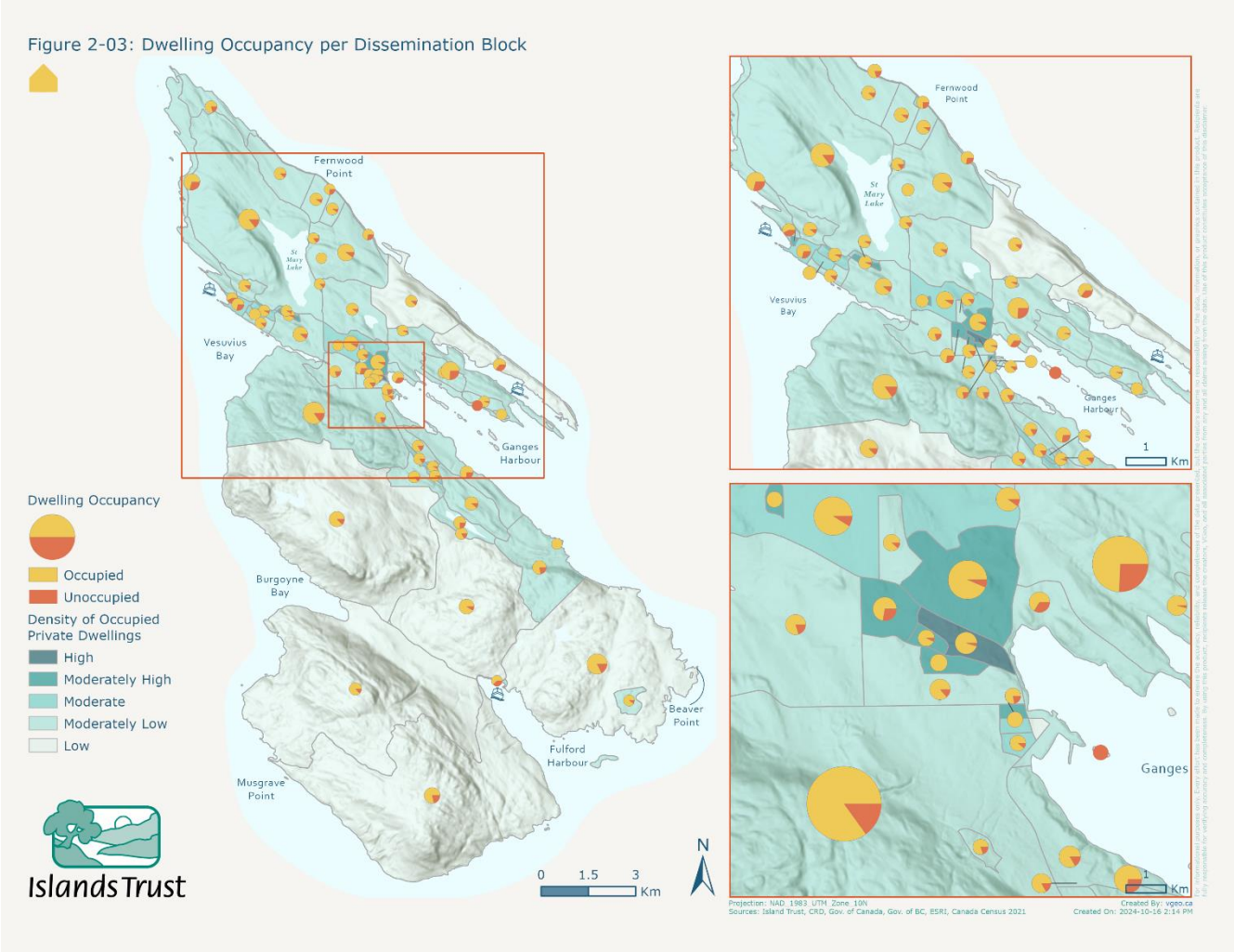
Category: Housing Type

This map, using the Government of Canada's Census data, highlights the distribution of occupied dwellings within each **dissemination block**, showing where people are living and how residential spaces are being utilized. This layer provides insights into housing occupancy rates, including potential areas of underutilized or vacant properties.

The base layer of the map uses a choropleth approach to illustrate **population density**, with varying shades representing the number of people per square kilometer. Darker shades typically indicate higher population densities, while lighter shades reflect less densely populated areas. This helps in understanding the concentration of people across the region.

Dwelling occupancy refers to the use or occupation of a residential unit by individuals or households. It indicates whether a dwelling, such as a house, apartment, or other residential structure, is being lived in.

The Census datasets displayed in this map include Total - Occupied private dwellings by structural type of dwelling and population data that was pulled from the Census Population and Dwellings table for Salt Spring Island.



Map 2-04 - Dwelling Density by Dissemination Block

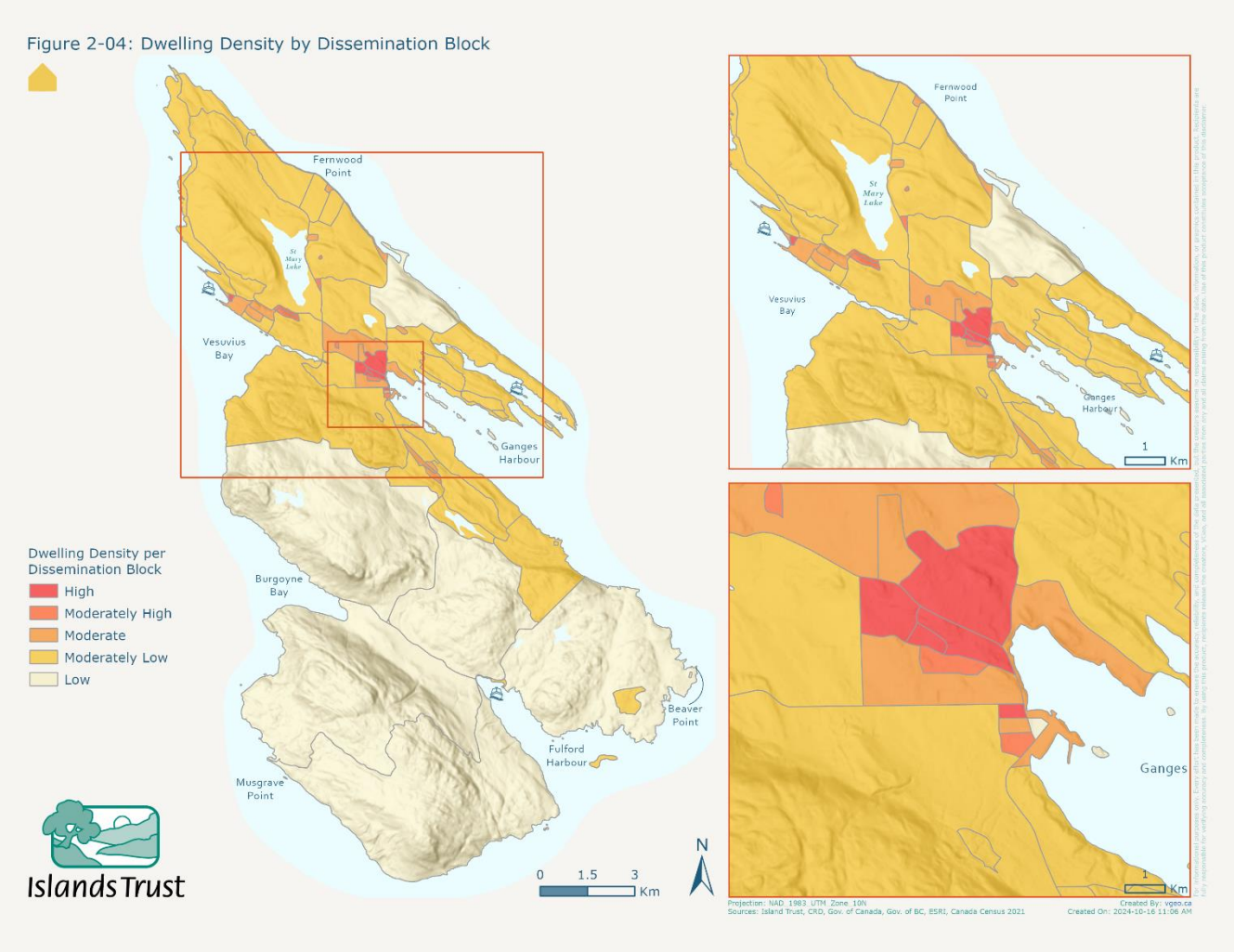
Category: Housing Distribution

This figure utilizes Census data from the Government of Canada to illustrate dissemination block boundaries and dwelling density statistics. Dwelling density for each dissemination block has been calculated by dividing the total number of dwellings by the land area of each block, providing a detailed analysis of housing distribution.

This visualization provides insight into the spatial distribution of the population, and how the sparsity or density correlates with the size of the dissemination block. Understanding this information is crucial for identifying housing needs, guiding urban planning, and tracking population trends. It helps ensure balanced growth, adequate housing, and sustainable land use, supporting informed decisions that benefit communities.

Dwelling density refers to the number of residential units or dwellings within a given area of land. It measures how densely populated a specific area is in terms of housing.

The Census dataset displayed in this map was pulled from the Census Population and Dwellings table for Salt Spring Island.



Map 2-05 - Senior Demographics by Dissemination Area

Category: Housing Distribution

This map presents Census Canada data on the demographic of residents aged 65 and over, along with the distribution of accommodations, including seniors subsidized housing and senior's housing with additional care. The senior accommodation locations shown on the map fall into the following two categories:

Seniors Subsidized Housing: This type of housing offers financial assistance to seniors to help reduce the cost of rent or mortgage. The goal is to make housing more affordable for low-income older adults. The housing itself typically does not include additional care services; it provides a basic living arrangement where seniors live independently but receive financial support to help cover housing costs.

Senior's Housing with Additional Care: This type of housing provides not only accommodation, but also additional care and support services tailored to the needs of seniors who may require assistance with daily activities. This can include services such as personal care, health monitoring, medication management, and help with activities like bathing or dressing. Examples include assisted living facilities, nursing homes, or continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). The focus here is on providing a higher level of care and support in addition to housing.

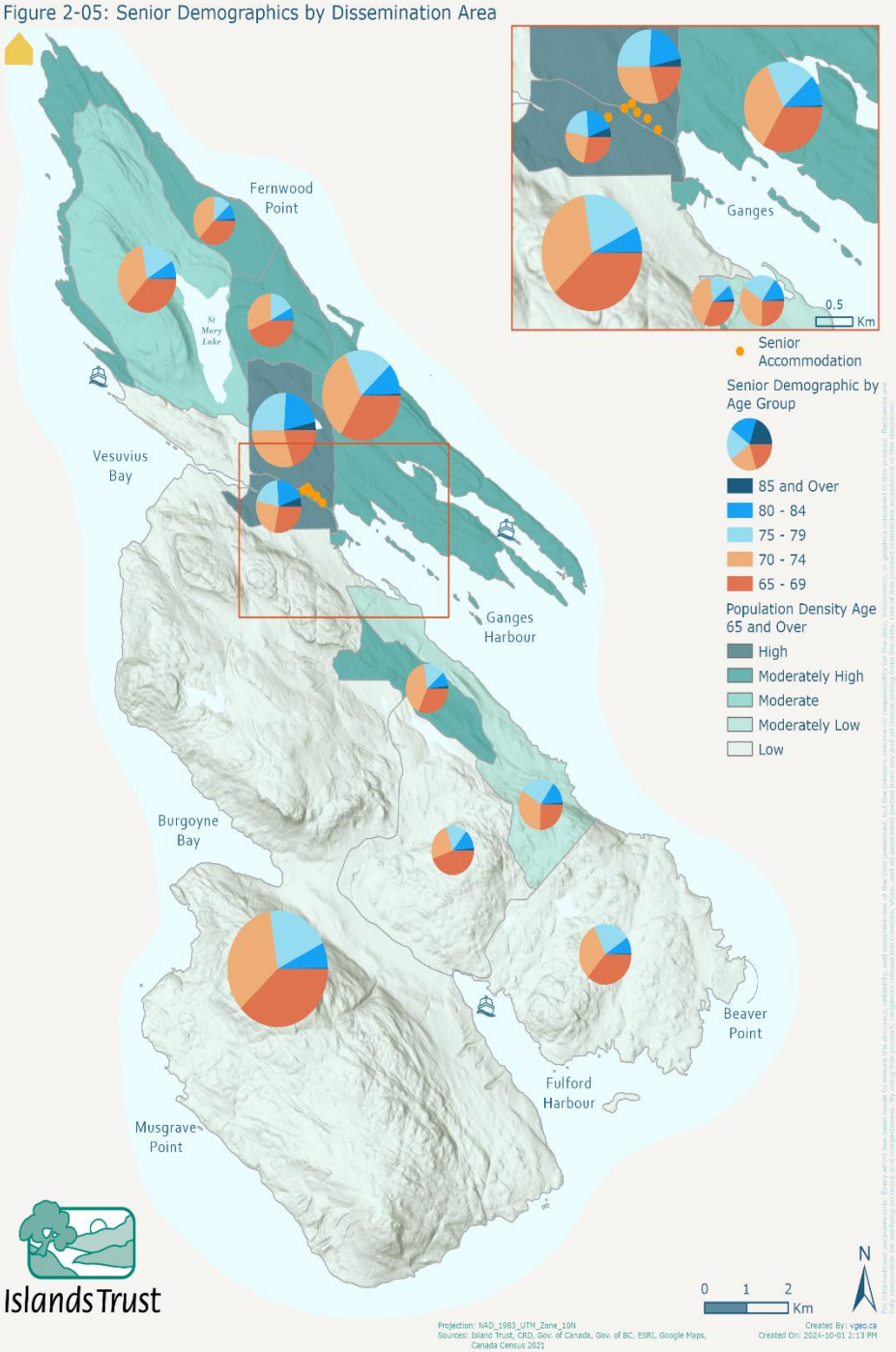
This map shows the counts for the population **65 years and over** as the background, as well as the breakdown of age groups as pie charts:

- **65 to 69 years**
- **70 to 74 years**
- **75 to 79 years**
- **80 to 84 years**
- **85 years and over**

Visualizing this data ensures there is awareness of the extent of accommodations for the aging population. It helps plan for their needs, guide policy decisions, support healthcare services, and promote community well-being by aligning resources with where older adults live.

The Census dataset used in this map is "Total - Age groups of the population," which further isolated the 65 years and over data. Senior accommodation locations were sourced from Google Maps.

Figure 2-05: Senior Demographics by Dissemination Area



Map 2-06 - Period of Construction per Dissemination Area

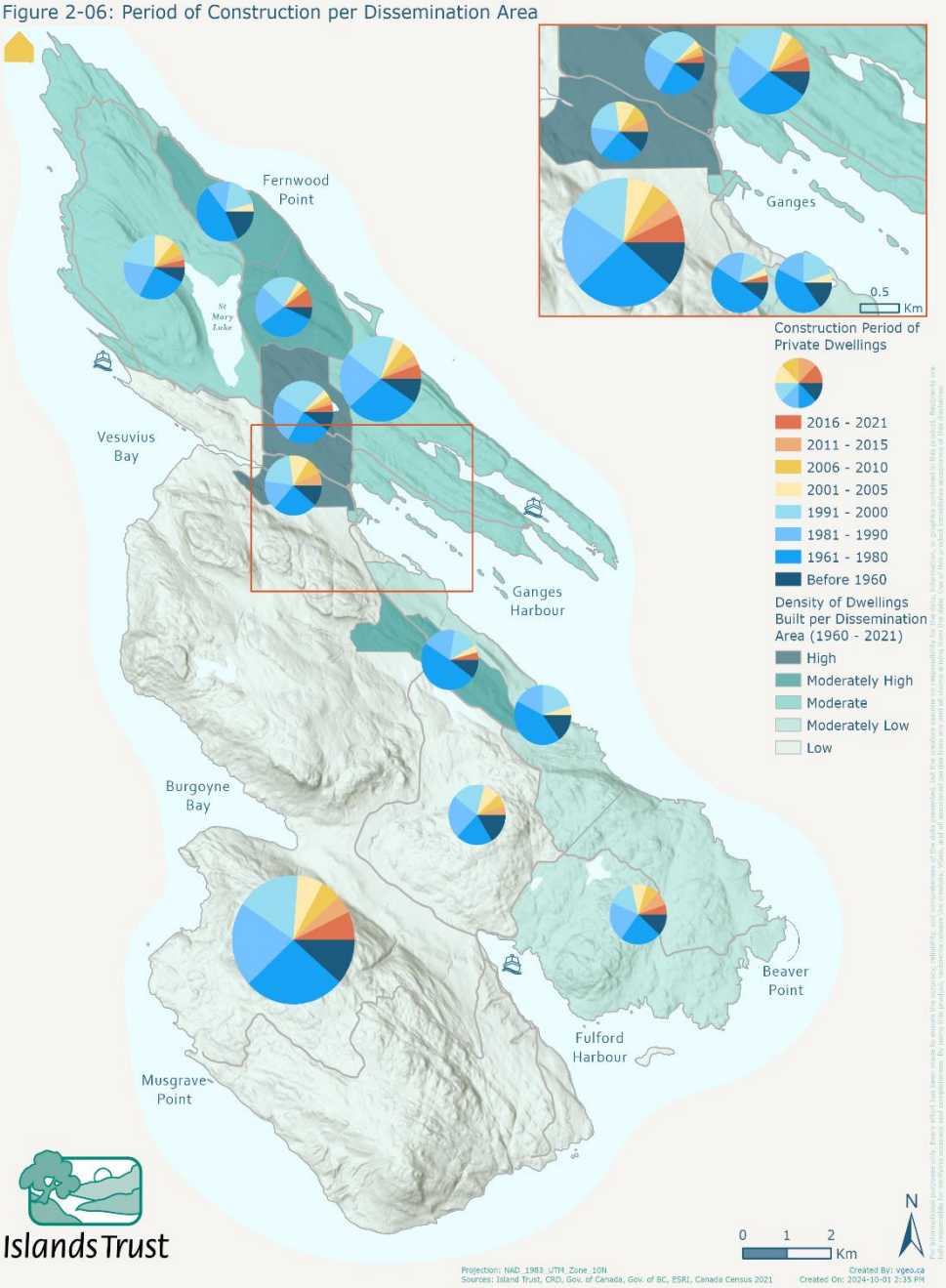
Category: Housing Type

This map category, **Construction Period of Private Dwellings**, displays the breakdown of dwellings by their period of construction: 1960 or before, 1961 to 1980, 1981 to 1990, 1991 to 2000, 2001 to 2005, 2006 to 2010, 2011 to 2015, and 2016 to 2021.

The map also shows **Total Dwellings Built Per Dissemination Area (1960 -2021)** which is based on the census statistic **Total - Occupied Private Dwellings by Period of Construction.** This represents the total number of currently occupied private dwellings built between 1960 and 2021.

Understanding the period of construction of occupied private dwellings can help with urban planning, infrastructure development, and housing policy. It gives planners and policymakers an idea of the housing trends over time, identifies areas with older housing that may require maintenance or modernization, and supports the assessment of housing needs and trends.

Figure 2-06: Period of Construction per Dissemination Area



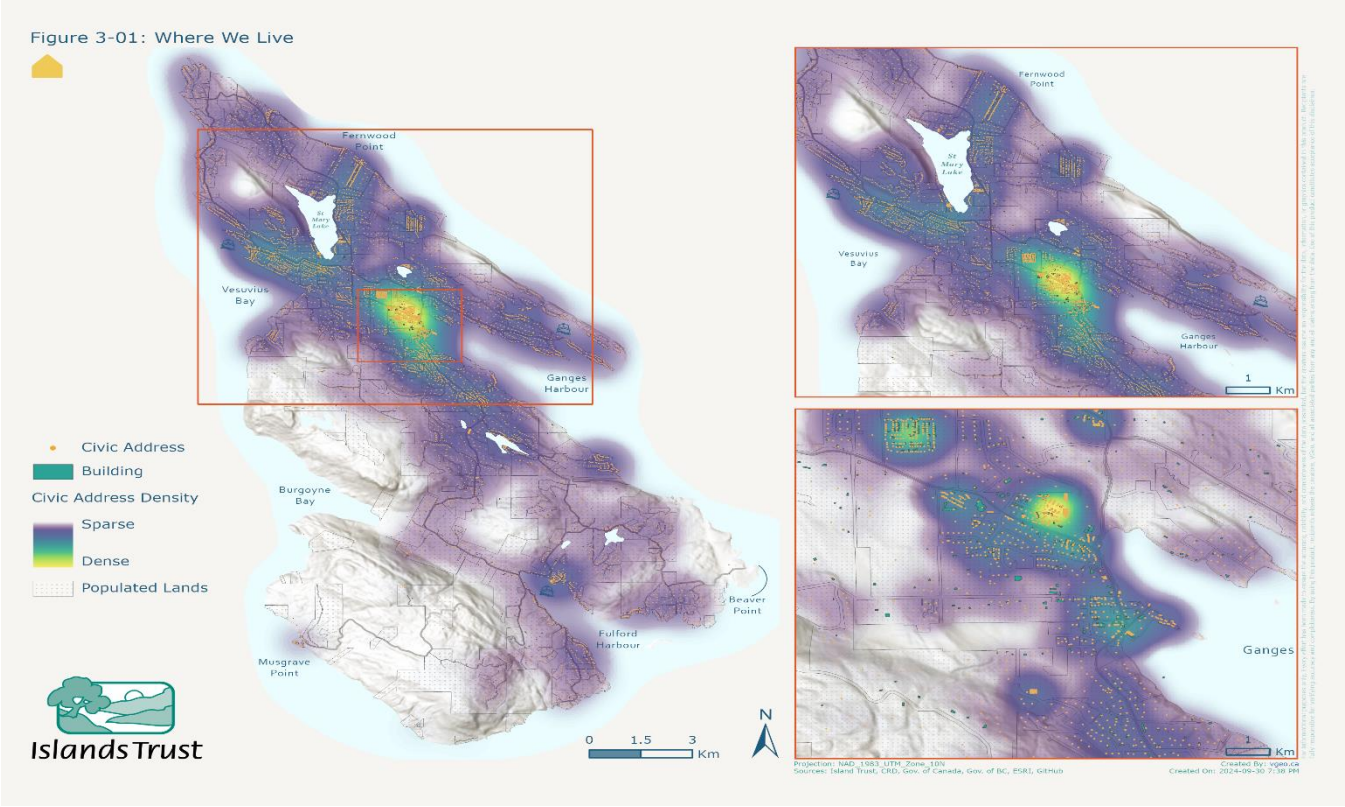
6.1.3 Proximity and Accessibility

Map 3-01 – Where We Live

The foundation of the proximity-based maps for Salt Spring Island is built upon an analysis of populated lands. Due to the island's sparse population and small size methods used in other jurisdictions which are based on dissemination blocks do not adequately represent where people live on SSI and are not detailed enough to yield the desired results. Therefore, a combination of parcel data and civic address data was used to derive a populated lands dataset which represents where people live on SSI at a detailed scale of 50x50 meters. Although this method does not directly represent population count as it is based on the density of civic addresses, this method is preferable as it is a proxy for the location of the population offering a much more detailed view than available in census data.

Proximity Analysis Details: Each amenity was assessed in terms of its relationship to transportation infrastructure and the populated lands database. The analysis for cycling and driving was further refined by only including areas within 400 meters of a road or path to exclude areas with no transportation infrastructure. The following categories were assessed:

- Easily Walkable: within 400 m (5-minute walk)
- Moderately Walkable: within 1 km (15-minute walk)
- Cycling Buffer: within 3 km (10-minute cycling)
- Drive-Time Buffer: within 4 km (5-minute driving)



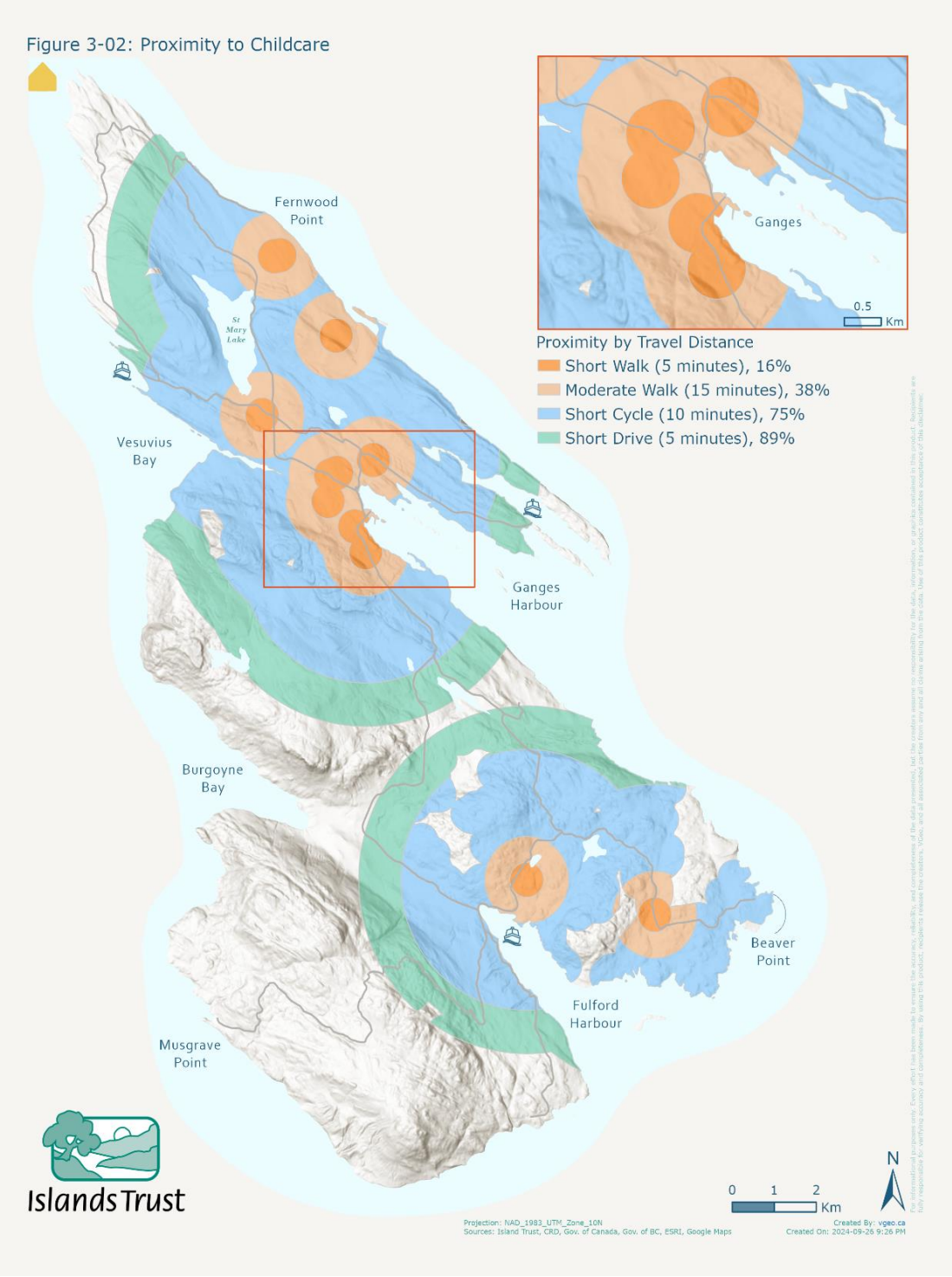
Map 3-02 - Proximity to Childcare

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

This map shows the locations of 13 licensed childcare facilities servicing the SSI community. The data has been sourced from the list presented in Licensed Centres and Early Learning on the Gulf Islands and Google Maps.

