

Online Mapping Tutorial

Victoria Community Association Network Garry Oak Mapping Project



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

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Introduction

Welcome to the Victoria Community Network Association Garry Oak Mapping Project! This initiative aims to identify existing Garry oak trees and potential areas for future Garry oak conservation parks. Your participation is crucial to help us gather insights and create a comprehensive map of significant locations within our community.

Project Overview

The Victoria Community Association Network is undertaking a comprehensive community mapping project to gather valuable insights from community members about preferred park sites. By integrating these insights with legal surveys, data on existing parks and protected areas, Indigenous knowledge, historical aerial photographs, and habitat suitability analyses, we aim to provide well-informed recommendations for future land acquisitions dedicated to conserving and restoring Garry Oak ecosystems in Victoria.

Objectives

Interactive Mapping: Phase 1 focuses on creating an interactive web map accessible and editable by community members. This digital platform allows users to contribute directly by drawing polygons or adding points, each with details explaining the area's significance.

Community Engagement: We encourage community members to highlight existing notable locations or suggest potential areas for future park development.

Traditional Mapping: For those who prefer traditional methods, there is an option to mark areas of significance on paper maps. These submissions will be digitized and integrated into the online map.

How to Participate

In this tutorial, you will learn how to add point locations for individual Garry oak trees or polygons to identify areas of interest. By participating, you contribute to a multi-faceted approach that ensures decision-making is grounded in diverse data sources, reflecting both the ecological value of the land and the community's connection to it.

Thank you for being a part of this important conservation effort. Together we can preserve and enhance Garry Oak ecosystems for future generations.

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

Public Map: <https://tinyurl.com/VCAN-GARRY-OAK-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.

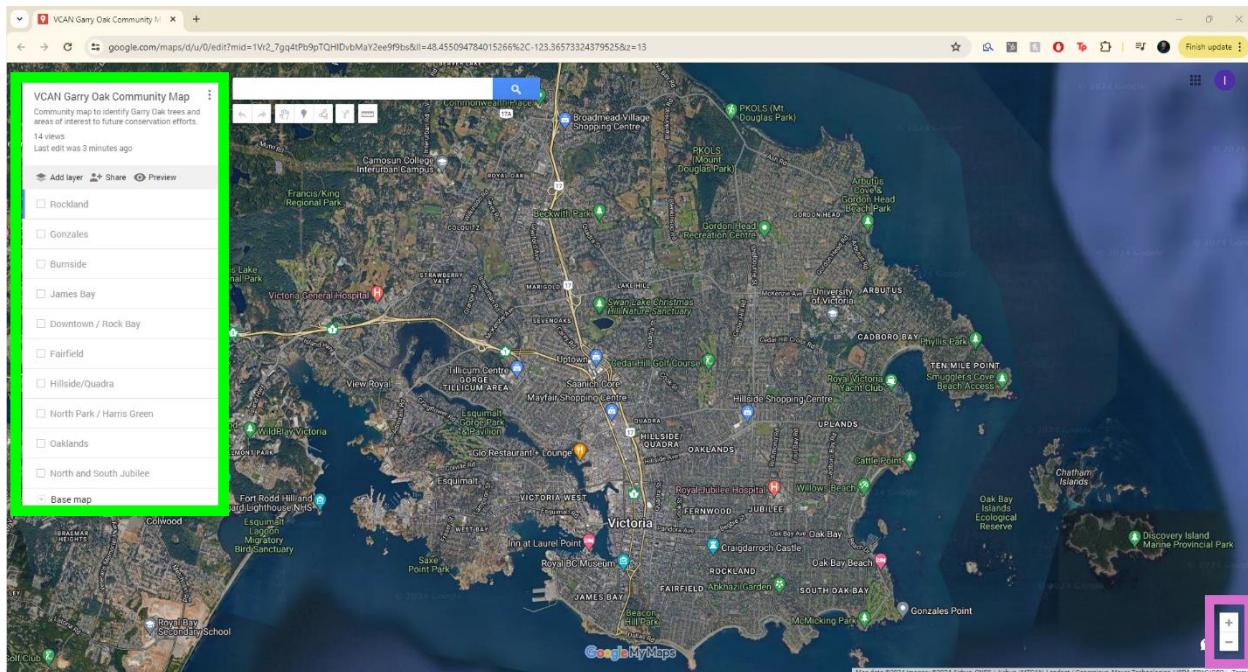


Figure 1: Starting screen and neighborhood selection

Make sure that only your neighborhood is selected; in Figure 2, I selected Gonzales. If other neighborhoods are selected, you can deselect them by clicking off the check marks.

