

COBI CONNECTS



COUNCIL MESSAGE CITY SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT FOR SHORELINE REVIEW



Joe Deets, North Ward

It was nearly a year ago that the City issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So much has happened since then, with our community rocked by multiple challenges. And yet, Islanders have demonstrated resilience in remarkable ways. One that stands out is the involvement of hundreds of us in emergency operations.

The City made the decision years ago to invest in resilience, and it has paid off. Most recently, we have partnered with the Bainbridge Island Fire Department and Bainbridge Prepares to coordinate with Bainbridge Island Community Pharmacy on COVID-19 vaccine distribution. While we have a long way to go, we are on the right path. This is thanks to years of collaborative organizing and the many Island volunteers who have stepped up to support these efforts.

Stay tuned!

Bainbridge Island is conducting a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and is seeking community input for proposed improvements through online surveys and a short-term focus group. The SMP includes our community's goals, policies, regulations and programs regarding the use, development, conservation and restoration of our shorelines.

Through its periodic review, which the state's Shoreline Management Act requires every eight years, the City intends to update the SMP to be consistent with changes in state law and City codes; improve the clarity and implementation of the SMP; begin management of future **flood risk from sea level rise**, which is a priority of the Climate Action Plan; update how **aquaculture** is managed; and make possible updates to aquatic shoreline designation boundaries and procedures. The periodic review is expected to result in amendments to the SMP but is not a comprehensive update like the process completed in 2014.

The focus group volunteers will participate in up to three meetings to provide early policy input on aquaculture and future flood risk from sea level rise and feedback on other SMP improvements. Learn more about the commitment and how to apply at bainbridgewa.gov/184.

Staff will use input from the focus group and surveys to finalize a proposed amendment. Once the Council endorses a draft, there will be more opportunities for input during a joint public hearing and 30-day public comment period. Community input will be considered when the Planning Commission, City Council and the Washington State Department of Ecology review the draft. The final adoption requires approval by the City Council and Washington State Department of Ecology.



We've created an **online engagement site** to share and collaborate with you about the SMP periodic review. Use **Engage Bainbridge** at bainbridgewa.gov/184 to:

-  **Learn** about the project and key dates.
-  **Complete surveys** by March 26 on aquaculture, future flood risk from sea level rise and SMP improvements.
-  **Apply** to participate in a focus group.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The City of Bainbridge Island, in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Fire Department and Bainbridge Prepares, is coordinating with Bainbridge Island Community Pharmacy on COVID-19 vaccine distribution. When we receive a supply of vaccines, our team sends a Nixle alert to let eligible people know that appointments are available and the location. Sign up for Nixle by texting 98110 to 888777 or at nixle.com.

We expect vaccine availability to increase in the coming weeks as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted authorization for the distribution of a third COVID-19 vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

The Senior Community Center and Island Volunteer Caregivers can help make an appointment for vaccine-eligible islanders who do not have internet, are not able to use an online registration form, or have other barriers to getting vaccinated. Please contact the Senior Center at 206-842-1616 or Island Volunteer Caregivers at 206-842-4441 for more information.



LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/COVID19

LAND USE REGULATIONS

A land use subcommittee was formed in June 2020 to address affordable housing and land use code revisions. The subcommittee, a joint effort of the City Council and Planning Commission, has since worked to clarify an approach for affordable housing initiatives and to prioritize and develop a process for land use code revisions. In October, the committee presented its list of recommended code changes to the Council. In response, the Planning Commission recently proposed two new ordinances to implement the code changes, one already approved by the Council and one still under consideration.

Ordinance 2021-03 (previously 2020-40)

On March 23, the Council will consider a proposed ordinance related to what is being referred to as Triage Phase 1 code changes. In summary, the proposed changes:

- Prohibit new hotels in the Central Core, Gateway and Ferry Terminal Districts of the Mixed-Use Town Center. Hotels are currently allowed as “conditional uses” in these districts. Under this proposed ordinance, hotels would still be allowed in the High School Road 1 and 2 zoning districts.
- Clarify that the Planning Director and Hearing Examiner should give substantial weight to the Planning Commission recommendations on land use permits, including recommendations of denial.

Ordinance 2021-11

The City Council approved Ordinance 2021-11 at a Feb. 11 special meeting. The ordinance increases the duration of required affordability for designated affordable housing units from 30 years to 50 years for rentals and to 99 years for home ownership.