A licensed childcare facility is a childcare facility that has met the regulatory requirements set by government authorities to operate legally. Licensing ensures that the daycare adheres to specific standards related to health, safety, staff qualifications, and operational practices.



Map 3-03 - Proximity to Educational Institutions

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

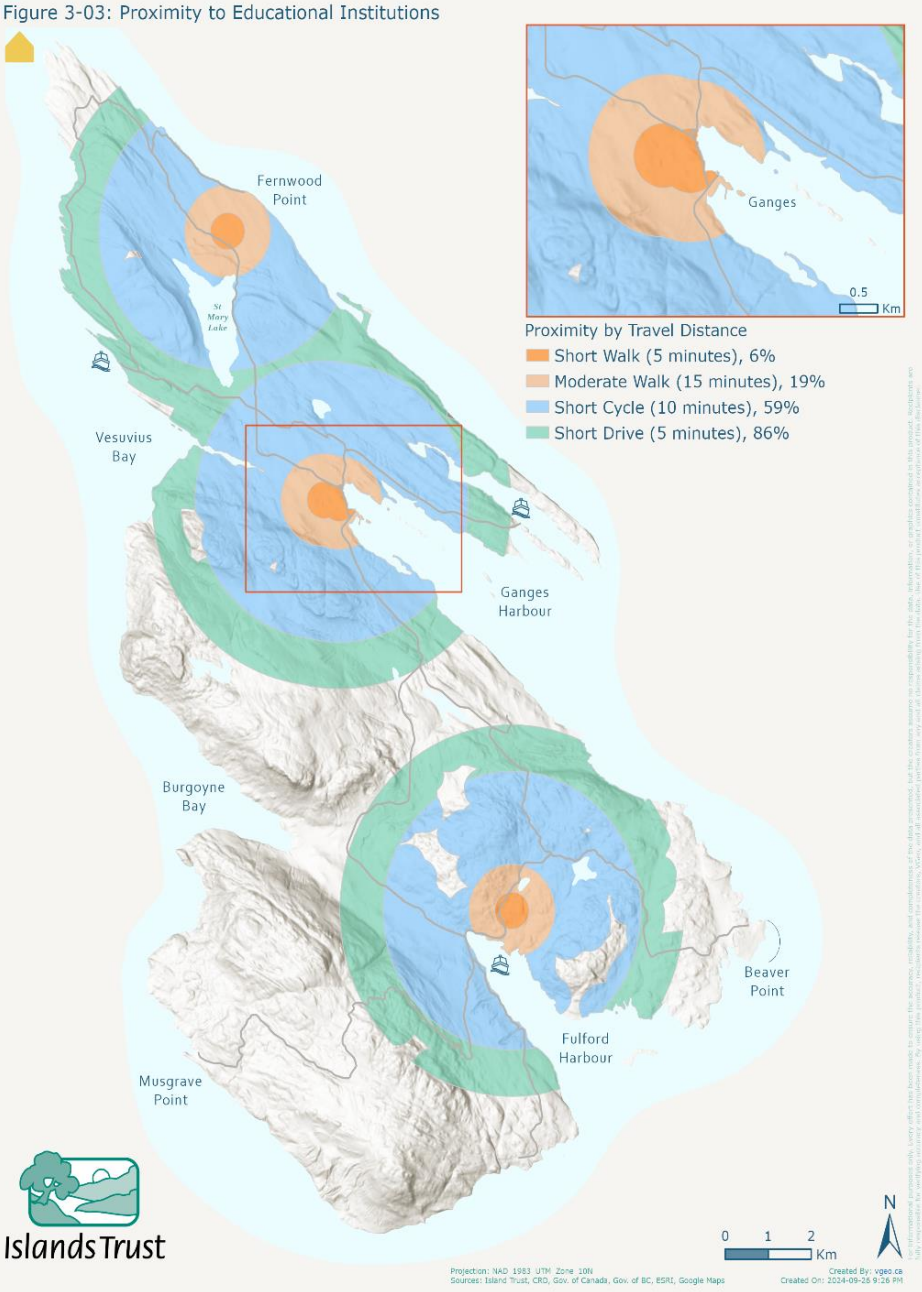
This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

This map illustrates the locations of four schools, three elementary and one secondary, and their proximity to residential areas, highlighting access to educational institutions. The amenity locations used for this map were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.

An **educational institution** is an organization dedicated to providing structured learning and instruction to individuals. These institutions are designed to facilitate education and skill development across various levels and disciplines. Educational institutions can vary in type, purpose, and the age groups they serve.

An **elementary and secondary school** is an educational institution that provides education to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. **Elementary school** focuses on foundational skills for young children, typically up to grade five or six, while **secondary school**, including middle and high school, serves older students from grades six or seven through twelve, offering more specialized and advanced subjects to prepare them for higher education or the workforce.

Figure 3-03: Proximity to Educational Institutions



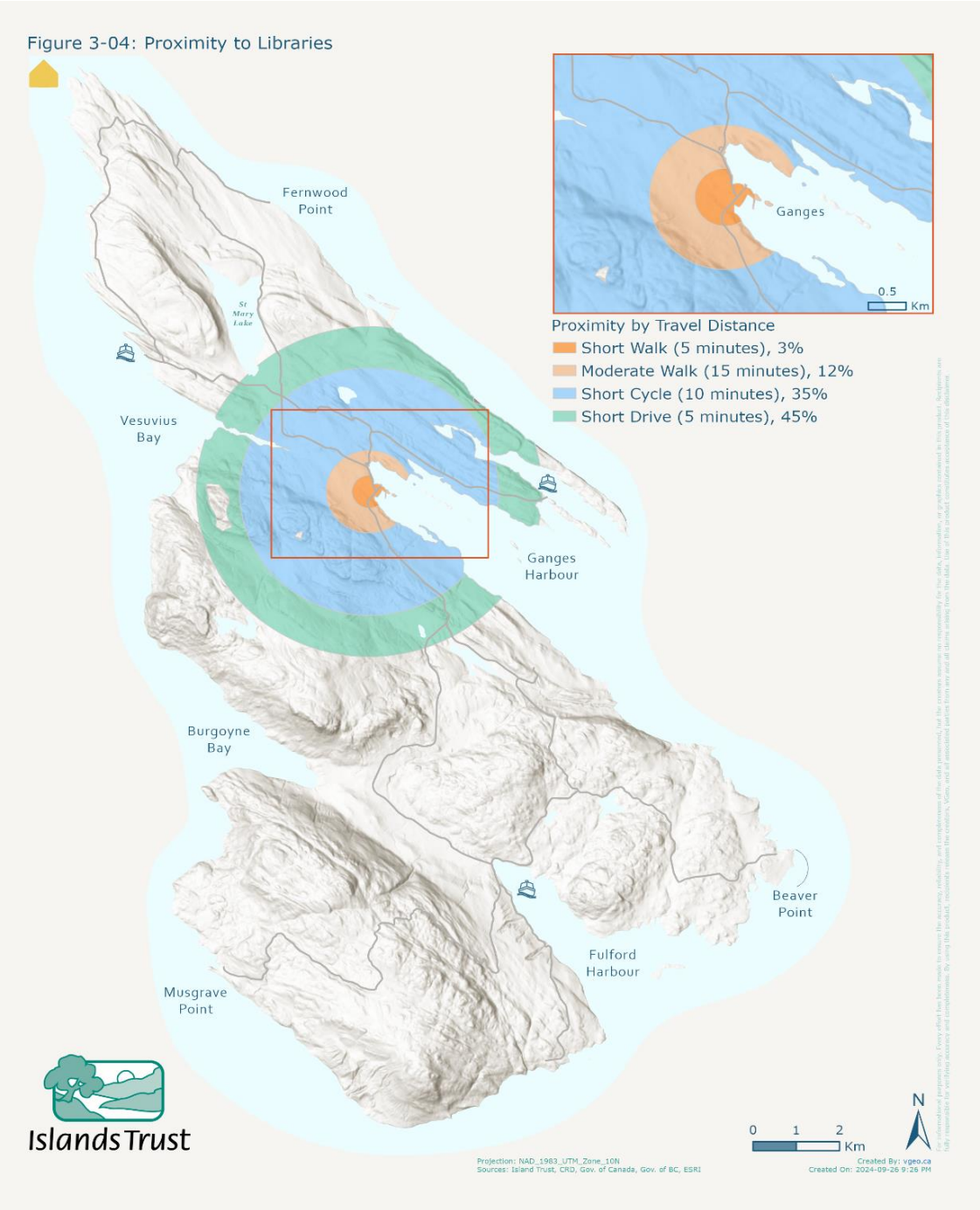
Map 3-04 - Proximity to Libraries

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The location of the only public library on Salt Spring Island was sourced from data provided by the Island Trust (Physical Features).

A **public library** is an institution that collects, organizes, and provides access to books, digital media, and other informational resources for reading, research, and education. Libraries typically offer services such as lending books and other materials, providing internet access, and hosting community programs and events. They serve as a resource for learning, cultural enrichment, and information sharing within a community.

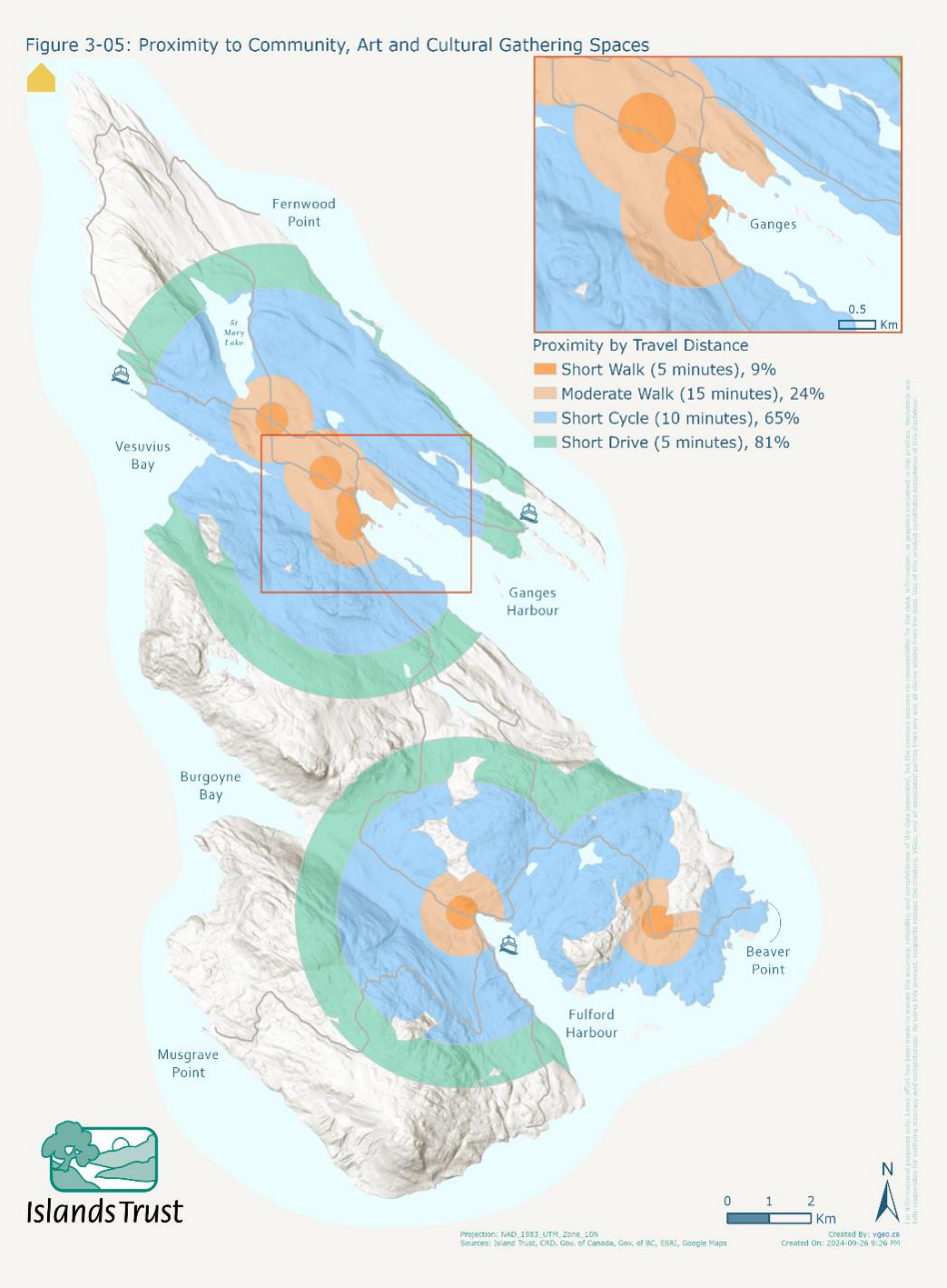


Map 3-05 - Proximity to Community, Art, and Cultural Gathering Spaces

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

Within the Arts and Culture layer, there are currently three community halls, one Legion, and two locations that fall within the Arts category. The amenity locations used for this map were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.



Community Hall: A general-purpose venue for local community events and gatherings, managed by local organizations or authorities. They serve as important gathering places for residents and visitors alike and host a wide range of events and activities, fostering a sense of community and providing spaces where people can come together to celebrate, learn, and enjoy cultural experiences.

Legion: A venue associated with veterans' organizations, focusing on support for veterans and their families, as well as hosting related social and community events.

Art: These locations serve as a hub for performing and visual arts, offering a wide range of cultural experiences to both residents and visitors.

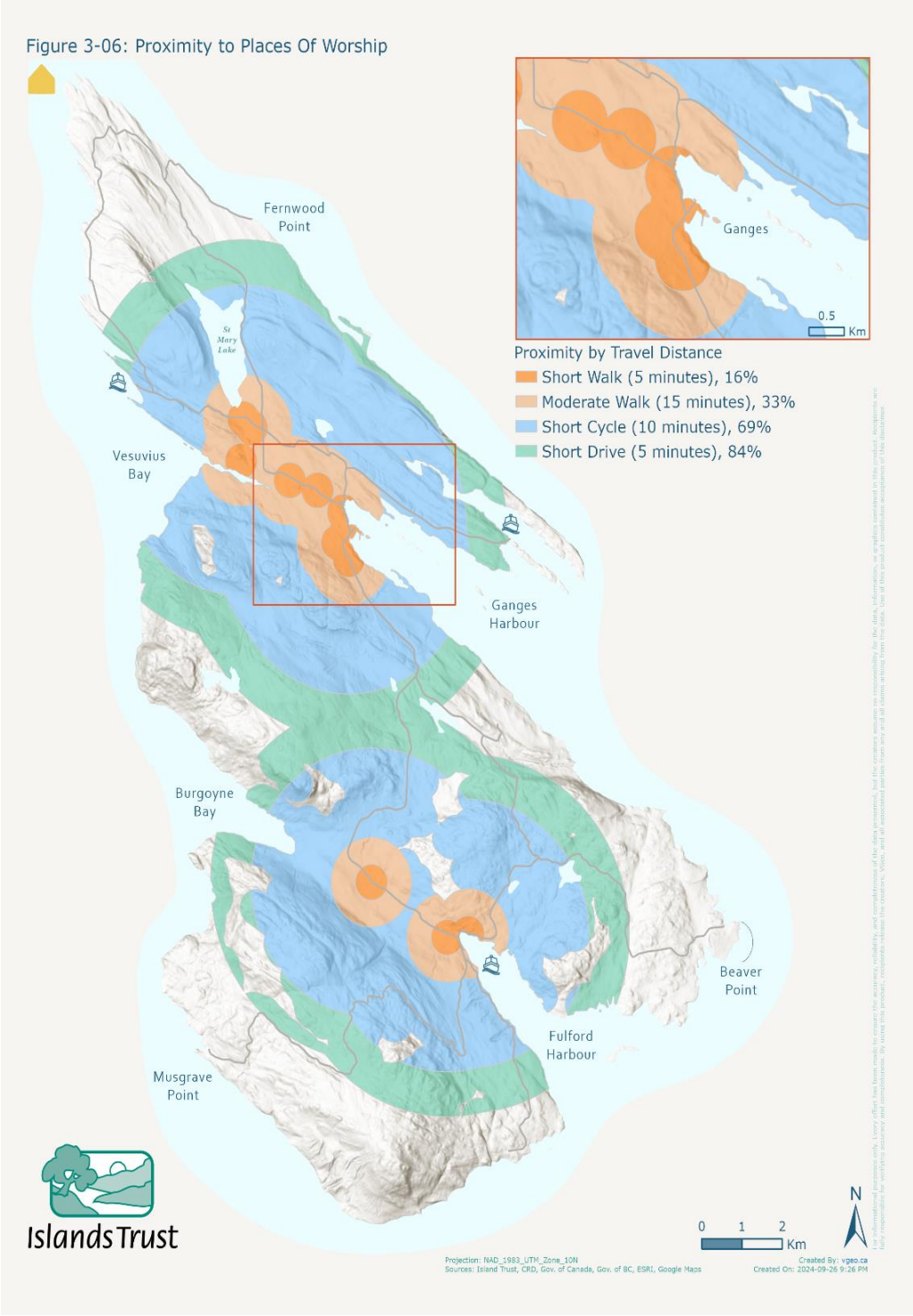
Map 3-06 - Proximity to Places of Worship

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The data used for this map includes 13 places of worship whose locations were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.

A **place of worship** is a building or designated space where individuals or groups gather to practice, observe, and participate in religious activities and rituals. This can include activities such as prayer, meditation, singing, and ceremonies specific to the religious tradition. These spaces are often considered sacred by the religious community and serve as a focal point for communal worship, spiritual reflection, and religious teaching.



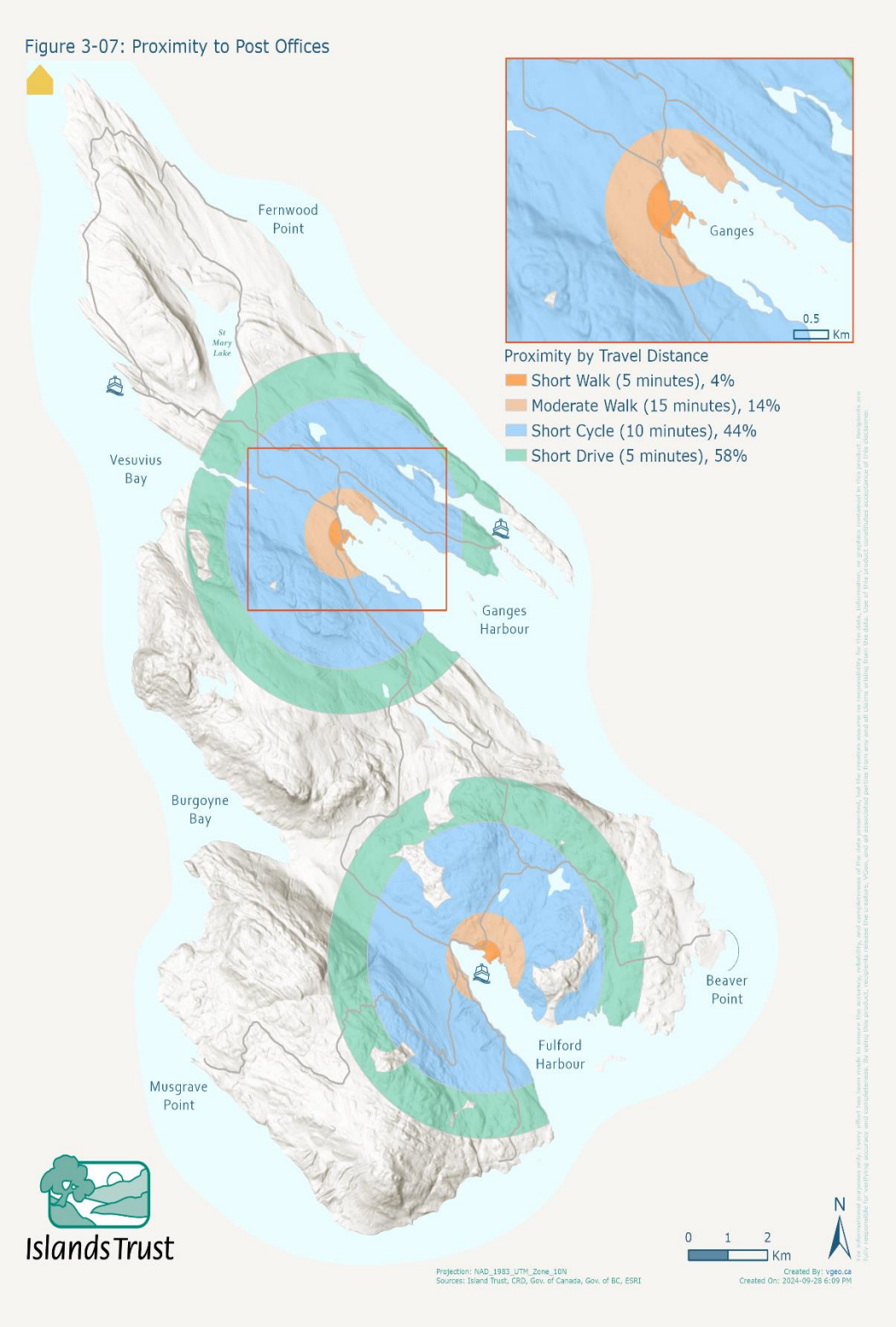
Map 3-07 - Proximity to Post Offices

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The location of the only post office in downtown Ganges was sourced from the data provided by the Island Trust (Physical Features).

A **post office** is a public facility or building that provides a variety of mail-related services, including the sending, receiving, sorting, and delivery of letters and packages. Post offices also offer additional services such as selling postage stamps, providing mailboxes, and offering money orders and other financial services.



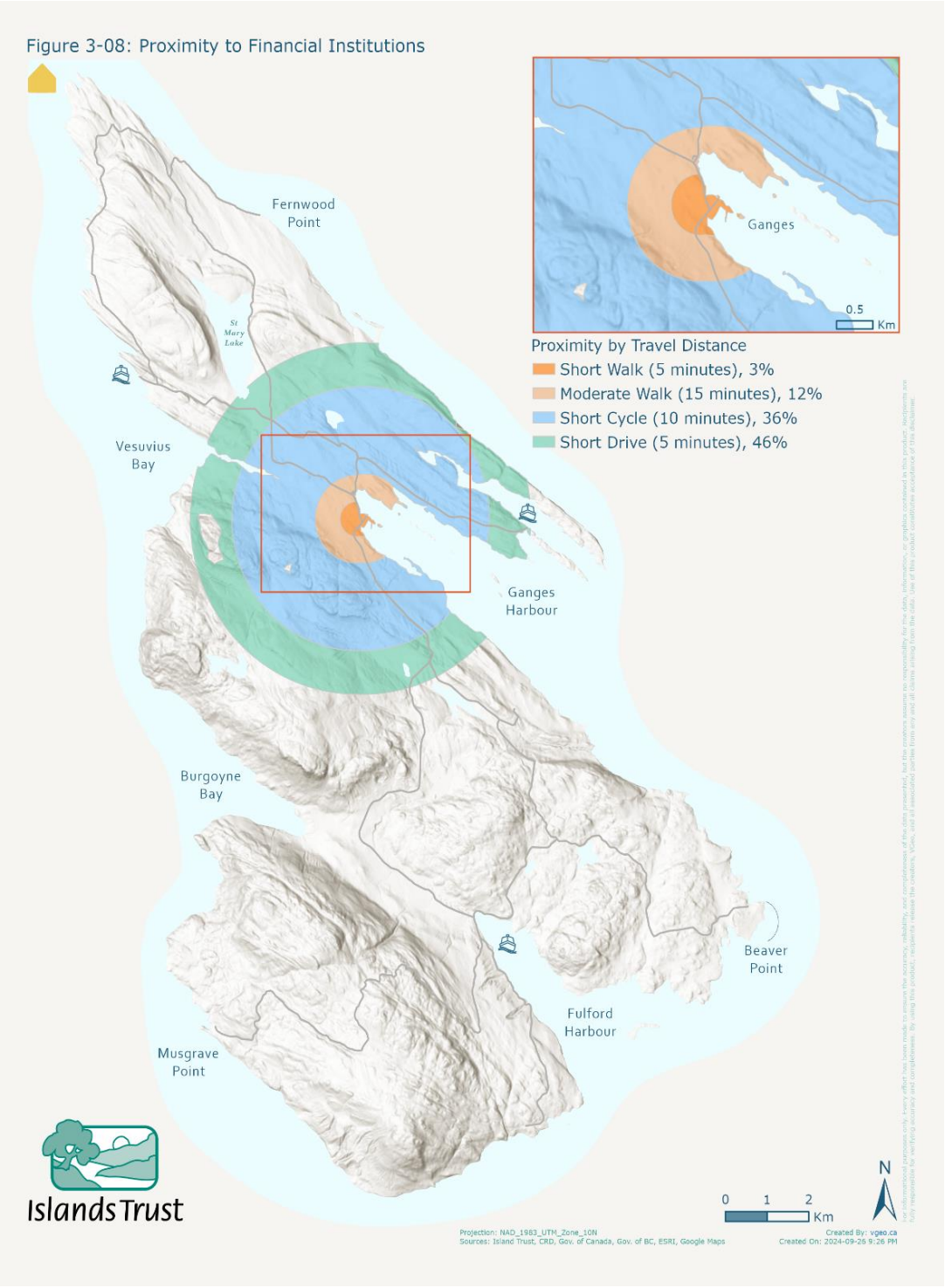
Map 3-08 - Proximity to Financial Institutions

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The three bank locations used for this map were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.

