

# COBI CONNECTS



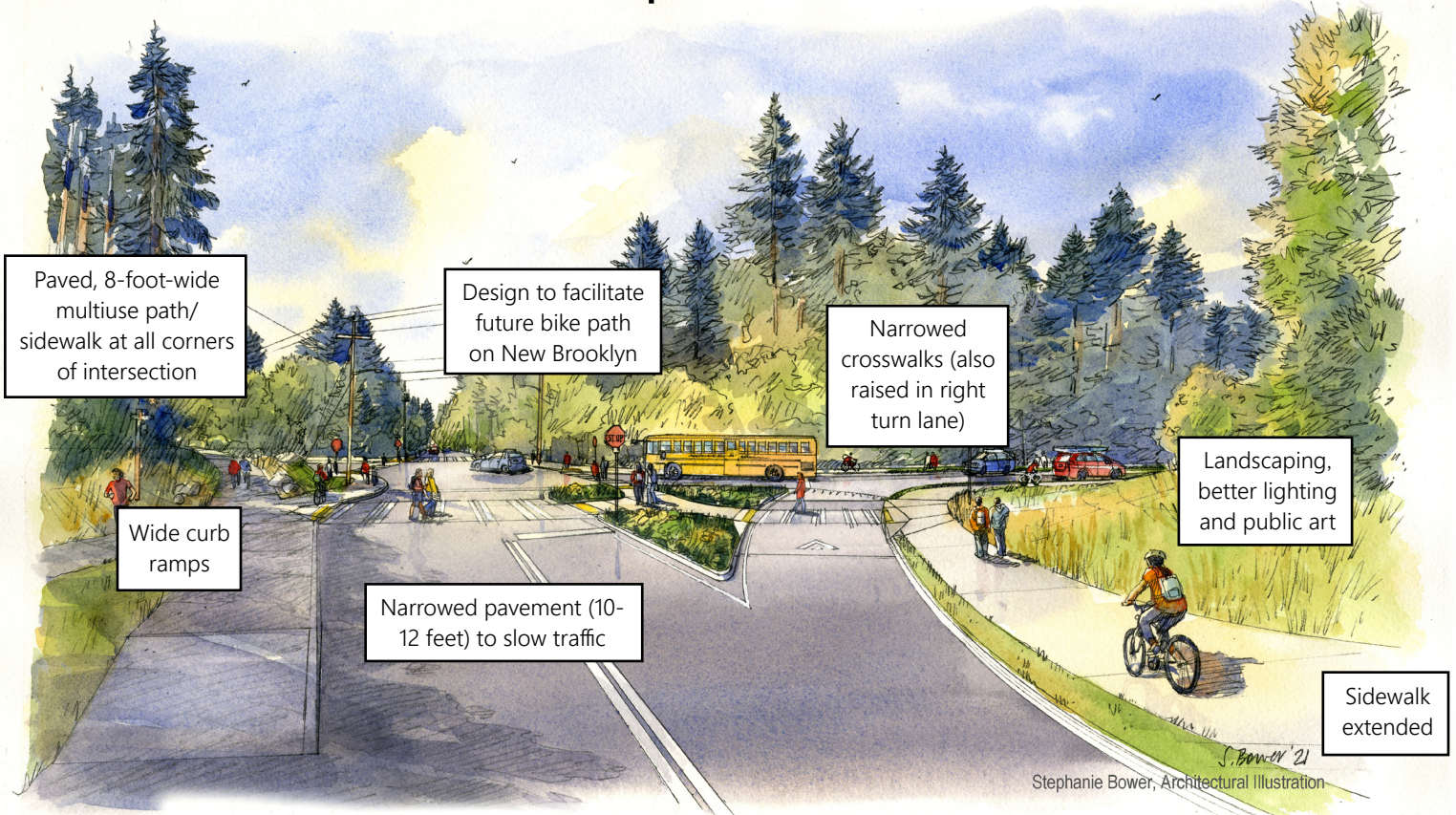
## SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS NEAR SCHOOLS, COPPERTOP TO BEGIN IN JUNE

Improvements to make it safer for kids walking or biking to school near the Sportsman Club–New Brooklyn Road intersection are expected to begin in June after the school year ends. All four corners of the intersection, near Sakai and Woodward schools and the Coppertop business park, will be upgraded to improve safety and to connect sidewalks and walking paths in the vicinity.

