

# COBI CONNECTS



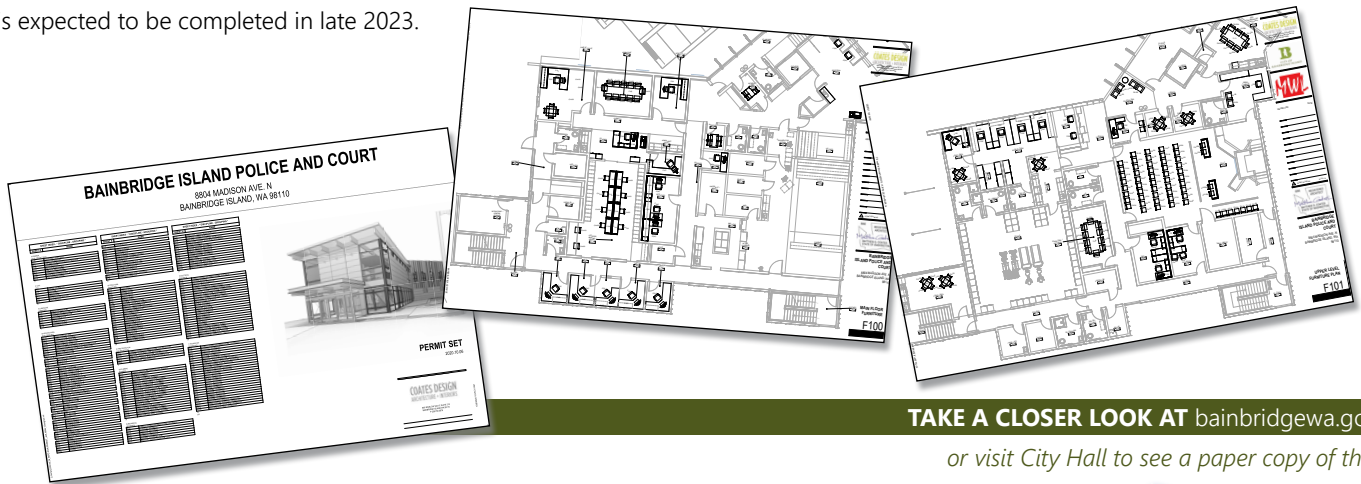
## CONSTRUCTION ON POLICE/COURT FACILITY BEGINS THIS MONTH

The City Council on April 12 approved three contracts for retrofitting the former Harrison Medical Clinic at 8804 Madison to serve as the City's police and court facility. One of the contracts is for Clark Construction (\$7.6M), one is for architecture support services from Coates Design (\$350K) and one is for Parametrix (\$500K), a Washington-based firm experienced in construction project management, which will oversee the project.

The contractors will gut the current building to retrofit it for its targeted uses. The bottom level of the two-story structure will house the police facility and consist largely of offices and evidence and equipment storage. The upstairs will include conference rooms, judge's chambers and a courtroom with a dais for the judge, seating for 45 people and seating for a jury trial.

The City is working with its Race Equity Advisory Committee to review the plans and provide input, within the expected project construction schedule.

Work is expected to be completed in late 2023.



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT [bainbridgewa.gov/528](http://bainbridgewa.gov/528)

or visit City Hall to see a paper copy of the plans.

## CITY IDENTIFIES ROADS TO BE REPAIRED THIS YEAR

Every year the City assesses the island's roads and assigns them Pavement Condition Index (PCI) scores. This year, the City plans to tackle six roads with PCI scores ranging from marginal to very poor.

Dates for the repairs will be scheduled later.

At their April 12 meeting, the City Council authorized advertisement of the contract for repairing the roads. On May 24, the City awarded a contract for the work to Granite Construction Company.

As asphalt ages, it dries, and cracks begin to form. City engineers monitor the roads for evidence of potholes and visible "alligator" cracks (like reptile scales), which result in deformation of the road, water seepage, loss of strength, diminished surface wear resistance and poorer ride quality.

This year, the contractors will use in-place pulverization, grading/leveling and paving or patching with asphalt to repair the roads instead of chip sealing (spreading a layer of oil and aggregate). The goal of this focused strategy is to improve efficiency by requiring the use of only one type of equipment.