A **bank** is a financial institution that provides services such as accepting deposits, offering loans, and managing various financial products like checking and savings accounts. These locations may also offer **ATM** (Automated Teller Machine) services, allowing clients to perform financial transactions, such as withdrawing cash, checking balances, and depositing money, without needing to interact directly with a bank teller.

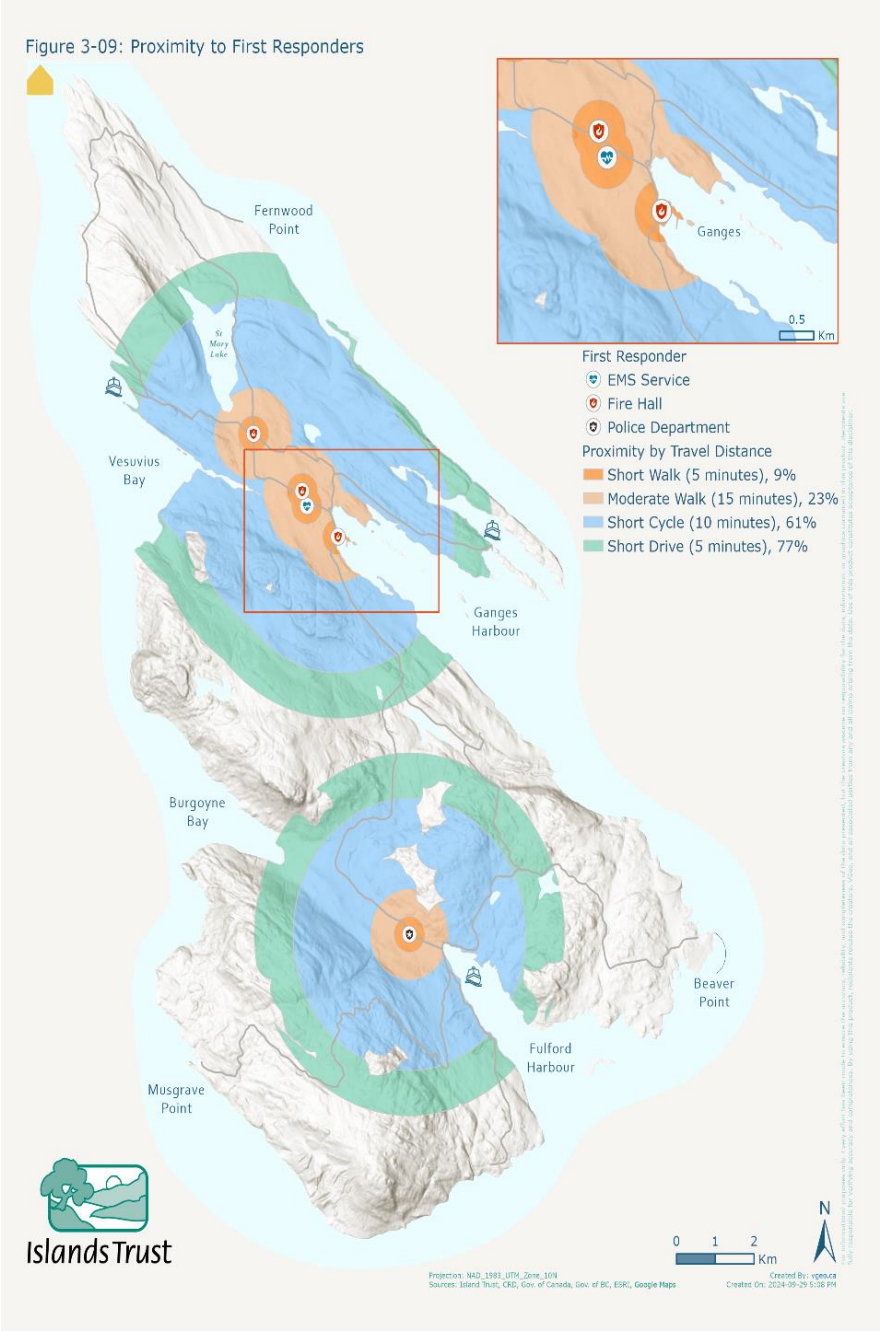


Map 3-09 - Proximity to First Responders

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The four first responder locations used for this map include one police station and three fire halls. The locations were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.



A **first responder** is a trained professional who is among the first to arrive and provide assistance at the scene of an emergency or accident. Police and firefighters fall within this category, supporting the overall emergency response effort.

A **fire hall**, also known as a fire station or firehouse, is a building where firefighting equipment and personnel are housed. It serves as the headquarters for firefighters and emergency response teams, providing space for fire engines, trucks, and other firefighting apparatus. Fire halls are strategically located within communities to ensure a rapid response to emergencies such as fires, accidents, and other incidents requiring immediate assistance.

A **police station** is a building where police officers and other law enforcement personnel are based and carry out their duties. It serves as the headquarters for police operations in a specific area or community. Police stations are central to maintaining public safety, enforcing laws, and responding to emergencies and other incidents within their jurisdiction.

Map 3-10 - Proximity to Healthcare Facilities

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The Healthcare layer represents essential health facilities which includes nine walk-in medical clinics, four pharmacies, one hospital, two locations offering mental health services, and one physiotherapy rehabilitation center across Salt Spring Island. The map data has been obtained from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.

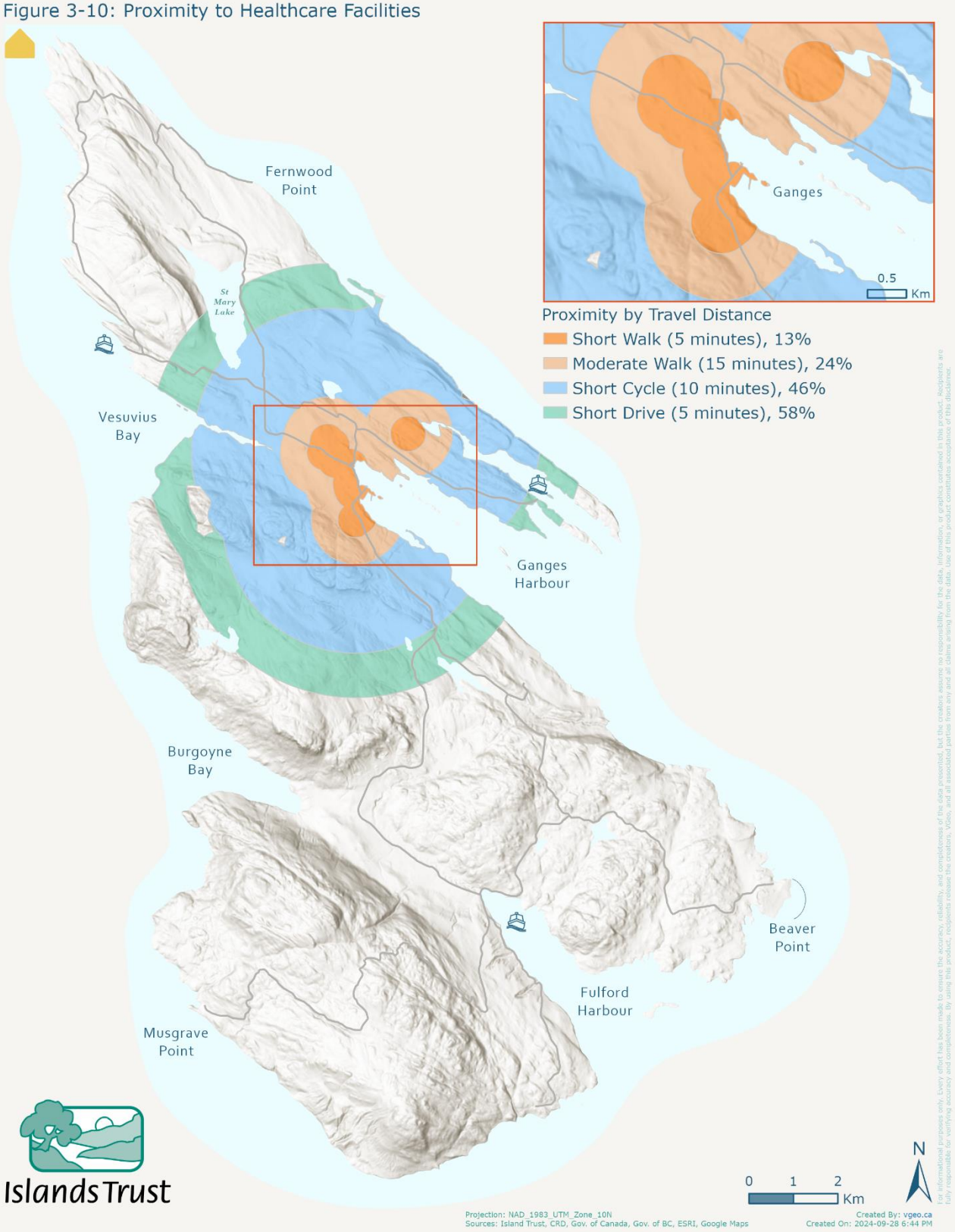
A **healthcare facility** is a place that provides medical services, care, and treatment to individuals. These facilities are equipped to manage a range of healthcare needs and are staffed by medical professionals such as doctors, nurses, and therapists.

Essential health facilities typically refer to healthcare services and infrastructure that are critical for maintaining public health and providing basic medical care. These facilities include:

- **Hospitals:** Facilities offering a wide range of medical services, including emergency care, surgery, and specialized treatment.
- **Primary Care Centers:** Clinics that provide general medical services, preventive care, and basic health services.
- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS):** Services that provide urgent medical care, such as ambulance services and emergency rooms.
- **Pharmacies:** Facilities where essential medications and medical supplies are dispensed.
- **Public Health Facilities:** Locations that offer vaccination, disease prevention, and health promotion services.
- **Maternal and Child Health Centers:** Facilities focusing on the health needs of women, infants, and children.
- **Mental Health Facilities:** Centers providing psychiatric services, counseling, and support for mental health conditions.
- **Rehabilitation Centres:** Facilities that offer therapy and recovery services for individuals with disabilities or those recovering from surgery, injury, or illness.

These facilities are considered essential because they provide crucial services that help maintain overall public health, prevent the spread of diseases, and ensure that people have access to necessary medical care.

Figure 3-10: Proximity to Healthcare Facilities



Map 3-11 - Proximity to Dine-in Establishments

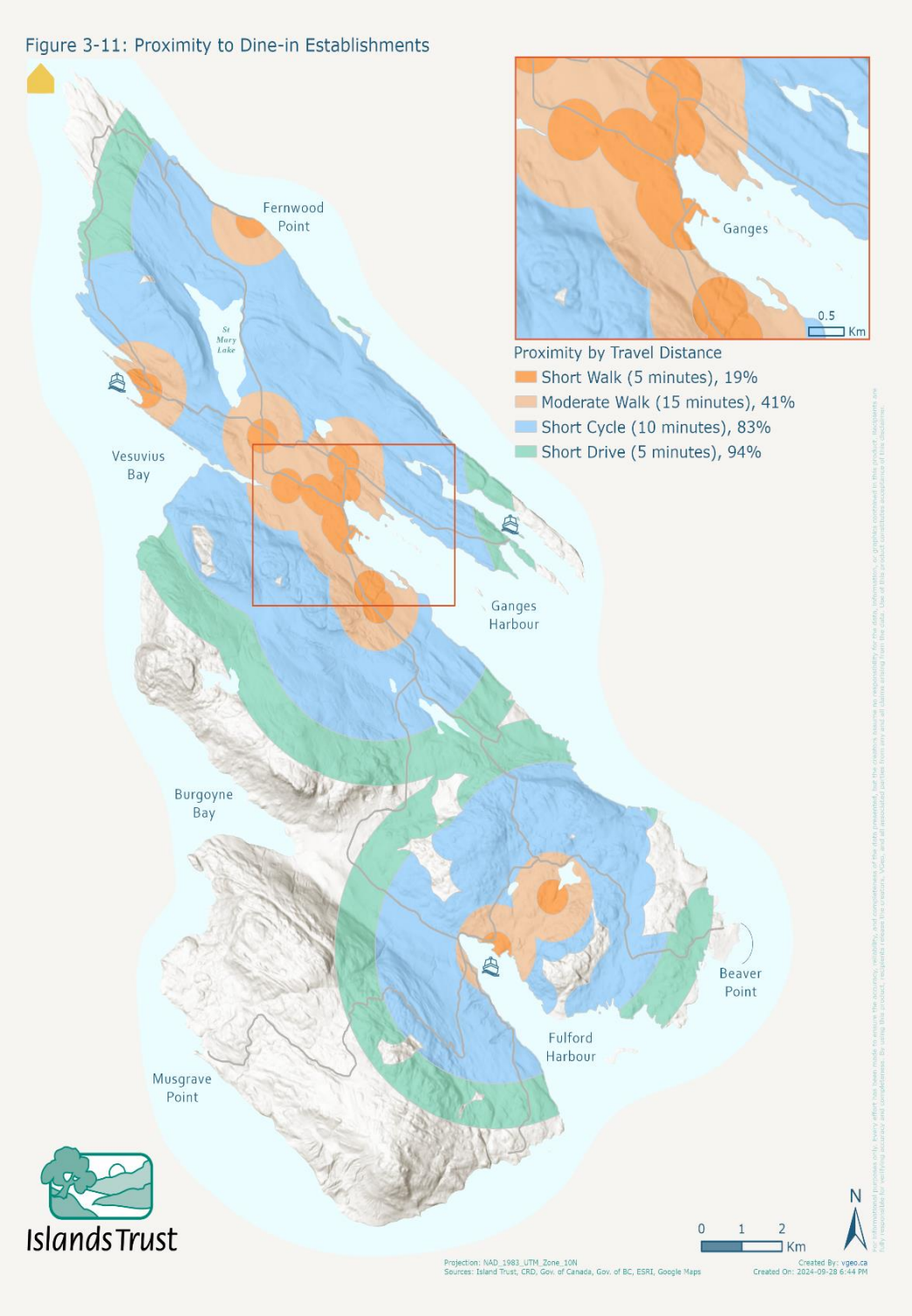
Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The distribution of 50 dine-in locations, including 40 restaurants, six cafes, and four bars across the island, were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.

Dine in locations represent places where people can get a sit down meal. These include:

- **Cafes:** Focuses on coffee, tea, and light snacks in a casual setting.
- **Restaurants:** Offers a full menu of meals with a range of dining experiences.
- **Bars:** Specializes in alcoholic beverages, often with some food options, in a social setting.



Map 3-12 - Proximity to Grocery Stores

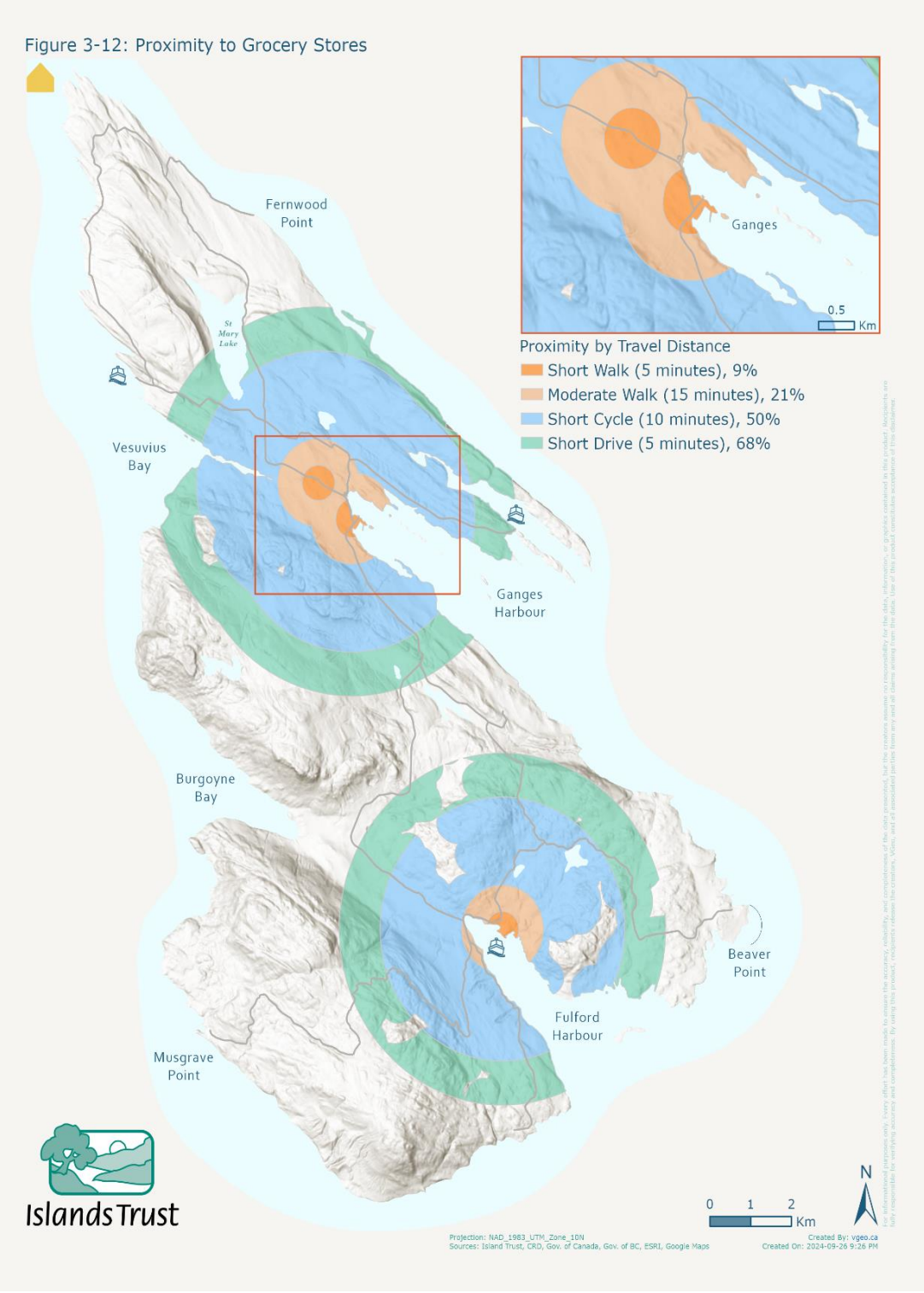
Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

There are four amenity locations shown in this map, which include three grocery stores and one general store on the island. The points were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.

Grocery Store: Specializes mainly in food and beverage products, with additional household essentials.

General Store: Offers a wide variety of products, including groceries, household items, clothing, and other goods.



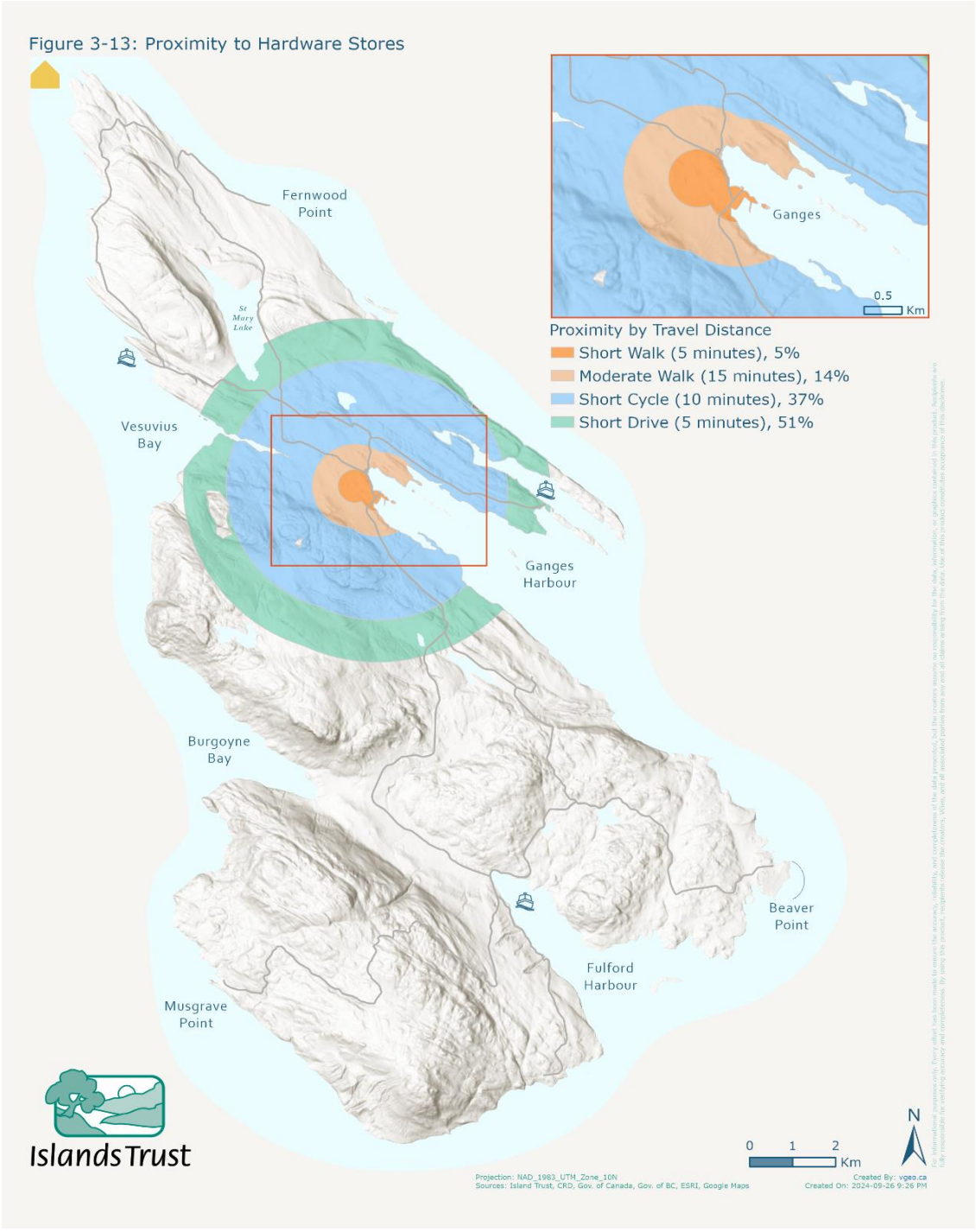
Map 3-13 - Proximity to Hardware Stores

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The amenity locations of three hardware stores were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.

A **hardware store** is a retail establishment that sells a wide variety of tools, building materials, and home improvement supplies. These stores typically carry products such as hand tools, power tools, fasteners (like nails and screws), plumbing supplies, electrical supplies, paint, gardening equipment, and various household repair items. Many hardware stores also provide services like key cutting, paint mixing, and tool rental.



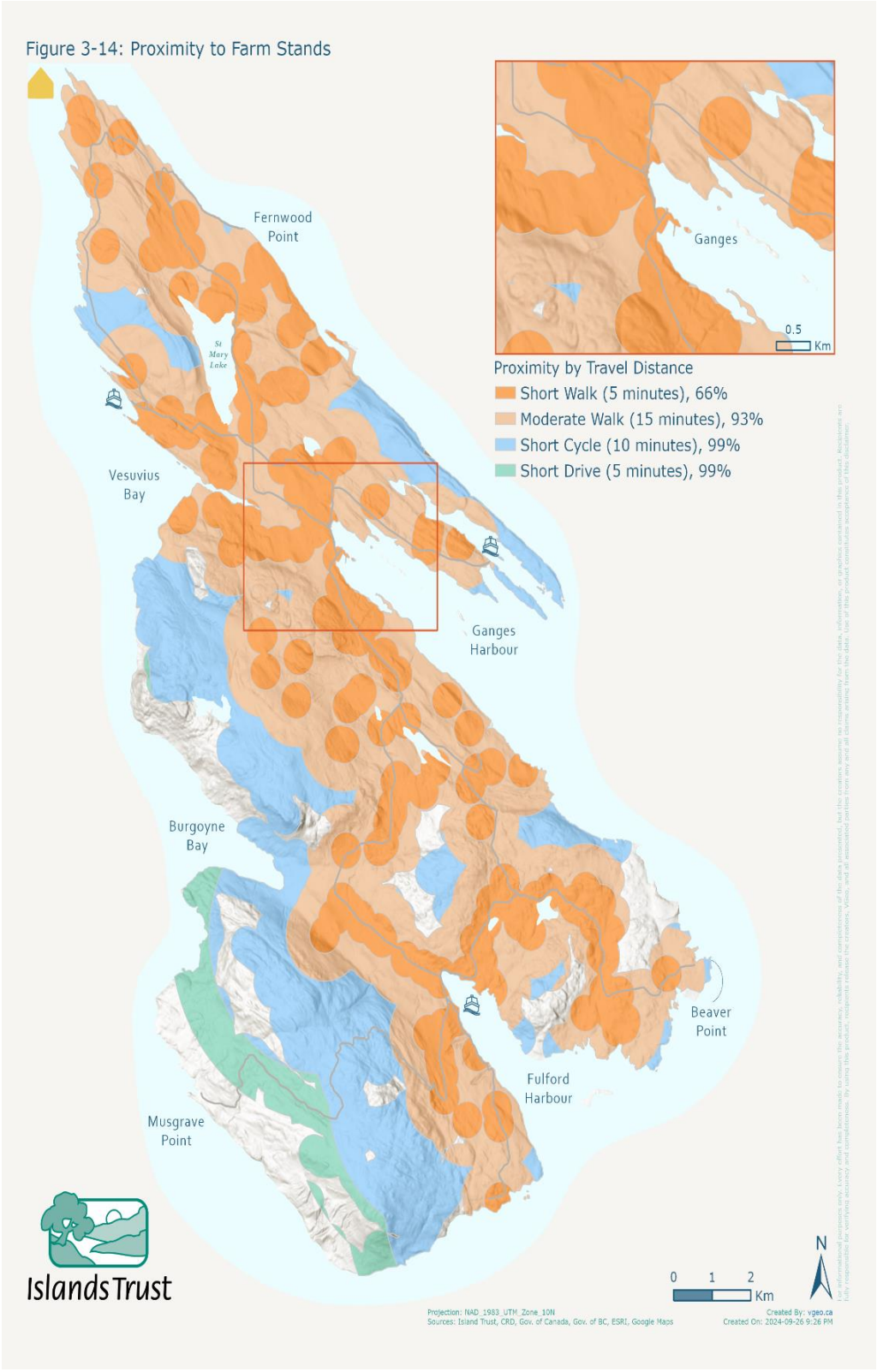
Map 3-14 - Proximity to Farm Stands

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

It shows the distribution of 208 farm stands across Salt Spring Island. The amenity locations visualized in this figure have been sourced from the Farm Stand Tour interactive map provided by Google Maps.