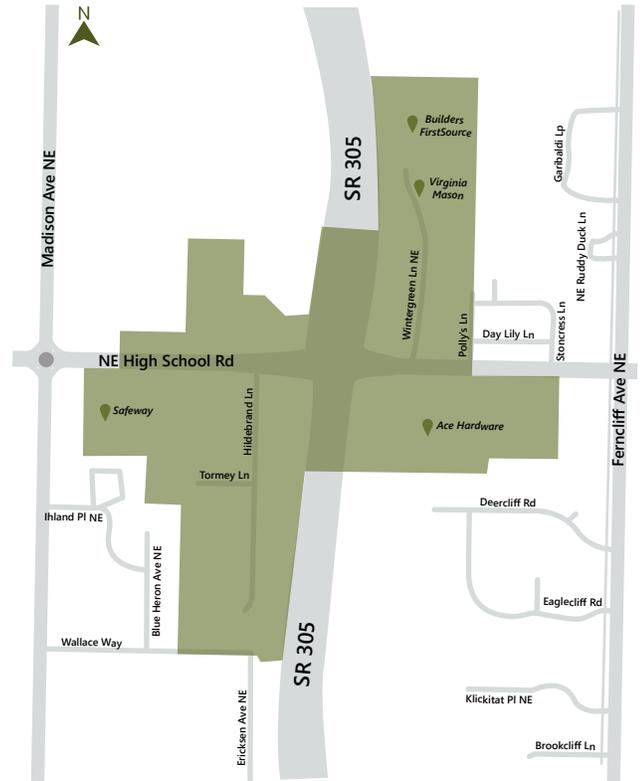
Previously, City regulations only required the first sale of a designated affordable home to an income-qualified household. Subsequently, the home could be sold at market rate. The City’s Comprehensive Plan supports the increase of affordability for rental units to 50 years, and the 2018 Affordable Housing Task Force report recommended permanent affordability for designated affordable housing units.

Next Steps

On Feb. 16, the Council created a new Joint Land Use Subcommittee to replace the previous one to identify inconsistencies and recommend areas for further clarification in the Municipal Code, including Title 16 (environment), Title 17 (subdivisions and boundary line adjustments) and Title 18 (zoning). The analysis will review the Municipal Code’s internal consistency as well as consistency related to the City’s design guidelines (“Design for Bainbridge”).

The joint subcommittee will be comprised of two members each from the City Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Board, including Councilmember Christy Carr and Deputy Mayor Kirsten Hytopoulos. The joint subcommittee is planning to provide a set of recommendations to the Council for its consideration and approval on a quarterly basis.

The Council also created an Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Hytopoulos, Carr and Councilmember Leslie Schneider. The purpose of the ad hoc committee is to recommend to the full Council next steps for a Housing Action Plan or other approach for affordable housing initiatives.



Under Ordinance 2021-03, new hotels would only be allowed in the High School Road 1 and 2 zoning districts. Learn more about zoning districts: bainbridgewa.gov/196

How do I find an ordinance?

Visit bainbridgewa.gov/163

Select “**Find City Documents**”

Select “**Ordinances**” and search by year

RADAR FEEDBACK SIGNS WILL ADDRESS SPEED CONCERNS



Residents concerned about traffic issues will soon see permanent radar feedback signs installed at some locations across the island that have reported higher speeds and a concentrated level of pedestrians and cyclists.

The signs will be installed at Fletcher Bay Road, Miller Road, Sportsman Club Road, Valley Road, Point White Drive and Manitou Beach Drive to help slow traffic. These locations were selected by the Council in 2019 from a list of locations that have historically received significant feedback from residents about driver speeds. The project was delayed due to COVID-19 and staff’s work to address community concerns regarding sign placement. The signs are expected to be installed at the end of March.

The City Council will begin discussion March 9 on the decision-making process for the next round of traffic-calming and safety projects, which will likely include an evaluation of options for Grow Avenue based on the Council’s previous direction. Staff will also present to the Council other options, including a request for funding a traffic-calming policy and project evaluation tool.

TINY HOUSES NOW ALLOWED AS PERMITTED USE

A tiny house without wheels may now be built in your backyard. The City Council adopted an amendment to the City's Municipal Code to allow tiny houses without wheels as a permitted use on Bainbridge Island.

