



# Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) Mapping Project

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# lək'wənən Territory

To complement the City's excellent inventory of all trees on public land, the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN) has involved each neighbourhood in an inventory of Garry oaks and other elements of biodiversity on private property. Each neighbourhood developed their own approach and will be reporting back to residents on what they learned and what we have learned about the larger patterns within our urban forest.

## History of Place

## Kwetlal food system/ Garry oak ecosystem

## Volunteer Engagement

## Future

## Mapping Methods



Victoria Community  
Association Network





# Project Description

The urban area of the City of Victoria is the Garry oak ecosystem (GOE)— a fact often left out of discussions on the urban forest.

- connect people, cultural connections to the territory, map current Garry Oak distribution, enhance canopy equity.
- to directly benefit residents and wildlife, wildlife corridors for the movement and dispersal of organisms, and establish nodes of functioning .
- assist in protecting and restoring the function of sensitive ecosystems and natural areas, including habitat corridors and assist with the parks acquisition strategy (9.2 of the Official Community Plan).



# Neighbourhoods

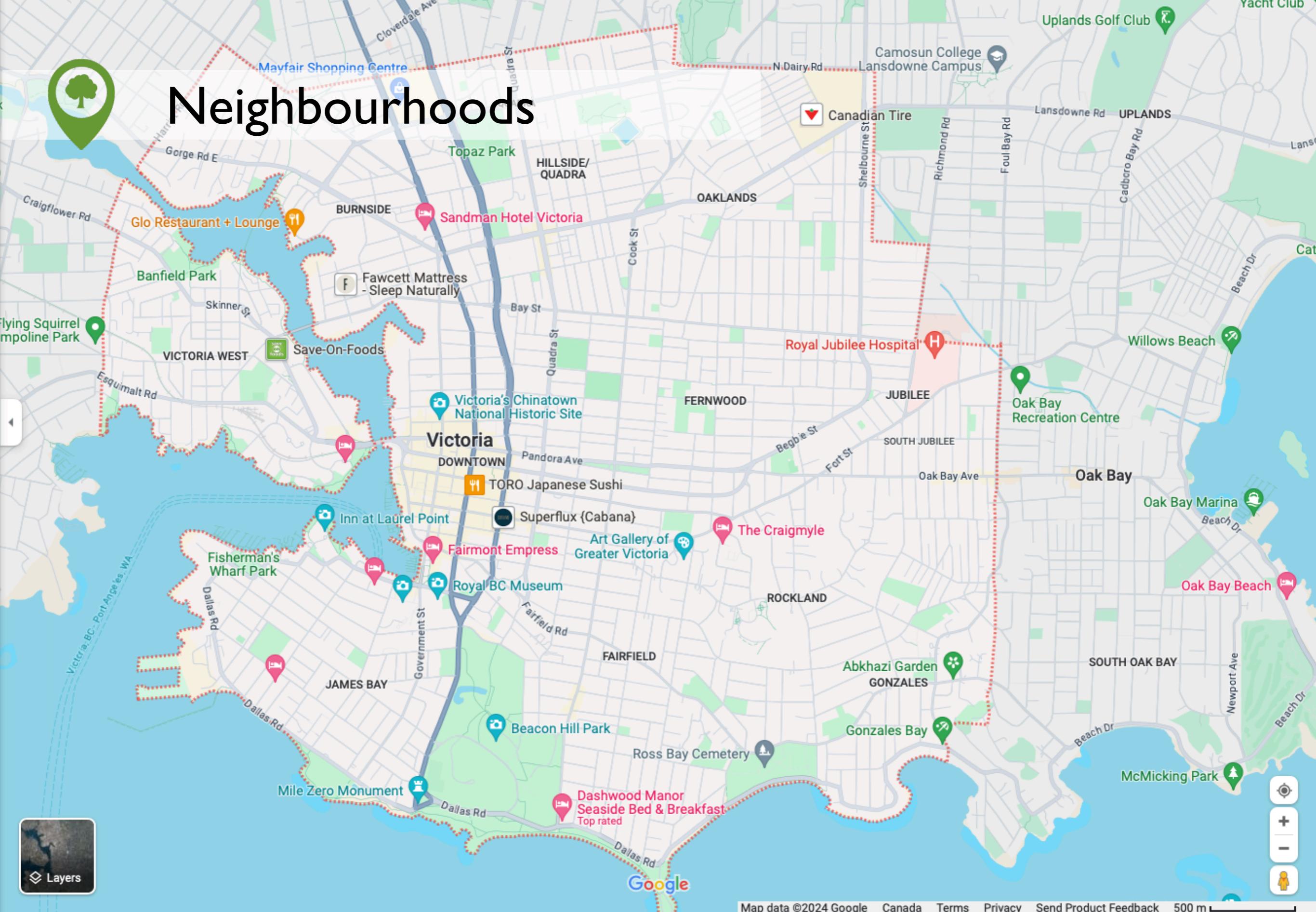


Figure 2. Google Maps, City of Victoria, 19.68 km<sup>2</sup>



# History of Place

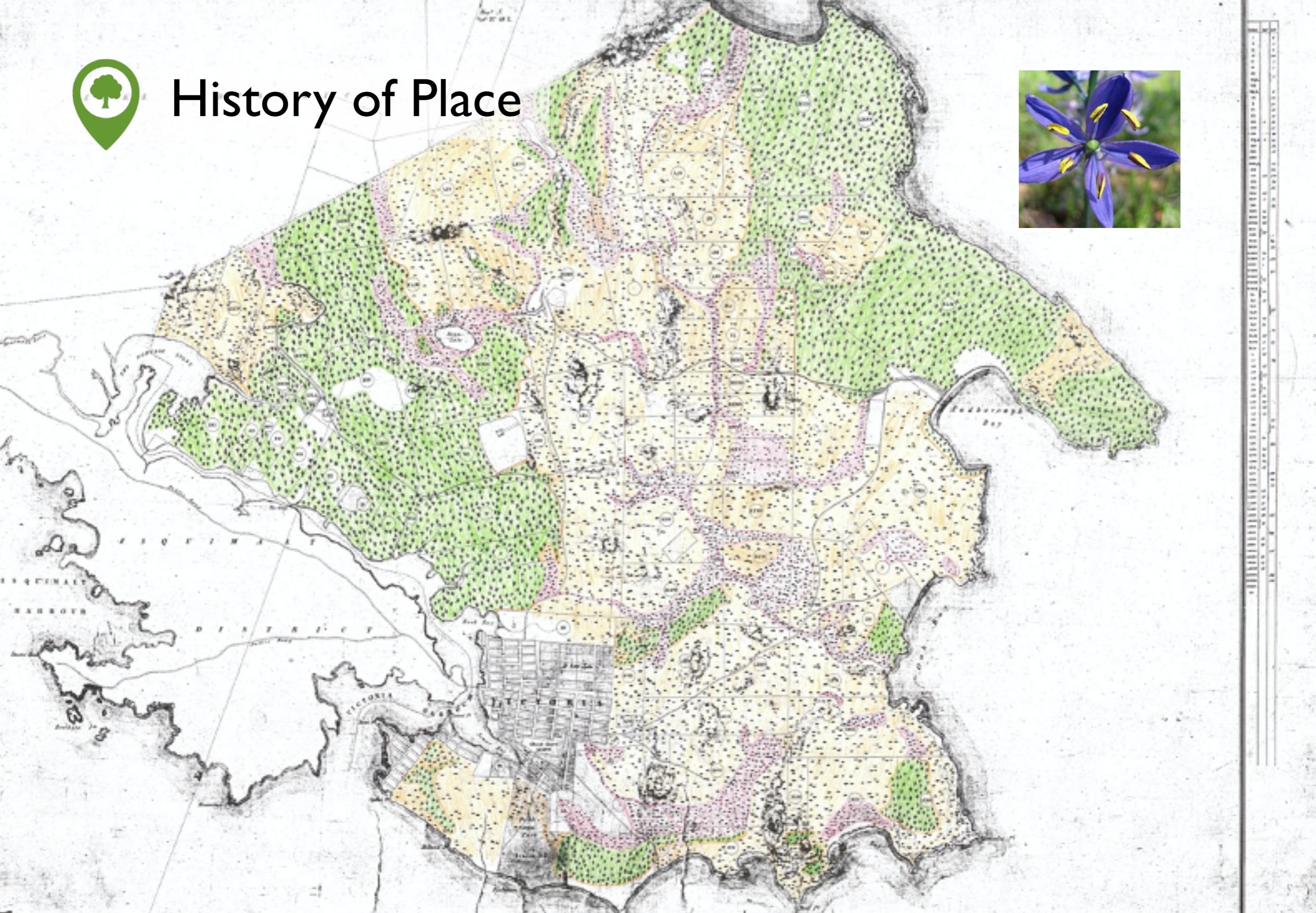


Figure 3. 1858 land survey map. Excerpt from map of Victoria District, c. 1850s as surveyed by Pemberton.

Courtesy of the BC Surveyor General's Office. Call number 28 tr 2. The brown is Garry oak areas, the pink is wetland/riparian (which might have had oaks) and the dark green is mostly coniferous forests. <https://web.uvic.ca/vv/student/gardening/Surveying/Maps/map1.html>