In 2020, the City proposed a roundabout at the intersection to address traffic congestion in the area. However, staff changed the project scope to focus only on improvements for kids walking and biking to school after the community and Council expressed concerns about cost and preserving trees. Staff worked with a consultant to modify the design and lower the costs after the Council rejected initial construction bids in 2021. In March, the City Council approved a \$1.1 million construction contract to support the safety improvement project, saving the City about \$100,000.

A majority of the project is funded by federal transportation grants with the remainder coming from the City.

**What to expect during construction** New Brooklyn Rd between Sportsman Club Rd and Grizdale Ln will be closed during construction. Cars traveling east on New Brooklyn Rd will be detoured to Sands Ave. Cars traveling west on New Brooklyn Rd will be detoured to Sportsman Club Rd. Reader boards will be placed near the area to inform drivers about the detours. Stay informed! Sign up for traffic notifications at [bainbridgewa.gov/list.aspx](http://bainbridgewa.gov/list.aspx).



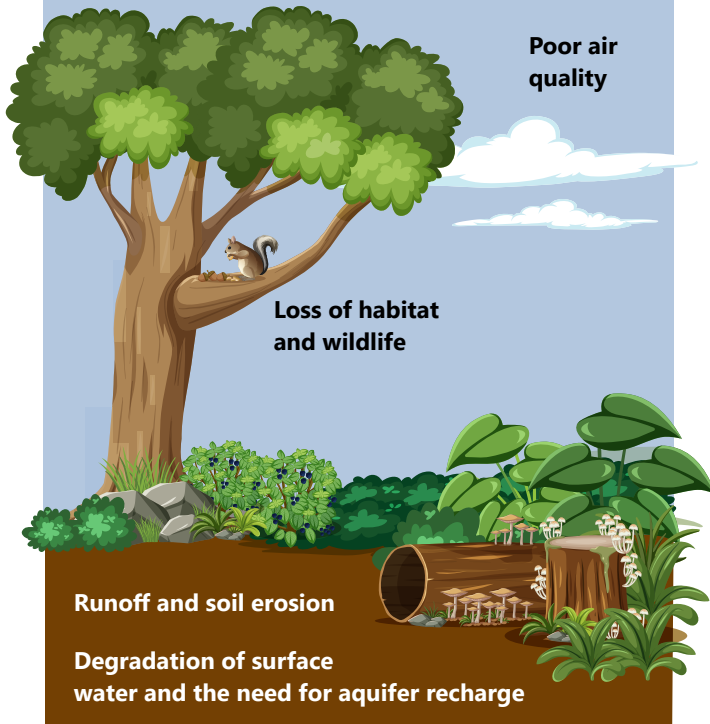
Stephanie Bower, Architectural Illustration

# TREE TALK LEARN ABOUT CITY REGULATIONS

Forested areas and individual trees are integral parts of Bainbridge Island's character. They enhance the city's appearance and livability and provide significant environmental benefits and natural resource value. Conserving and managing the island's forested areas and native vegetation is a central goal of the Comprehensive Plan.

In 2019, the City created an arborist position to review development proposals, long-range plans and development regulations. The arborist performs tree inspections and makes recommendations on tree topics. The arborist also educates the community about trees and answers questions. At the time of publication, the City was leading a recruitment process to hire a new arborist.

**Removal of trees and understory vegetation combined with extensive disturbance of soils can cause adverse impacts:**



## Types of tree permits

The City issues a variety of tree removal and vegetation management permits:

**Tree Removal + Vegetation Maintenance Permit**

**Minor Critical Areas Permit**

**Shoreline Clearing Permit**

**Landmark Tree Permit**

The permit type needed for a project is based on zoning designation, location in a critical area, proximity to the shoreline and tree size.

## Common tree terms



**Critical areas:** Ecologically sensitive and/or hazardous areas, including (but not limited to) wetlands and wetland buffers, streams and stream buffers, steep slopes, frequently flooded areas, aquifers and geologically hazardous areas. Visit our Critical Areas Web Map Application [[bainbridgewa.gov/196](http://bainbridgewa.gov/196)] to view critical areas on the island.



**Ordinary high watermark (OHWM):** A biological vegetation mark generally indicating the change from beach to adjacent uplands.



