Help us reach our goal

The success of all Islands Trust Fund acquisitions relies on you. To find out more, participate or contribute, please contact:

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The Islands Trust Fund and Gambier Island Conservancy are partners in this project. To complete the acquisition our goal is to raise at least $30,000 (or less than $300 per hectare) towards the costs of the required Land Act survey and property management plan.

The Gambier Island Conservancy is raising funds from private donors and issuing tax receipts. The Islands Trust Fund is providing staff support, covering expenses and seeking additional funds from Trust Council’s 2007-2008 budget.

The Gambier Island Conservancy and Islands Trust Fund are working together to establish a 107 hectare (264 acres) nature reserve on Mount Artaban.

Join us in ensuring a protected future for this unique part of Gambier Island.
A healthy environment from shoreline to skyline

In addition to being a popular recreational destination, Mount Artaban is an important refuge for nature, a habitat for wildlife, and maintains a healthy environment for people.

The Mount Artaban Nature Reserve is about a quarter of the size of Vancouver’s Stanley Park. When combined with neighbouring parks, the protected area will be a contiguous 525 hectare area — 25% larger than Stanley Park.

A natural refuge

High elevation bluffs emerge from the unlogged forest blanketing the slopes. This landscape is a home to a variety of wildlife and at-risk plant communities. Still standing are a few majestic old-growth trees. A pond is located near the top.

Water intercepted by Mount Artaban feeds aquatic habitats below such as Long Bay Stream, the most productive salmon stream on Gambier Island. Long Bay Wetland is also buffered by Mount Artaban. This ecosystem is vital for the return of cutthroat trout, chum and coho salmon.

Wildlife and water

Black-tailed deer, red squirrels and deer mice abound on the mountain. Bald eagles, turkey vultures and great blue herons are often seen in the skies above. Steller’s jays, rufous hummingbirds, blue grouse, common ravens, winter wrens, woodpeckers and sapsuckers flutter in and out of the forest canopy. Although rare, black bear, cougar and coyote have been sighted.

The forest of Mount Artaban is important for protecting clean drinking water. The Fircom Creek Community Watershed and the Sea Ranch Watershed Reserve are buffered by Mount Artaban, helping to keep the water plentiful and fresh.

Protecting the 107 hectare parcel on Mount Artaban completes the first protected area that extends from Gambier’s shore, up to the peak and back down to a wetland.

Exhilarating Hikes

A hiking trail runs through the proposed nature reserve. From the peak, the trail extends down to Brigade Bay, where connecting trails lead to the Sea Ranch and Camp Artaban. The trail also leads south down the mountain with connections to the Halkett Bay Marine Park, Camp Fircom and nearby subdivisions.