# History of Place

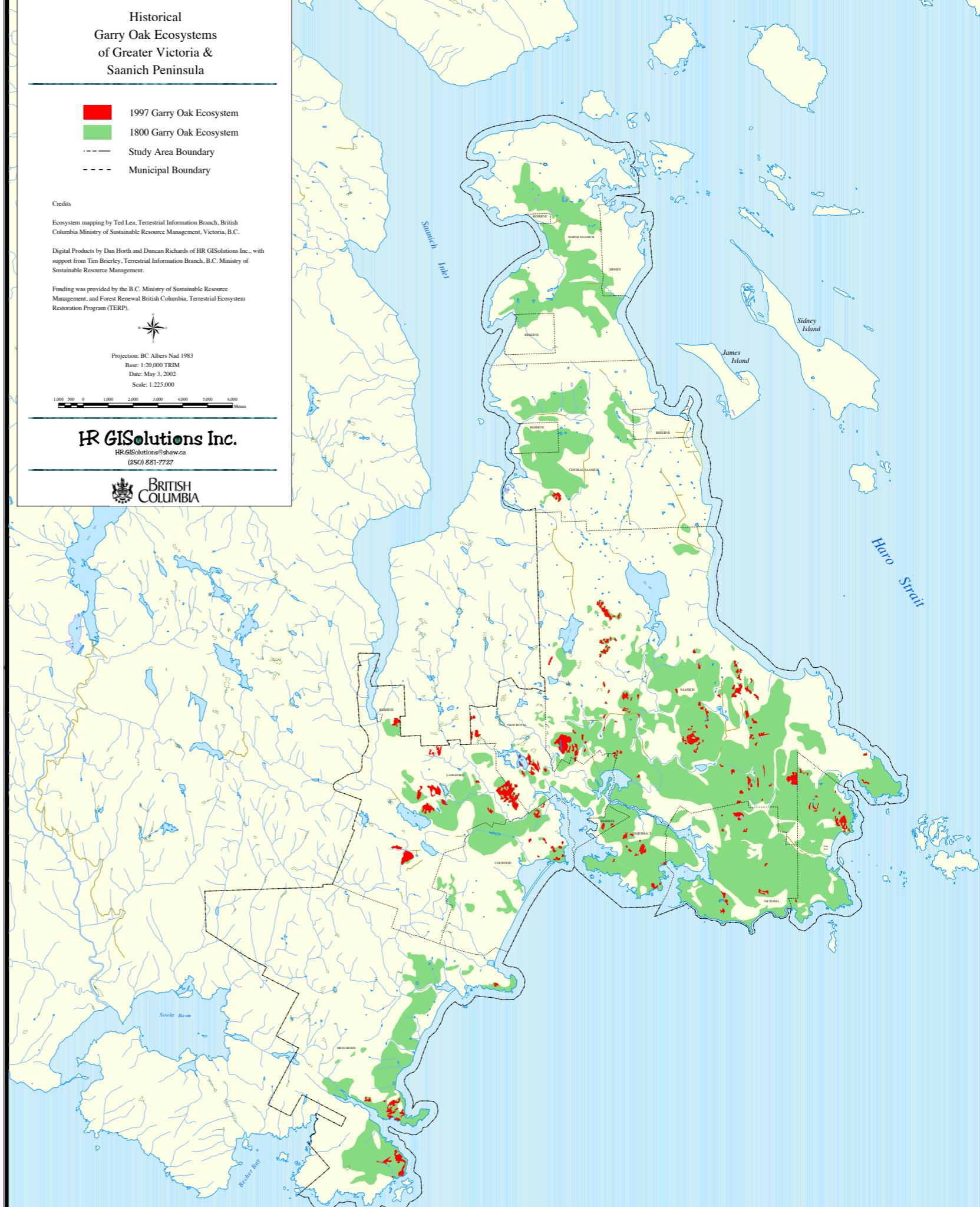


Figure 4: Lea, T. 2006. Historical Garry Oak Ecosystems of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, pre-European Contact to the Present. *Davidsonia* 17(2):34–50 (GOERT)



# History of Place

Area	Year: 1800 (Cover in hectares)	Year: 1997 (Cover in hectares)
Victoria	1,460	21
Oak Bay	850	25
Saanich	3,473	192
Central Saanich	740	7
Sidney	30	0
North Saanich	1,040	1
Esquimalt	470	20
Colwood	320	16
Langford	370	105
View Royal	270	39
Metchosin	1,180	49
Indian Reserves	240	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,443</b>	<b>512</b>



# History of Place

Old individual/open  
grown trees  
persist in parks  
and neighbourhoods



Fig 6: Description/Paradigm

250 years old for wet coastal areas, and 140 years for dry interior areas. "New definitions are being considered." Reference Government of British Columbia