The amendment was part of a larger state effort on building code updates. Every three years, the International Code Council (ICC) publishes new I-Codes to be adopted in many state and local jurisdictions. The 2018 I-Codes were supposed to be adopted in July 2020, but the action was postponed to Feb. 1, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "The I-Codes are used to ensure safe, affordable, and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide.

The new Washington state codes include a specific section, Appendix Q, with a focus on tiny house construction and how tiny houses—dwelling units that are 400 square feet or less in floor area—are to be regulated.

The state legislation allowed the City to amend its building code to allow tiny houses as primary or accessory dwelling units with or without wheels. The City of Bainbridge Island's zoning code considers that tiny homes on wheels are vehicles and so they are not allowed as dwelling units.

A permit is required to build a tiny home without wheels and will be reviewed the same way that regular size homes are. Tiny homes can be built in districts zoned for single-family residential.



Kelsey Lynch

Community Health Navigator

COMMUNITY HEALTH NAVIGATOR JOINS POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Bainbridge Island Police Department hired Kelsey Lynch in January to serve as the community's first full-time community health navigator. The role is intended to support a more integrated approach between law enforcement and social services.

Lynch is not new to police departments or the BIPD. She previously worked part-time for BIPD and the Poulsbo Police Department connecting people to treatment and resources. The new full-time position was added to the City's latest biennial budget.



COBI Connects asked Lynch about her new position:

What do your typical job duties include? Most of my work is done post law enforcement interaction. If an officer has contact with someone they believe could benefit from treatment or social services, I work with the individual and/or the family to determine the needs, available services and barriers. I help individuals set up appointments, understand what agencies accept their health insurance and fill out paperwork for different benefits. Not everyone is open to the idea of treatment, so I try to find ways to provide other types of support, with the hope that eventually I will be able to help people access treatment services.

What experience do you bring to the role? I graduated from Washington State University with two bachelor's degrees in psychology and general biology. I joined the Peace Corps as an education volunteer and spent the next two years living in rural South Africa where I taught math and sex education. After returning to the states, I earned my master's degree in clinical social work at the University of Denver. I then worked full-time in a court-ordered adolescent substance abuse program in Denver.

What attracted you to working with police departments? Working in the program in Denver, I spent a significant amount of time meeting with clients at juvenile detention centers, going to court with them and advocating for them with their probation officers. I often wished that I could speak with the officers who were engaging with my clients in the community because I felt that I had valuable information that would help them. However, there was no direct line of communication between our program and local law enforcement.

Will you be participating in any capacity in the schools or with youth? I work very closely with Bainbridge High School (BHS) and receive a significant number of youth referrals. It has been a great partnership because we are able to work with the youth and their families using a team approach. I also hope to build my capacity with the middle and elementary schools and to work closely with some of the youth-specific providers, such as Bainbridge Youth Services, to address trends that we are seeing in our community.

What do you hope to accomplish in your new role? I see this as an opportunity to help bridge the gap between the mental health field and law enforcement. There is so much room for the two fields to work together, but it's a new concept that requires the ability to communicate in two very different environments. My role allows me to advocate for the individual by helping both officers and behavioral health agencies better understand each other's roles, strengths and limitations.

Any final thoughts? I feel very fortunate to live and work in a community that has invested in this type of program. Co-response programs are starting to pop up across the nation, but the BIPD has been doing this for over three years already. I am very proud to be working for a department that is so proactive in its approach to meeting the community's behavioral health needs.



LUNCH WITH THE CHIEF

Police Chief Joe Clark will host a **virtual quarterly briefing** Tuesday, March 23, from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Community Health Navigator Kelsey Lynch will join the discussion to share more about her role and answer your questions. We hope you'll join us!

LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/134

STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT



The City of Bainbridge Island operates under the council-manager form of government. The seven-member City Council serves as the legislative branch of the City. The Council is responsible for setting policy by adopting a Comprehensive Plan, enacting ordinances and establishing budgetary (taxing and spending) policies. The Council adopts the annual budget and determines services the City provides and the funding levels for those services.

The Council also appoints people to its City advisory boards and commissions, which advise Council on specific policies or issues for future Council action. Councilmembers serve as liaisons to the City advisory groups to act as a resource to the committee and share information with the full Council. Councilmembers also serve on regional boards on topics that cover everything from population growth and transportation to affordable housing and health.

The City Council appoints a City Manager who provides policy advice, directs the daily operations of City government, handles personnel functions and is responsible for preparing the City budget.