**Shoreline jurisdiction:** Any area that is within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark for Puget Sound. Visit our Shoreline Management Program Web Map Application [[bainbridgewa.gov/196](http://bainbridgewa.gov/196)] to view shoreline jurisdiction areas on the island.



**DBH:** Diameter at breast height, or 4.5 feet above average grade.



**Landmark tree:** A tree designated unique because of its age, size, species, historical significance or aesthetic quality, per the criteria established by the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code (BIMC) Chapter 16.32.



**Significant tree:** Any tree in a critical area or critical area buffer as defined by BIMC 16.20 or:

- Outside the Mixed-Use Town Center and High School Road zoning districts: A live evergreen tree at least 10 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) or a live deciduous tree at least 12 inches in DBH.

- In the Mixed-Use Town Center and High School Road zoning districts: A live tree at least 8 inches in DBH.



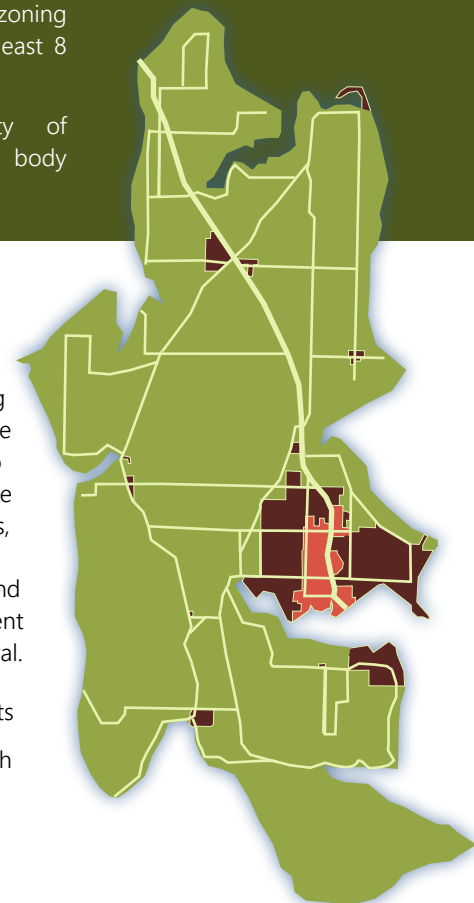
**ISA:** International Society of Arboriculture, the licensing body that certifies arborists.

## Tree regulations by zone

Tree regulations vary by zoning district. Approximately 80% of the island is in the three least-dense zoning districts (R-0.4, R-1 and R-2), which have their own sets of regulations relating to tree removal. The remaining 20% of the island is composed of the denser zones, such as but not limited to Mixed-Use Town Center, Neighborhood Centers and Business Industrial, which have a different set of regulations related to tree removal.

- R-0.4, R-1 and R-2 zoning districts
- Mixed-Use Town Center and High School Road zoning districts\*
- Other zones\*

\*Subject to landmark tree regulations.



# COMMON TREE QUESTIONS

## How do I find out if I need a permit to remove a tree and/or vegetation from my property?

The City is developing a question-and-answer guide through the online Camino platform [[bainbridgewa.gov/camino](http://bainbridgewa.gov/camino)] to help property owners find out if a permit is needed for the proposed work on their specific property. There are a number of tree/vegetation maintenance activities that do not require a permit, and some minor tree removal may be allowed without a permit.

Factors that influence your need for a permit:

- ✓ The zoning district of your property.
- ✓ Critical areas or buffers on your property.
- ✓ Location in shoreline jurisdiction.
- ✓ Your trees having landmark status.
- ✓ Requirements for tree retention on your property due to development and/or subdivision.

If you still have questions after using the Camino platform, please contact the City Arborist.

## How much does a permit cost?

The City Council on March 22, 2022 approved a resolution to increase building, planning and engineering permit fees to recover costs. As of Sept. 1, 2022, the non-hazardous tree permit costs will range from \$1,340 to \$1,800 (current costs are \$180 to \$500). This was the first fee schedule adjustment since 2006. See page 4 for more information.

A permit for a confirmed hazard tree removal/vegetation maintenance does not have a fee.

## How many significant trees can I remove from my property in one year?

If your property is located outside the Mixed-Use Town Center and High School Road zoning districts, you can remove without a permit up to 6 significant trees in any 3-year period if your lot is larger than 1 acre or up to 3 significant trees in any 3-year period if your lot is 1 acre or less (BIMC 16.18.040).