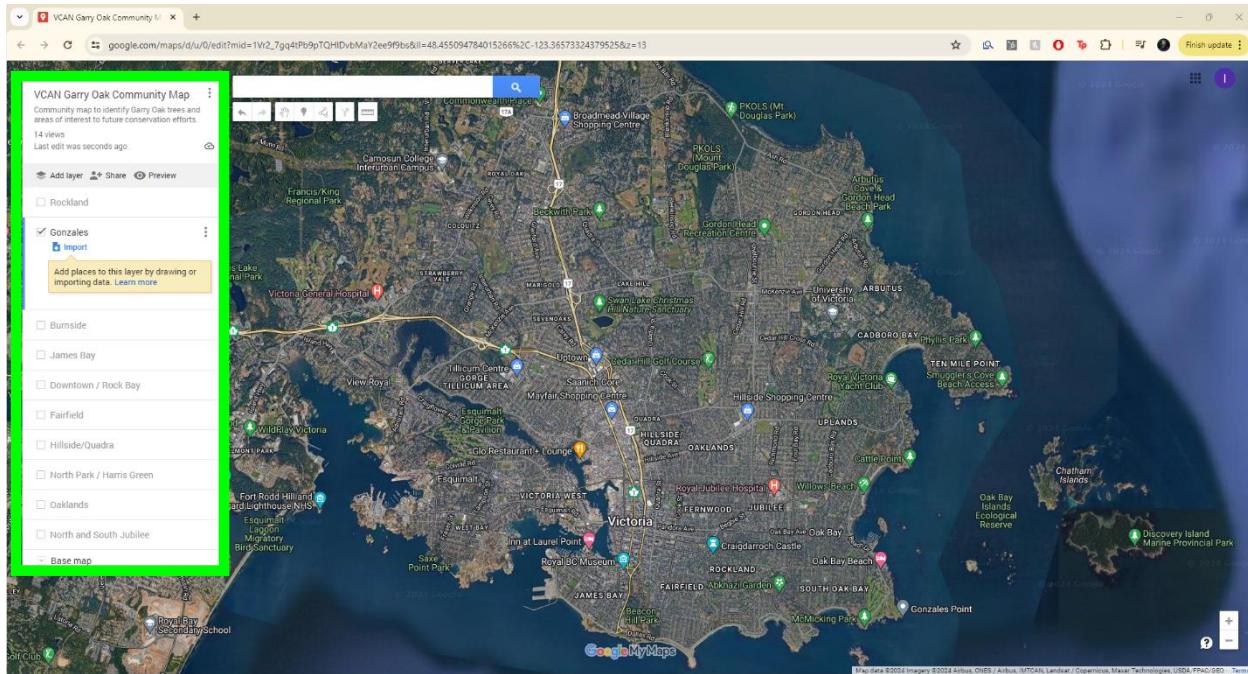


Figure 2: Neighborhood Selected

Step 2: Adding a point

Now we are going to add a point. This point can be an individual Garry Oak tree or a location you want to share information about. To add a point, first select the icon highlighted in **green** in Figure 3 that looks like this . Once selected, you can navigate to any location and click to create a point.