- 1 Stranne Road NE**  
*Between NE Hidden Cove Road and road end; PCI: 29 (Poor)*
- 2 NE Hidden Cove Road**  
*From Manzanita Road NE to approximately 200' west of Silven Avenue NE; PCI: 43 (Marginal)*
- 3 Manzanita Lane NE**  
*Between Peterson Hill Road and road end; PCI: 47 (Marginal)*
- 4 Green Spot Place NE**  
*Between Ferncliff Avenue NE and approximately 650' north; PCI: 28 (Poor)*
- 5 Gowen Place NW**  
*Between Wyatt Way NW and approximately 600' south; PCI: 28 (Poor)*
- 6 NE Seaborn Road**  
*Between Blakely Avenue NE and road end; PCI: 24 (Very Poor)*



# Q&A WITH THE UTILITIES TECHNICIAN III



Ray Navarette has been working for the City for more than 25 years; he's been in the public service industry for 35. He is a Utilities Technician III, which is the highest level of technician. For the City, he serves as the foreman of all the utilities and is among the first to respond to emergencies, such as sewage spills and heat-related water crises.

## JOB DUTIES

- » Lead the Utilities Crew in daily operations and maintenance tasks for the water, sewage and storm drainage systems.
- » Provide capital support for engineering projects.
- » Provide development support as needed.
- » Respond to utilities emergencies.

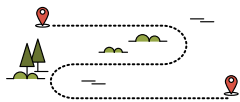
## FUN FACTS



Enjoys traveling, rockhounding and spoiling his grandkids. Last summer, he and his wife traveled to 14 states to rockhound. All five of his grandkids are now junior rockhounds.



Favorite place on the Island is the south end. Loves the view of Mt Rainier from South Beach.



Mapped out and supervised the building of the Iron Mountain Trail in southern California.

## What role does your job play in the overall service to the community?

My role goes unnoticed unless there is a problem with the water, sewer or stormwater infrastructure. I lead the daily operations of all the utilities and respond to utilities emergencies such as sewer spills or drainage problems.

I responded to the 2013 and 2014 sewage spills in Eagle Harbor. The 2013 one was on Labor Day weekend and it affected our biggest sewer line. We had to rally the troops, pulling crew members away from their weekend plans, and then my manager and I quickly formulated a plan of attack. First, we got a fleet of pump trucks in line at the station. They started pumping out the raw sewage and then driving it to and pumping it into a gravity line that feeds into the treatment plant. As soon as the pump trucks had emptied out the well, the crew was able to turn off the pump at the station. In the meantime, my crew and I drove to the beach, which was partly covered by the tide at the time. I took a backhoe to the end of Wing Point and then drove it along the beach through the tide to the break, which was visible because of the moving water and "floatables" like wipes and tissue. I dug down to the main. We found where it was broken and applied a repair band to it.

During the heat emergency last June, we made the rounds to all the wells seven days a week to make sure nothing crashed. It was 102°F in the well house, and we had to keep fans blowing the entire time.

## What's the question you get asked the most in your job?

Do you like working for Bainbridge Island? I do. I applied to the job from California where my family and I lived. My parents had moved up here and told me how nice it was. Then my mom saw the job opening and sent it to me.

## What do you enjoy most about working at COBI?

I enjoy the challenge and variety of job tasks on a day-to-day basis. You never know what will happen each day. Some days I'm out in the field and some days I'm at the computer writing up technical reports and managing correspondence.

I learned computer skills when I got my AAS in Business from Olympic College—I spent three years of nights and weekends in class and doing homework. I'd be in class until 9:40 at night and then have to start work early the next morning. The computer skills are very useful in my job, and I attribute a lot of my career success to earning that degree. Now everybody comes to me with computer matters.

Ray often gets customer compliments for his work, including this one about his solution to a drainage problem on Day Road:

**Thank you very much for doggedly following through with my original inquiry from the very first time we talked until project completion last week. You and your crew do highly essential and critical work in improving and maintaining the infrastructure of this island in ways that I think many residents little understand.**



Washington carnelian agate (left) and Arkansas quartz crystals (right) found by Ray during his rockhounding expeditions.