A **farm stand** is a small, often temporary structure or stall where a farmer or group of farmers sell their agricultural products directly to consumers. It typically features fresh produce, such as fruits, vegetables, and herbs, and may also include other farm products like eggs, honey, flowers, baked goods, or homemade preserves. Farm stands are commonly found on or near the farms where the products are grown, or along roadsides, and they provide a direct link between farmers and the local community.

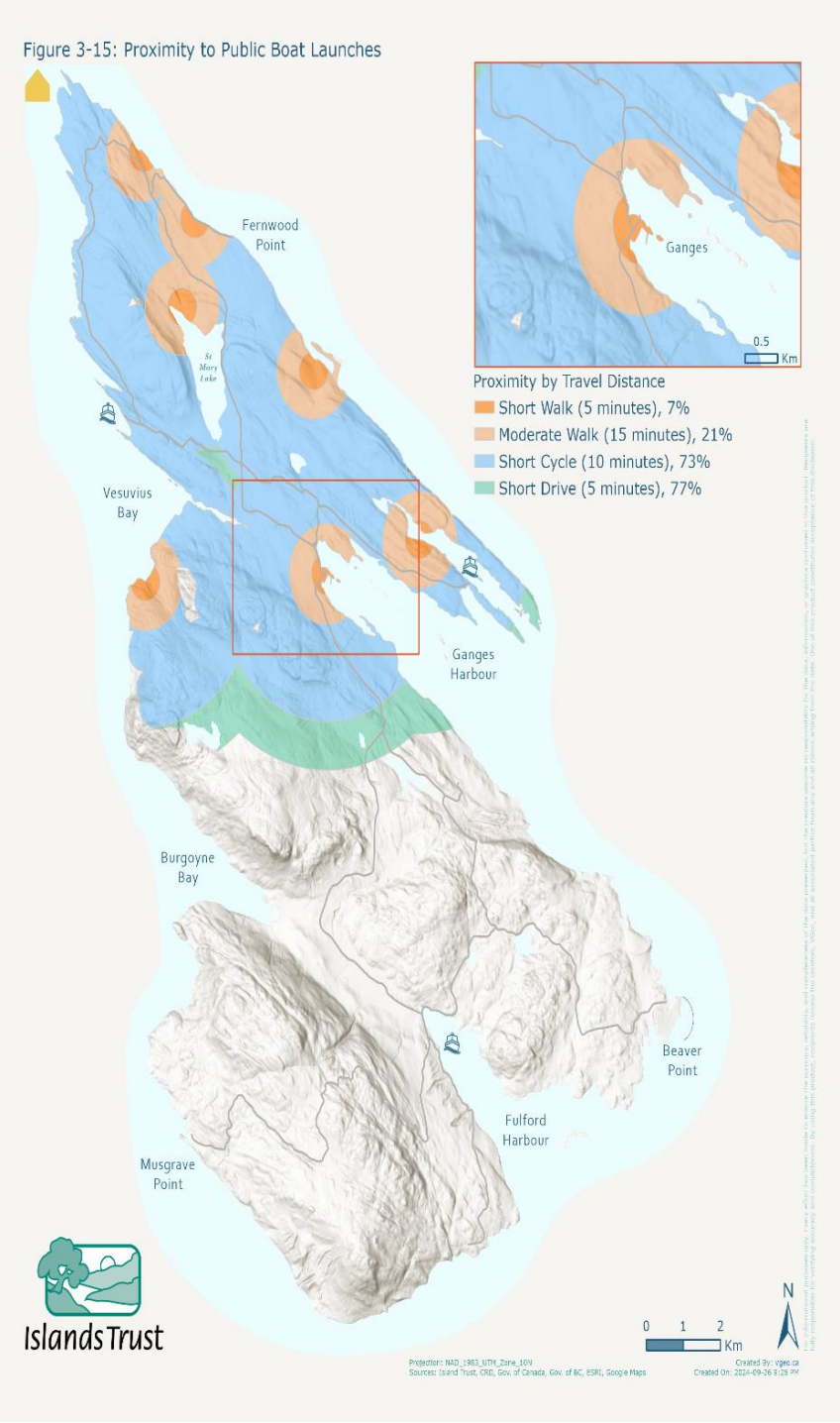


Map 3-15 - Proximity to Public Boat Launches

Category: Proximity

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The eight public boat launch sites used for this map were created from a combination of information found in data provided by Boatramp.com and Google Maps. The “Marines, Boat Launches and Landings” KML obtained from Google Maps included two points classified as boat launches, and Boatramp confirmed six other active launch sites. After evaluation of the ramps sourced from Boatramp.com, SSI staff used their local knowledge to determine the locations which should be included in the final dataset.



The two boat launches sourced from Google Maps include,

- Harbour Authority Boat Launch
- Ontario Place Boat Launch

The six boat launches sourced from Boatramp.com include,

- Narrows West Road Boat Launch
- Ganges Boat Launch
- Grantville Street Boat Launch
- North End Road Ganges Boat Launch
- North Beach Road Boat Launch
- Hudson Point Beach Boat Launch

A **public boat launch** is a designated area where individuals can safely and legally launch and retrieve boats into a body of water, such as a lake, river, or sea. These facilities are typically managed by government agencies or local authorities and are open for use by the general public.

Map 3-16 - Proximity to Public Transit

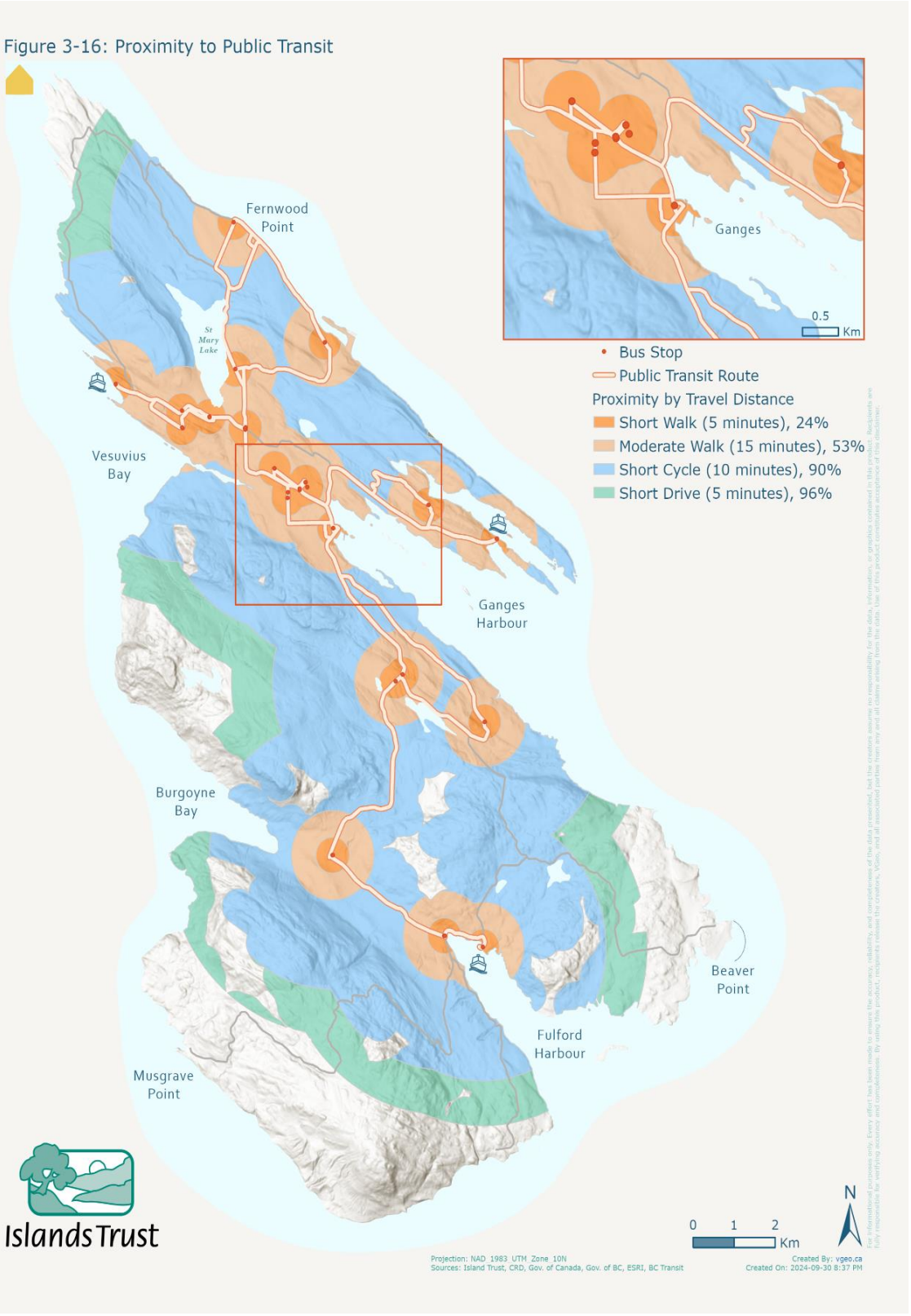
Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

The bus route and bus stop data used for this analysis was provided by BC Transit. The bus system is represented by 14 bus routes and 31 bus stops.

This map is important for identifying areas well-served by public transportation and those needing better access. It aids in transportation planning, supports transit-oriented development, and ensures equitable access to bus stops for all residents, including those with mobility challenges.

Figure 3-16: Proximity to Public Transit

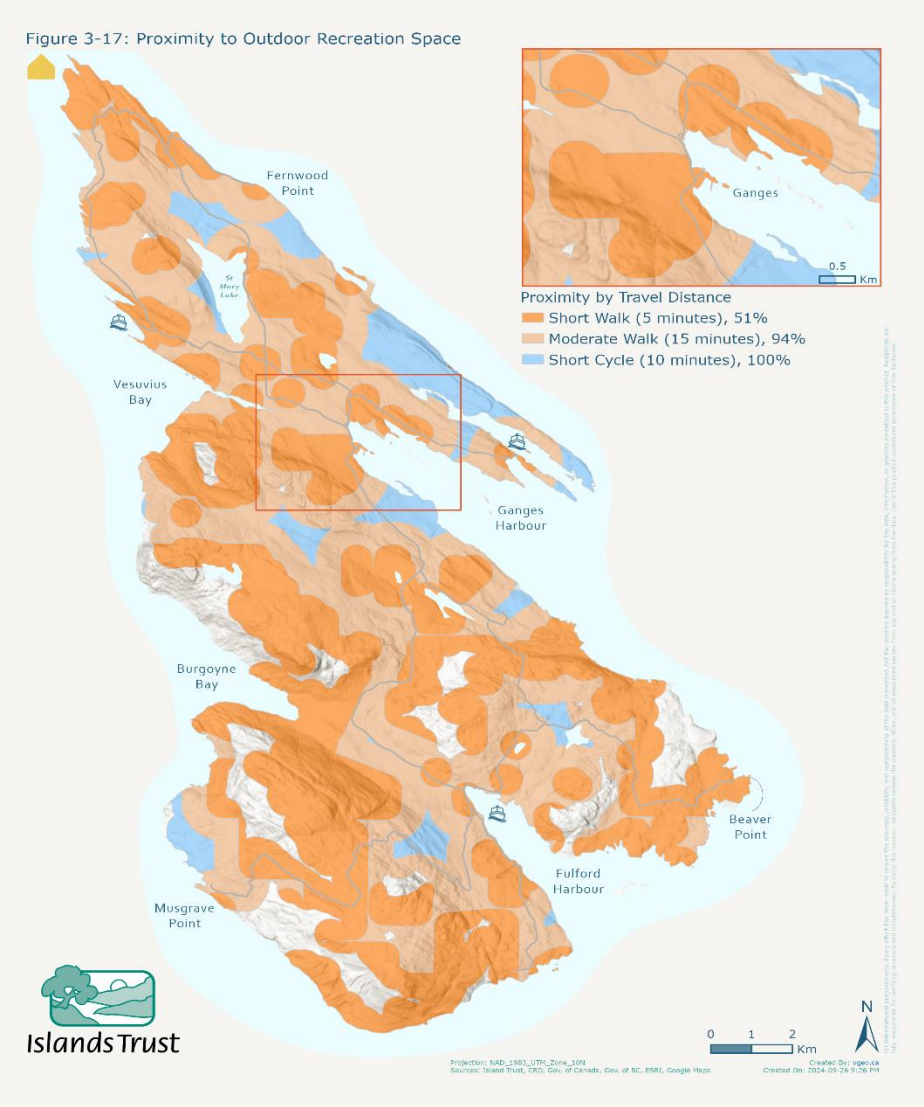


Map 3-17 - Proximity to Outdoor Recreation Space

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

This map displays the proximity of 49 outdoor recreation locations, including 35 different public parks, playgrounds, nature reserves and hiking trails, 11 public beaches, and three open-access fields that are available to the public to be used for various sports and other recreational activities. The sites used for this map were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features and Protected Areas), BC public data (GeoNames), Google Maps, and the trails network files were generously provided by Islands Pathways.



Public outdoor recreational facilities are spaces and structures provided by local, state, or national governments for the community's use and enjoyment in outdoor activities. These facilities are typically open to the public and often free or low-cost to access. In Figure 3-17: Proximity to Recreational Facilities - Outdoor, each location represented is free to the public, with no associated entry costs.

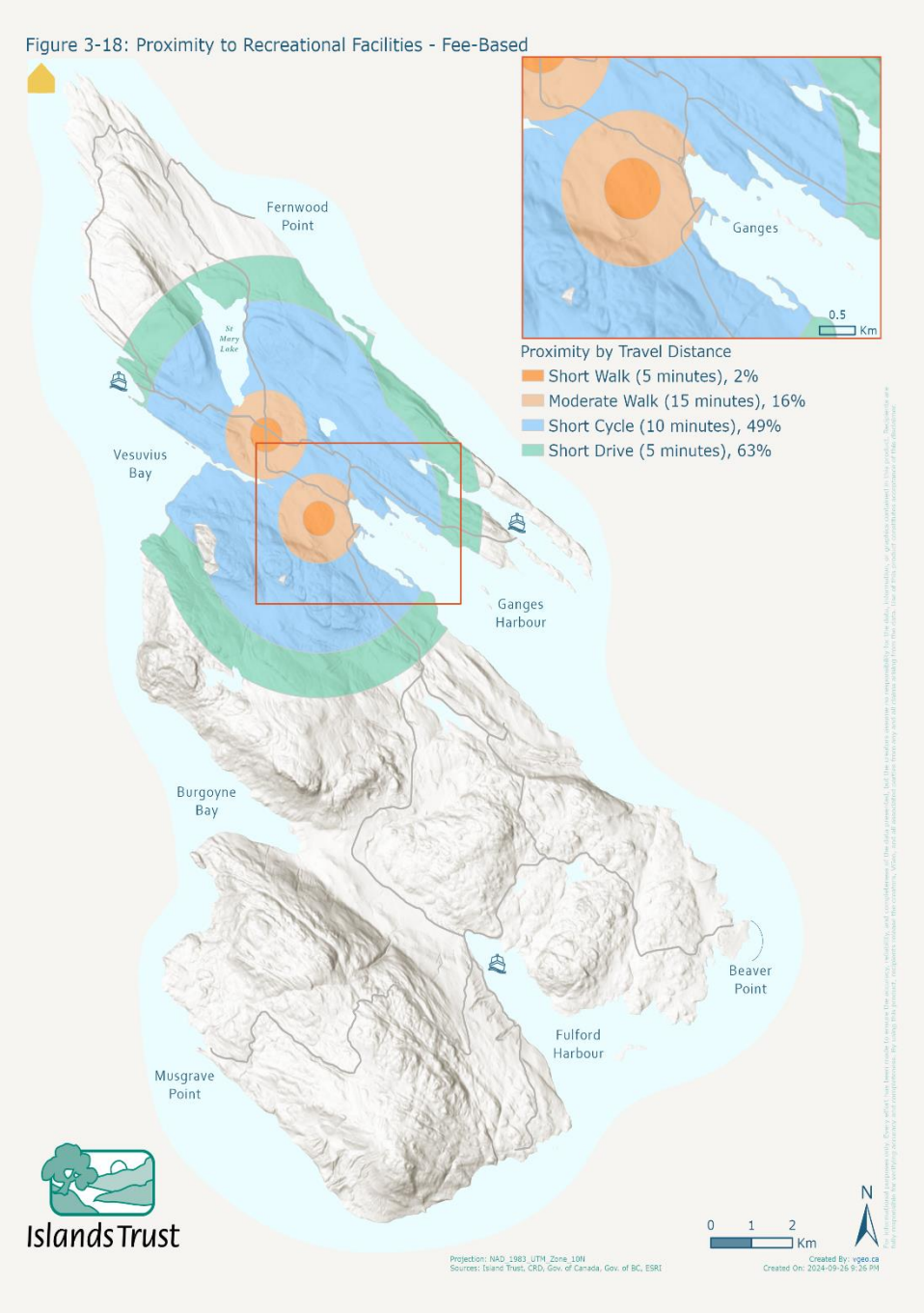
- **Public Parks and Playgrounds:** Open green spaces, playgrounds, and nature trails that are free for everyone to use.
- **Public Beaches:** Beaches managed by the local government that do not charge entrance fees.
- **Open-Access Sports Fields:** Public soccer fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts that are free to use without prior booking or fees.
- **Nature Reserves and Hiking Trails:** Publicly managed outdoor areas that do not need an entry fee.

Map 3-18 - Proximity to Recreational Facilities - Fee-Based

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

This map displays the proximity of two public fee-based recreational facilities. This includes one building containing a pool and community center, and one public golf course. The sites used for this map were created from a combination of information found in data provided by the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.



Public fee-based recreational facilities are recreational spaces and amenities provided by local, state, or national governments where access or participation requires a fee. These facilities are open to the public but often charge for usage to help cover maintenance, operations, and staffing costs.

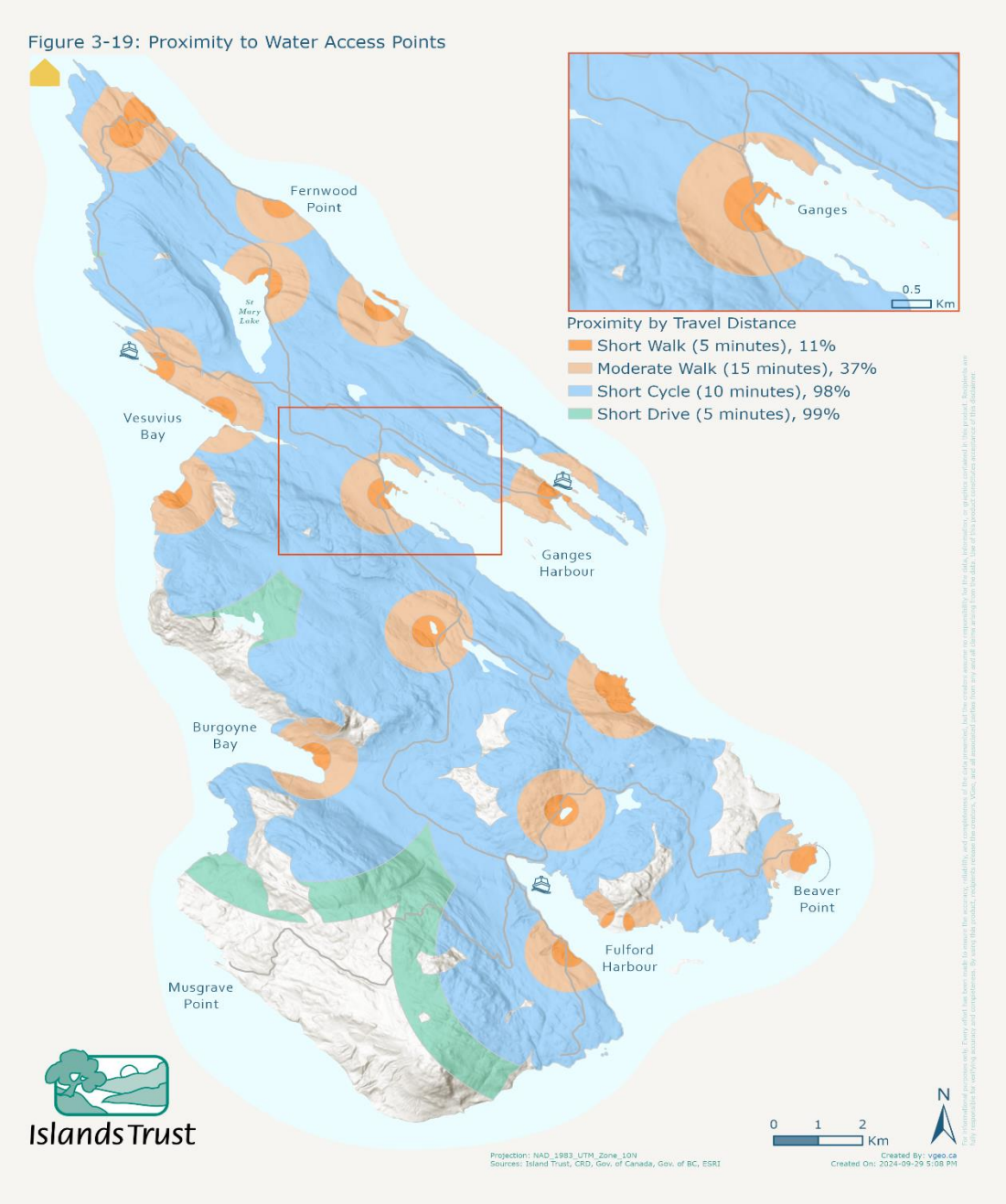
- **Public Swimming Pools:** Operated by the municipality but requiring an entrance fee or membership.
- **Community Centers with Paid Programs:** Public facilities that offer classes, sports leagues, or events that charge a fee for participation.
- **Public Golf Courses:** Government-owned golf courses that require green fees.

Map 3-19 - Proximity to Water Access Points

Category: Accessibility to Key Amenities

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

This map highlights water access points such as beach sites which were created from a combination of information found in data provided from the Island Trust (Physical Features), BC public data (GeoNames) and Google Maps.



A **water access point** is a designated location where individuals can easily reach a body of water, such as a river, lake, ocean, or reservoir. These points are often used for activities like swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, or launching watercraft. Water access points may include amenities like docks, boat ramps, piers, or beaches, and are often maintained by local, state, or national authorities to ensure safe and convenient access to the water for recreational or commercial purposes.

6.1.4 Transportation and Mobility

Map 4-01 - Trails Network Density

Category: Mobility

This map shows the **Trail Network Density per 500m²**, covering public trails, regional trails, beach walks, and roads within the study area. It visualizes how dense the recreational trail network is per 500m².

The trails network files were generously provided by Islands Pathways. Although the road network, which also contained some trail information, was supplied by Island Trust, the trails from this dataset were NOT included in the analyses as the Island Pathways data was more current and accurate. The density measure shown was generated using GIS analyses which statistically summarizes the total length of pathways within each 500m² area.

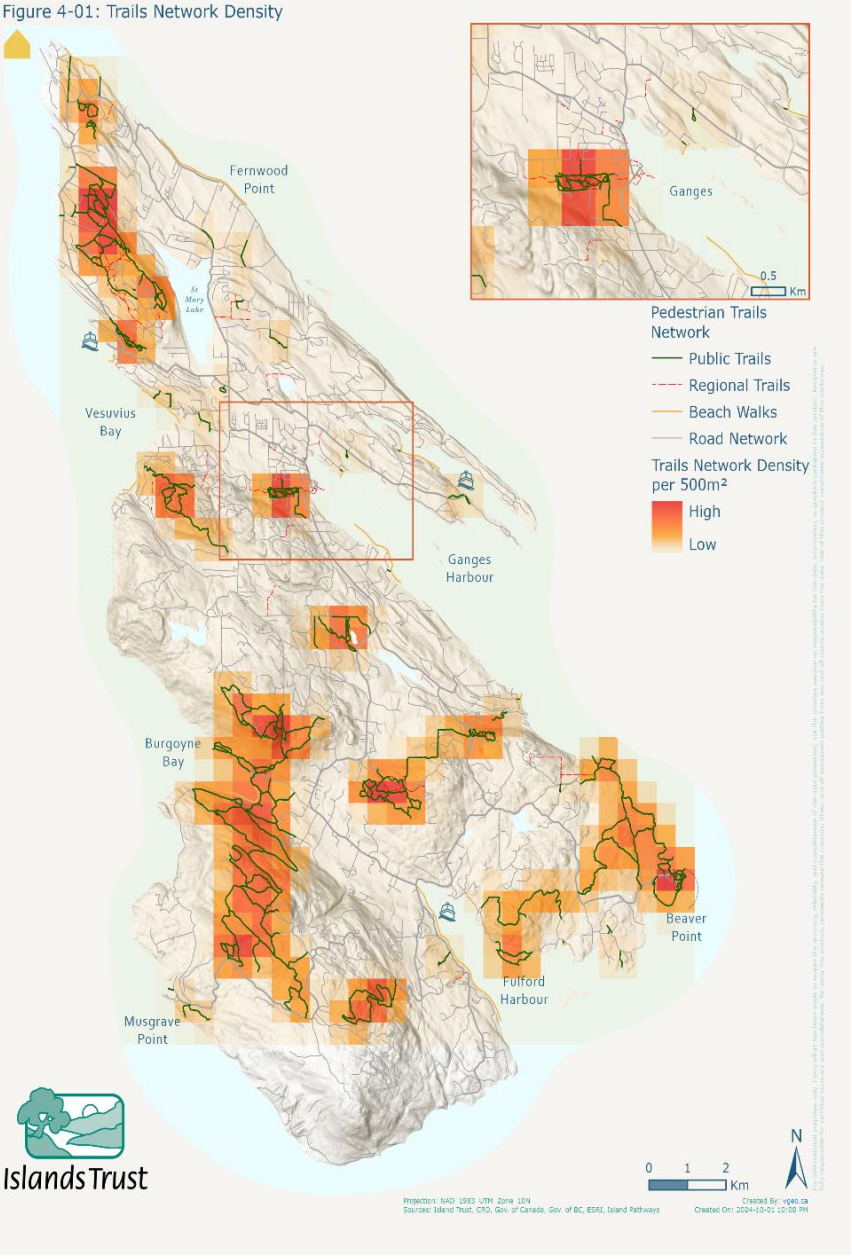
Trail Network Density refers to the measure of how much trail infrastructure exists within a specific area, indicating the concentration or availability of trails within a given region, allowing for analysis of how accessible and interconnected the trails are for public use.