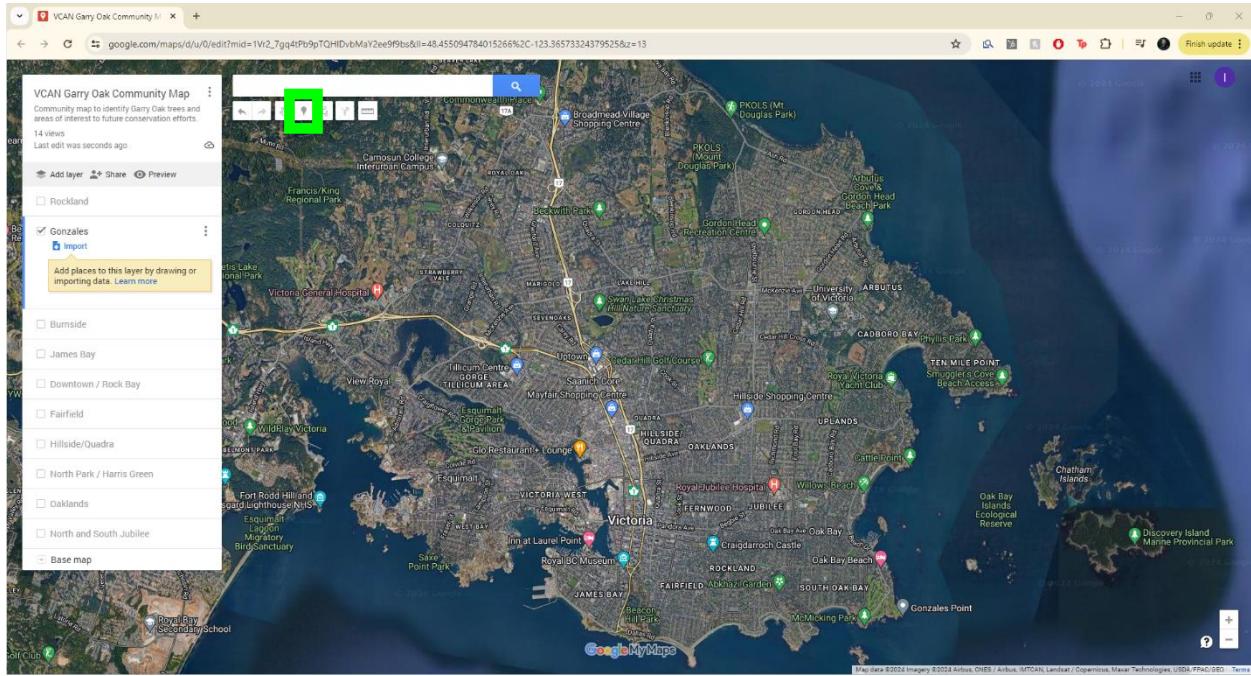


Figure 3: Creating a point

Step 3: Adding point information

Once you have selected a location, you will be prompted to add some information about the location. I chose a Garry oak tree that we visited on our VCAN tour of the Government House grounds. Add a name for the point in the bar highlighted in **blue**. Add information about the location in the box highlighted in **green**. Add as little or as much information as you want. This information can be about the type of tree, the age, the tree's health, if there are invasive species nearby, or anything that can help tell a story about this particular spot. You can also add a photo by clicking the photo icon highlighted in **pink**. Figure 5 shows what the point information looks like after filling out the information box. Click save, and the point is created!