Bainbridge Island originally operated under a mayor-council form of government. The form of government was changed following a May 19, 2009, vote in which a majority of islanders expressed a preference for the council-manager form of government.

Please see the chart below to learn more about the function of each City department.



The Municipal Judge is appointed by the City Manager, subject to confirmation by the City Council, for a four-year term.

BLAIR KING SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR CITY MANAGER POSITION

At the time of publication, the City Council was working with its consultant, Ron Holifield of Strategic Government Resources (SGR), to move forward with contract negotiations for City Manager finalist Blair King.

King has served as City Manager of Coronado, California, since 2010 and has 36 years of local government experience, which include 25 years as a City Manager at cities throughout California. King holds a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Fresno.



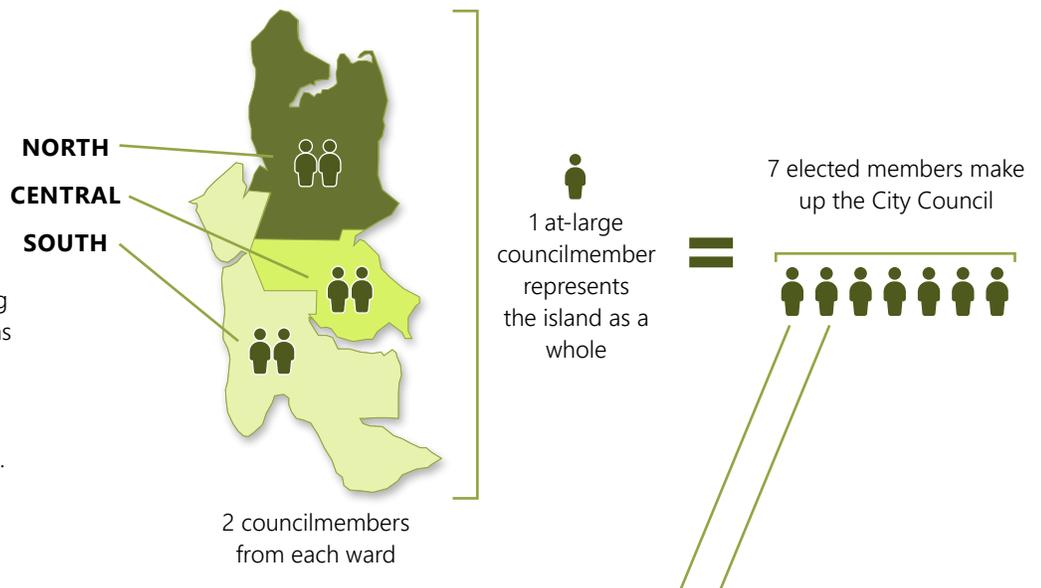
LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/1250

CITY COUNCIL

Bainbridge Island is divided into three wards: north, central and south. Each ward is required to be in proportion to the population and all are to be as nearly equal in population as possible in accordance with state law.

In 2002, the City Council held a public hearing on Ordinance No. 2002-25 to discuss revisions of the ward system following a decennial census. The Council retained the three-ward system but revised the boundaries of the wards and established one "at-large" position.

Kitsap County periodically updates the ward boundaries to reflect changes in population.



WAYS TO WATCH CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS



Zoom



City website livestream (visit the Agendas & Minutes page at bainbridgewa.gov/1101 and then click on "In Progress" when the meeting starts)



BKAT (Channel 12 on Comcast & Channel 3 on WAVE)

MAYOR

Under the council-manager form of government, the members of the City Council choose a chair among themselves to serve a two-year term. The chair has the title of Mayor and presides at Council business meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. He or she also continues to have all the rights, privileges and immunities of a member of the Council. The mayor is recognized as the head of the City for ceremonial purposes.

The Mayor has no regular administrative duties but in time of public danger or emergency, if so authorized by ordinance, will take command of the police, maintain law and enforce order.

DEPUTY MAYOR

The City Council also selects a deputy mayor among themselves to serve a six-month term. The Deputy Mayor serves as the chair of the study sessions on the first and third Tuesdays.

LEARN MORE: bainbridgewa.gov/217

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE

The Ethics Board, which reviews complaints alleging violations of the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, is seeking two volunteers to complete three-year terms expiring in June 2022.

The board meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Deadline to apply: 4 p.m. Friday, March 19.

