

GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

BYLAW NO. 131

SCHEDULE 1

Gambier Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 109, cited as “Gambier Associated Islands Official Community Plan, 2009” is amended as follows:

2.1 SCHEDULE A – Policy Document, Part 3 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES, Section 3.12 SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEM POLICIES, is amended as follows:

a) To replace the text of Policy 3.12.5 with the following text:

“3.12.5 The Province of British Columbia’s *Riparian Areas Protection Act* requires that local governments establish regulations to protect riparian areas. This regulation is intended, in part, to protect riparian areas from development so that the areas can provide natural features, functions and conditions that support fish life processes.

Areas where land use and related development may have to be restricted to protect riparian areas include lands falling within Development Permit Area 1: Riparian Areas.”

2.2 SCHEDULE A – Policy Document, Part 6 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS, TEMPORARY USE PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL INFORMATION, Section 6.1 *DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS*, is amended as follows:

a) The following text is inserted prior to Section 6.2 TEMPORARY USE PERMITS:

“Background

Pursuant to Section 919.1(1) of the *Local Government Act*, a community plan may designate areas as development permit areas for the:

- (a) protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity;
- (b) protection of development from hazardous conditions;
- (c) protection of farming;
- (d) revitalization of an area in which commercial use is permitted;
- (e) establishment of objectives for the form and character of intensive residential development;
- (f) establishment of objectives for the form and character of commercial, industrial and multi-dwelling residential development;
- (g) establishment of objectives to promote energy conservation;
- (h) establishment of objectives to promote water conservation;
and,
- (i) establishment of objectives to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

For a property in a development permit area, no construction, structural alteration, or addition to a building or structure may take place prior to a development permit being obtained. In addition, a property in a development permit area may not be subdivided, nor the land altered, prior to a development permit being obtained.

As a condition of designating a development permit area in a community plan it is necessary to briefly describe the feature or site to be designated, state the objective to be achieved through designation and outline the guidelines to be complied within the development permit area. This format is used below to describe the development permit areas in the Gambier Associated Islands Planning Area. These locations are also shown in map form in Schedule E.

Development Permit Area 1: Riparian Areas

This Development Permit Area (DPA) is established, pursuant to Section 919.1(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*, for the protection of the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity.

The Riparian Areas DPA is designated as an area for which development approval information may be required as authorized by Section 920.01 of the *Local Government Act*. Development approval information in the form of a report from a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) may be required.

Terms used in this section that are defined in the *Riparian Areas Regulation, BC Riparian Areas Protection Act (RAR)* are intended to be interpreted in accordance with the definition given in the *Regulation*.

Location

The Riparian Areas Development Permit Area, DP-1, includes all land designated on Schedule E of this plan, and any of the following that provides fish habitat:

- (a) watercourse, whether it usually contains water or not;
- (b) a pond, lake, river, creek or brook; or
- (c) a ditch, spring or wetland that is connected by surface flow to something referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

For a stream that is not located in a ravine, the development permit area is a 30 metre (98.42 feet) strip on both sides of the stream measured from the high water mark;

For a stream located within a ravine that is less than 60 metres (196.8 feet) wide, the development permit area is a strip on both sides of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 30 metres (98.42 feet) beyond the top of the ravine bank;

For a stream located within a ravine that is 60 metres (196.8 feet) wide or greater, the development permit area is a strip on both sides of the stream measured from the high water mark to a point that is 10 metres (32.8 feet) beyond the top of the ravine bank;

For a lake, wetland or other water body, the development permit area is 30 metres (98.42) around the water body measured from the high water mark of the water body;

The designation and delineation of Development Permit Area 1 consists of a digital record stored and maintained in a Geographic Information System (GIS) at the offices of the Islands Trust. The actual location of the streams and water bodies and the actual extent of the Development Permit Area may need to be determined on a site-specific basis by a qualified environmental professional or a surveyor.

Justification

This development permit area contains streams, lakes and wetlands and their associated riparian areas, which have been identified as potential fish habitat. Riparian areas are necessary for stream and watershed health. Our job as stewards of the land is to ensure that these areas continue to function well into the future.

Riparian ecosystems perform a number of valuable services to humans, plants and animals alike. They support a diversity of plants and animals, provide important refuges and migration routes for birds and wildlife, and support fish life processes. Vegetation in riparian areas moderates the volume and rate of water flowing through the watershed and stabilizes stream banks by holding soil in place. Plant root systems enhance the soil's ability to absorb water by making it more porous. This allows water to be stored and released slowly into the watercourse, reducing potential for erosion and flooding. Soils also filter impurities and sediment from runoff water, improving water quality in the stream channel.

Riparian vegetation provides food and shelter for fish. Shade from trees within the riparian area regulates water temperatures within the stream, which is critical for salmon, trout and other fish species that need cool water to survive. Logs and other woody debris fall into streams from the riparian area influencing stream channel morphology, dissipating the stream's natural erosive energy and providing habitat for a diverse range of species. Land use practices, including land clearing, road building, construction of buildings and structures, and location of septic systems in or near riparian areas, can jeopardize these habitats and water quality. Protection of riparian vegetation and watercourses is therefore necessary to protect the natural environment, ecosystems and biological diversity of the Gambier Associated Islands.