# HEAT STRESS TO CITY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE COULD TRIGGER MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

In anticipation of potential extreme weather conditions this summer and fall, the City's Public Works Department is developing communication and education resources for City water customers about water conservation. High heat days, such as we experienced in June of 2021, can stress the City's mechanical systems and water pipes. A high stress situation could trigger mandatory water conservation measures.

## Existing deficiencies

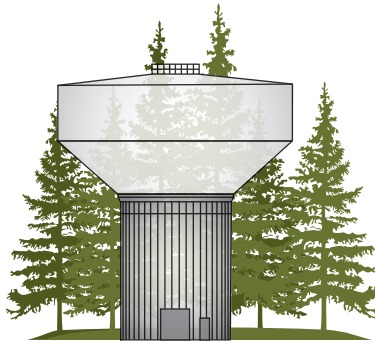
As climate change continues to affect our Northwest weather patterns, we are likely to experience more high heat stretches. City equipment that distributes water to customers—including well pumps, chlorine generator/treatment facilities, flow meters, remote communication systems and booster pumps—is not designed to work overtime in extreme heat. The well buildings where much of this equipment is located are not air conditioned. In addition, the Winslow and Rockaway water systems have critical deficiencies that the City is working to fix:

- One of the two Winslow water tanks is seismically deficient and could be damaged in a severe earthquake.
- The Winslow tank uses gravity to distribute water. Only the water at the very top of the tank is high enough to deliver consistent pressure to the increased number of customers. Pumping equipment has to work overtime to continue replacing water at the top of the tank. Water at the bottom gets stagnant and can generate water quality concerns.
- The Rockaway system well is old and producing less water over time.

## Solutions

The City plans to replace the defective water tank starting next year. The new tank will meet current seismic standards and will be taller. It will employ a concrete pillar to hold up the water at a high enough level that more of the water can be distributed without the need for running pumps.

This summer, the City will clean the Rockaway well to improve water flow and will also replace the well pump.



## Winslow water system

Most heat-induced extra consumption is used for irrigation—up to 700 gallons per day per household. In order to maintain the integrity of the water system, which has to pump all that water, customers should comply with conservation measures, whether voluntary or mandatory.

Winslow customers use an average of **600,000 gallons per day.**



On a high-heat day like we had in June 2021, Winslow customers can consume up to **1.5 million gallons.**

## Takeaways

The message the City wants water customers to take away is this: Be extra careful with water usage during periods of high heat, as it could overstress the system and require mandatory conservation measures.

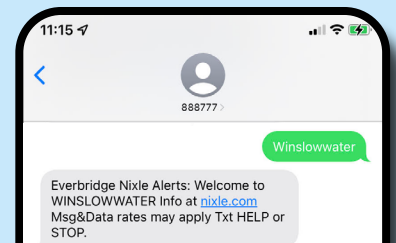
The City has created **Nixle alert groups for both Winslow and Rockaway water customers.** The system will keep residents informed about system projects, upgrades and maintenance and provide information about voluntary and mandatory conservation and system emergencies or outages.

Customers of the City's water utility are in the area shown on the map below. Customers of other water purveyors and well users also face issues related to high temperatures and aging equipment. All are encouraged to conserve water.



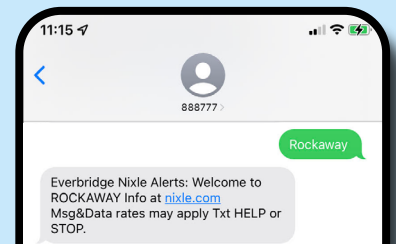
### Winslow customers

Text **winslowwater** to **888777**



### Rockaway customers

Text **rockaway** to **888777**



# CLIMATE SMART BAINBRIDGE FOCUS ON WATER

Autumn Salamack, the City's Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Officer, wants you to think about water this summer. With increasing drought and wildfire across the globe, we need to start developing water-smart habits. A 2014 Government Accountability Report said that 40 of our nation's state water managers expected water shortages under average conditions by 2024.