Learn more and how to apply at

bainbridgewa.gov/231

The City has numerous other committees that advise Council on topics that range from climate change and design review to utility-related policies. Recruitment for other advisory groups is coming soon.



ELECTION OVERVIEW

4 seats on the Council are up for election in 2021.

Councilmembers in each ward are elected in staggered years for four-year terms to increase the likelihood of multiple candidates.

Who can run for City Council?

Candidates must be residents of Bainbridge Island for at least one year preceding the election; must reside in their ward at the time of filing; and must be registered to vote.

What positions can I vote for?

- Voters in the **primary election** vote for the position in their ward and the at-large position.
- Voters in the **general election** vote for all positions.

2021 Dates & Deadlines



First day to file a declaration of candidacy



Last day to file a declaration of candidacy



Primary Election



General Election

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE



Build cross-island trails for walking and biking. Slow traffic along Lynwood Center Road. Create an island shuttle. These are some projects and programs the City's Sustainable Transportation Plan (STP) project team and the Sustainable Transportation Task Force have identified as potential investments to fill gaps in our mobility system. The team is now evaluating these project ideas and programs as part of the effort to create a plan establishing a new vision for how we travel safely around the island and reduce our carbon footprint.

In March and April, the team will assemble scored projects and programs into scenarios that illustrate tradeoffs and mobility capabilities. The scoring, which will include geographic criteria (e.g., those that can be mapped) and qualitative criteria (e.g., those that require judgement), will determine how well projects and programs align with plan goals and objectives. This part of the project is like baking a cake: The projects and programs are the ingredients, and they'll be combined in different quantities to see which mixture produces the best results.

The key ingredients for this project were developed through **input** received from the community to identify the vision and goals and inform the **gap analysis**:

- » The **input** was gathered through an online open house, responses to the islandwide mailing (Big Idea cards), emails to the project manager and discussions with the Sustainable Transportation Task Force.
- » The **gap analysis**, completed in fall 2020, looked at where there are unmet needs and opportunities for improvement in our transportation system and identified three key themes:
 1. The island lacks an all-ages and all-abilities biking network.
 2. The existing transit network serves the commuting population to the ferry well but does not offer many mobility options among other island destinations.
 3. The island lacks safe and comfortable connections among schools, parks, businesses and other frequently visited areas.

As a next step, the project team will share scenarios, or packages of potential investments, with the community to gather feedback. This feedback will be used to shape the Sustainable Transportation Plan's long-term scenario and near-term action plan. The project team will need your help in May to review the scenarios and determine which one or which parts do the most to achieve the community's Sustainable Transportation Plan goals.

GOALS

 **Climate Action and Resilience:** Address the climate crisis to create a more resilient Bainbridge Island.

 **Natural Systems and Rural Character:** Preserve the health of Bainbridge Island's natural systems and honor its rural character.

 **Safety and Comfort:** Create transportation networks that protect and prioritize the most vulnerable travelers.

 **Equity and Accessibility:** Eliminate disproportionate burden in our mobility system, focusing on younger and older people, people of color, low-income people and women.

 **Connected and Convenient:** Develop an integrated mobility system that connects destinations with sustainable travel options.

 **Implementation and Funding:** Expand available resources to advance community priorities and complete networks.

STAY INFORMED



The project team will present at the March 16 City Council study session its plan for fulfilling the island's transportation vision. **Gil Penalosa**, a world-class expert in sustainable transportation, will

join the discussion to help create a shared vision. Penalosa is the founder of 8 80 Cities, a Canadian-based nonprofit grounded on the idea that everything we do in public spaces should be great for an 8 year old and an 80 year old. He advises decision makers and communities on how to create vibrant cities and healthy communities for everyone regardless of age, gender and social, economic or ethnic background.



The joint meeting of the Sustainable Transportation Task Force and the Technical Advisory Team happens April 23 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom.