It is a policy of the Islands Trust Council that local trust committees shall in their Official Community Plans and regulatory bylaws, address means to prevent further loss or degradation of freshwater bodies or water courses, wetlands or riparian zones and to protect aquatic wildlife.

Furthermore, the Province of British Columbia's *Riparian Areas Protection Act*, requires that local governments establish regulations to protect riparian areas. This designation is intended to protect riparian areas from development so that the areas can provide natural features, functions and conditions that support fish life processes.

Objectives:

The objectives of this development permit area are as follows:

- 6.1.1 To protect the biological diversity and habitat values of riparian and aquatic ecosystems;
- 6.1.2 To protect the natural environment necessary to conserve productive fish habitat, including both streams and the adjacent land and vegetation; and
- 6.1.3 To minimize adverse impacts of land use practices on wildlife habitats and plant habitats in riparian areas.

Development Approval Information

Development Permit Area 1 is designated as an area for which development approval information may be required as authorized by Section 920.01 of the *Local Government Act*. Development approval information in the form of a report from a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) may be required due to the special conditions and objectives described above.

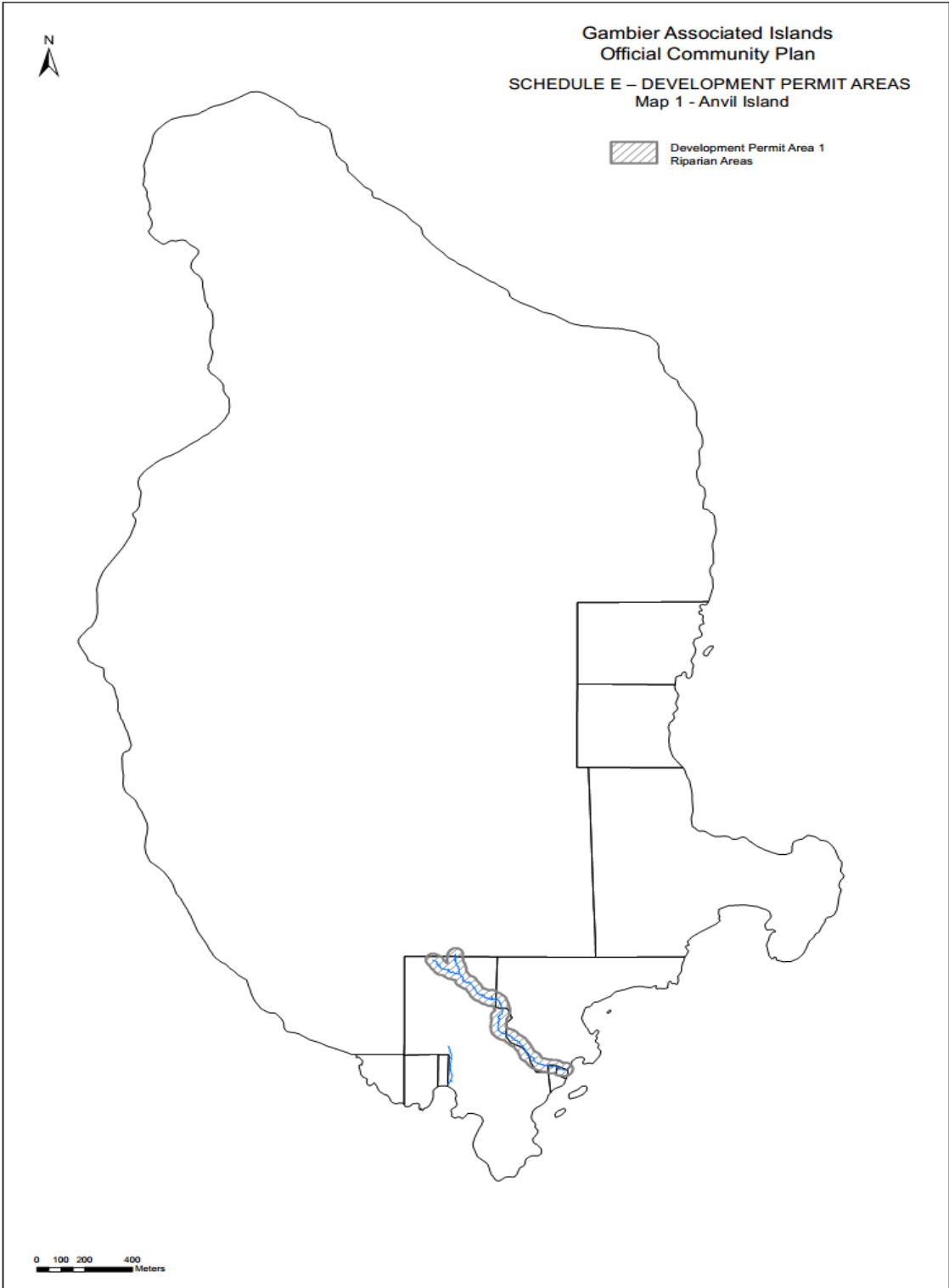
"Information Note: Development Permit Area Guidelines for DP-1 Riparian Areas are in the Gambier Associated Islands Land Use Bylaw."

- 2.3 SCHEDULE E- DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS is added as shown on Plans 1 and 2, which are attached to and form part of this bylaw.

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PLAN NO. 1



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PLAN NO. 2