# History of Place

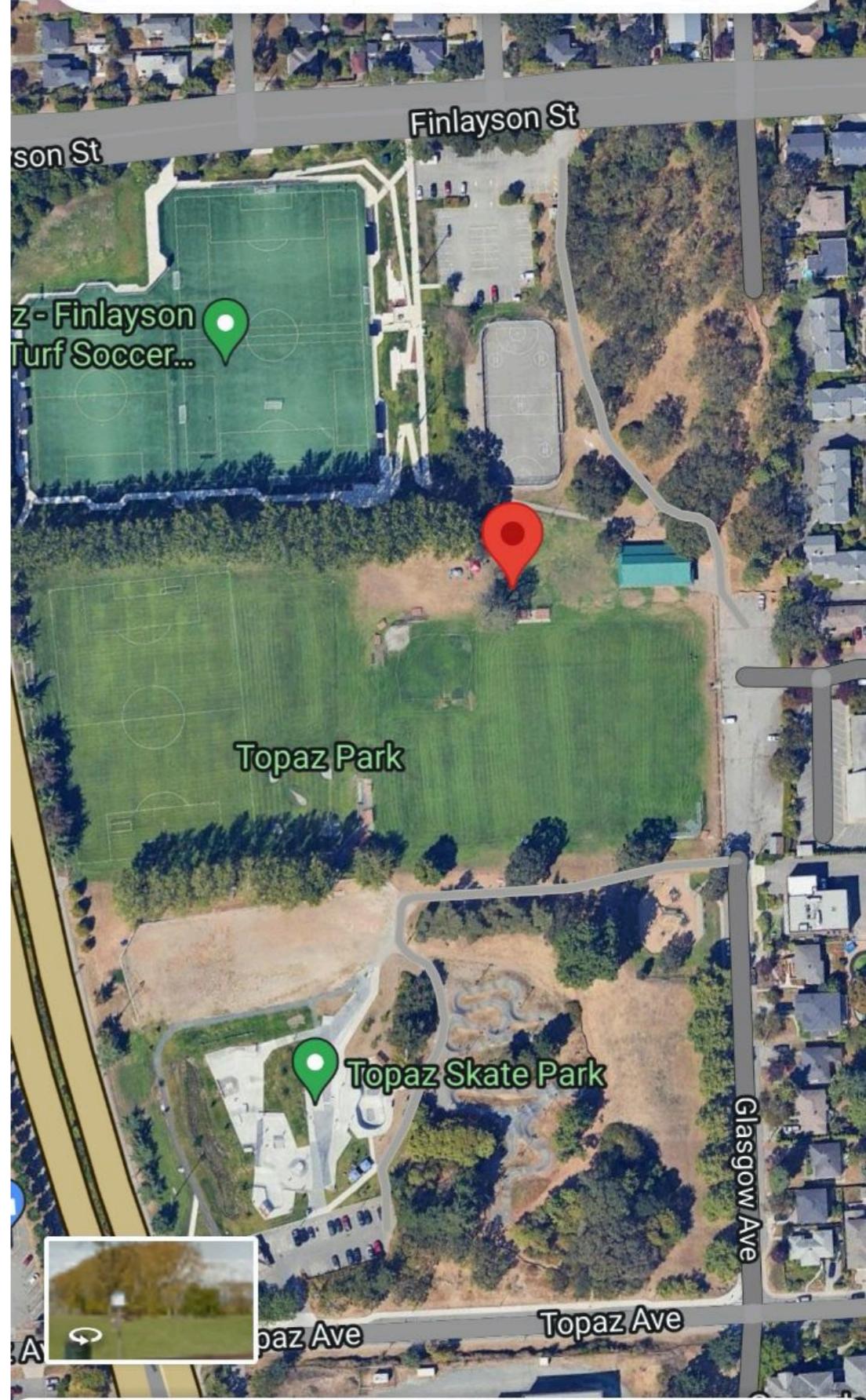


Fig 7: Pre-colonial Garry oak tree at Topaz Park, Victoria BC. Drilled to 50cm and was over 275 years old. Is considered old growth tree by provincial definition



# Events



Figure 8: June 05, 2024 - Walking tour with Dave Clark at Woodland Meadow behind Government House



# Events



Fig 9: July 6, 2024: Kings Park (Fernwood) with Ryan Senechal with old growth Garry oak trees. 175-300, and 500 years old.



# Events



Fig 10: Old growth Garry oak in Kings Park (Fernwood), 500 years old.

