

Freshwater Ecosystems

WATER FOR LIFE

What are Freshwater Ecosystems?

Freshwater ecosystems include lakes and ponds. They generally have areas with little or no floating vegetation and are deeper than two metres. Freshwater ecosystems form complex relationships with wetland ecosystems and the riparian ecosystems found along their shorelines.

Where are Freshwater Ecosystems located?

Freshwater ecosystems are not specific to terrain or elevation and are found in various environments throughout the Trust Area. The water levels of freshwater ecosystems can be influenced by groundwater, precipitation, stream flow and evaporation.



Freshwater Ecosystems make up only 0.08% of Mayne Island.



Why are Freshwater Ecosystems important?

Freshwater ecosystems serve a vital role in the lives of humans and animals as a source of drinking water. They also provide breeding habitat for insects, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. These ecosystems serve as a rich source of nutrients for aquatic and terrestrial inhabitants alike.



Freshwater Ecosystems on Mayne Island



How can we protect Freshwater Ecosystems?

Protecting the quality and quantity of water feeding into freshwater ecosystems means protecting drinking water and habitat for humans and other species.

- Restrict nearby pesticide, fertilizer or manure use to decrease algae blooms
- Create and retain a vegetated buffer around water bodies to prevent erosion and filter run-off
- Restrict recreational, livestock and pet access to limit water contamination and habitat destruction
- Limit human impacts on the watersheds feeding freshwater ecosystems



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Chris Ferris

Associated Species

Animals

Beaver, mallard ducks, ring-necked ducks, chorus frogs (tree frogs), water boatman (insect)

Plants

Floating-leaved pondweed, common duckweed

Rare Species

Painted turtle, red-legged frog

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)