The 3/6 trees in 3 years rule does not apply when the trees you'd like to remove:

- ✓ Are required to be retained as a result of another provision of the code (BIMC 18.15.010 or BIMC 17.12).
- ✓ Are in a critical area/critical area buffer or shoreline jurisdiction (within 200' of the OHWM).
- ✓ Qualify as landmark trees based on species and size and lot zoning district (BIMC 16.32 Landmark Trees applies to all zones except R-0.4, R-1 and R-2).

## Is mitigation required if I remove trees/vegetation from my property?

Mitigation may be required in the form of replanting and/or the leaving of a wildlife snag. Mitigation is typically required when the proposed work takes place in an area where trees/vegetation are required to be retained (shoreline jurisdiction, critical areas/buffers, tree retention areas associated with development/platting).

*A wildlife snag is a dead tree left upright to decompose naturally, often used by wildlife as a habitat.*



## I am nervous about a tree on my property that looks to be hazardous. Do I need a permit to remove it?

If you have consulted with a Tree Risk Assessment Qualified Arborist and they have determined that the tree is hazardous, permits are only required if the tree is:

- ✓ In a critical area/buffer.
- ✓ In an area where trees/vegetation are required to be retained because of development/platting.
- ✓ In shoreline jurisdiction.
- ✓ A landmark tree.

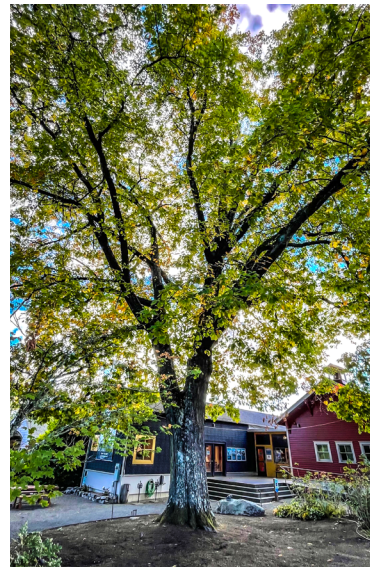
If the tree does not meet any of the criteria listed above and is a confirmed hazard or if the tree could be included in your 3/6 trees in 3 years quota, no permit would be required. General standards and regulations in BIMC 16.18.060 should be followed during any tree/vegetation removal, including of hazard trees. Additionally, the City encourages property owners to leave a standing wildlife snag (if it is safe to do so) or downed wood on the property, to provide ecological benefits.



## How long will it take to get my permit?

If the permit is for a hazard tree removal, the City will try to review and issue your permit as quickly as possible, typically in 1–2 weeks (after-the-fact permits are available in situations that require urgent attention).

For non-hazardous tree removal/vegetation maintenance permits, review times are usually 2–4 weeks but can run longer depending on workload/current staffing.



## Heritage Tree Register

The City has a Heritage Tree Register to recognize trees that exhibit valued, unique characteristics that set them apart from other trees (e.g., size, species, age, aesthetics, historic significance). The City's Historic Preservation Commission reviews nominations to the Heritage Tree Register, which now includes 19 trees. Trees may be nominated by the owner or any member of the public. The property owner must agree in writing to the Heritage Tree designation. This designation does not prohibit a property owner from developing a property and/or removing a heritage tree.

Learn more: [bainbridgewa.gov/233](http://bainbridgewa.gov/233)

# NEED A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT? COSTS ARE GOING UP SEPT. 1

For the first time in 16 years, the City is increasing the fees for development permits to recover costs for service. On March 22, the Council approved the new fees. The increase reflects the amount of time the fees have not been adjusted.

In 2019, the Council directed staff to hire a consultant to study the fees to determine how to recover 100% of the City's costs in providing development services, which include reviewing, issuing and inspecting private residential and commercial projects that require a permit. Currently, development-related costs are subsidized by transfers from the General Fund. The transfers have ranged from \$800,000 to \$1 million annually.

A couple of permits will not see any change in cost: Permit fees for appeals will remain the same, as the Council did not want to make it more expensive for someone to contest a City decision. The cost for a mobile home permit will remain at \$150 to support housing affordability. In the near future, staff will propose to the Council a method to pay part or all of the permit fees for affordable housing applicants.