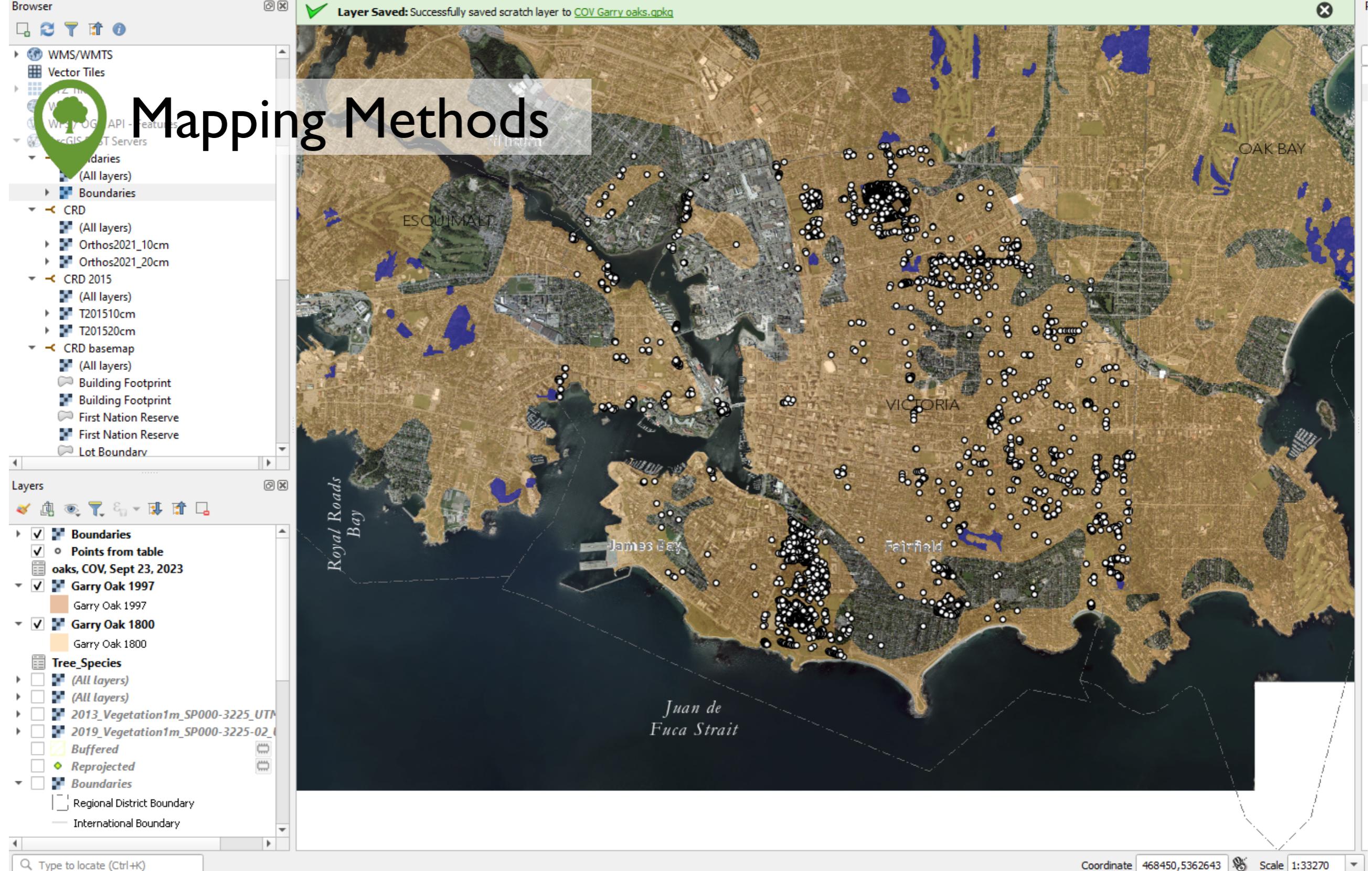


Figure 11: City of Victoria tracks Garry oak trees on city property are mapped in the form of an individual tree. CRD has Garry oak ecosystem extents in 1800 and 1997 in their geospatial catalog. These are aerial GIS layers. Screenshot showing the 3 layers together (COV public tree inventory, GOE 1800, GOE 1997). White dots are individual Garry oak tree locations as of Sept. 2023. Brown is Garry oak ecosystem historical estimate for 1800. Blue is Garry oak ecosystem estimate for 1997. Screen capture via Ryan Senechal.



# Mapping Methods

Figure 12: Screen capture of VCAN Google Map 2024



# Mapping Methods

## Online Mapping Tutorial

Victoria Community Association Network Garry Oak Mapping Project



Phase 1: Identification of Garry Oak trees and potential conservation sites

Supported by Cedar Shore Consulting 2024-06-26

### Tutorial

The following tutorial will teach you how to add point locations and polygons for sites of significance in Google Maps. These can be individual trees, points of interest, or areas you want to identify. You can share information about the site and upload photos. **You must sign in with a Google account to make edits.** Click the link below to be directed to the map!