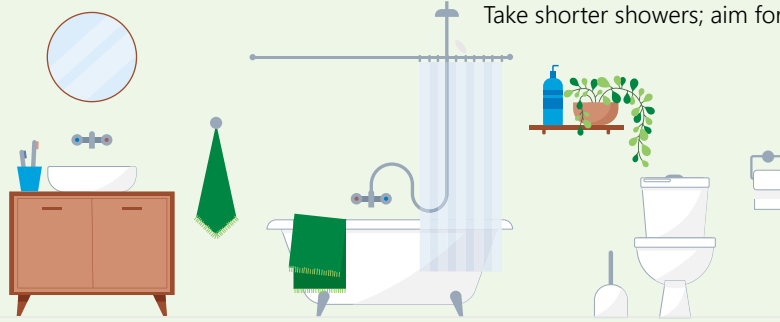
Even though the City's water supply is currently adequate, conservation of natural resources like groundwater is always encouraged. During periods of high heat, the City's water infrastructure and some private shallow wells have difficulty keeping up with demand.

Practicing water-smart habits also will help support healthy streams and wetlands and adequate water supply for island residents, businesses and visitors today and tomorrow.

There's no time like the present to start practicing water conservation to protect our water resources and reduce your utility bills.

## Inside

Turn off the faucet. Don't keep the water running as you soap up dishes or brush your teeth.

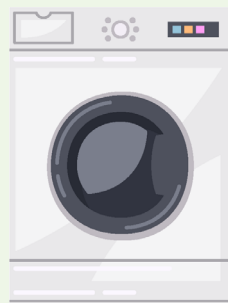


Take shorter showers; aim for five minutes or less.

Look for the EPA WaterSense® label when purchasing toilets, showerheads and bathroom faucets.

Wash only full loads of laundry or adjust the water level on your machine to match the size of your load.

Upgrade to a water-efficient, frontloading clothes washer.



Fill your dishwasher before running it. Limit pre-rinsing.



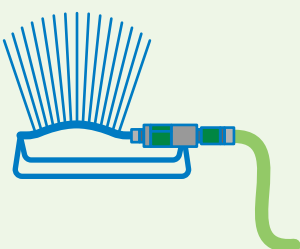
## Outside

**Watering.** People use water outside for a number of reasons, such as to wash cars or pressure wash decks. But most of the water (up to 90%) people use outdoors is for irrigation of yards and gardens. Don't overwater your plants. They don't need it or want it.



**Water just enough.** *Annuals and veggie gardens:* Water deeply for approximately 30 minutes every three days for a total of 1 inch per week. *Perennials and shrubs:* Test the soil for dryness at the root zone and only water when dry, approximately 30 minutes per week and never more than 1 inch per week. *Lawns:* Water 20 minutes twice a week for a total of 1 inch per week or let the grass go brown. It will return in the fall.

**Water efficiently and at the right time.** Avoid watering in the middle of the day when the hot sun will evaporate much of the water before it can get to thirsty plants. Consider using a watering can, soaker hoses or a drip system. Use low-volume micro-irrigation where possible. Try to water as close to the roots as possible.



### Take your irrigation system to the next level.

Inefficient irrigation systems can dump gallons of unneeded water on your walkways or patio. Check monthly for leaks and clogs at outside spigots and garden hoses/irrigation systems. Install weather-based irrigation systems—don't water your yard when it's raining! If you have an automatic watering system, upgrade it to include a weather sensor.



### Catch the rain.

Use water barrels to gather water from your downspouts. You can use this water for your plants.

**Garden planning.** Plan your garden with water conservation in mind.



Set up microclimates to avoid overwatering the least thirsty plants. Consider the effects of sun, wind, shade, plant type and soil on watering needs.

Reduce the amount of water-hungry grass in your yard. Landscape with flagstones, bricks and stones. Plant wildflowers, native plants and drought-tolerant varieties.



Help retain soil moisture. Add 3–8 inches of mulch per year and 1 inch of compost per year. Remove weeds and consider a groundcover.