A **public trail** is a designated path or track that is open for public use, often within parks, natural reserves, or urban areas, whereas a **regional trail** is a larger, often interconnected pathway that spans multiple jurisdictions or regions.

A **beach walk** is a pathway located along a beach or coastal area, designed for pedestrian use.

A **road network** is a system of interconnected roads and streets that allow for vehicular movement within and between areas. Roads are displayed on the map for reference but are not part of the analysis.

Figure 4-01: Trails Network Density



Map 4-02 - Commuting Patterns for the Employed Labour Force

Category: Mobility

This map provides census statistics on commuting patterns for the employed labor force, focusing on three key aspects: travel methods, commuting times, and commuting hours.

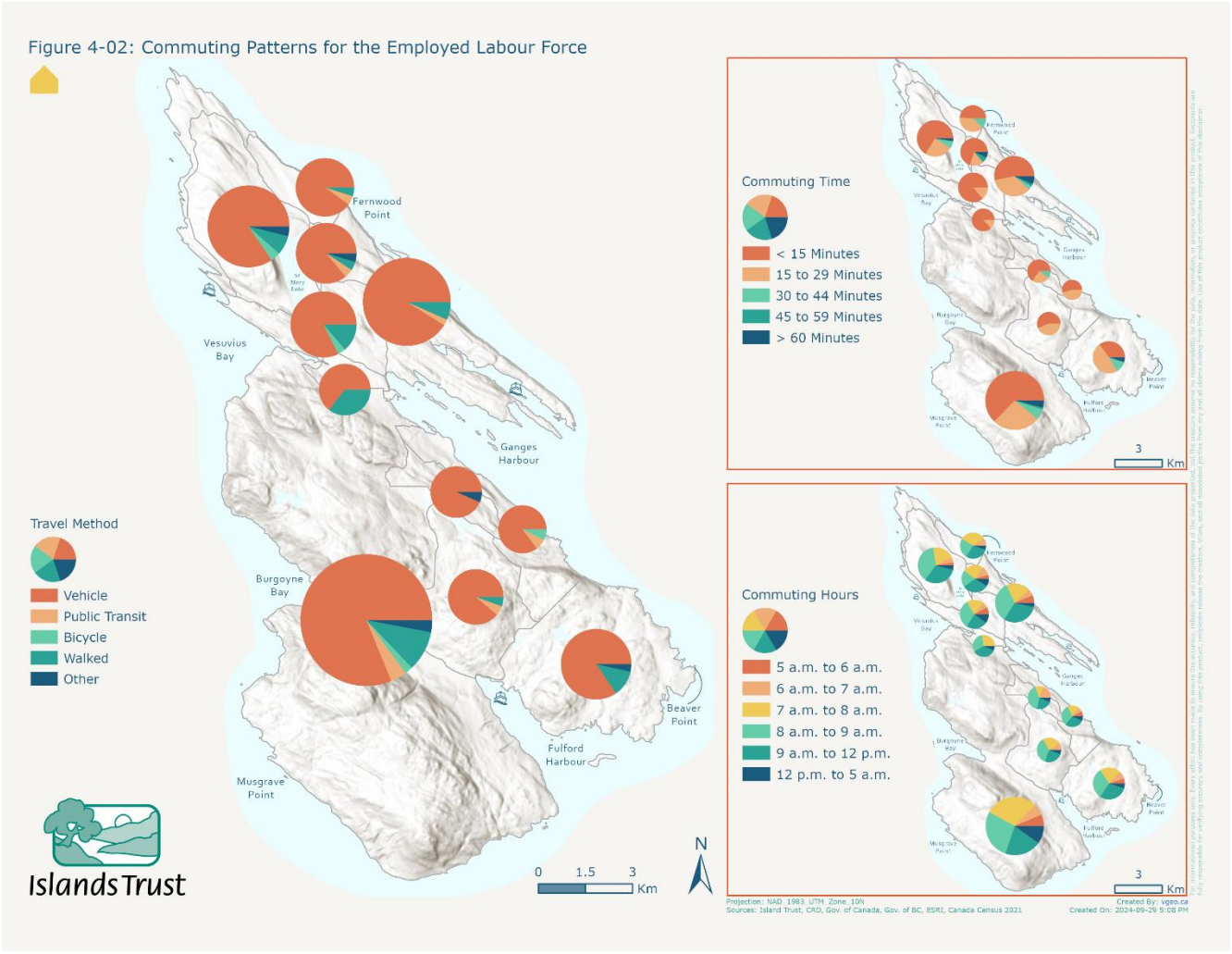
Being **in the labour force** means that a person is either working (employed) or actively looking for work (unemployed). It includes everyone who is capable of working and is either currently employed or seeking employment, but it does not include people who are not looking for work, such as retirees, students, or those unable to work.

A further breakdown of the data being presented is as follows:

- **Travel Methods**: The map categorizes how individuals commute to work, highlighting the distribution of transportation modes such as vehicles, public transit, bicycles, walking, and other forms of travel. This information reflects the predominant commuting methods within the region and offers insight into the reliance on different types of transportation infrastructure.
- **Commuting Times**: The map also presents data on the duration of commutes, segmented into various time intervals. The time ranges displayed begin at less than 15 minutes and span to over an hour's time dedicated to commuting. This helps to identify how long it typically takes for commuters to reach their workplaces, providing a sense of the regional traffic flow and potential congestion issues.
- **Commuting Hours**: Additionally, the map shows the time of day when commuting occurs, breaking down the data into specific time periods throughout the day. Commuting hours span over a 24-hour period, beginning and ending at 5 a.m. This aspect of the analysis reveals peak commuting times, which can be crucial for understanding the daily rhythms of the labor force and for planning transportation and infrastructure needs.

Overall, the map offers a detailed portrayal of commuting behavior in the region, highlighting how people get to work, how long it takes them, and when they are most likely to be on the move. This information is valuable for urban planning, transportation management, and policymaking aimed at improving commuting efficiency and reducing travel-related challenges.

Canada’s Census data used in this map includes; Total - Main mode of commuting for the employed labor force aged 15 years and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address, Total - Commuting duration for the employed labor force aged 15 years and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address, and Total - Time leaving for work for the employed labor force aged 15 years and over with a usual place of work or no fixed workplace address.



Map 4-03 - Drive Time Estimation from Villages

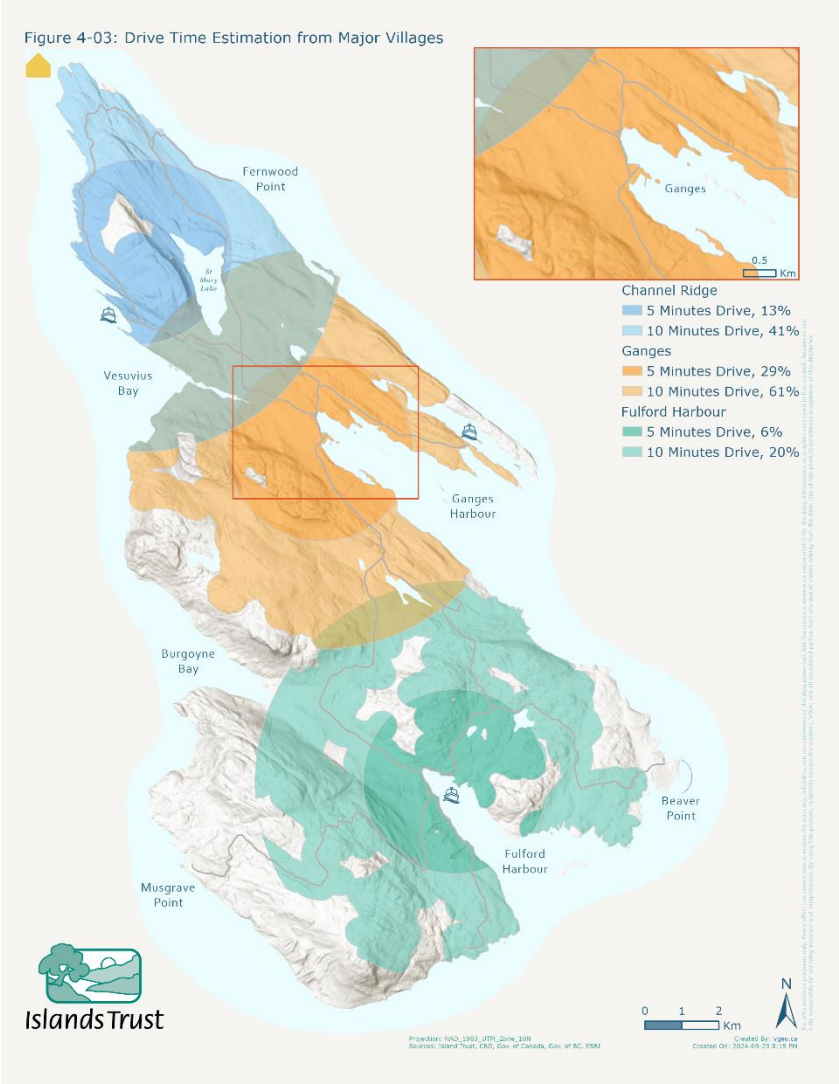
Category: Mobility

This analysis is based on the road data as provided by Island Trust and the locations of villages extracted from the CanVec data GeoNames dataset where the data category matches “community.” The results from four villages are displayed on this map (Ganges, Fulford Harbour, Fernwood, and Beaver Point).

This map illustrates the results of a proximity analyses for drive times from villages. The analyses are similar to the proximity analyses used for amenities as fully described under the 3-01 - Where We Live figure, however the distance parameters have been changed to reflect driving times.

Estimating driving times for SSI is more limited than the approach used in other jurisdictions due to the lack of comprehensive road network data which includes speed limits. Despite this, a proxy approach can be used to estimate driving distances from village centers. This approach is based on consecutive “circles” radiating out from the village center. The area analyzed is limited to areas within 400m of existing roads.

The speed limit is assumed to be lower closer to the centers to account for typical driving conditions in these areas, such as narrower roads, more frequent stops, and increased pedestrian activity. Specifically, for the first 5 minutes of travel, the speed is assumed to be 30 km/h. Between 5 and 10 minutes, the speed increases to 35 km/h, reflecting the transition from densely populated areas to less congested roads. After 10 minutes, the speed is set to 45 km/h, representing the most consistent and faster travel possible on the outer, less developed roads.



This tiered speed approach provides a more realistic estimation of driving times and distances, ensuring that the analysis accurately reflects the slower speeds and more complex navigation closer to village centers, and the faster, more direct travel further away. These calculated distances are then used in GIS to create buffer zones, which help in spatial analysis and planning related to accessibility and transportation. Similar to the proximity analyses conducted for amenities, civic addresses are used as a proxy for estimating the percentage of the population residing within each buffer.

Salt spring Island is approximately 26 Km long and 14 Km wide. This was taken into consideration when determining the furthest driving time of 30 minutes. Although other jurisdictions may include an additional period of 45 minutes, this is not meaningful for Salt Spring Island.

Summary of Driving Distances:

- 5 minutes: 2.5 km
- 10 minutes: 5.42 km
- 15 minutes: 9.17 km
- 30 minutes: 20.42 km
- *45 minutes: 31.67 km - NOT included as not meaningful for Salt Spring Island*

Map 4-04 - Walking Time Estimation from Villages

Category: Mobility

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure with some modifications to the distances included.

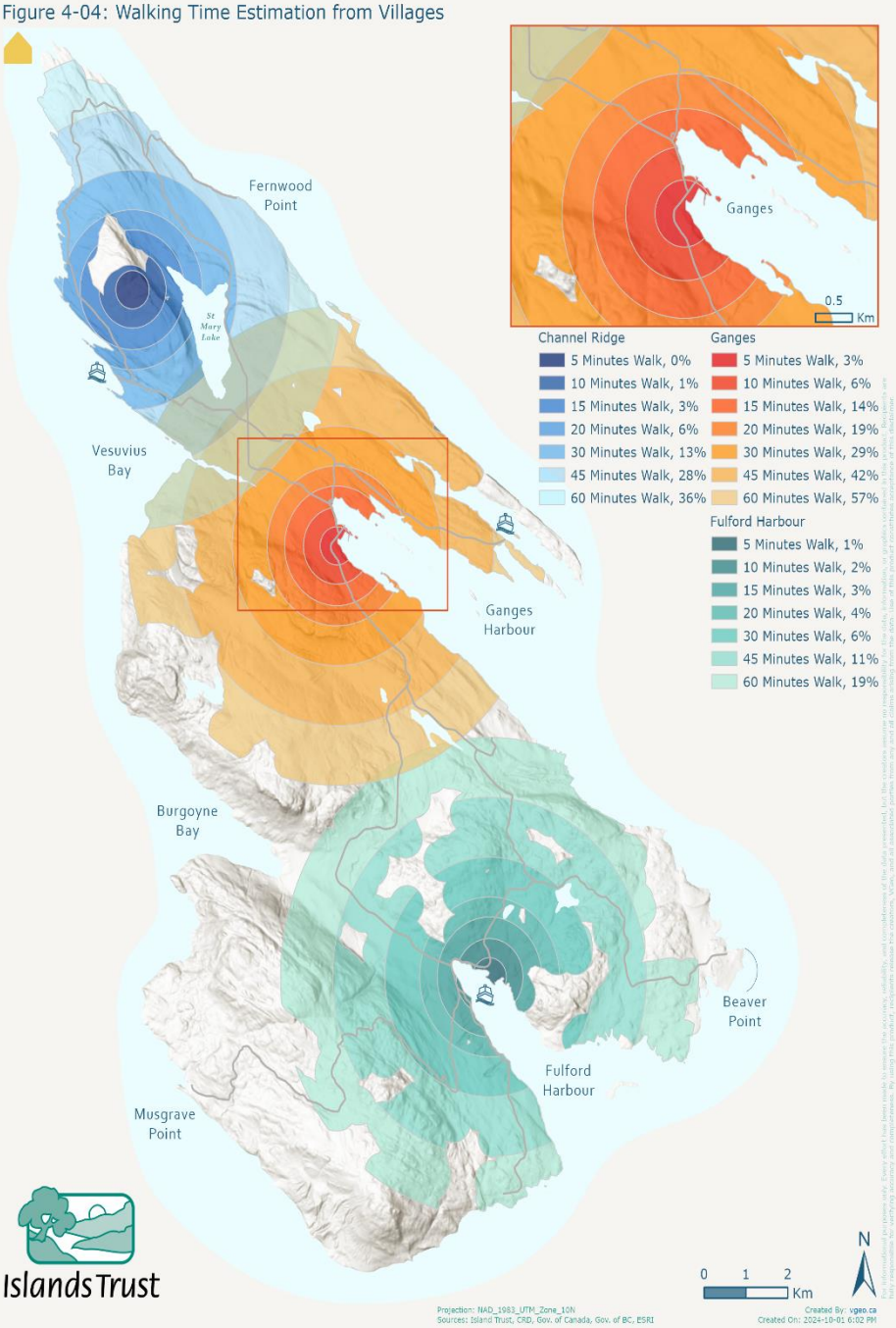
This analysis is based on the locations of villages extracted from the CanVec data GeoNames dataset where the data category matches “community.” The results from four villages are displayed on this map (Ganges, Fulford Harbour, Fernwood, and Beaver Point).

To calculate the walking distances based on time intervals, we need to make assumptions about the average speeds. Assuming an average walking speed of 5 km/h, here is how the distances translate:

Walking Distances:

- minutes: 400 meters
- 10 minutes: 800 meters
- 15 minutes: 1.25 km
- 20 minutes: 1.67 km
- 30 minutes: 2.5 km
- 45 minutes: 3.75 km
- 60 minutes: 5 km

Figure 4-04: Walking Time Estimation from Villages



Map 4-05 - Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Coverage and Proximity

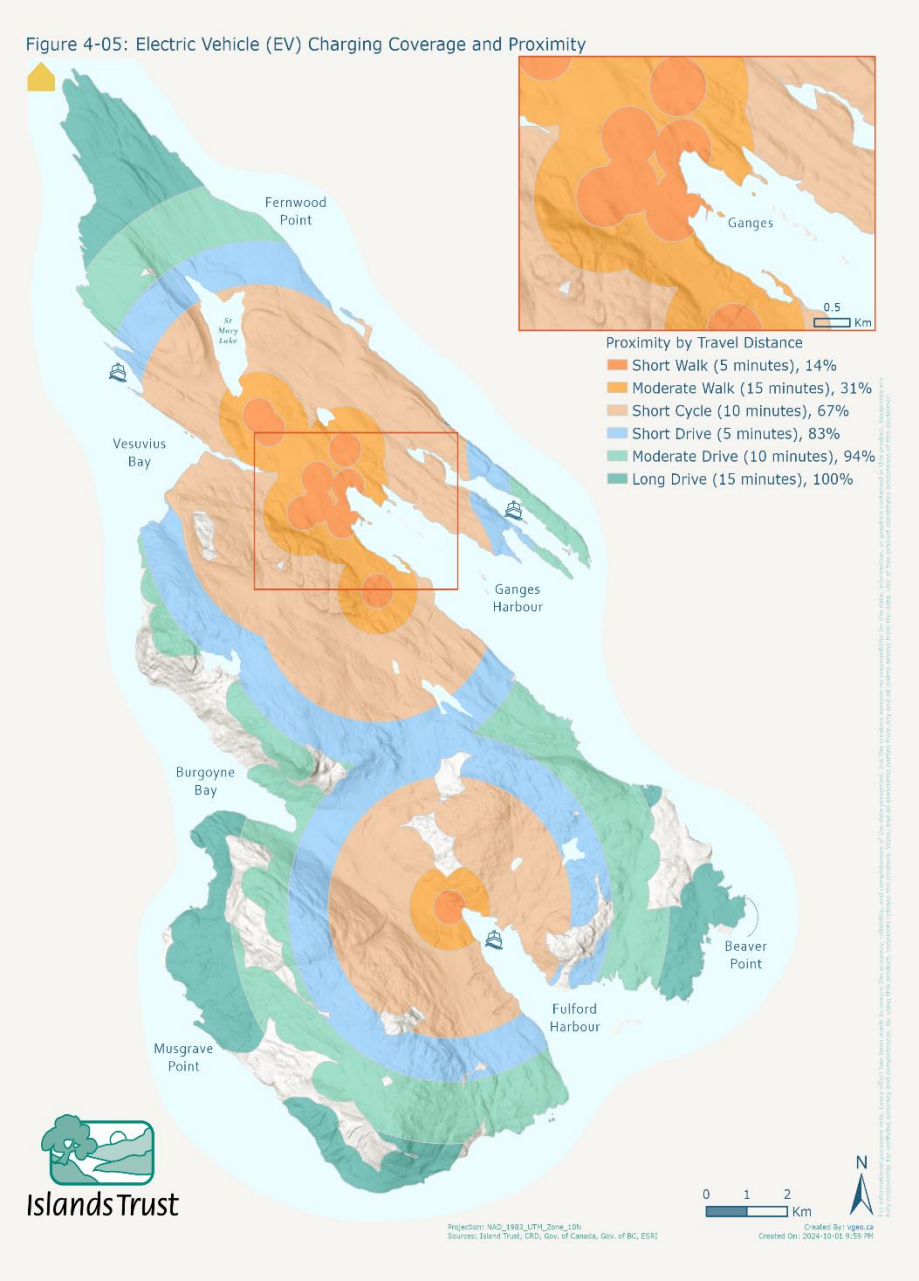
Category: Mobility

Data on the locations of 14 EV charging stations, of which 11 are public access, two are restricted, and one is planned to be constructed at a designated location in the future. The data was obtained based on Salt Spring Island planning staff local knowledge and this online list.

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure. However, the parameters were altered to include the following driving times. As with previous analyses, the percentage of the population within each driving time was also calculated.

Summary of Driving Distances:

- 5 minutes: 2.5 km
- 10 minutes: 5.42 km
- 15 minutes: 9.17 km
- 30 minutes: 20.42 km
- *45 minutes: 31.67 km - this distance was assessed but is **not represented in the results** as no locations are 31 Km away from an EV Station*



Public EV Charging Stations are open to anyone with an electric vehicle. These stations are typically located in public areas such as parking lots, shopping centers, rest stops, and along highways.

Restricted EV Charging Stations are limited to specific users or groups, such as employees of a particular company, residents of a private housing complex, guests paying to stay at a facility, or members of an organization.

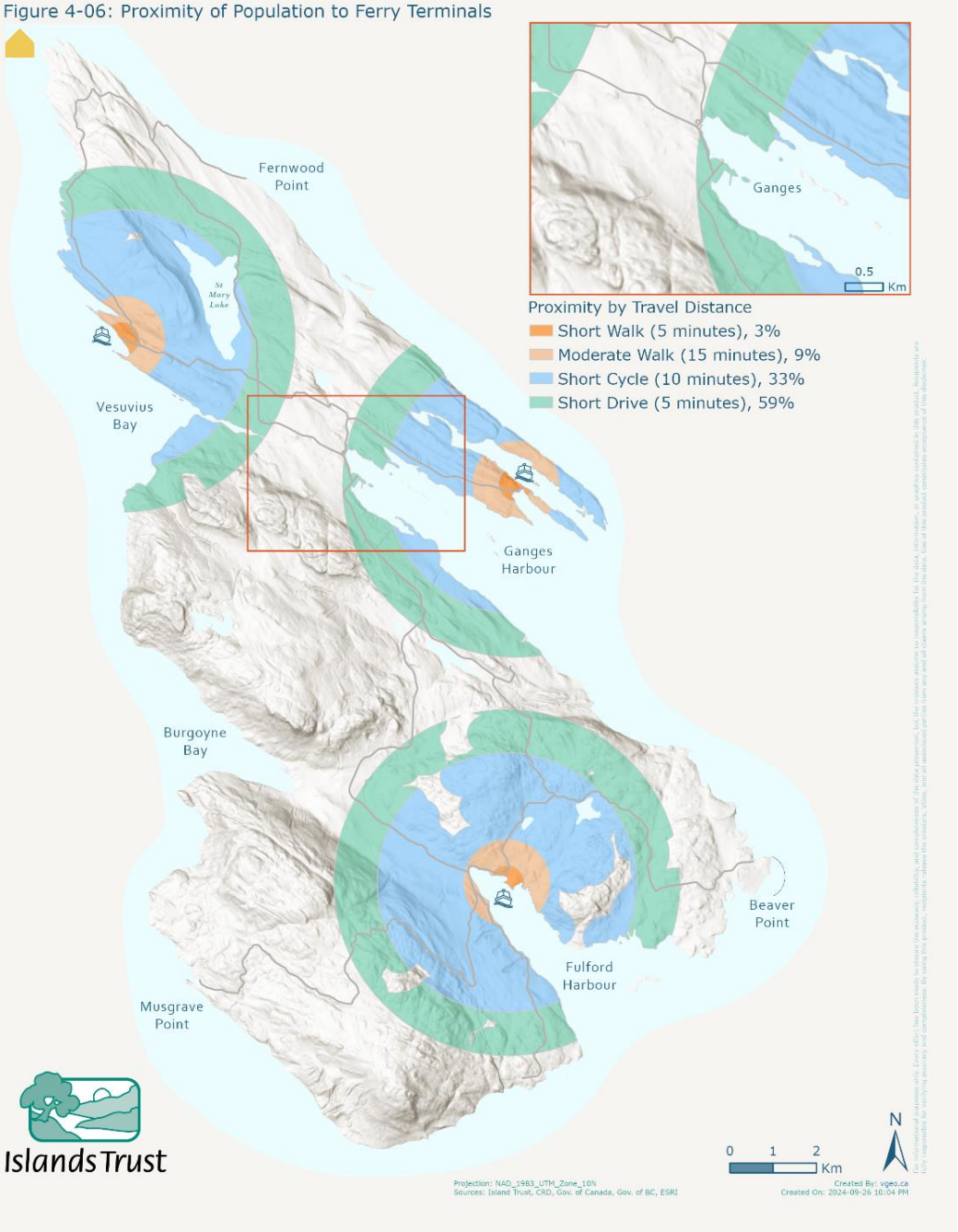
Map 4-06 - Proximity of Population to Ferry Terminals

Category: Proximity

This map illustrates the results of the proximity analyses fully described under 3-01 - Where We Live figure.

There are three ferry terminals on Salt Spring Island. The locations of the Ferry Terminals were isolated from the CanVec Toponomy dataset.

Figure 4-06: Proximity of Population to Ferry Terminals



A **ferry terminal** is a facility where ferries, which are boats or ships used to transport passengers, vehicles, and goods across bodies of water, dock to load and unload. Ferry terminals typically include various amenities and infrastructure such as ticket offices, waiting areas, vehicle lanes for boarding, and access ramps for vehicles and pedestrians. They serve as the starting and ending points for ferry routes and are essential hubs in transportation networks, especially in areas where water separates communities or where bridges are not feasible. Ferry terminals can be found in coastal regions, on islands, and along large rivers or lakes.

Map 4-07 - Road Network Density as Related to Population

Category: Roads

This figure illustrates the road network provided by the Island Trust, focusing on road infrastructure in Salt Spring Island (SSI). Unlike the previous analyses, this figure combines road network density with the local population, represented by civic addresses.