### Link to Video Tutorial

### Link to map

### Step 1: Choose Neighborhood

Once you have clicked the link, you will be taken to a Google map that looks something like the image below (figure 1). You can zoom in and out by using the scroll on your mouse or by using the zoom function in the box highlighted in pink. The first step is to select your neighborhood by checking the box next to your neighborhood name. The neighborhood names are in the menu highlighted in green. The neighborhood you select is the neighborhood you live in, but you can add points and polygons in any location throughout Victoria.

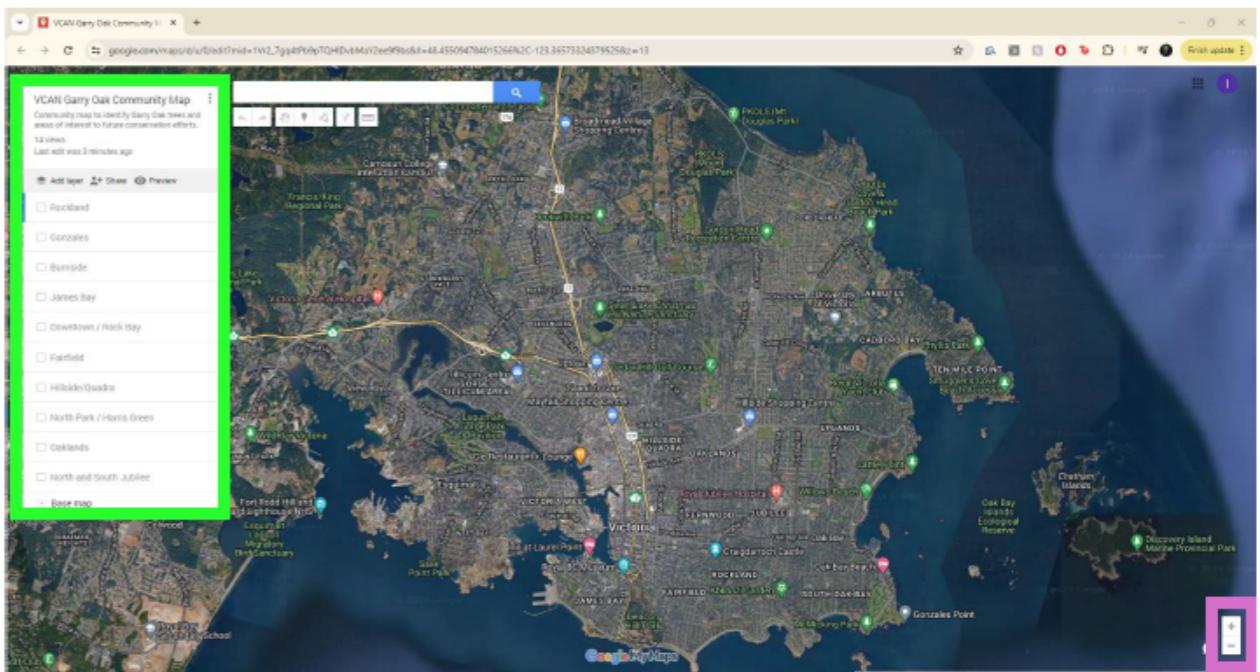


Figure 1: Starting screen and neighborhood selection

# Local Planning with Natural Asset Management & Nature-Based Solutions

Climate Resilience: Climate Mitigation & Adaptation

Patricia Dijak, B.Eng.