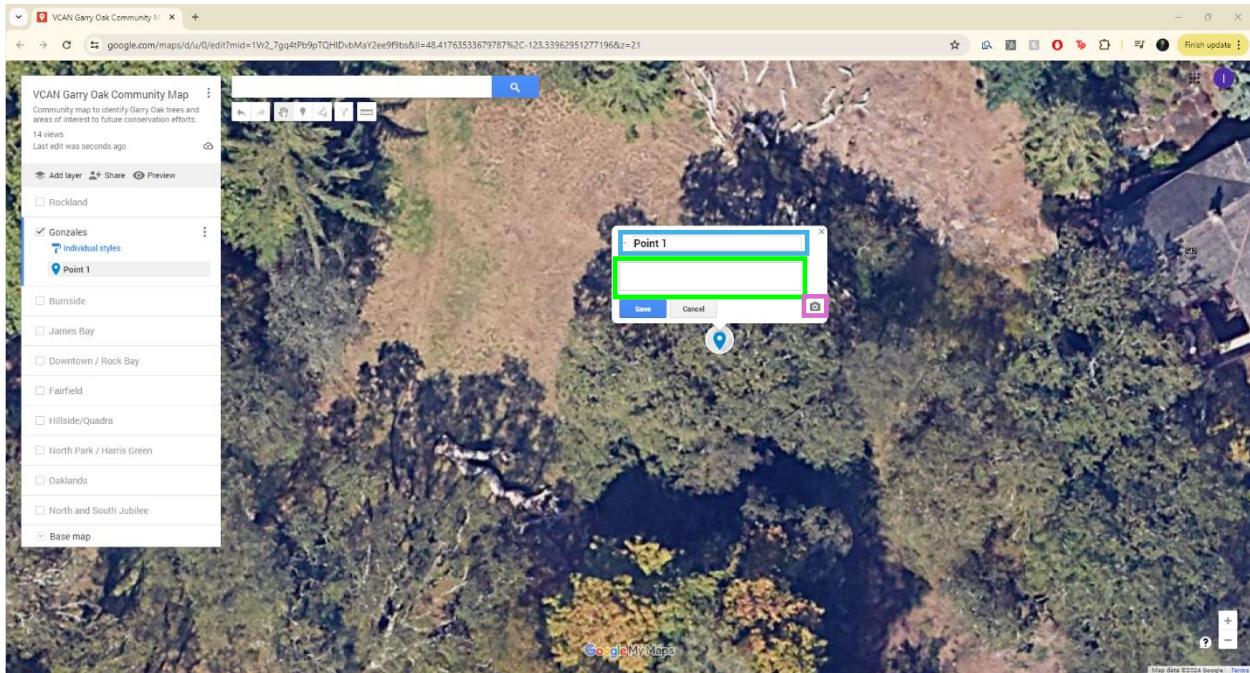


Figure 4: Adding a point location

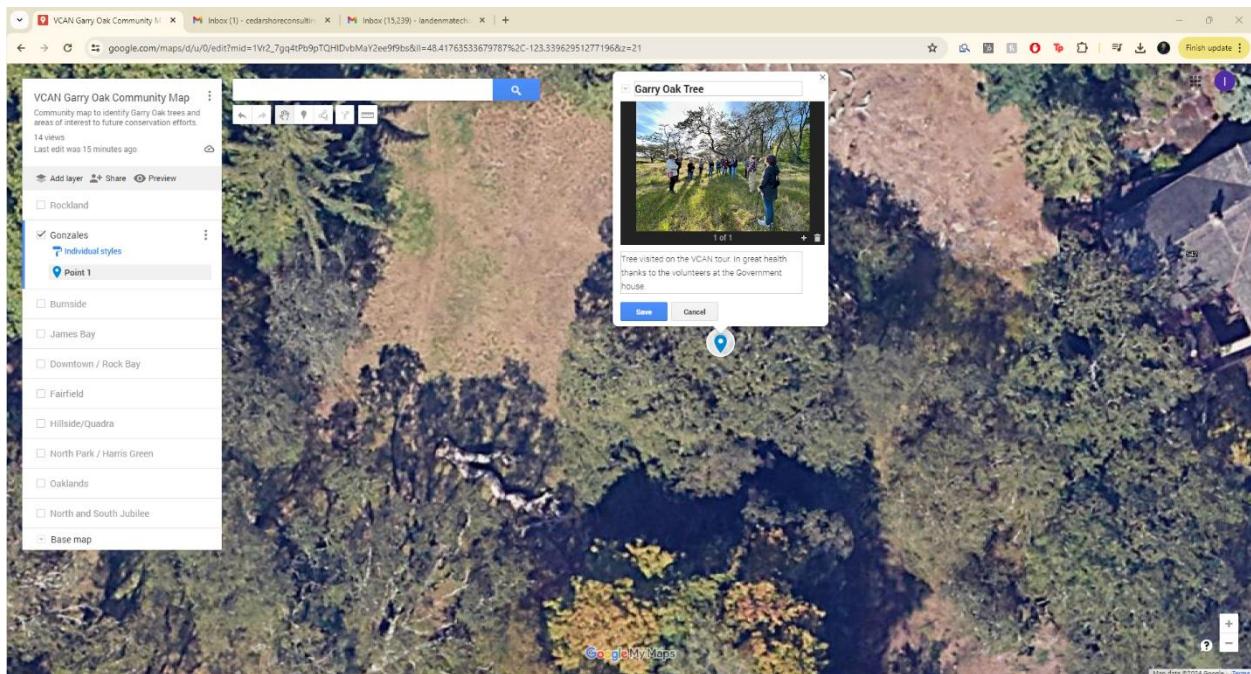


Figure 5: Point location information box

Step 3a: Editing Point

You can change the point's color by selecting the paint bucket icon , edit the point by selecting the pencil icon , add another picture by selecting the camera icon , or delete the point by selecting the trash bin icon . These are in the **green** box highlighted below.

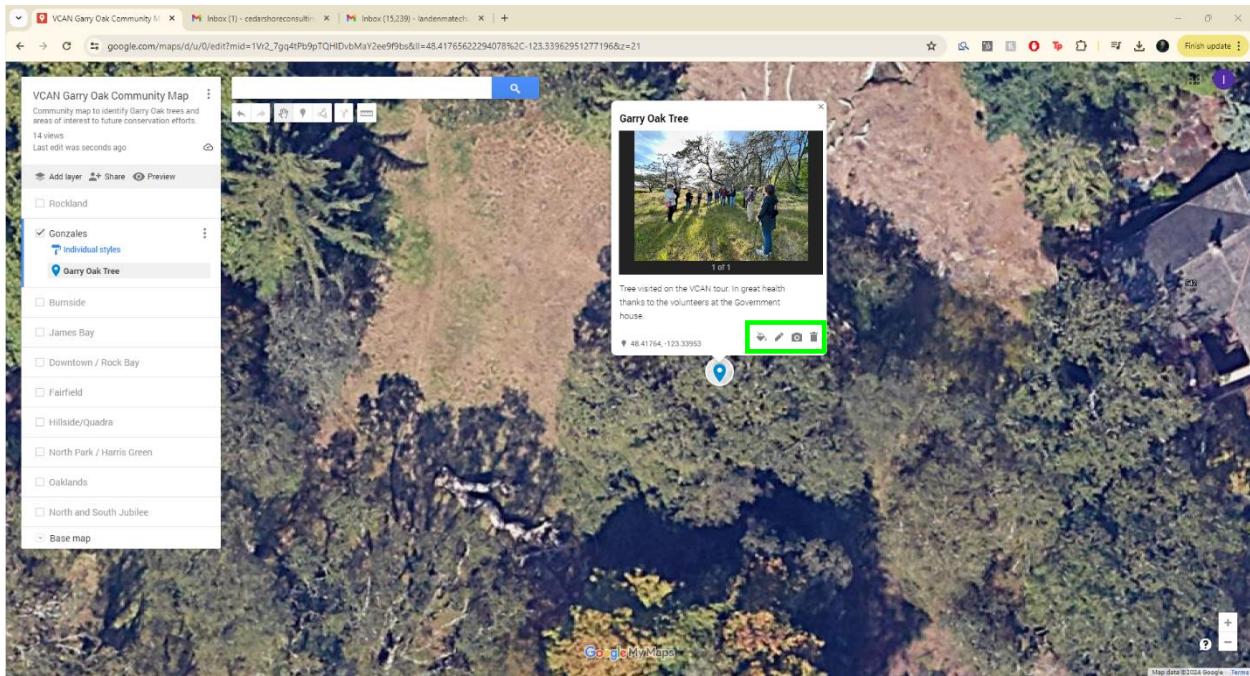


Figure 6: Point editing options

Step 4: Creating a polygon

Now we will create a polygon. This is to select and bring attention to areas too large to be identified as one point. This can be a grouping of Garry Oak trees, an empty lot that could be acquired for a new conservation park, or a potential habitat corridor. This process starts by clicking the Create a Polygon icon highlighted in **green**. Select “Add a line or shape” from the drop-down menu, highlighted in **blue**. Click anywhere to start drawing a polygon; a new point or vertex is created each time you click, as shown in Figure 8. To close the polygon and finish creating the shape, click on the first point highlighted in **red** in Figure 8.

