

Woodland Ecosystems

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY ON DRY SOILS

What are Woodland Ecosystems?

Woodland ecosystems are dry and open forests dominated by a mix of broadleaf and coniferous tree species.

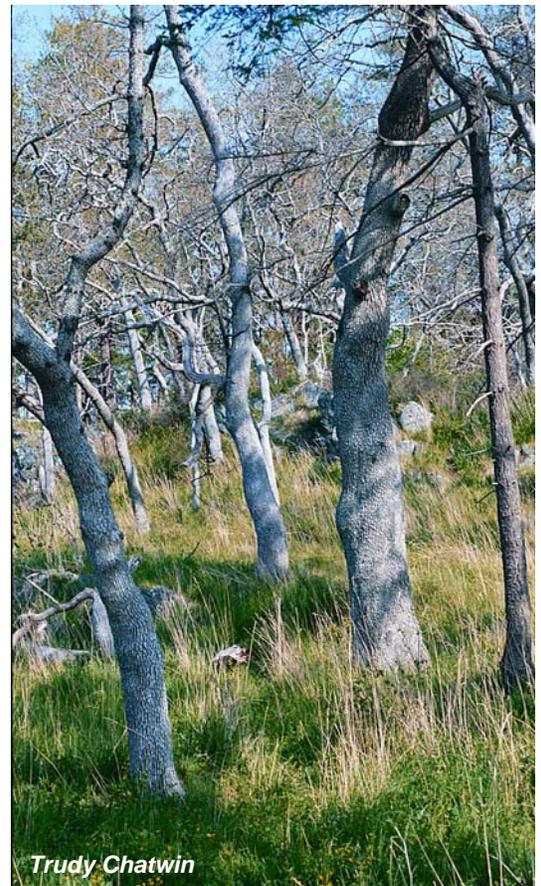
Arbutus, Douglas-fir and Garry oak dominated woodlands are among the most sensitive and biologically diverse woodland ecosystems in the Trust Area.

Where are Woodland Ecosystems located?

Woodland ecosystems are generally restricted to south-facing slopes and ridges with shallow soils and bedrock outcroppings. Woodland ecosystems exist in areas with dry conditions that prevent the development of dense forests.



Woodland Ecosystems make up 7% of Mayne Island.

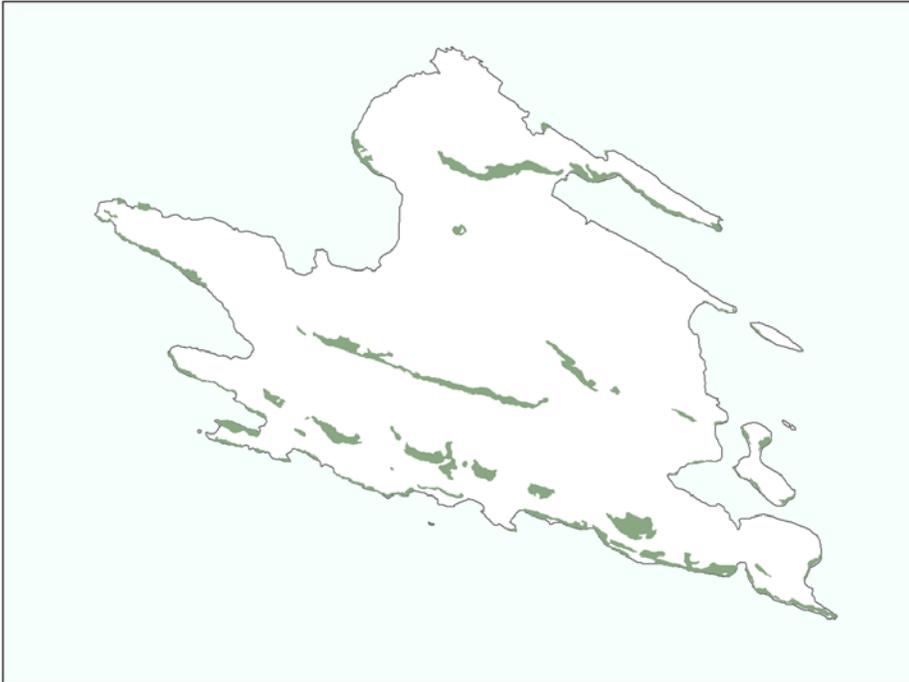


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Why are Woodland Ecosystems important?

Woodland ecosystems provide habitat to a wide variety of plants, insects, reptiles and birds. Garry oak woodlands for example, support the highest plant species diversity of any terrestrial ecosystem in British Columbia. Woodland ecosystems commonly occur with herbaceous and cliff ecosystems, thus enriching the diversity of an entire area and increasing connectivity between these other sensitive ecosystems. Ecologists hypothesize that woodland ecosystems are likely to survive as our climate changes, due to this ecosystem's ability to exist in dry conditions. Retaining woodlands is important for the survival of many species during this climate transition.

Woodland Ecosystems on Mayne Island



How can we protect Woodland Ecosystems?

Woodland ecosystems are fragmented and rare, nationally, provincially and regionally. Because they support a high number of at-risk species, the loss of each woodland ecosystem has devastating effects on the Province's biodiversity and may affect the ability of our area to adapt to climate change.

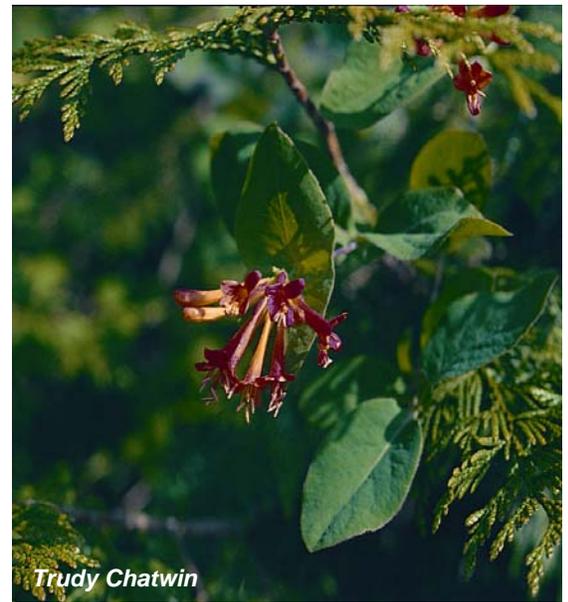
- Limit access and avoid development to prevent vegetation damage
- Actively control invasive species to reduce competition with rare native species
- Prevent livestock grazing to avoid soil compaction and erosion
- Consider re-introducing managed fire to the ecosystem to reduce non-native species



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Associated Species

Animals

Alligator lizards, garter snakes, songbirds, bats, butterflies

Plants

Garry oak, arbutus, Douglas-fir, oceanspray, hairy honeysuckle, false box, purple peavine, white fawn lily, common camas, electrified cat's tail moss

Rare Species

Sharp-tailed snake, Propertius duskywing butterfly, Western Screech Owl, apple moss

For more information

Please visit the Islands Trust website:

www.islandstrust.bc.ca

or call 1-250-405-5151 or 1-800-663-7867 (Enquiry BC)