The new fees will take effect on Sept. 1.

View the new fees: [bainbridgewa.gov/204](http://bainbridgewa.gov/204).



## TREE CITY USA®

An Arbor Day Foundation Program

The Arbor Day Foundation recognized Bainbridge Island as a 2021 Tree City USA for its commitment to preservation and legislation to protect trees. This is the 17th time the City has earned this designation.

The Tree City USA program provides communities with an avenue to celebrate their work, showing residents, visitors and the entire country that they're committed to the mission of environmental change.

On April 26, the Council will proclaim April 29 as Arbor Day in the City of Bainbridge Island. Residents are encouraged to plant trees on this day in observance of the national holiday.

## SPRING SESSIONS NATURE-FRIENDLY GARDENING

The arrival of spring may have you checking your tools, assessing the soil and planning for weed removal in the yard. Before you get started, join the West Sound Stormwater Outreach Group (WSSOG) for a series of online workshops to help you make better choices when it comes to lawn care. Master Gardeners from the WSU Kitsap Extension will provide tips about how to take your yard to the next level and how to use products that are safer for kids, pets and Puget Sound.

### Lawn alternatives

Tired of mowing? Spending too much on weed and feed? Discover eco-friendly ideas to keep your yard healthy and attractive.



**Saturday, April 16**  
10–11 a.m.



**Friday, April 22**  
Noon–1 p.m.



**Saturday, April 23**  
10–11 a.m.



**Wednesday, April 27**  
6–7 p.m.

### Nature-friendly gardening for beginners

Learn tips on maintaining your yard to protect our beautiful Northwest habitat and keep your family healthy.

Register here: [kitsapgov.com/pw/Pages/naturallyardcare.aspx](http://kitsapgov.com/pw/Pages/naturallyardcare.aspx)

*The West Sound Stormwater Outreach Group (WSSOG) is a multijurisdictional partnership among Kitsap County and the cities of Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Gig Harbor, Port Angeles, Port Orchard and Poulsbo. These agencies work together on improving water quality by reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff, which are a major source of pollution to local waterways and Puget Sound.*





Autumn Salamack was hired as the City's first Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Officer in October 2021. The position was created to carry out the priorities of the Climate Action Plan (CAP), which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 90% by 2045. The CAP has three key areas: mitigate or reduce future greenhouse gas emissions; prepare our community for the impacts of climate change; and engage all segments of our community in meaningful and equitable climate action.

## JOB DUTIES

- » Lead the development and implementation of climate change-related programs
- » Develop and implement programs, policies and partnerships that support the Climate Action Plan
- » Serve as the staff liaison for the Climate Change Advisory Committee

## FUN FACTS



Is the oldest of five and grew up in Winslow, Arkansas, a town of about 300 people. Has a brother named Winslow.



Took a mid-career sabbatical to serve two years in the Peace Corps in Mexico, where she learned Spanish, ate street tacos for breakfast and lived with two incredible host families.



Once got caught in a taxi during a flash flood in Guadalajara. The water made it up to the car window. After about two hours, the water finally receded, and she was able to continue her journey.

# Q&A WITH THE CLIMATE OFFICER

## You just launched the Climate Smart Challenge. Tell us about it.

The Climate Smart Challenge helps identify key actions you can take to help implement our Climate Action Plan. The challenge encourages you to think critically about your life and changes that you can make (some small, some big) to reduce your climate impact, save money and improve your health and the comfort of your home.

## How does the challenge work?

The challenge starts with an online assessment. Participants answer a series of questions about home energy and water use, transportation choices, diet, overall consumption and waste disposal choices. The program will then provide a customized list of actions that give you the most bang for your buck when it comes to reducing your household emissions.



[ClimateSmartBainbridge.org](https://ClimateSmartBainbridge.org)

On the Climate Smart Challenge website, you can access helpful tips and resources to reduce your carbon footprint, track your progress and challenge your friends, classmates, co-workers and neighbors to do their part.