## FIFTY-ONE YEARS OF FROG ROCK

This year marks the 51st anniversary of Frog Rock, the iconic island symbol located at the intersection of Phelps Rd, Madison Ave and Spargur Loop Rd. The six-foot-tall painted rock has been captured in many photos over the years and featured in newspapers, in magazines and on websites. Its image has been featured on souvenirs, in a terrarium ornament, on dishtowels and on pressed pennies. Kill Frog Rock was the name of the free Bainbridge Island “underground music newspaper.” The rock was recreated in a smaller version for the KidsUp! Playground at Battle Point Park and was the inspiration for the 2015 Frogs on the Rock fundraiser, in which local artists painted fiberglass frogs and then auctioned them off. Frog Rock even has its own Wikipedia page in which it is described as a “glacial erratic” that in the 1940s was blown into two pieces (to get it out of the way of a new dairy barn). At that time the former rock came to be known as Split Rock, and the adjacent road was called Split Rock Road. In the 1950s, road workers stacked one half of the rock on the other during a paving project, thus creating “the frog.”

The rocks are clearly much older than 51. But their modern history began on Senior Paint Night in 1971. Ellen Barnes and Bob Green were BHS students who were dating. At some point that year, the stacked rocks had been painted lavender with purple spots and tagged “NK Lives,” presumably by North Kitsap High students. Green called it “terrible graffiti.” He and Barnes decided they needed to reclaim the rocks on Paint Night for Bainbridge and decided to turn them into a frog (after also considering a duck). Green went to Winslow Hardware and got a “gallon of miss-mixed green paint” and pints of red, black and white.

On the night of June 5, Green and Barnes watched three Beatles movies at the Big Bear Drive In, which was located along 305 between Suquamish and Poulsbo. They then drove to the stacked rocks and painted them to look like a frog.

The following year, the pair and some other friends kept guard over the frog to make sure NK kids didn’t repaint it, and they painted the smaller rock beside it as a ladybug.

Green is a native Islander, born at his great-grandparents’ home on Grow. Barnes moved to the Island from Portland when she was six months old. In 1978, Barnes and Green were married at St. Barnabas Church. Since that first Frog Rock paint night, the couple has repainted the frog numerous times, aided by friends, family, neighbors and eventually their two sons. The couple say they hope their two granddaughters will soon be joining in the repainting. Over the years, Frog Rock has also been costumed by other Islanders, and during the COVID pandemic it sported a face mask.

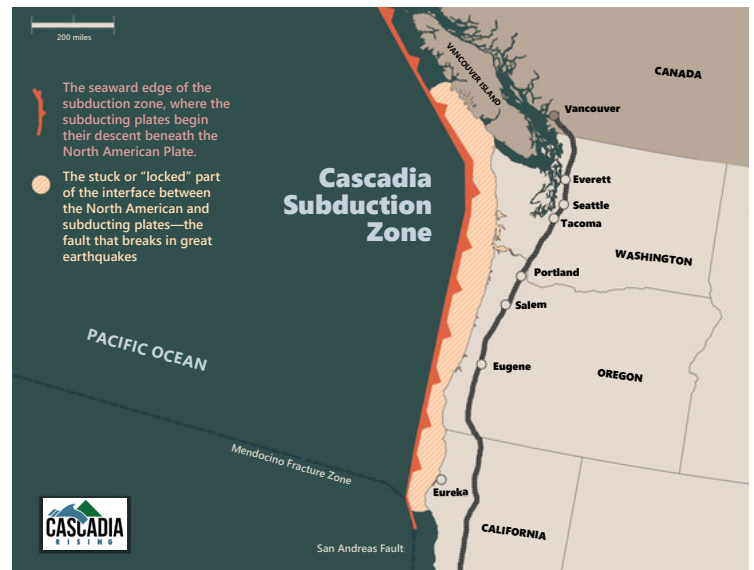


# CITY PARTICIPATES IN REGIONAL EARTHQUAKE EXERCISE

Cascadia Rising is a series of exercises that happens every four years to help communities prepare for the potential event of a massive earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The City of Bainbridge Island and its partners, the Bainbridge Island Fire Department and Bainbridge Prepares (BP), will once again be participating. This year's event is scheduled for June 13–15.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone runs along the coast for 800 miles from northern California into British Columbia. It can produce earthquakes as large as a 9.0 magnitude. In such an event, Bainbridge Island would likely be cut off from the mainland and ferry service would be discontinued. The community would need to rely on its own emergency capabilities for days to weeks.