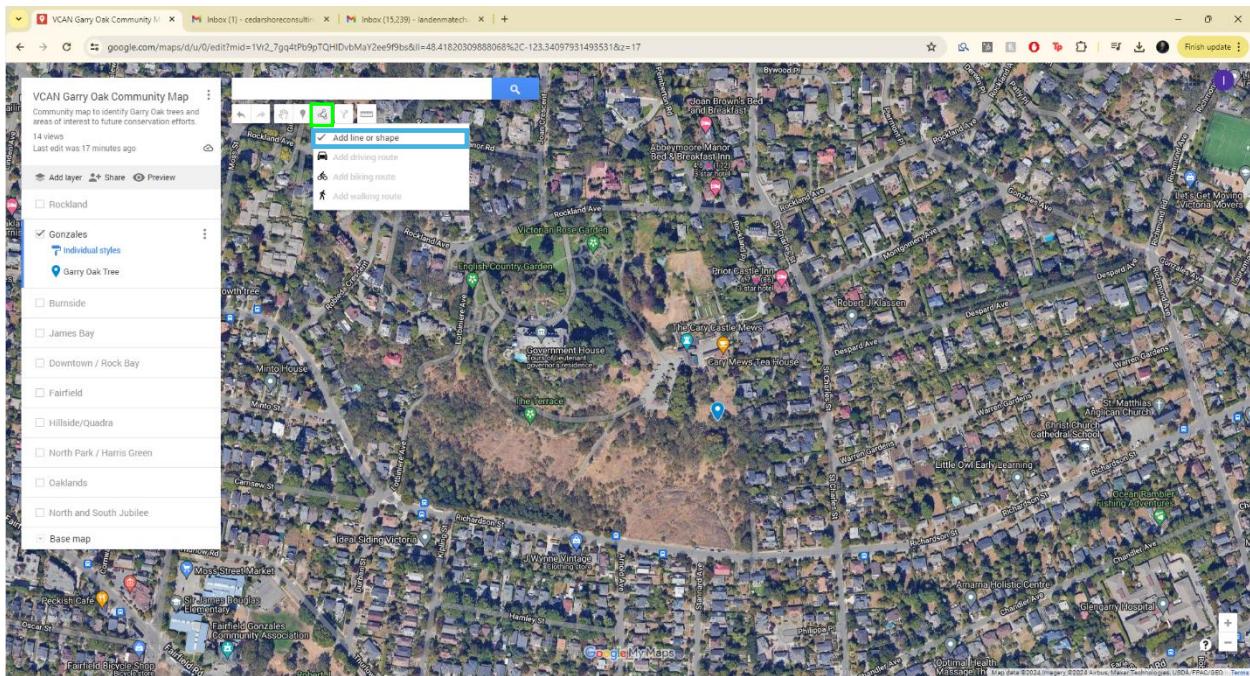


Figure 7: Selecting the "Create a Polygon" option

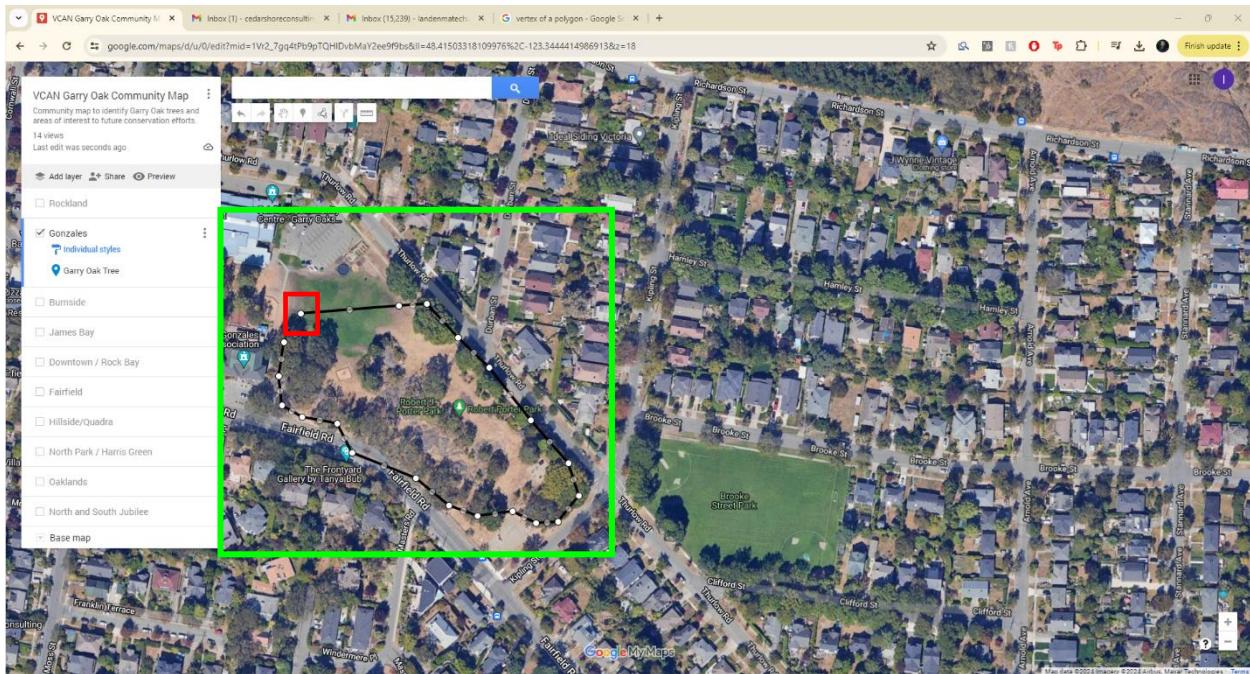


Figure 8: Drawing a polygon

Fill out the information box highlighted in **green** and click save to create the shape.