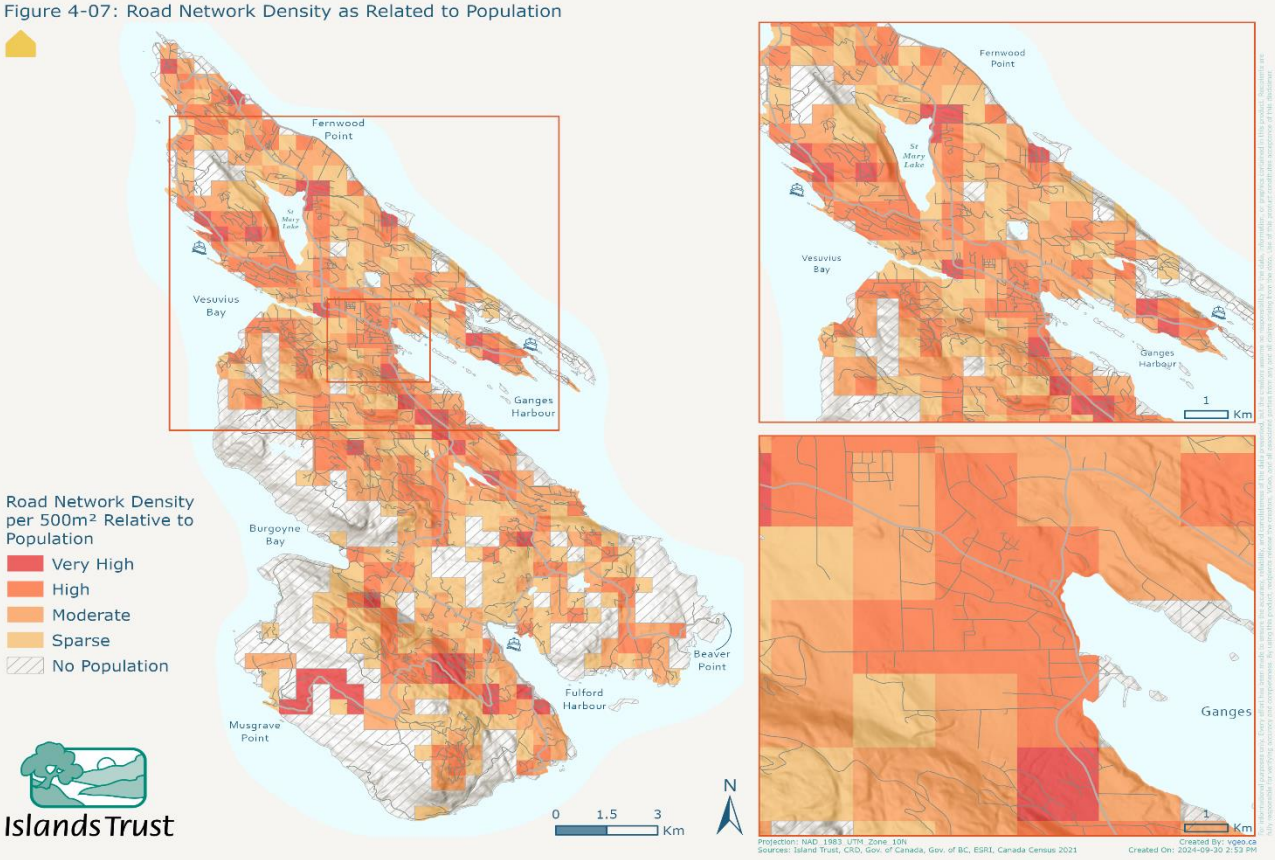
A 500-meter grid was created across the serviced area, and GIS was used to calculate the length of roadways and the number of civic addresses within each grid cell. Based on these values, the road network density was derived using the following formula:

Road Network Density = Number of Residential Addresses / Roadway Length

In other jurisdictions, Census Dissemination Block data is typically used to represent population density. However, this approach is not effective for SSI due to the small size of the study area and the large extent of the dissemination blocks, which do not align well with the distribution of road services.

Total Density of Dwellings in Proximity to Roadways is a key metric that measures how many homes are located near road infrastructure. It is calculated by dividing the total number of homes by the total length of roads. In simpler terms, this metric indicates how many homes are served by each kilometer of roadway. Understanding this helps assess the efficiency of the road network and can highlight areas with higher or lower concentrations of road infrastructure.

Figure 4-07: Road Network Density as Related to Population



6.1.5 Utilities and Infrastructure

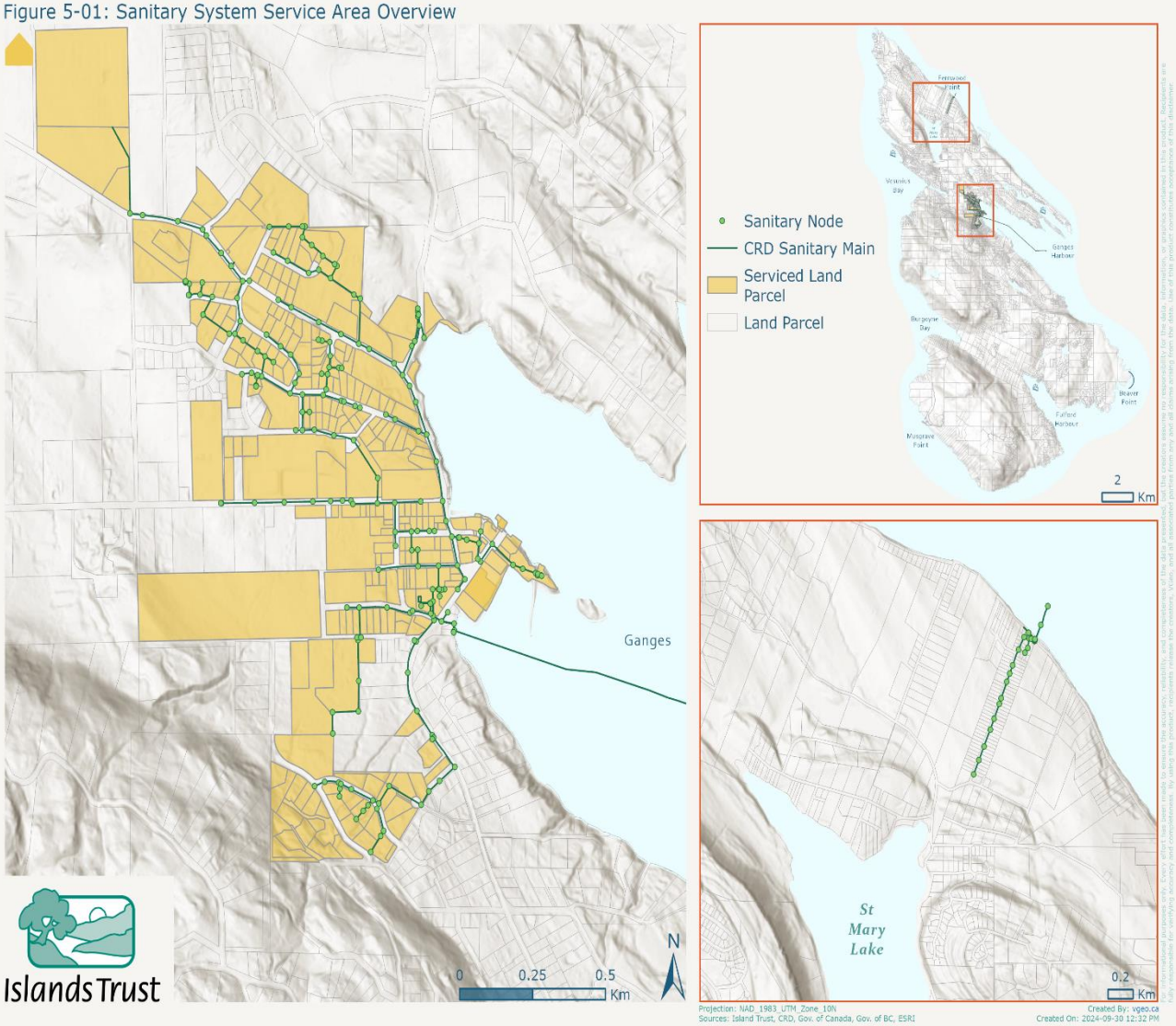
Map 5-01 - Sanitary System Service Area Overview

Category: Sewer

Water system data used in this study was provided by the CRD and North Salt Spring Water Works. This included the sewer main line data and sewer system nodes.

The data sewer system line data was combined and buffered by 200-meters to create the sanitary system service area extent. This overview map provides context regarding the data inputs for the following two maps. It also highlights the limited use of a traditional sewer system on SSI, where many homes are serviced by septic fields.

Figure 5-01: Sanitary System Service Area Overview



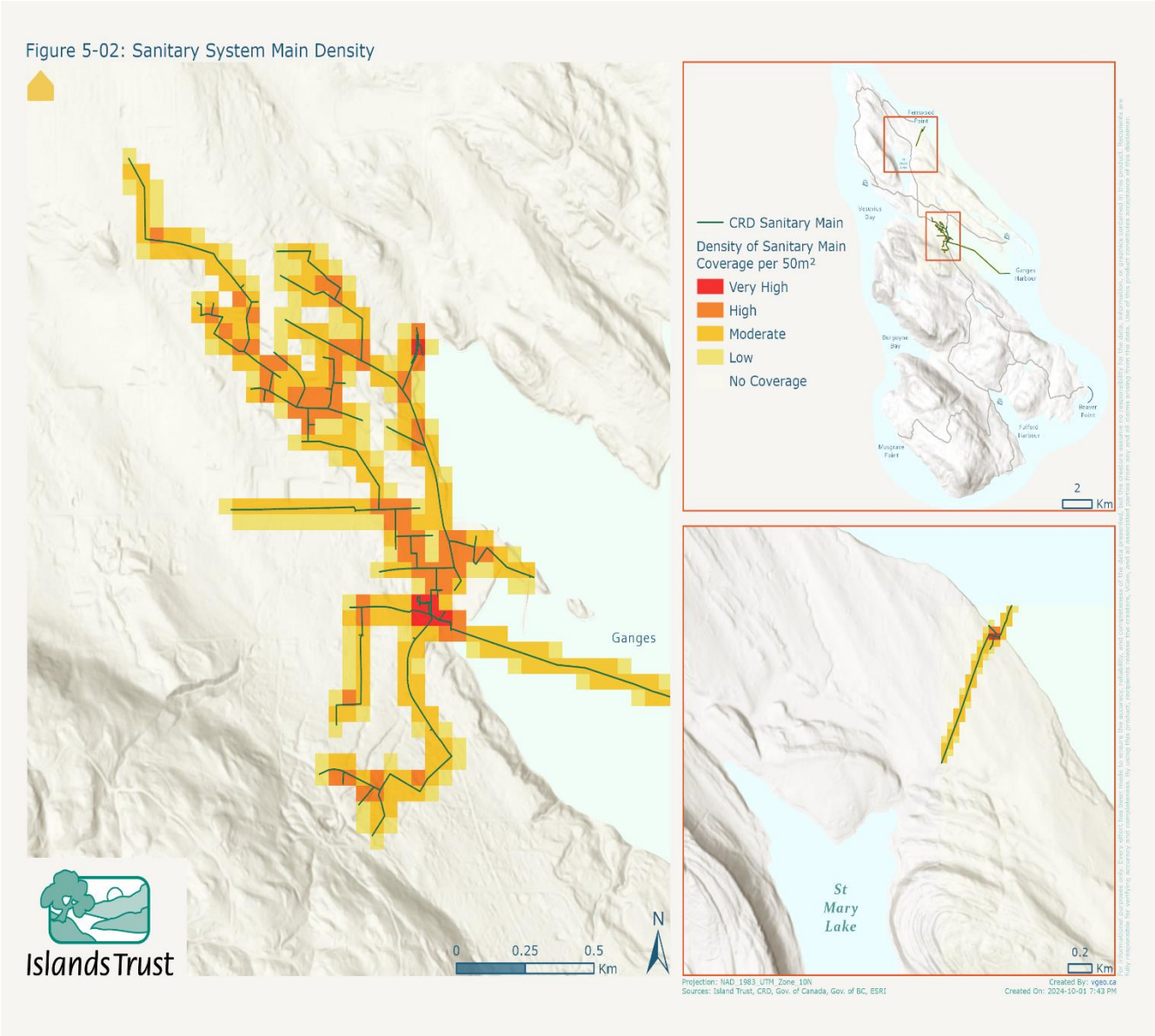
Map 5-02 - Sanitary System Main Density

Category: Sewer

This figure shows the density of the available data for the sanitary main system at 50m increments, reflecting the distribution of sanitary services as greatest versus lowest density.

Line density refers to how concentrated or spread out a liner feature is in a given area. Imagine you are looking at a neighborhood on a map and want to see where there is more sewer lines packed closely together versus areas where they are more spread out. Line density helps highlight areas with a high concentration of sewer lines, such as densely populated urban neighborhoods, and areas where there are fewer, like rural or less developed regions. This visualization makes it easier to understand patterns in infrastructure, showing which areas have more extensive sewer networks and which might be underserved.

Map 5-03 - Sanitary System Main Density as Related to Population



Category: Sewer

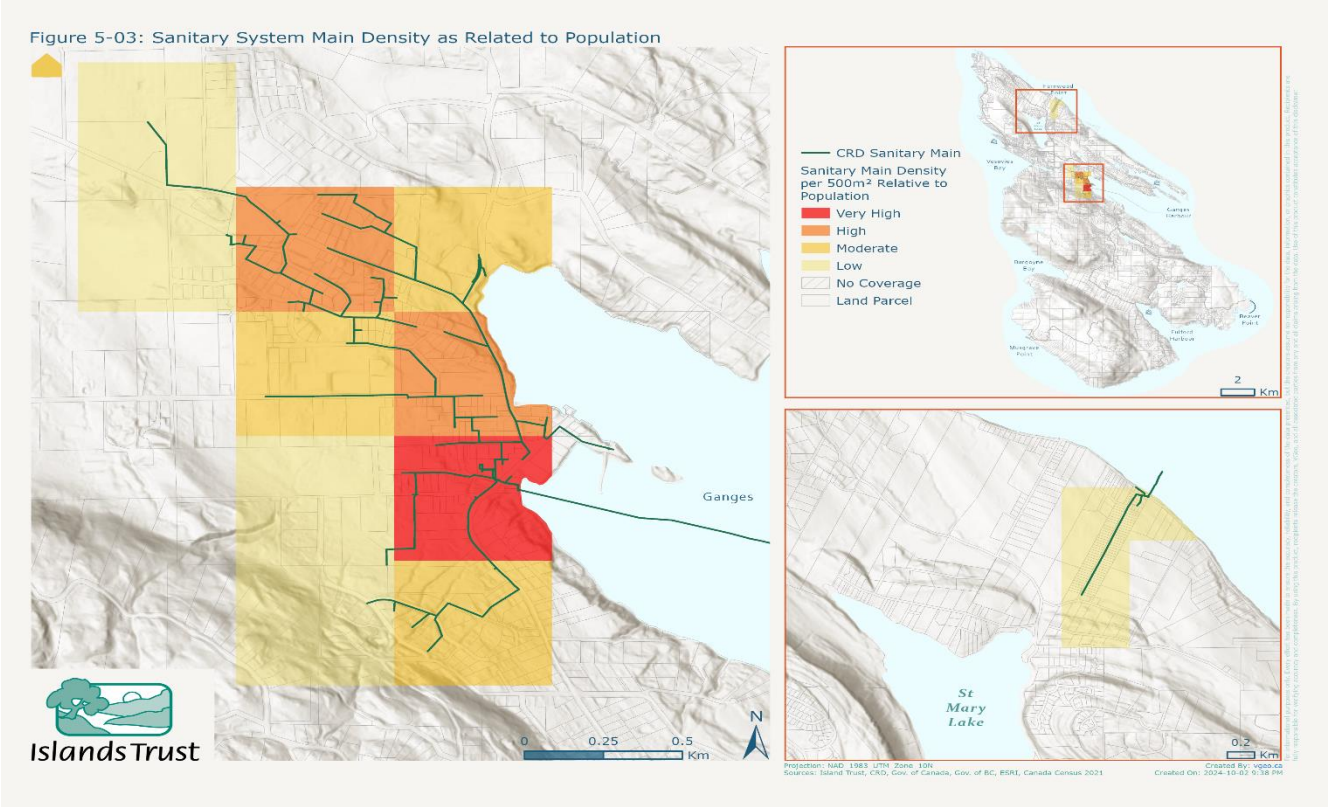
This figure illustrates sewer main lines provided by CRD, focusing on the sewer system infrastructure in Salt Spring Island (SSI). Unlike the previous figure, this analysis combines sewer line density with the local population, represented by civic addresses.

A 500-meter grid was created across the serviced area, and GIS was used to calculate the length of sewer lines and the number of civic addresses within each grid cell. Based on these values, the sewer main density was derived using the following formula:

Sewer Main Density = Number of Residential Addresses / Sewer Main Length

The methodology used in other jurisdictions typically relies on Census Dissemination Block data to represent population density. However, this approach is not effective for SSI due to the small size of the study area and the large extent of the dissemination blocks, which do not align well with the distribution of sewer services. Additionally, many areas in SSI rely on septic fields or tanks rather than a piped system, further complicating the use of traditional methods.

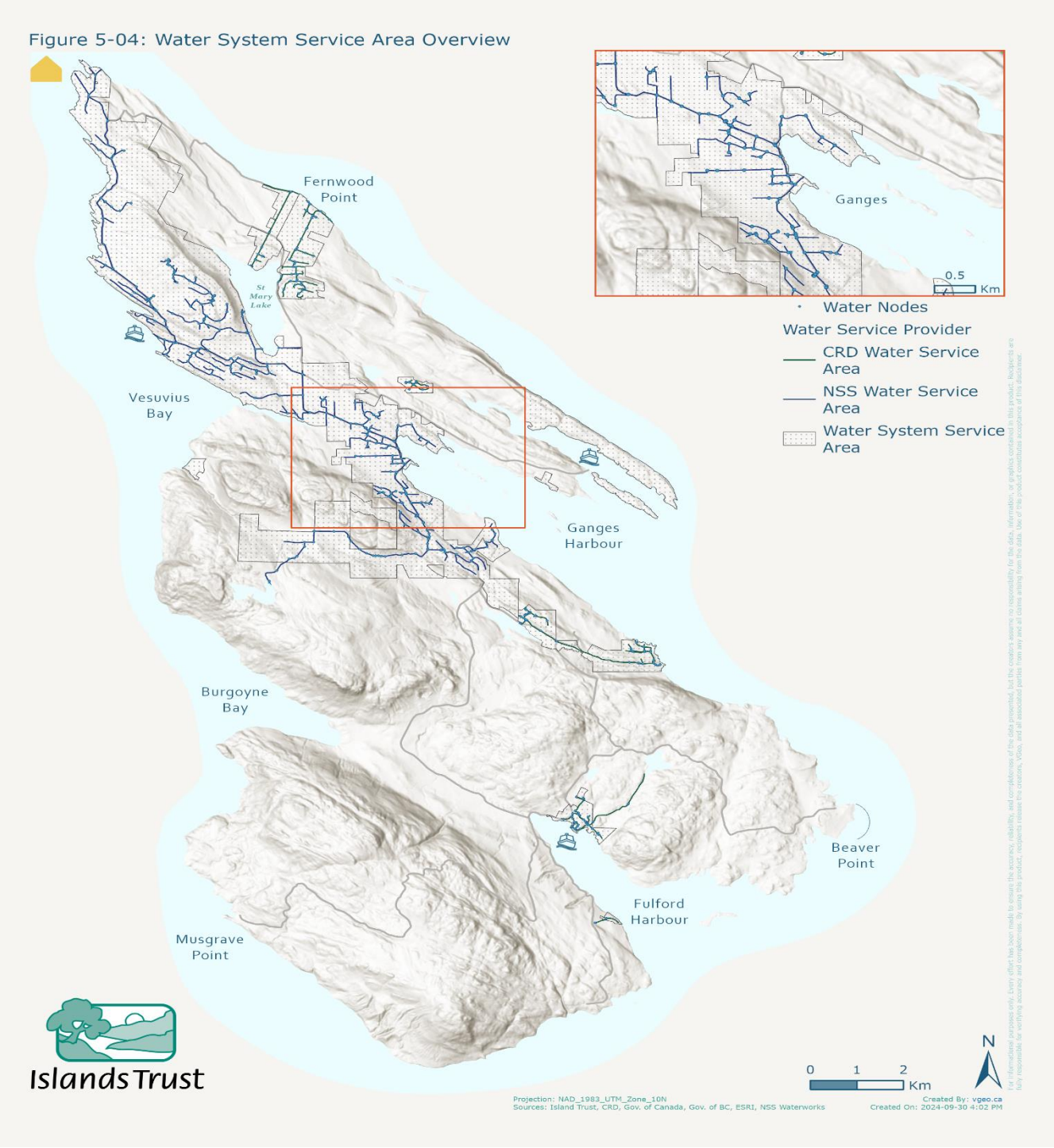
Total Density of Dwellings in Proximity to sewer Lines is a key metric that measures how many homes are located near sewer infrastructure. It is calculated by dividing the total number of homes by the total length of sewer pipes. In simpler terms, this metric indicates how many homes are served by each kilometer (or mile) of sewer line. Understanding this helps assess the efficiency of the sewer network and can highlight areas with higher or lower concentrations of sewer infrastructure.



Map 5-04 - Water System Service Area Overview

Category: Water

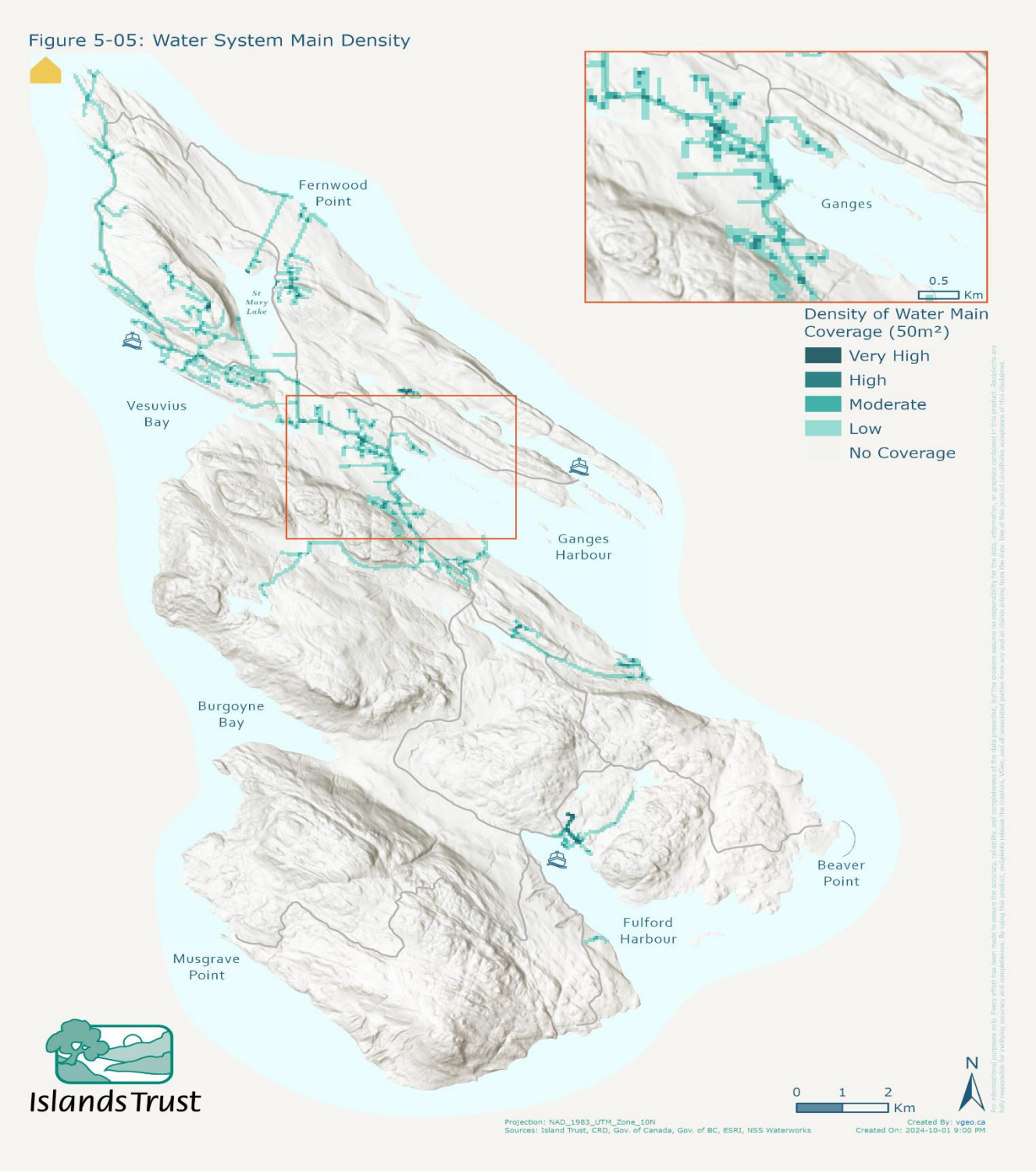
The data used in this figure is the water main lines provided by CRD and NSS Waterworks and the water service areas provided by Island Trust. Note that many areas on SSI are serviced by well water and that water lines were not provided by all water service providers.



Map 5-05 - Water Main System Density

Category: Water

A line density raster representing the density of NSS Waterworks' and CRD's water main coverage, showing the distribution of water services and areas of greatest versus lowest density for a 50m grid.



Map 5-06 - Water Main System Density as Related to Population

Category: Water

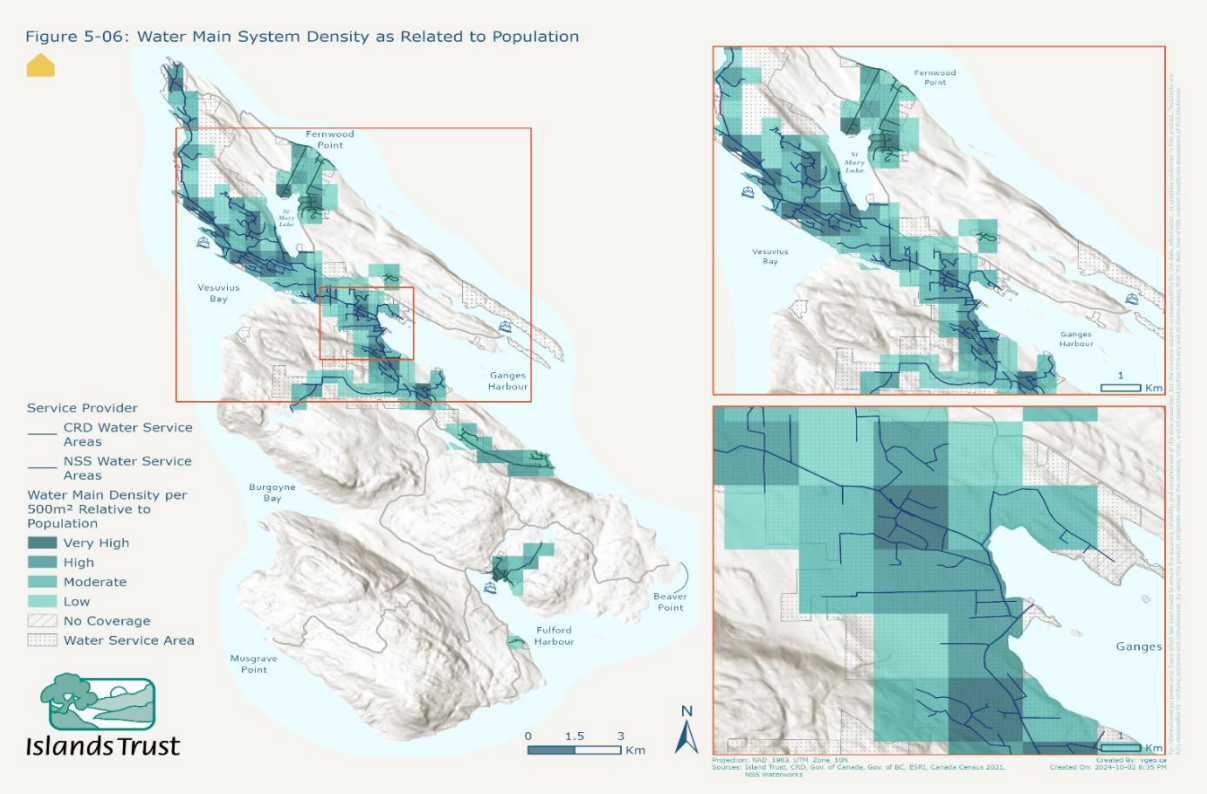
This figure illustrates water main lines provided by NSS Waterworks and the CRD, focusing on the water system infrastructure in Salt Spring Island (SSI). Unlike the previous figure, this analysis combines water line density with the local population, represented by civic addresses.

