

Nature Trails Society

FEBRUARY 2022 UPDATE



Welcome all members and volunteers of the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society

With the start of a new year, we wanted to get in touch with the fabulous members of NTS and share some updates about our plans for 2022!

This new year is full of potential and opportunities.

We're looking forward to opportunities for in-person events, but as you know, the weather and provincial health recommendations can make this a little difficult at the moment. In the meantime, NTS has been stirring together a big win of a project while working on existing trail projects around Victoria.

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Nature Trails Society is led and supported by a Board of dedicated and skilled people who contribute many, many hours of their time and expertise to the organization. Our sincere thanks for their work.

You can meet the Board [here.](#)

You are receiving this email because you have signed up with us as a member have volunteered with us or represented an organization that we work with – THANK YOU!

If you don't want to receive emails from us, simply email us at naturetrailssociety@gmail.com to unsubscribe.





NTS is holding our Annual General Meeting

AND YOU'RE INVITED

Learn about recent work and future trail developments. Have your say, as members are encouraged to vote in the meeting!

Joining us will be two keynote speakers.

Jen Walinga, a professor at Royal Roads University and Olympics rowing team champion, will discuss diversity and inclusion in outdoor recreation - what are the issues and how can we invite more inclusivity?

Dean Tennant, from the City of Langford, is a local trail specialist with insights and news!

Email us to RVSP and to receive your Zoom invite!
Attendees will be entered in a draw to win a prize!

**THURSDAY
MARCH 10TH
AT 6 PM VIA ZOOM**

THE BIG WIN



Announcement of an Exciting Trail Project is coming soon ~ stay tuned!

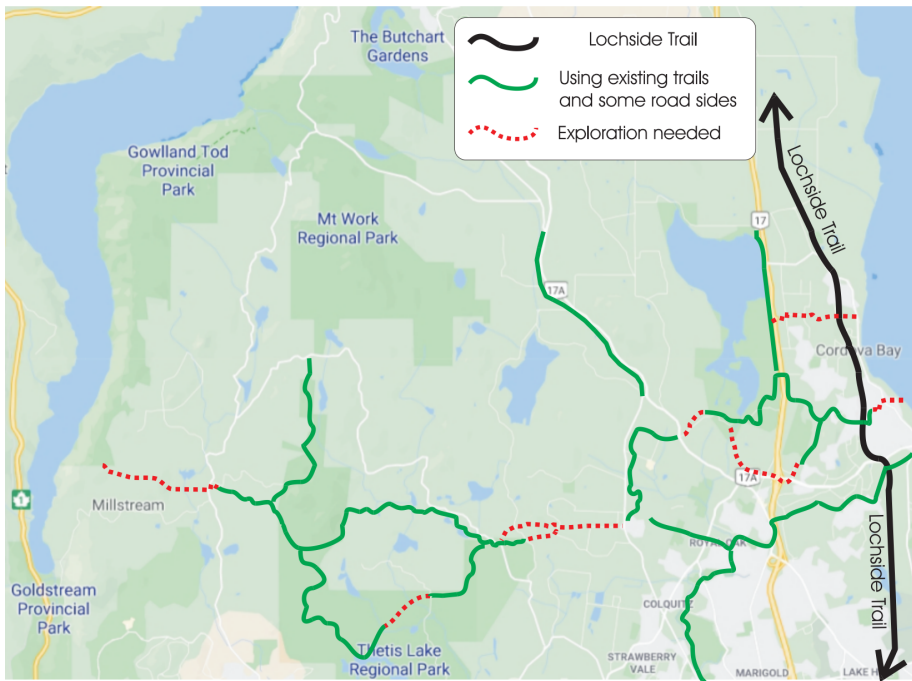
A beautiful and fun trail project is in the works for 2022.

Daniel (Founder and Executive Director) has worked hard on coordinating this trail project to come to fruition.

Several trail builders and crew leaders will be hired to make this happen.

Can't wait to share more!





