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## **BASICS**

### **Question: What is a GIS?**

Answer: [Geographic Information System \(GIS\)](#) is a system that captures, stores, analyzes, manages and presents data with reference to geographic locations. In the simplest terms, GIS is the merging of cartography (map making), statistical analysis (data exploration) and database (data storage) technology.

### **Question: What is a GIS used for?**

Answer: A simple GIS can be used to make maps and to display on screen the location of certain features. The Islands Trust GIS is an advanced system, used daily to support the decision-making process in such areas as community and landuse planning or ecosystem protection and management.

### **Question: What is MapIT?**

Answer: Map Islands Trust (MapIT) is the Islands Trust's public web map. MapIT allows Islanders and the general public to access detailed information from the Islands Trust GIS by using a variety of applications, tools, and digital maps.

### **Question: What are the minimum requirements I need to run MapIT?**

Answer: MapIT requires Adobe Flash and Adobe Reader software. These can be downloaded for free from the Adobe website. MapIT has been tested on both MacOS and Windows platforms, and confirmed to work on Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer and Safari browsers.

Note that you may experience slower loading and response times on older computers, or dial up internet connections. If hardware and internet connection upgrades are not an option please contact [mapit@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:mapit@islandstrust.bc.ca) with your mapping related questions.

### **Question: How often is MapIT updated with new Information?**

Answer: MapIT is updated nightly to reflect the latest updates to the Islands Trust GIS. Whenever there are property boundary, zoning or other related data updates, the data tables, features, and applications within MapIT are updated in the evening using automated procedures.

Note that BC Assessment Authority (BCAA) and Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) data tables are updated on a monthly basis based on a contracted data delivery schedule.

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## **TROUBLE SHOOTING**

### **Question: Why am I having trouble accessing the applications or maps on my computer?**

Answer: At a minimum you will need to have Adobe Flash installed on your computer for MapIT to work, enabling all map viewing functions. In order to enable property and ecosystem reporting/printing you will also require Adobe Reader software.

Internet browser settings can also interfere with viewing the applications or maps. Make sure that your browser settings allow pop ups to display. Some web browsers have more difficulty than others with displaying the map viewer, in which case you may wish to consider using another browser for better results.

If you have both of these software packages installed and have explored your browser settings, and you are still experiencing problems then please contact us at <mailto:mapit@islandstrust.bc.ca> and we will try to assist you.

**Question: Why doesn't anything happen when I click Print?**

Answer: The print tool creates letter-sized PDFs within a new browser window. If you have a pop-up blocker activated in your browser this new window may be blocked. Update the settings within your internet browser to allow new windows to open from MapIT.

**Question: Why can't I access MapIT on my iPhone or Blackberry?**

Answer: MapIT uses Adobe Flash technology extensively. Currently most smartphones and handheld devices, including the iPhone, iPad, and Blackberry, do not support Adobe's Flash technology.

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## **DATA EXPLORATION**

**Question: How do I use the Property or Ecosystem Information tools if I cannot find the property I'm interested in, and do not know the Property ID?**

Answer: Use any one of the Search tools to locate the property of interest. For example, use the Search by Address Tool to find a property using the civic address. Once you can see the property, open the Property or Ecosystem Information tool and click on the property to select and explore the available information.

**Question: How do I find the name of a road, stream, lake or other geographic feature?**

Answer: Using the available navigation tools, zoom in past 1:10,000 and available feature names will appear as labels on the map.

**Question: What do all the symbols mean on the Topographic Map?**

Answer: The Topographic Map is a presentation of the Canadian National Topographic Series (NTS). For a detailed description of map features please refer to [Cartographic Standards and Specifications 1/50 000](#)

**Q. What’s the difference between Sensitive and Terrestrial Ecosystem, and is there a glossary of terms?**

Answer: Please refer to the “details” links available via the SEM and TEM Ecosystem Explorer tools for detailed descriptions of sensitive and terrestrial ecosystems and the attributes used to describe both.

**Q. I’ve located a property with all the features I am looking for. Is there a way to get the address for this property?**

Answer: Using the Property Information Tool, available via the Properties Application, select the property. The first returned attribute for the property is the civic address, as recorded by BC Assessment.

**Q. I am an Islands Trust property owner, and am concerned about public access to my property information. What steps have been taken to ensure my privacy?**

Answer: All information on this site, including but not limited to text, graphs, charts, maps and tables is publicly accessible as described by the Freedom of Information Act. The Act protects personal privacy by restricting the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. No personal information (i.e. property owner name or mailing address) is accessible via the MapIT site.