Climate Action 2024



University  
of Victoria

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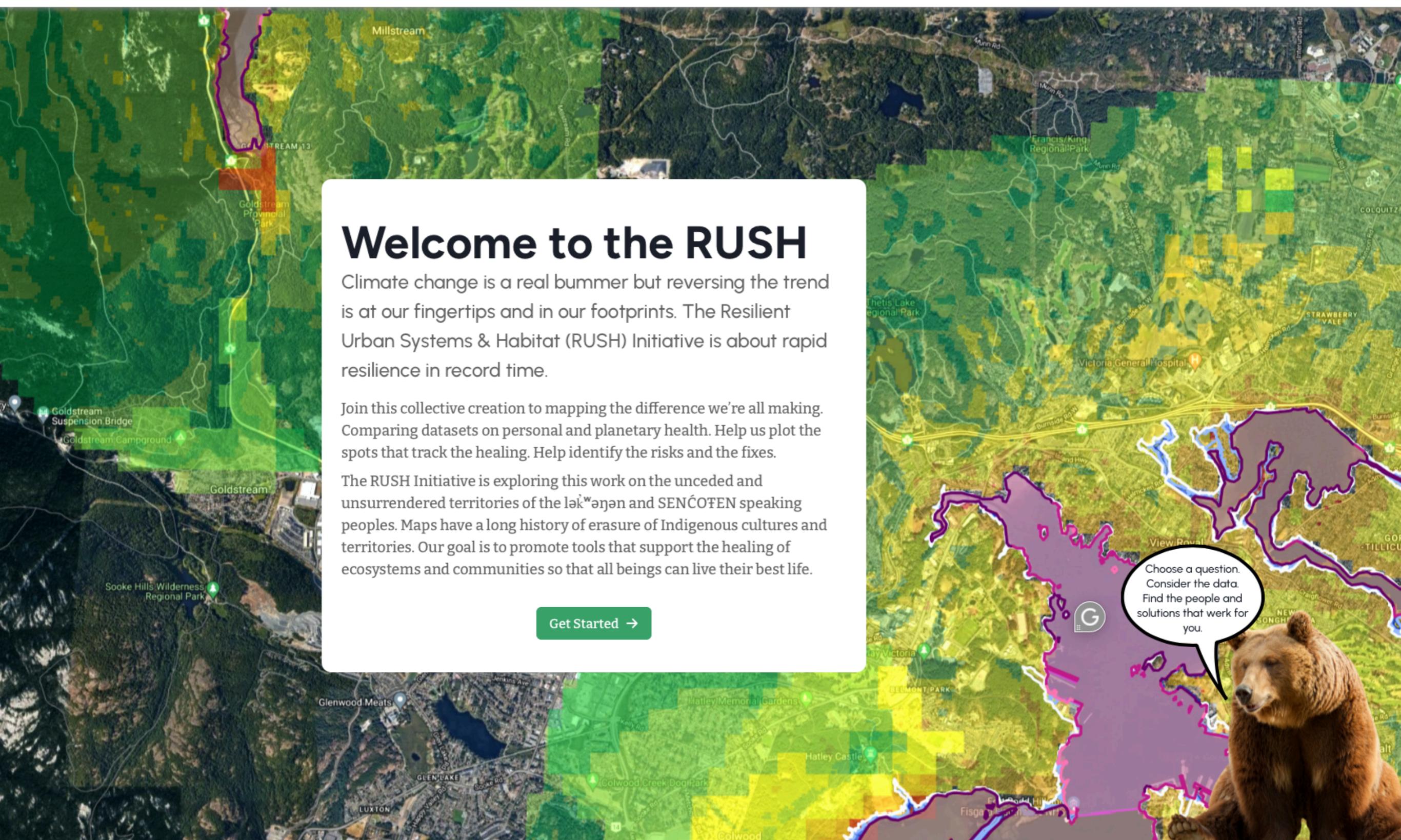


Figure 16: Screen capture of RUSH Presentation to VCAN - website 2024



Figure 17: Photo of VCAN Mapping Project Wrap up event Nov 16, 2024 at the NeighbourhoodSpace 709 Douglas Street.



# Future

Organize, compile, and convert data into format for further analysis and mapping

Presentation materials and text for developments

Publish results: VCAN, RUSHRandD, GOMPS

City of Victoria - Assist in protecting and restoring the function of sensitive ecosystems and natural areas, including habitat corridors and assist with the parks acquisition strategy (9.2 of the Official Community Plan) collectively as a group for all neighbourhoods.

VCAN and Natural Asset Management (NAM). School groups, planting seedlings and native plant gardens



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