A 500-meter grid was created across the serviced area, and GIS was used to calculate the length of water lines and the number of civic addresses within each grid cell. Based on these values, the water main density was derived using the following formula:

Water Main Density = Number of Residential Addresses / Water Main Length

The methodology used in other jurisdictions typically relies on Census Dissemination Block data to represent population density. However, this approach is not effective for SSI due to the small size of the study area and the large extent of the dissemination blocks, which do not align well with the distribution of water services. Additionally, many areas in SSI rely on well water rather than a piped system, further complicating the use of traditional census data.

Total Density of Dwellings in Proximity to Water Lines is a key metric that measures how many homes are located near water infrastructure. It is calculated by dividing the total number of homes by the total length of water pipes. In simpler terms, this metric indicates how many homes are served by each kilometer (or mile) of water line. Understanding this helps assess the efficiency of the water network and can highlight areas with higher or lower concentrations of water infrastructure.



6.1.6 Geographic and Environmental Features

Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Risk Areas

This section details the GIS analysis performed for four specific risk zones: marine shore adjacency, tsunami zones, steep slopes, and fire risk. Each of these zones was evaluated in relation to three key infrastructure layers provided by the Island Trust: the road network, civic addresses, and critical infrastructure (sourced from wildland fire data).

The analysis quantified the proportion of infrastructure features located directly within each risk zone and within buffer zones of 100 meters and 500 meters from the zone's boundary. These buffer distances were selected because they are critical thresholds for planning and response efforts. A 100-meter buffer is typically used to assess immediate risks or impacts, while a 500-meter buffer helps to understand broader, potential indirect effects or vulnerabilities.

For the analysis, the length of roads and the count of civic addresses and critical infrastructure within each risk zone and its buffers were calculated as a percentage of the total infrastructure features. These results provide insight into potential vulnerabilities by illustrating how much of each infrastructure category lies within or near risk areas. This helps in visualizing the interaction between geographic features and risk zones, supporting informed decision-making for mitigation and planning efforts.

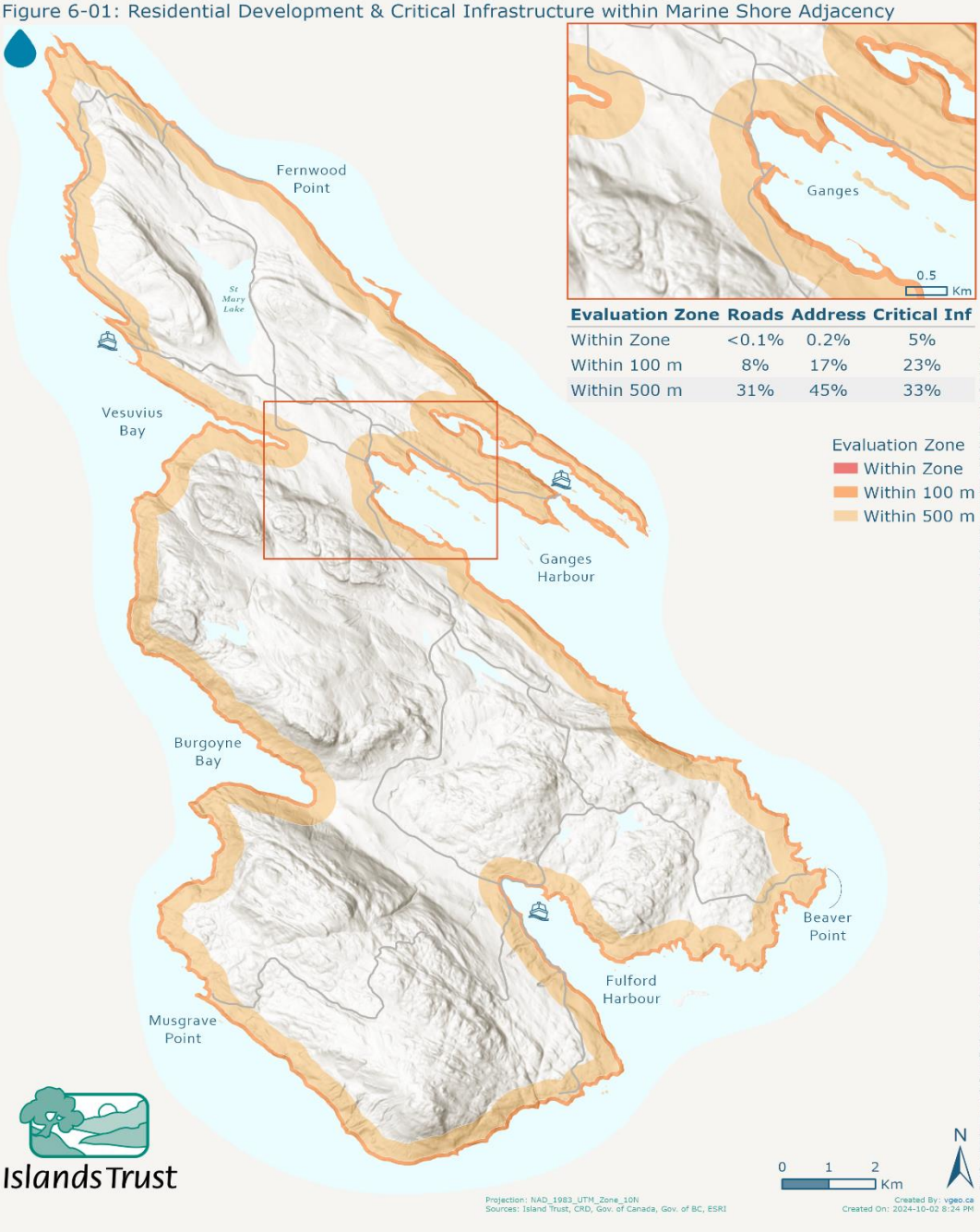
Map 6-01 - Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Marine Shore Adjacency

Category: Eco

This map illustrates the results of the Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Risk Areas proximity analyses described at the beginning of the Geographic and Environmental Features section for Marine Shore Adjacency.

The shoreline data used to create the marine shoreline was obtained from CanVec data. Since the shoreline is a line the marine shore zone was created by buffering the shoreline by ten meters and then limiting this area to the on land position. The results were further limited to only include the main marine shoreline surrounding Salt Spring Island, excluding small islands and lakes.

Figure 6-01: Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Marine Shore Adjacency



Maps 6-02 and 6-03 - Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Steep Slope Areas

Category: Risk

These maps illustrate the results of the Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Risk Areas proximity analyses described at the beginning of the Geographic and Environmental Features section for Steep Slopes.

The Steep Slope dataset was provided by the island Trust. The data was used to isolate steep slopes classified as High and Moderate; the analyses was completed for both these categories of steep slopes.

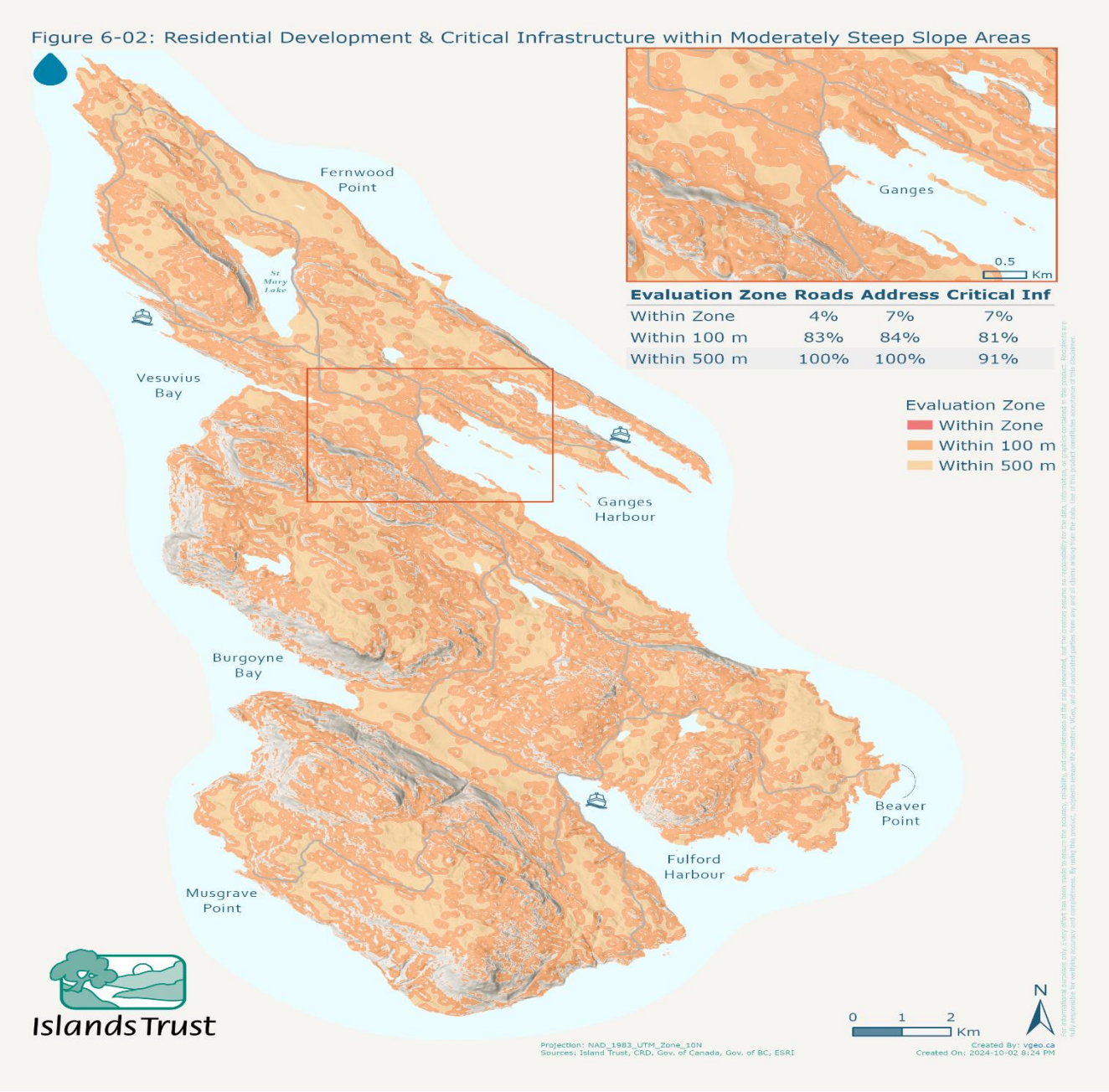
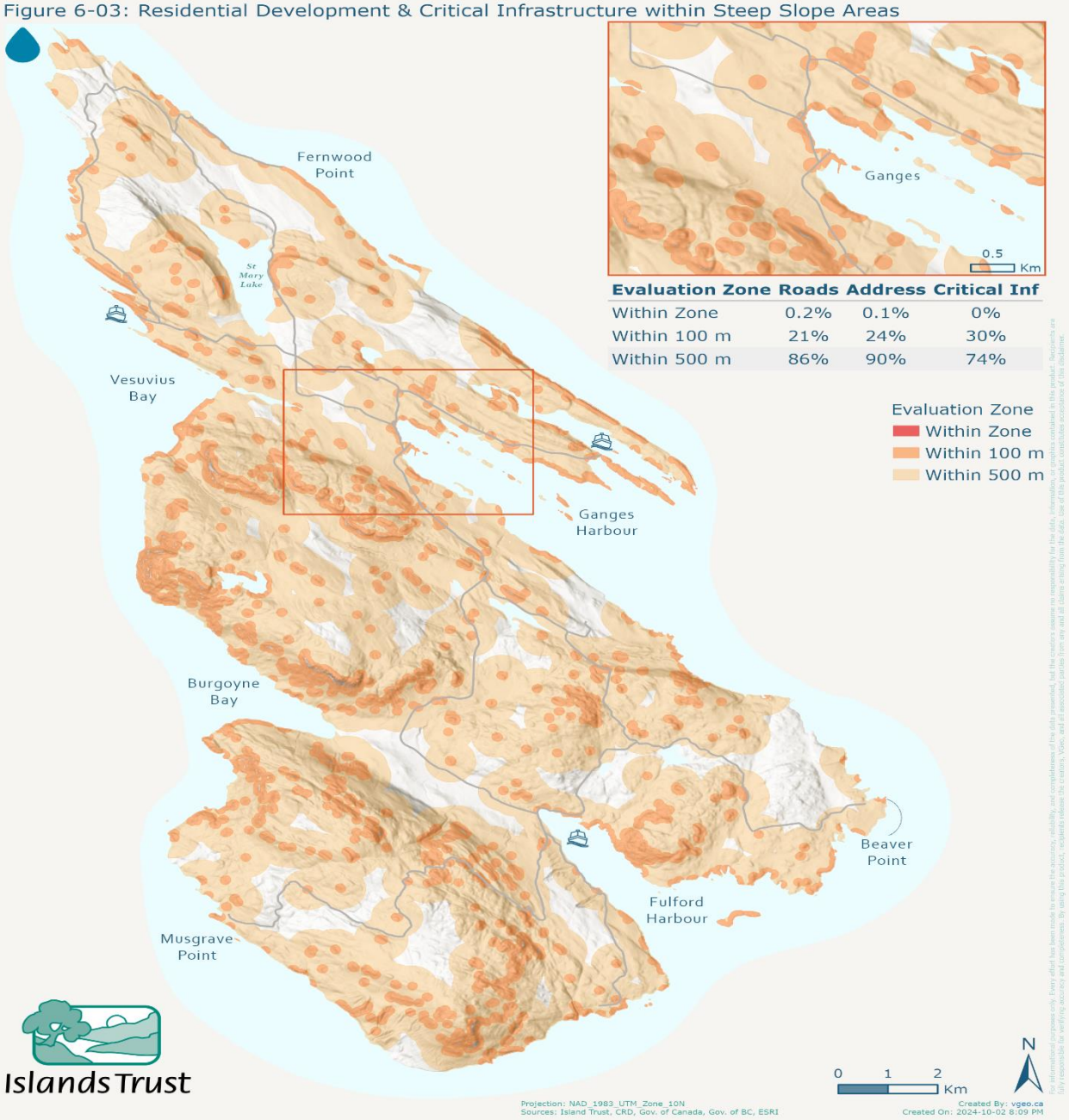


Figure 6-03: Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Steep Slope Areas

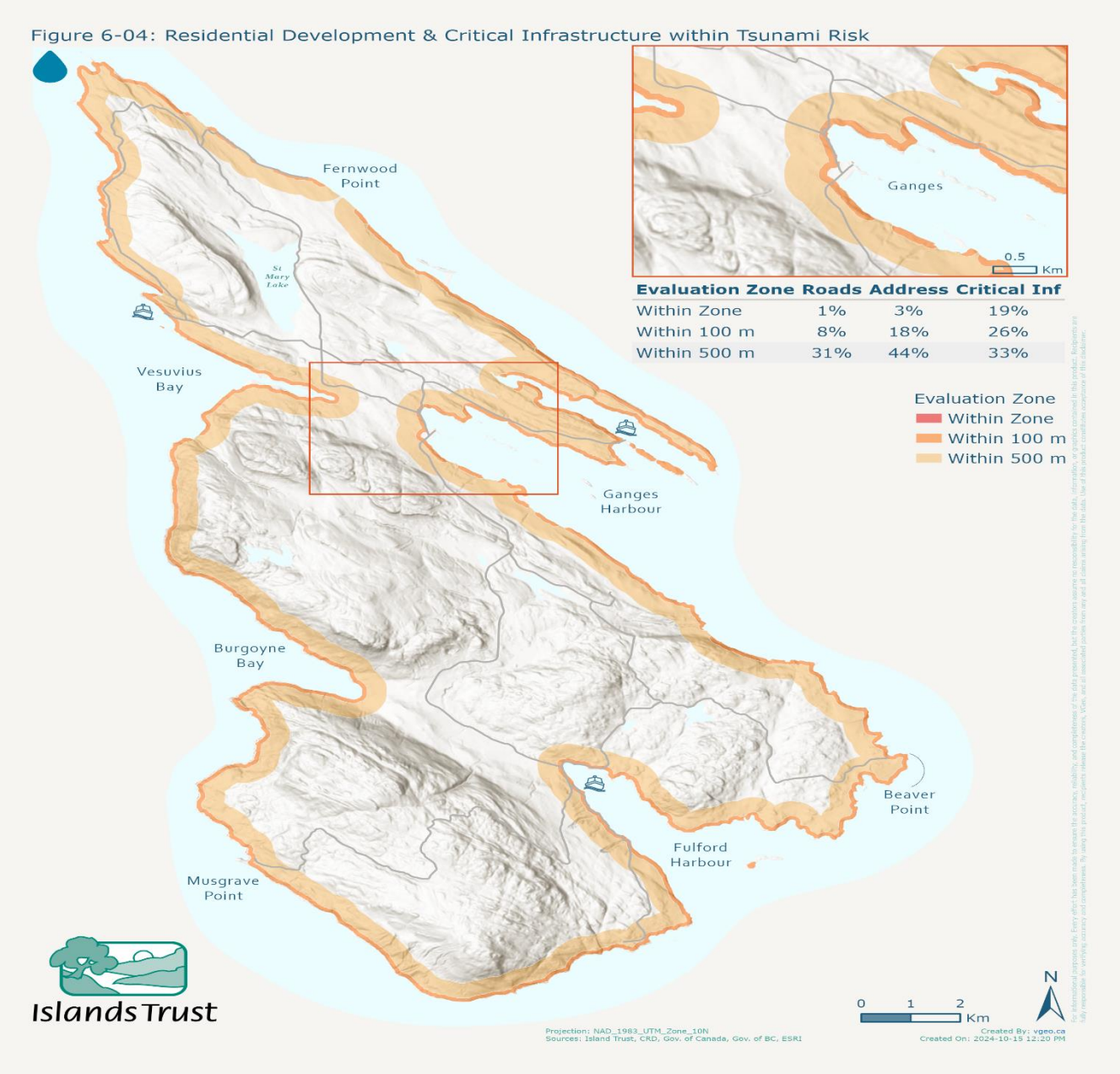


Maps 6-04 - Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Tsunami Risk

Category: Risk

This map illustrates the results of the Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Risk Areas proximity analyses described at the beginning of the Geographic and Environmental Features section for Tsunami Risk.

The Tsunami Risk zone was obtained from the CRD.



Maps 6-05 and 6-06 - Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Wildfire Risk

Category: Risk

This map illustrates the results of the Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Risk Areas proximity analyses described at the beginning of the Geographic and Environmental Features section for Wildfire Risk.

The Wildfire Risk dataset was provided by the island Trust. The data was used to isolate Wildfire Risk classified as High and Moderate; the analyses was completed for both these categories of steep slopes. It is important to note that private land is excluded from the Wildfire Risk assessment results. Therefore, private land areas are also excluded from the results of this analysis.

Figure 6-05: Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within Moderate Wildfire Risk

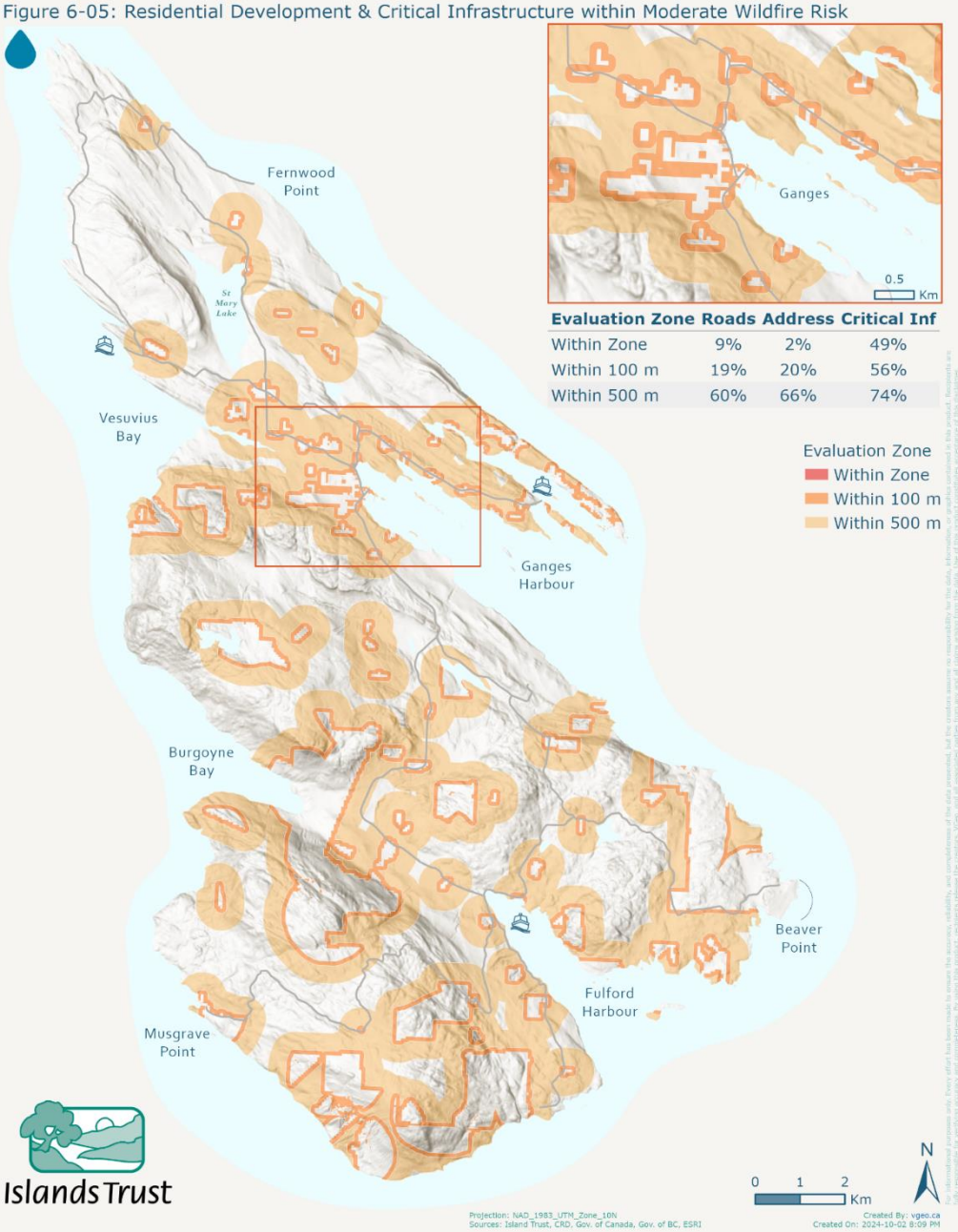
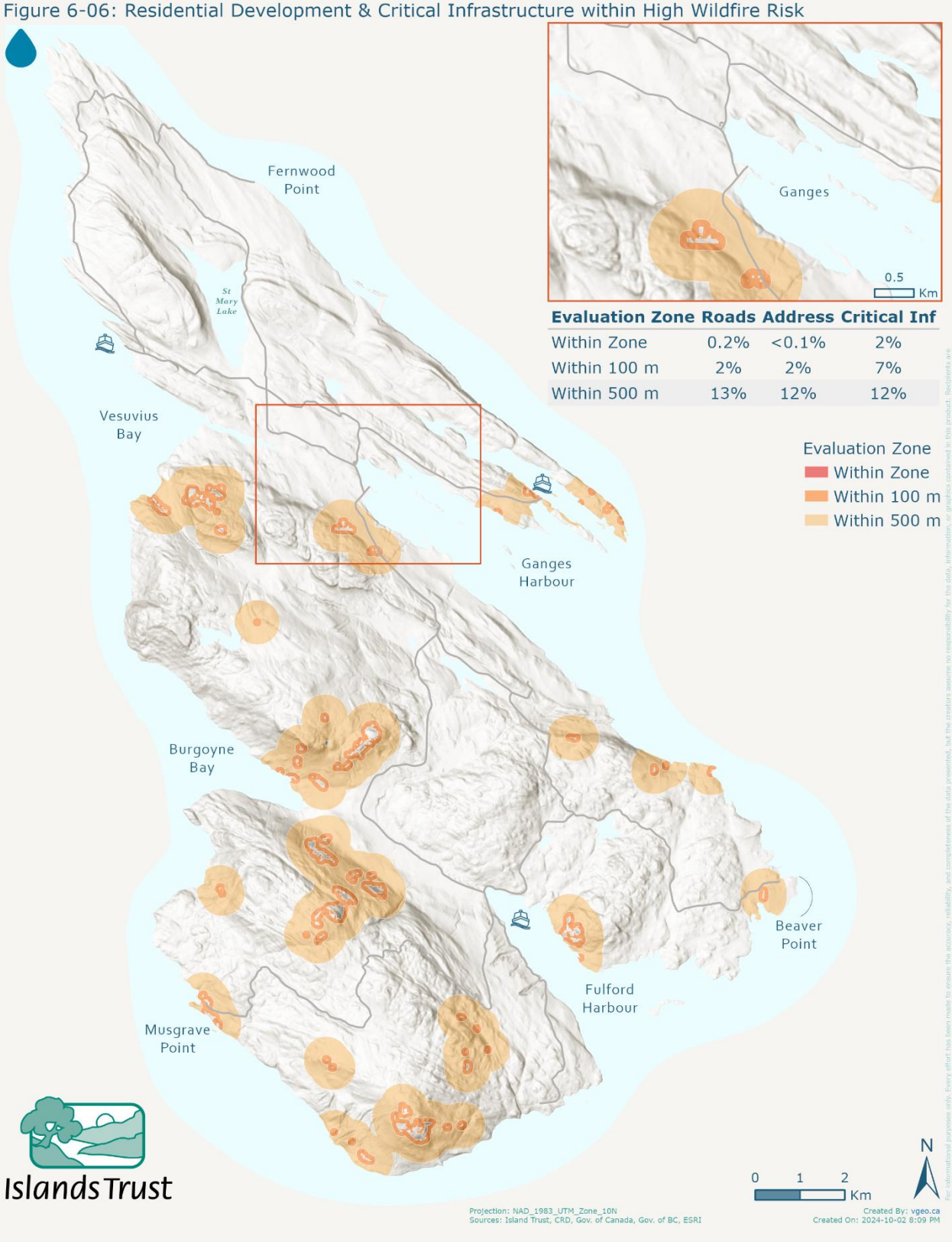


Figure 6-06: Residential Development & Critical Infrastructure within High Wildfire Risk



Evaluation Zone	Roads	Address	Critical Inf
Within Zone	0.2%	<0.1%	2%
Within 100 m	2%	2%	7%
Within 500 m	13%	12%	12%

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Map 6-07 - Extent of Intact Ecosystems

Category: Eco

This figure shows the Contiguous Forest data which was created for the Island Trust. This figure represents the results of the Contiguous Forest mapping Ecosystem Category in terms of Anthropogenic areas, Recruitment and Established forest as well as the cumulative disturbance scores.