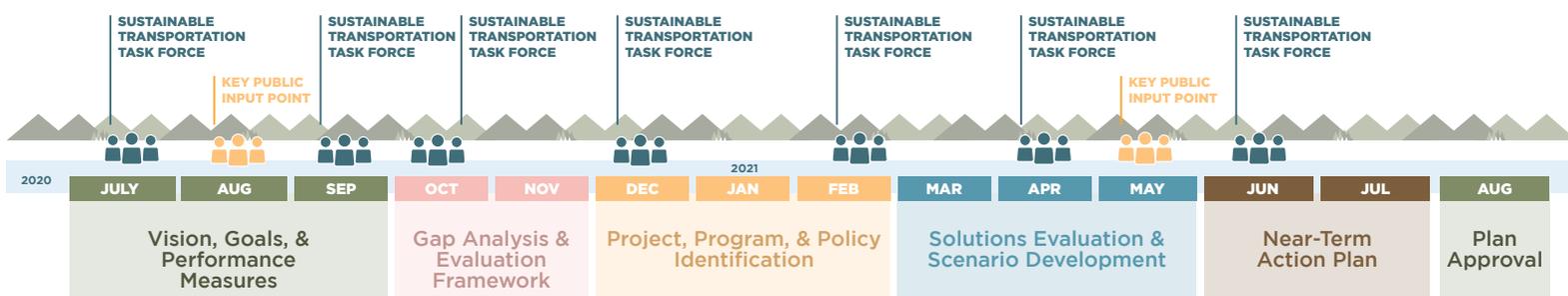
Project updates are available at

bainbridgewa.gov/1155

Have questions?

Contact project manager Mark Epstein at mepstein@bainbridgewa.gov

TIMELINE



STAFF SPOTLIGHT MARK EPSTEIN



Mark Epstein
Engineering Project Manager

JOB DUTIES

- » **Develop** City construction project budgets.
- » **Engage** with the community about project design and features.
- » **Prepare** contracts for professional services and contractors.
- » **Manage** projects through design, permitting and construction.

FUN FACTS



He is an avid cyclist & worked as a bicycle mechanic (his second-favorite job) at a boutique shop in San Francisco.



He earned a natural resources degree from the University of Michigan and a landscape architecture degree from the University of Washington.

PRAISE

"Sharing a cubicle with Mark before the pandemic always made me feel like I had really made it in the sense that right across the table was a professional, experienced landscape architect who would fly to Chicago every year to teach a course on designing healing gardens."

—*Christian Berg, COBI Water Resources Technician*

"Over the years, Mark has been chosen to lead projects with significant public interest and involvement because of his demonstrated ability to achieve consensus from groups with diverse opinions and interests."

—*Barry Loveless, COBI Project Manager*

Mark Epstein jokes that his job is to "translate engineering to normal people." More seriously, he describes it as "providing public places that make Bainbridge Island a great place to live, work and visit." For the past six and a half years he has overseen City engineering projects, a job that works in two directions: Epstein elicits engineering project ideas *from* the community, helps transform them into reality and then communicates *to* the public about those projects.

Epstein says that he's "been lucky to manage the design and construction of projects that provide lovely public places to recreate, celebrate and reconnect with nature." Those projects have included the Waterfront Park renovation, City Dock replacement and first leg of the Sound to Olympics Trail (which runs along SR 305 from Winslow Way to High School Road). Some of his current projects are the Sustainable Transportation Plan, renovations at the Senior Center, developing signage requested by the Race Equity Advisory Committee, getting public art installed on City streets and collaborating with the Park District on planning and developing trails on City property.

Working for the City is Epstein's first job in the public sector and his favorite in his professional career. Why does he like it so much? Partly because the work is "varied, interesting and rewarding." He describes his colleagues as "exceedingly conscientious, professional, intelligent and fun." But maybe the most important reason is that, Epstein says, "This community is blessed with incredible natural resources and knowledgeable people who care. I've been fortunate to have opportunities to collaborate with creative engineers and architects and skilled contractors. I also really enjoy working with community and agency partners to streamline projects and get stuff built."

Although Epstein finds the work enjoyable, it's not easy. One of the most challenging projects of his career was the Waterfront Park renovation, which required upgrades to very old infrastructure, topographical alteration to create accessible pathways, cleaning and demolishing a 50-year-old massive concrete sewage tank, preserving native trees and nearby indigenous archaeological artifacts and dealing with record rainfall. The project earned recognition in 2018 from the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association as one of the state's top gathering spaces that adds value to the community.



Mark designed the concrete boardwalk and bench on Manitou Beach Drive.

These days, Epstein is steeped in work on the Sustainable Transportation Plan, a massive undertaking designed to ensure safe, accessible and sustainable transportation around the island. He asks that people "follow and get involved with the Sustainable Transportation Plan" and let him know "what would allow you to reduce your single-occupancy car trips by at least 45%."