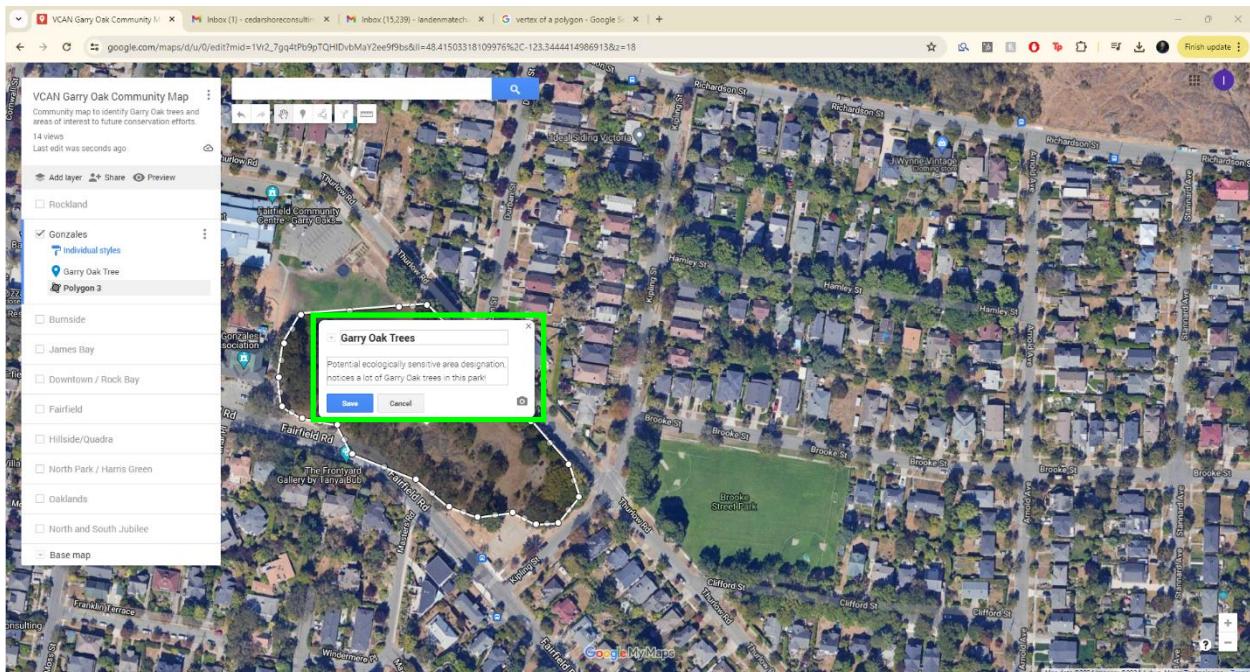


Figure 9: Filling out the polygon information box

Summary

Great! Now we have added both a point and a polygon to the map. These are showcased in Figure 10 below. Add as many features as you want throughout the duration of the project. If you have any questions or