“The goal of” the Contiguous Forest “mapping exercise was to identify contiguous forest patches within the Islands Trust Area in order to provide the Islands Trust with information to underpin policy, regulatory and legal conservation tools that protect Coastal Douglas-fir forests and their associated ecosystems.”

Contiguous Forest refers to a large, uninterrupted area of forest that is relatively uniform in structure and composition, and that is not significantly fragmented by roads, clearings, urban development, or other human activities. This type of forest is characterized by continuous tree cover, providing a habitat that supports a wide range of biodiversity and ecological processes.

In forestry and ecology, the "recruitment stage of their growth" and "established forest" refer to different phases in the development of a forest stand.

Anthropogenic means areas which are altered by human activity. “The threshold for anthropogenic disturbance was set at 20%. The assumption was made that above this threshold the value of ecological communities would decrease in response to losses of habitat availability. “

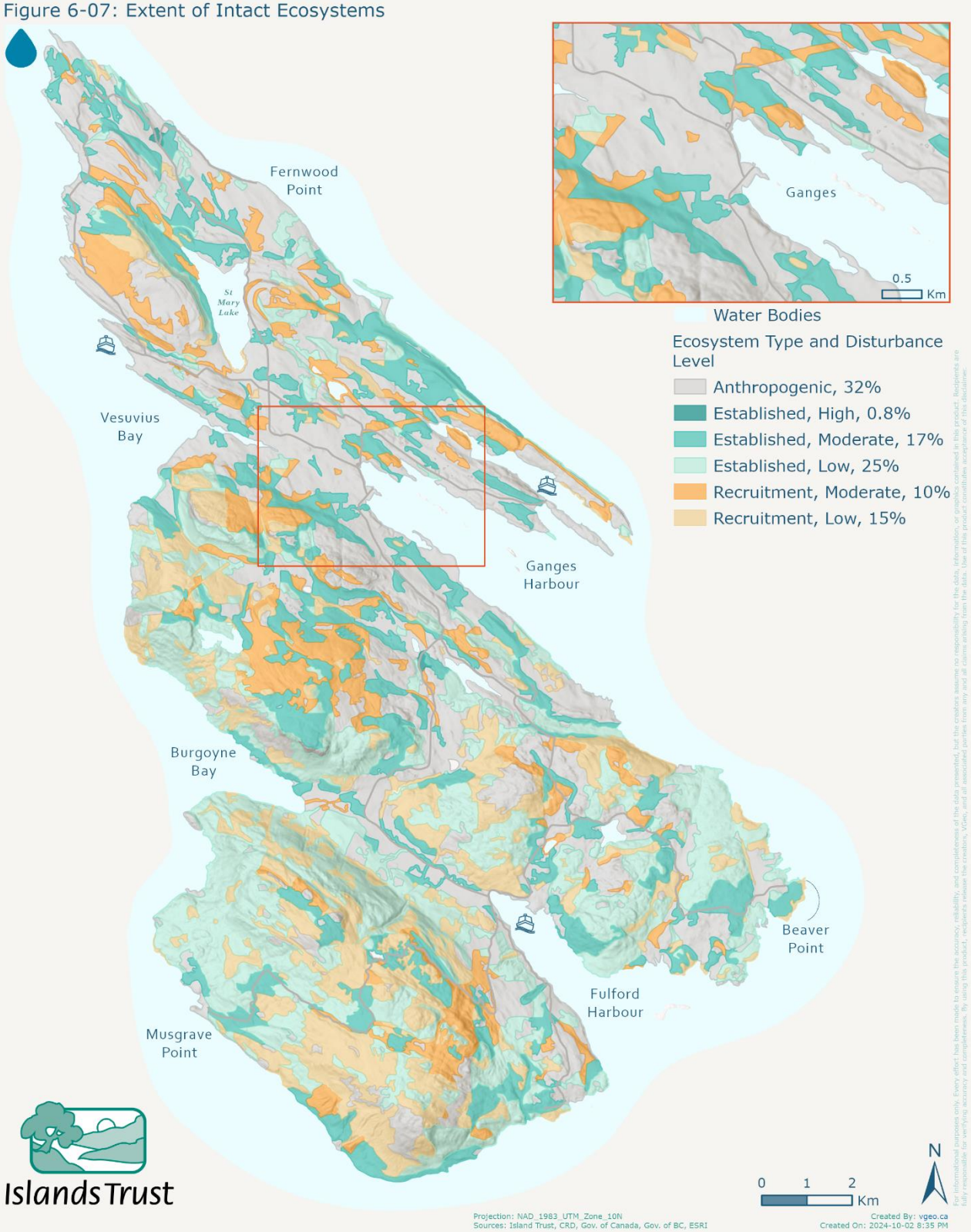
Recruitment Stage of Growth: The recruitment stage refers to the early phase of forest development where new seedlings or saplings are beginning to establish themselves in a forest area. During this stage, young trees are growing and trying to survive the initial stages of life. Factors like light availability, soil conditions, and competition with other plants play crucial roles in determining which seedlings successfully grow into mature trees. The recruitment stage is critical for the sustainability and regeneration of forests, as it ensures the continuous replacement of older trees as they die off.

Established Forest: An established forest, on the other hand, is a more mature phase of forest development where trees have successfully passed through the recruitment stage and have become fully integrated into the forest structure. In an established forest, the trees are typically older, larger, and more stable, having survived the various challenges of early growth. The forest canopy is more closed, meaning that less light reaches the forest floor, which can affect the recruitment of new seedlings. Established forests are generally characterized by a more complex structure, including multiple layers of vegetation, and they provide stable habitats for a wide range of wildlife.

In summary:

- **Recruitment Stage:** Early growth phase, characterized by the establishment of new seedlings or saplings.
- **Established Forest:** Mature forest phase, with older, larger trees forming a stable, complex ecosystem.

Figure 6-07: Extent of Intact Ecosystems

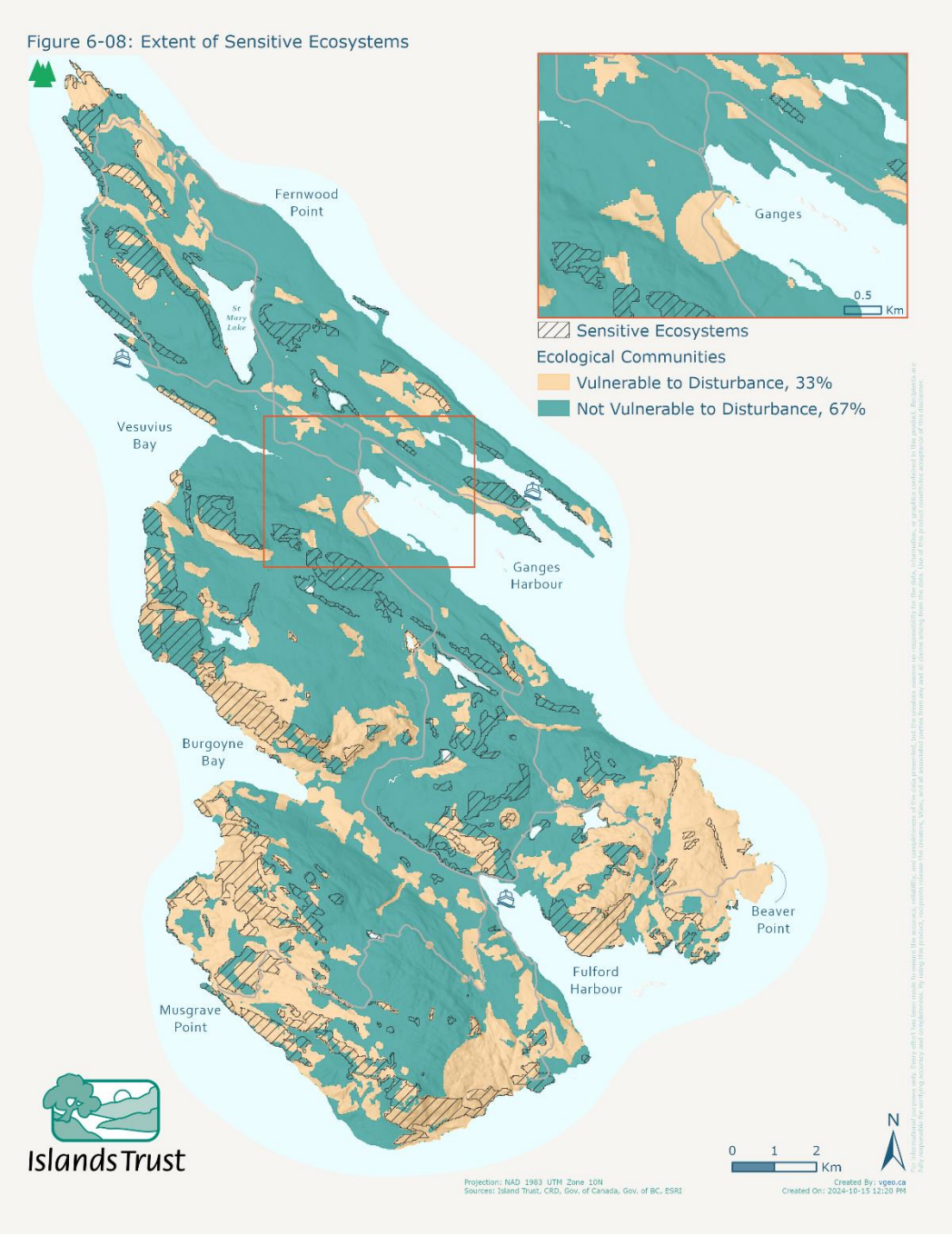


Map 6-08 - Extent of Sensitive and At-Risk Ecosystems

Category: Eco

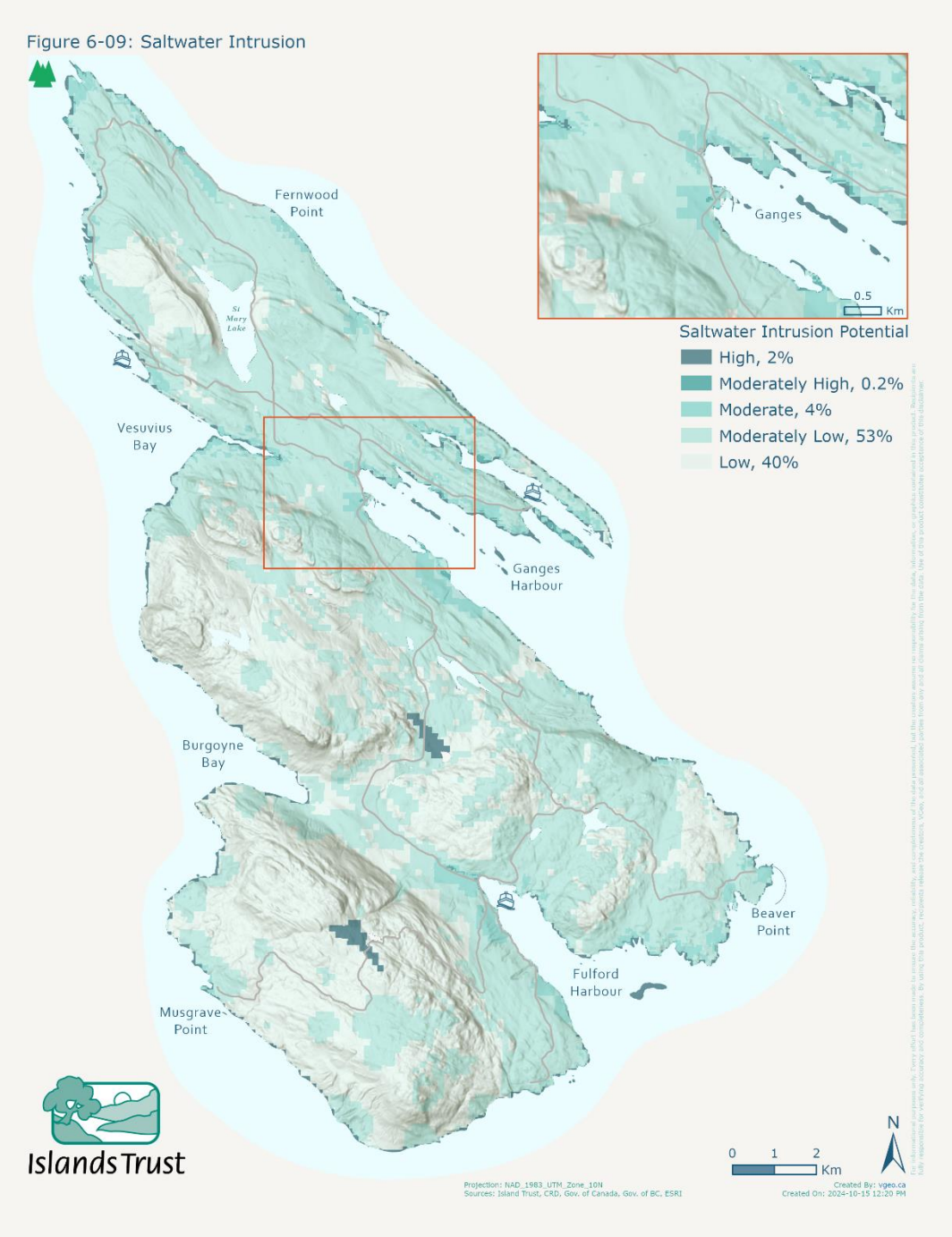
This map displays the Sensitive Ecosystem and At-Risk Ecosystem mapping conducted by William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist. The mapping was part of the suitability analyses for Salt Spring Island, supporting broader efforts related to the official community plan and other municipal planning initiatives. The data was provided through cross- department collaboration and data sharing among various groups, all working together to achieve the community's overarching goals.

The map serves as a visual representation of the sensitive and at-risk ecosystems on Salt Spring Island, highlighting the critical areas for conservation and environmental management. However, it is important to note that no additional analytical steps were performed as part of the Complete Communities assessment. The results are shown representing the original classification, not the suitability score. The focus of this map is solely on providing a clear and accurate visual depiction of the ecosystems, without further analysis or interpretation.



Map 6-09 - Saltwater Intrusion

Category: Water



This map displays the Saltwater Infusion mapping conducted by William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist. The mapping was part of the suitability analyses for Salt Spring Island, supporting broader efforts related to the official community plan and other municipal planning initiatives. The data was provided through cross-department collaboration and data sharing among various groups, all working together to achieve the community's overarching goals.

The map serves as a visual representation of areas affected by saltwater infusion on Salt Spring Island, highlighting critical zones for monitoring and environmental management. It is important to note that no additional analytical steps were performed as part of the Complete Communities assessment. The results are shown representing the original classification, not the suitability score. The focus of this map is solely on providing a clear and accurate visual depiction of the saltwater infusion areas, without further analysis or interpretation.

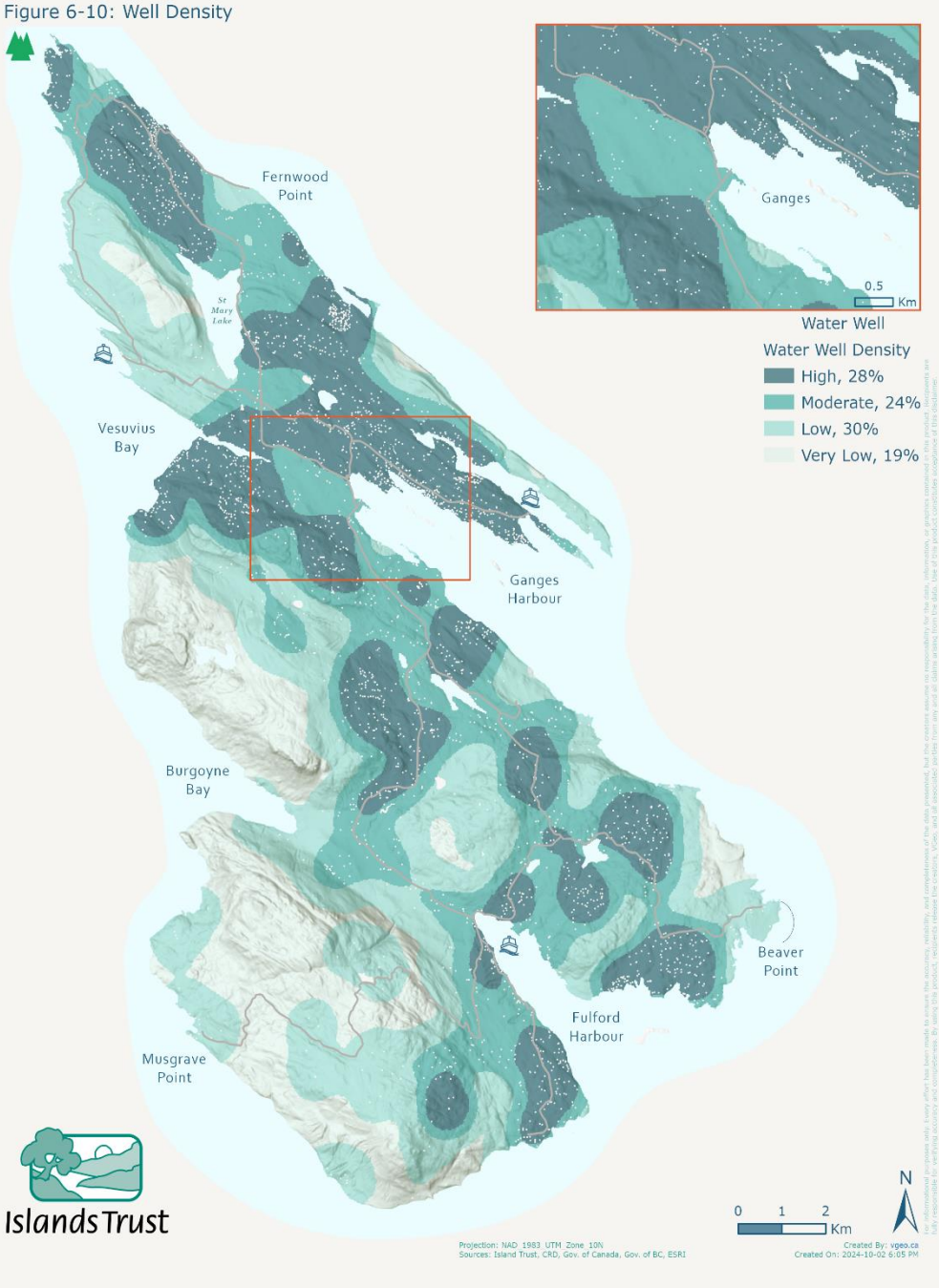
Map 6-10 - Well Density

Category: Water

This map displays the Well Density mapping conducted by William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist as well as well data points obtained from the BC Data Catalog. The mapping was part of the suitability analyses for Salt Spring Island, supporting broader efforts related to the official community plan and other municipal planning initiatives. The data was provided through cross-department collaboration and data sharing among various groups, all working together to achieve the community's overarching goals.

The map serves as a visual representation of well density across Salt Spring Island, highlighting areas with varying concentrations of wells and their implications for groundwater resources. It is important to note that no additional analytical steps were performed as part of the Complete Communities assessment. The results are shown representing the original classification, not the suitability score. The focus of this map is solely on providing a clear and accurate visual depiction of well density, without further analysis or interpretation.

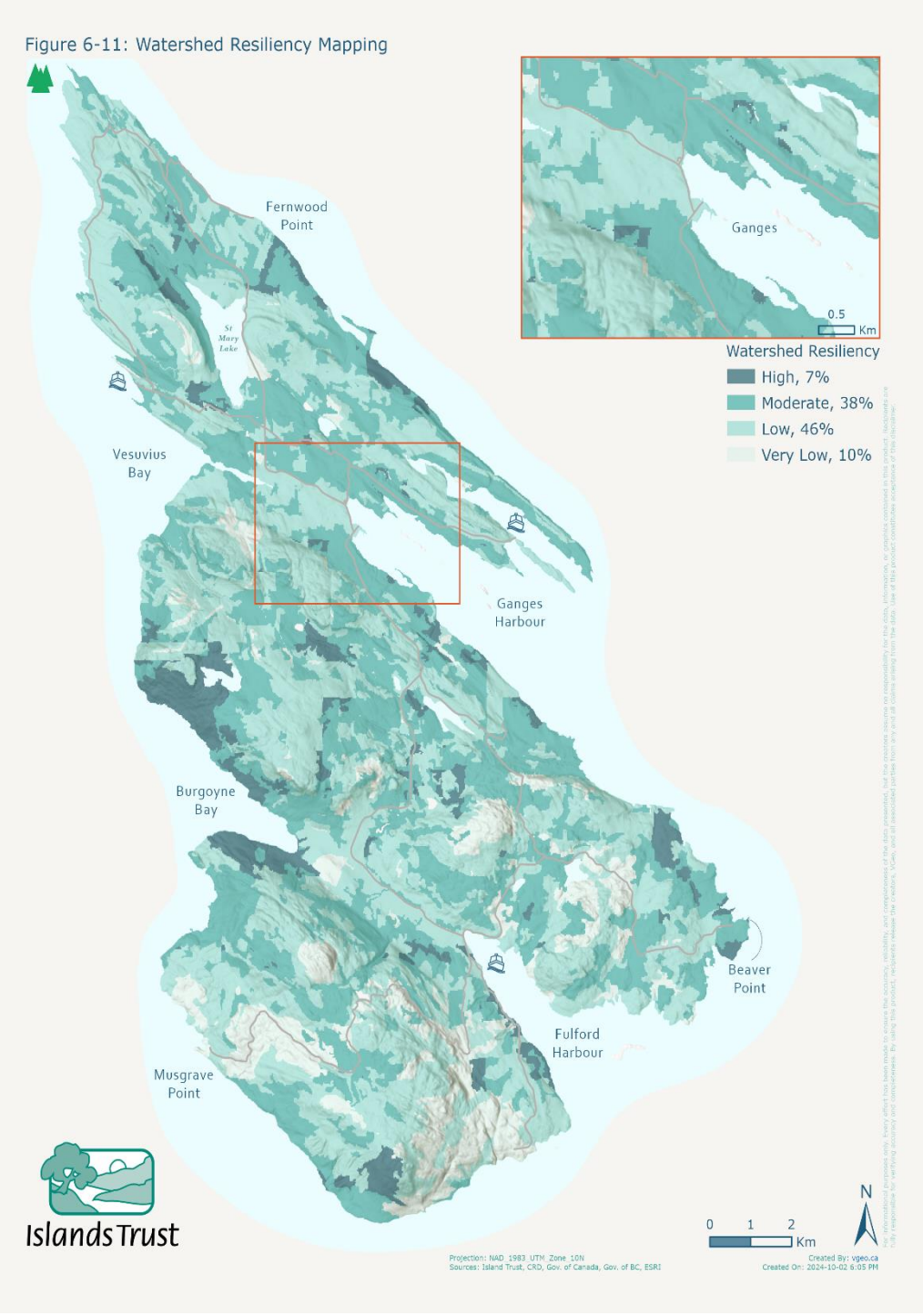
Figure 6-10: Well Density



Map 6-11 - Watershed Resiliency Mapping

Category: Water

This map displays the Watershed Resiliency Mapping conducted by William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist. The mapping was part of the suitability analyses for Salt Spring Island, supporting broader efforts related to the official community plan and other municipal planning initiatives. The data was provided through cross-department collaboration and data sharing among various groups, all working together to achieve the community's overarching goals.



The map serves as a visual representation of watershed resiliency across Salt Spring Island, identifying areas that are critical for maintaining water quality and quantity under varying environmental conditions. It is important to note that no additional analytical steps were performed as part of the Complete Communities assessment. The results are shown representing the original classification, not the suitability score. The focus of this map is solely on providing a clear and accurate visual depiction of watershed resiliency, without further analysis or interpretation.

Map 6-12 - Extent of Groundwater Recharge Potential

Category: Water



This map displays the Groundwater Recharge Potential mapping conducted by William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist. The mapping was part of the suitability analyses for Salt Spring Island, supporting broader efforts related to the official community plan and other municipal planning initiatives. The data was provided through cross-department collaboration and data sharing among various groups, all working together to achieve the community's overarching goals.

The map serves as a visual representation of areas on Salt Spring Island with high potential for groundwater recharge, highlighting regions crucial for sustaining water resources. It is important to note that no additional analytical steps were performed as part of the Complete Communities assessment. The results are shown representing the original classification, not the suitability score. The focus of this map is solely on providing a clear and accurate visual depiction of groundwater recharge potential, without further analysis or interpretation.