Epstein wants people to understand that public works projects "develop in an atmosphere of constraints. Every project is shaped by budget, site conditions, schedules, funding sources, staff resources, permitting agencies, regulations and community input. Beauty and functionality come from the process."

Epstein, who hails from Evanston, Illinois, moved to Bainbridge in the summer of 2000 where he raised his two kids. You might see him on his bike in Lynwood, kayaking around Eagle Harbor, walking in the Grand Forest or eating Mora ice cream in Waterfront Park.

Mark's most commonly asked question from the community:

How much will it cost?

This is the question Mark asks the most as well, since his primary responsibility is to utilize community funds appropriately and efficiently.

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CITY OF
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ISLAND

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98110

*****ECRWSS*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER

SAVE THE DATE



Deadline to apply for SMP
periodic review focus group



Sustainable Transportation
Plan educational session with
Gil Penalosa; 5 p.m.



Deadline to apply for Ethics
Board; 4 p.m.



Lunch with Police Chief Clark;
12 p.m.



Joint City Council & Ethics
Board meeting



Deadline to complete surveys
on aquaculture, future flood
risk from sea level rise and
SMP improvements

Meetings and times are subject to change. All
meetings held on Zoom until further notice.

8 CALENDAR: bainbridgewa.gov/calendar



Web: bainbridgewa.gov



facebook.com/citybainbridgeisland



Sign up for email or text alerts on City projects: bainbridgewa.gov/list.aspx



Get weekly updates on City topics: bainbridgewa.gov/500

The City Council aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on Bainbridge Island by 90% in the next 25 years. The Climate Action Plan, approved by City Council in November 2020, outlines how we can reach this goal. Going forward, we plan to share ways in COBI Connects that you can help us reach this goal.

FOCUS ON CLIMATE



FOOD WASTE

Contributed by Deborah Rudnick (Climate Change Advisory Committee) and Diane Landry (Zero Waste)

When you throw out food, you're sending it on a 300-mile train trip to the Columbia Ridge Landfill in Oregon where it gets dumped and compacted into multiple layers of trash. Food and other organic matter decomposing in the landfill environment emit methane, a greenhouse gas (GHG) far more potent than carbon dioxide. Even if you use a garbage disposal, the wastewater treatment plant on Bainbridge ends up filtering out food matter (biosolids) and sending it to a landfill. The "carbon footprint" of your food waste thus includes both the long trip it must take to the landfill and the greenhouse gases it produces when it gets there. This is why solid waste disposal is a key piece of our strategy to reach our Climate Action Plan goal of reducing the island's GHG emissions by 90% by 2045. With your help keeping food waste and organic material out of the landfill, we can shrink our carbon footprint in this area.

We are fortunate on Bainbridge Island that all single family homes as well as condo and apartment buildings and commercial businesses may contract with our local hauler, Bainbridge Disposal, for biweekly curbside yard waste service at a cost of \$10.04 per month. If you don't have enough to fill the 96-gallon cart, consider sharing the service with a neighbor or two. Or you can bag and empty the waste at the Bainbridge Disposal Transfer Station for a small fee. Lastly, if you do bag your food, only use the corn-based type of bag that is labeled "BPI-certified" and don't knot it as that makes it hard to break down.

Bainbridge Disposal trucks the organic material to North Mason Fiber, a commercial compost facility in Belfair, and turns it into a nutrient-rich compost. When added to landscaping, gardens or agricultural land, compost increases soil fertility and water retention and helps filter out pollutants.

If a yard waste bin doesn't work for you, consider doing at-home fruit and vegetable composting with a worm bin, outdoor bins or an in-kitchen appliance. Or find a friend with chickens or pigs—feeding animals is a higher use for scraps than composting. And, of course, it's best to avoid spoilage or excess food that could have been eaten rather than composted. The Environmental Protection Agency provides good tips on how to plan meals, store food and prepare dishes that will help cut down on waste.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A YARD WASTE BIN



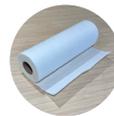
lawn clippings



plants and tree branches



any kind of food



paper towels and napkins



shredded copy paper



molded fiber egg cartons without labels



empty pizza boxes

WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE IN A YARD WASTE BIN



compostable plastic utensils



pet waste, as it can contain pathogens that are not easily broken down in commercial composting processes

LEARN MORE: epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home