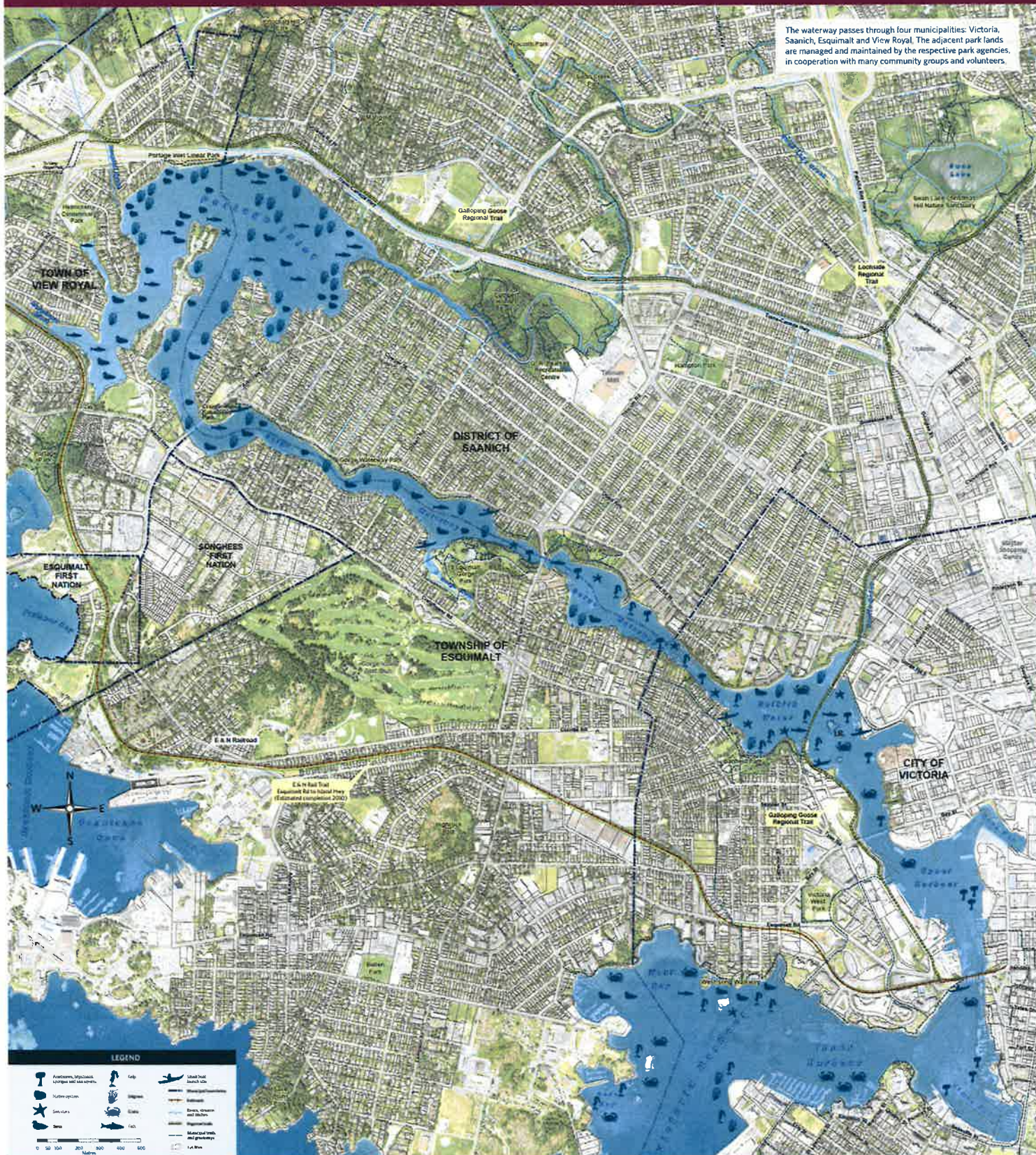


# The Gorge and Portage Inlet



The **Gorge Waterway** is a special place for **people and wildlife**.



Coho Salmon

For six kilometres this tidal inlet winds through industrial, recreational and residential areas providing a corridor for birds, river otters, seals and many

other wildlife that live on, in and near the water. You'll find creeks, urban forests, tidal marshes, mudflats, estuaries and marine ecosystems along the Gorge, all providing important habitat for plants and animals.

The waterway is also part of the Federally designated Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary.



American Wigeon  
Image courtesy of Maria O'Shaughnessy

This waterway has seen many changes since its formation after the last ice age. Once a food-gathering place for First Nations people, it became a popular recreation destination after the establishment of Fort Victoria in 1843. For several decades raw sewage from surrounding areas was dumped directly into the waterway, making it unsafe for swimming. In recent years strong public interest has resulted in community and government efforts to restore and revitalize this beautiful and unique waterway. The Gorge is once again a popular recreation site for boating and fishing, and the water is often safe for swimming.



Gorge Regatta 1887  
Image © 2005 courtesy of Royal BC Museum, BC Archives



www.gorgewaterway.ca