need help with any steps, please email landen.matechuk@cedarshoreconsulting.com.

Thank you for your participation and your valuable contribution. We look forward to sharing updates with everyone as the project progresses.

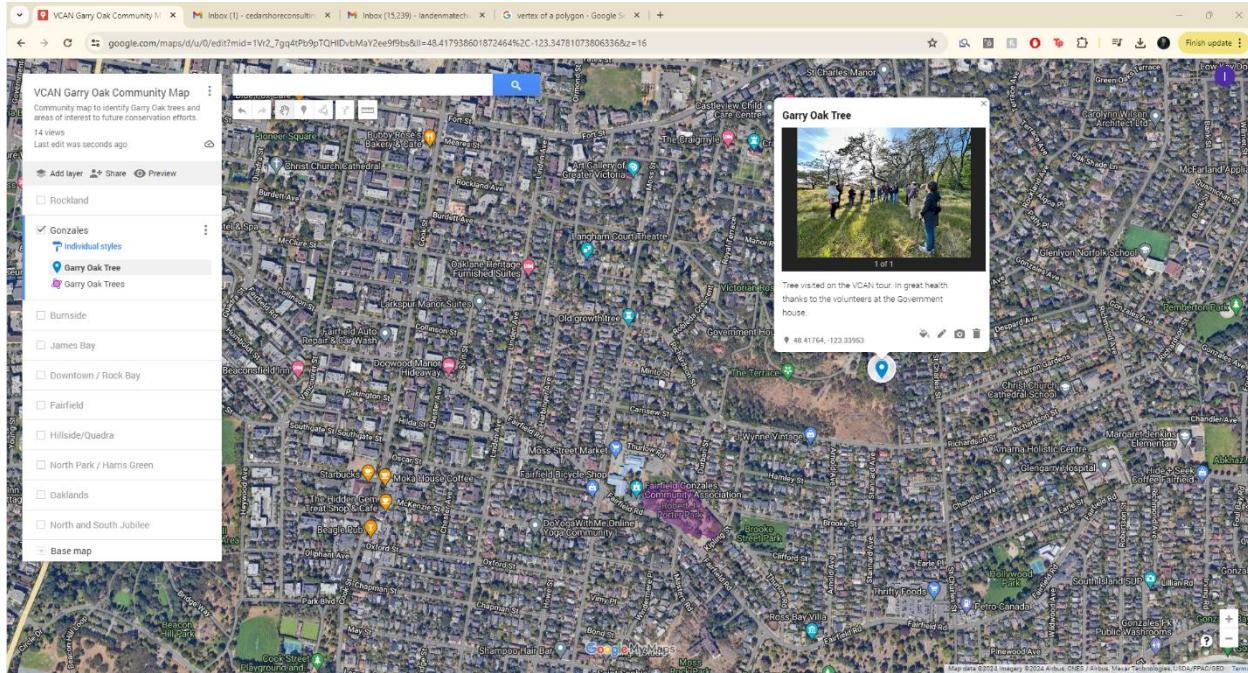


Figure 10: Tutorial features added to the map