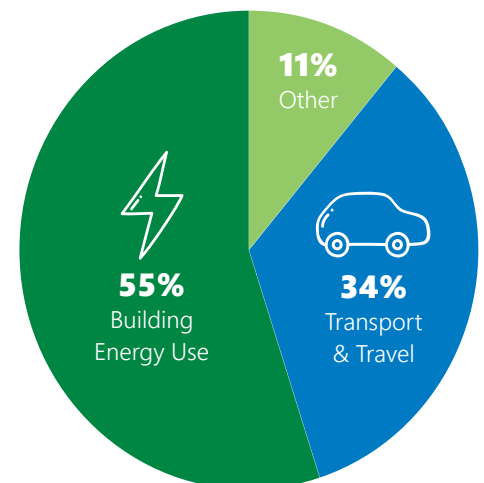
## What do you see as the biggest challenges to achieving our goal of reducing emissions 90% by 2045?

If we want a different future—one in which our greenhouse gas emissions don't continue to increase and we stave off the worst anticipated impacts of climate change—we must do things differently than we've done them in the past. There will often be trade-offs that we have to consider in determining what actions we take and how we prioritize limited resources. "Change" is a central tenet when talking about the climate, and that change is coming in one form or another. We have to decide if we'll embrace that change and make different choices today for a better tomorrow or if we're just going to respond to each climate impact when it happens.

We can influence a lot at the local level, but many policy decisions could be made at the state and federal levels that could help accelerate local action. It's important for residents to get engaged in pushing for those policy decisions at all levels of government and to vote for climate-friendly measures.

## Bainbridge Island Emissions

Measured in 2018.





# WILDFIRE AWARENESS


May is National Wildfire Awareness Month and the spring is a good time to prepare for wildfire, one of the potential disasters we face on Bainbridge Island. To help mitigate this threat, the City and the Bainbridge Island Fire Department (BIFD) coordinated to develop plans and code exemptions for our community.


## Code exemptions


In 2021, in response to BIFD's recommendation of wildfire mitigation provisions and related forest stewardship, the Council determined that certain voluntary wildfire mitigation activities should not require a permit (BIMC 16.18.040.H) **if the activity occurs outside of critical areas, shoreline jurisdiction and/or tree retention/no-cut-no-build zones** (the latter are typically designated on short plats, which are subdivisions of a single property). The exempt activities include:


 Voluntary wildfire mitigation activities within a 30-foot defensible space of habitable structures, **other than tree/vegetation removal that would require a permit** (again, this does **not** apply to habitable structures in critical areas or in shoreline jurisdiction). See BIMC 16.18.040.H for more details.

 Routine landscaping and maintenance of vegetation, such as pruning, planting, removal of invasive/exotic species and management of brush/seedling trees.

 Removal of trees and ground cover in emergency situations involving immediate danger to life or structure or substantial fire hazards (**if the tree would otherwise require a permit, the permit must be obtained as soon as possible after the emergency**).

 Removal of dead or fallen trees, although **property owners are strongly encouraged to leave dead trees in place for ecological benefits** if it is safe to do so (cut them to a shorter height if needed).

 Routine maintenance activities in rights of way and required roadside buffers.

 To improve tree health or for safety, pruning or limbing of dead or hazardous branches from significant trees that are required to be retained, **provided that the work is done by an International Society of Arboriculture-certified arborist**.

The general regulations and standards listed in BIMC 16.18 apply to any tree/vegetation activities that take place on Bainbridge Island.

Interested in having your property's wildfire risk assessed by BIFD? Email [contact@bifd.org](mailto:contact@bifd.org). Any recommendations provided by the BIFD are based on Firewise USA® best practices and are 100% voluntary. All tree and vegetation management is subject to adopted City of Bainbridge Island Municipal Codes.

## Protect your home against wildfire

Prune branches and shrubs within 15' of **stovepipes or chimneys**.

Cover **exterior vents** with metal mesh screens.

Screen **below decks** to keep out debris and remove flammable materials from under or near the home.

Add 10' of clearance around **propane tanks and grills**.



Stack **firewood** 50' away from structures.

Clean **roofs and gutters** of debris and replace missing roof tiles.

Connect **garden hoses** to all exterior faucets.

Follow **Firewise USA®** landscaping methods: [nffa.org](http://nffa.org).

Trim vegetation along **driveway** so the BIFD can reach you.

Post **address number** so the BIFD can find you.