THE BIG TRAIL

The Coastal Connector Trail

The Heart of the Hills Coastal Connector, mentioned in the last NTS update, now has been shortened to simply the Coastal Connector Trail. NTS has proposed this project as an opportunity to connect existing trails and recreational areas to create an 18-20 km long nature trail/ greenway that crosses several jurisdictions on its route from Finlayson Arm to Cordova Bay. There are four main stages of this proposed project and we've recently completed more tasks involved with the first stage.

First, local Indigenous groups were sent a letter with a request for input and collaboration on the project.

Next, all three municipalities were, or will be, sent informative letters on the concept. This was followed by meetings with government employees where Daniel further presented the topic and requested feedback. There's been a positive response from Highlands and View Royal (luckily not covid positive!), as they have each expressed intent to explore the trail initiative.

With the help of some funding and volunteers, the next steps involve creating a detailed investigation and feasibility study for the concept.

These trail linkages reflect our objective to "develop options to link existing trails and trail loops and seek funding to support action" as part of fulfilling our **#1 goal**.

New Year Resolutions

The NTS will continue to pursue our three goals from the Strategic Plan.

- ① Develop, maintain and advocate for shared-use nature trails and trail networks in southern Vancouver Island.
- ② Promote safe, sustainable trail building design and techniques through education.
- ③ Grow and sustain the Nature Trails Society.

4 stages of the proposed Coastal Connector Trail

- ✦ Planning, Engagement, and Feasibility
We are here!
- ✦ Fundraising, business case and detailed design
- ✦ Engineering, construction and opening
- ✦ Maintenance, education and trail user engagement

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



New Legal Chair (Land Law and Management), Adam Nott

In the fall, Adam joined the Board and has contributed with his insights as both a lawyer and a very active trail user. His legal, risk, and resource management knowledge is certainly an asset to the team! He's a runner and hiker who enjoys exploring the variety of trails around Victoria wanted to help the organization go further.

New Communications Chair, Taylor Koel

Taylor also joined the Board in the fall of 2021. She's been happy to assist with writing, updating the website, and making social media posts. She's from the island, has an Environmental Science degree, and cares about planning a future with green spaces for people to enjoy.



OPEN BOARD POSITION

There's a position available for a member to join the **Finance Committee**.
Do you have related experience?
We need your support.

Interested in volunteering? Please email NatureTrailsSociety@gmail.com



It's official- charity status

Under our long name of the Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society, we're now registered as a charitable organization with the purpose of being beneficial to the community and public amenities. What this means is that we're eligible for more potential funding opportunities. Also, we can provide tax-deductible receipts for any donations sent here: <https://naturetrailssociety.com/donate/>

However, this status requires some extra work- and for that, we'd like to give a special shout-out to our dedicated board members.



Memberships

Members are vital to the success of the organization. Members share their ideas, donate their time and talent, and are an indication of how important trails are to our community.

Thank you so much for signing up and supporting our work! Over the course of 2022, we plan to have special events and opportunities for members. We will keep you updated as these come online and welcome your ideas. Society updates, such as this one, are typically provided exclusively to our membership!

We welcome new members – people can [sign up for free here](#).

For questions about membership, please email us.



Empties for Trails, not left on Trails!



Clear out your space, recycle, and support local nature trails!

How? Drop off rinsed out empties at a Return-It Bottle Depot location in Victoria (Glanford, Queens, or Quadra), and ask staff for the refund to be donated to the "Nature Trails Society" account!



As of Feb 1st, **milk and plant-based beverage containers** are accepted and worth a 10 cents refund each!

Greenspaces and outdoor recreation options promote healthier communities. NTS works to connect people with joy and nature. Any support is meaningful.

Our mission is to champion, build, and connect safe, enjoyable, and sustainable nature trails, by collaborating and working closely with diverse partners.

Our vision is to support the coordination of a network of multi-use trails with abundant access, that inspires people to engage with the natural world and respect the environment.

For updates, follow our Facebook page or visit NatureTrailsSociety.com



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We welcome your input and ideas! NatureTrailsSociety@gmail.com