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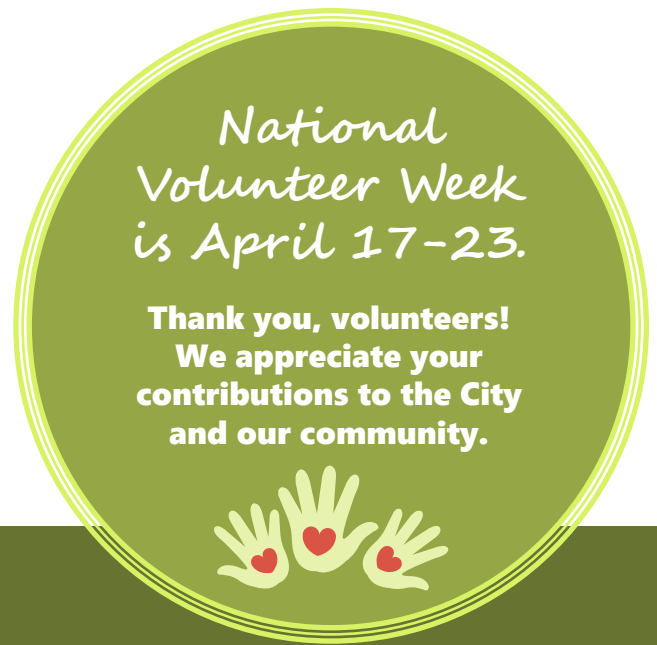
# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CITY COMMITTEES

We're looking for volunteers to serve on our City Advisory Groups to assist and advise the City Council on topics that range from climate change and ethics to land use and utility-related policies. Our boards and committees do important work and add value to topics under Council consideration.

The workload varies for each committee; some meet just once a month and others more often. Most committees require a three-year commitment.

For a full list of openings and to learn about the committee responsibilities, please visit [bainbridgewa.gov/CAG](http://bainbridgewa.gov/CAG). You can apply online or pick up a paper copy of the application at the City Hall front counter.

The deadline to apply is **4 p.m. on April 27**. Interviews will be held in May.



## Volunteer voices: If someone has never served on a City committee, why should they get involved?

**Charlie Kratzer**  
Environmental Technical Advisory Committee

"If you are interested in making a difference in your community, serving on an advisory committee is a great way to start. The time commitment is what one chooses, but it's certainly less than serving on Council."

**Andy Maron**  
Utility Advisory Committee

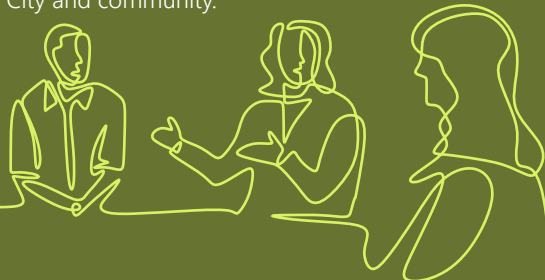
"It is very satisfying to use our gained experience and expertise to collaborate with others to benefit our City and community."

**Doña Keating**  
Ethics Board

"If someone has the time, interest and authentic desire to shape how we live, work and play together, the better question is 'Why not?' Civic duty provides the opportunity for each of us to actively participate in a constructive and informed manner toward improving the common good."

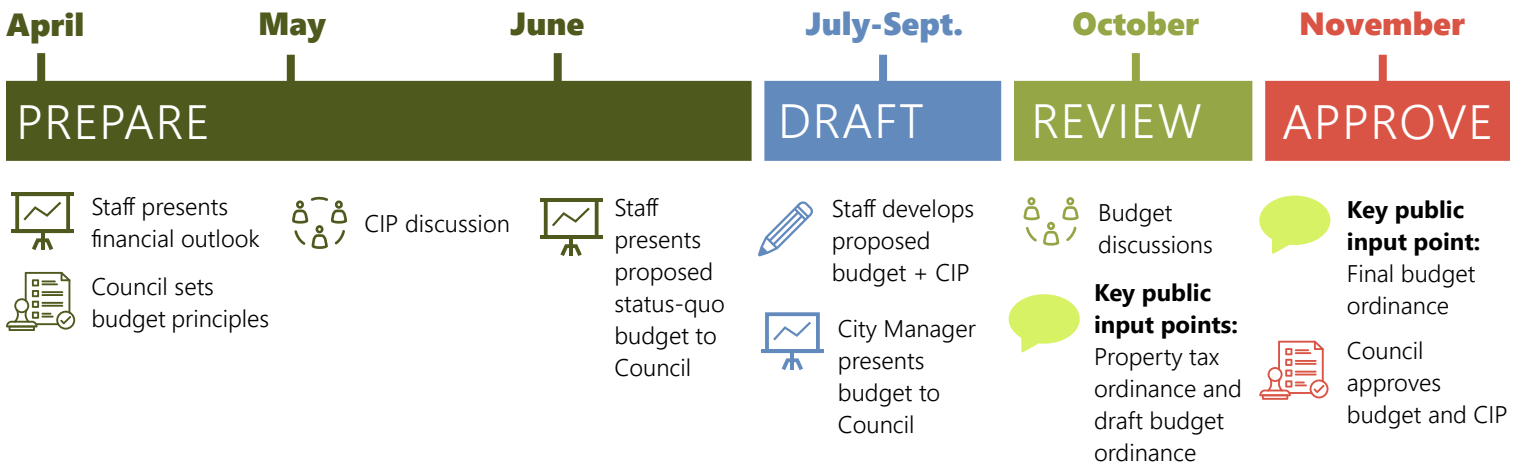
**Deanna Martinez**  
Race Equity Advisory Committee

"They should get involved because change makers and imagination are needed. They should get involved because if you are not helping to make the decisions, the decisions will be made for you and sometimes without consideration of you. Getting involved ensures that more than one perspective is considered and that your perspective is heard."



## 2023-2024 BUDGET TIMELINE

City staff will begin work on the 2023-2024 budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) this spring. The budget funds priority projects and core services. The CIP is a planning document for existing and planned infrastructure for 2023-2028. The state requires the City to do a two-year update of the CIP every six years.



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


## Madison Avenue safety improvement project virtual open house

Wednesday, April 27, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Staff will share an update on the safety improvement project along Madison Ave. from Wyatt Way to State Route 305 and request public input on the early design. The project features will include:

- 🚧 Separated bike lanes and wider sidewalks on Madison Avenue from Wyatt Way to High School Road.
- 🚧 Pavement reconstruction.
- 🚧 Sewer improvements.
- 🚧 Bike/pedestrian facility enhancements between High School Road and SR 305.

At the time of publication, staff was expected to share a project update with the Council on May 24. Learn more and access the Zoom link: [bainbridgewa.gov/1310](https://bainbridgewa.gov/1310)



**Earth Day Celebration**  
at  
**Rotary Park**  
Bainbridge Island  
**April 24, 2022**  
[biparks.org](http://biparks.org)

- 📍 Web: [bainbridgewa.gov](https://bainbridgewa.gov)
- 📘 facebook.com/citybainbridgeisland
- 💡 Have a story idea for COBI Connects? Email [communications@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:communications@bainbridgewa.gov)
- ✉️ Get weekly updates on City topics: [bainbridgewa.gov/500](https://bainbridgewa.gov/500)

## PICKLEBALL BECOMES OFFICIAL WASHINGTON STATE SPORT



Gov. Jay Inslee on March 28 signed a bill designating pickleball the official sport of Washington state. To mark the milestone, the bill-signing ceremony was held at the original pickleball court where the game was invented, on the south end of Bainbridge Island.

"We've been waiting a long time for this," said Gov. Inslee. "We've had the Western hemlock as our state tree. We've had the goldfinch as our state bird, and now we have the monument of fun, which is pickleball."

The three creators and founders of pickleball—Bill Bell, Barney McCallum and Joel Pritchard—repurposed a badminton court in 1965 to create the game. Pritchard served as Washington's Lieutenant Governor from 1989 to 1997.

During the signing of SB 5615, Gov. Inslee was surrounded by bill sponsors, pickleball enthusiasts and family members of the game's founders. "Pickleball becoming a state sport is a great thing," said Scott Stover whose wife is a distant cousin of founder Barney McCallum. "It's something that no other state has done yet." The Stovers now own the property where the original pickleball court is located.



*Original pickleball court at private residence.*

The Bainbridge Island pickleball community and the BI Metro Park & Recreation District celebrated the bill signing with an event at the Founders Courts at Battle Point Park.

"I just can't think of a state more fitting than our state for it since the game was invented here," said pickleball player Bill Walker. "Our community is really happy about it. We're very proud of the legacy that the founders left for us."



*Gov. Jay Inslee signs SB 5615 to designate pickleball the official sport of Washington.*