As part of this year's exercise, COBI will activate its **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** on June 13, its emergency flotilla on June 14 and one of the community's disaster hubs on June 15, with the goal of practicing our community's response and identifying specific areas that need improvement.



The EOC will oversee the City's and its partners' responses to everything from downed trees and power lines and transport of people requiring medical attention to reuniting families and communicating with the media.

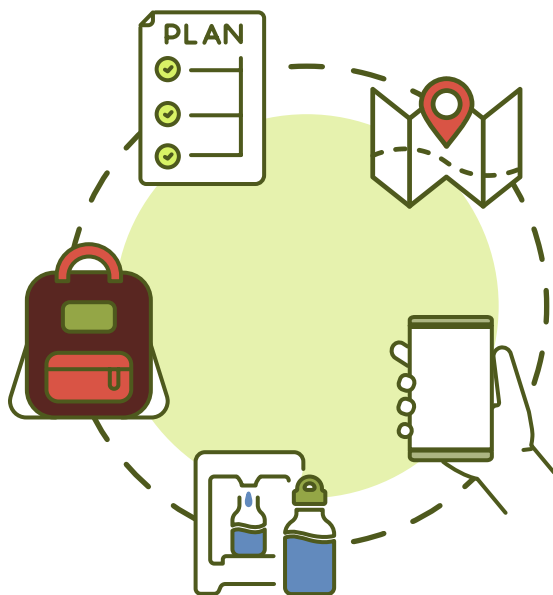
The emergency flotilla will help transport people and supplies to and from the island.

The disaster hubs on the island will provide intermediate medical care, shelter for vulnerable populations, information, supplies and psychological first aid.

## Preparation to-do list

There are things you and your family can do to prepare for a large-scale earthquake. Use the Cascadia Rising event as a time to plan, gather supplies and practice your family's response.

- Join your local Map Your Neighborhood group or start one. [bainbridgewa.gov/MYN](http://bainbridgewa.gov/MYN)
- Gather a three-week (at the minimum) emergency supply of food, water, prescription medicines and pet/livestock food. Calculate one gallon of water per person per day (water needs for animals vary by size).
- Make sure everyone has the cell number of an out-of-state contact. Out-of-state lines will likely become functional before local lines do, so separated family members can check in by messaging the contact.
- Identify a family meeting spot and/or discuss a plan for what happens if people get separated during an event.
- Identify the closest island disaster hub to your home. Make sure all family members know how to get there. [bainbridgeprepares.org/teams/hubs/](http://bainbridgeprepares.org/teams/hubs/)



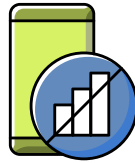
## Natural disaster response scenario

A 9.0 magnitude earthquake at 9:30 on a Friday morning knocks out all power in western Washington, triggers tsunami warnings up and down the coast, grounds ferries and damages docks, destroys the Agate Pass Bridge and damages buildings and homes. Children are at school and people are at work. Some cell service continues, but it is spotty, and the system immediately becomes overwhelmed; 911 calls no longer work. Many people are injured or dead. Disoriented animals are running loose. Trees have fallen across roadways.

People put out small fires that have broken out and turn off the valves to their propane tanks and water mains. Neighbors check in with one another to find out who needs help. BP volunteers care for their families and neighbors and treat the injured. Aftershocks continue to happen so many people set up tents in clearings.

On Monday at 10:00 a.m., the City of Bainbridge Island activates the EOC and begins communicating (via ham radio powered by generators) with emergency management organizations at the state and federal levels. BP volunteers report to the disaster hubs located around the island. Injured people are carried or make their own way to the hubs where volunteers triage the patients based on severity of injury and then commence treatment. The hubs communicate with the EOC, which begins to determine transportation for those in need of a higher level of care. People begin to bring the deceased to the hubs where temporary morgues have been set up. Volunteers coordinate family reunification and make sure that children still separated from their families are cared for. BP volunteers perform search and rescue operations as directed by the EOC. The emergency flotilla as directed by the EOC helps with transportation of patients, family reunification and transportation of supplies. The BP Domestic Animal Care team tends to displaced and stranded animals.

Over the next few weeks, the City begins to clear major roads. Emergency supplies are transported to the island, but people must rely on their own emergency food and water supplies to get by.

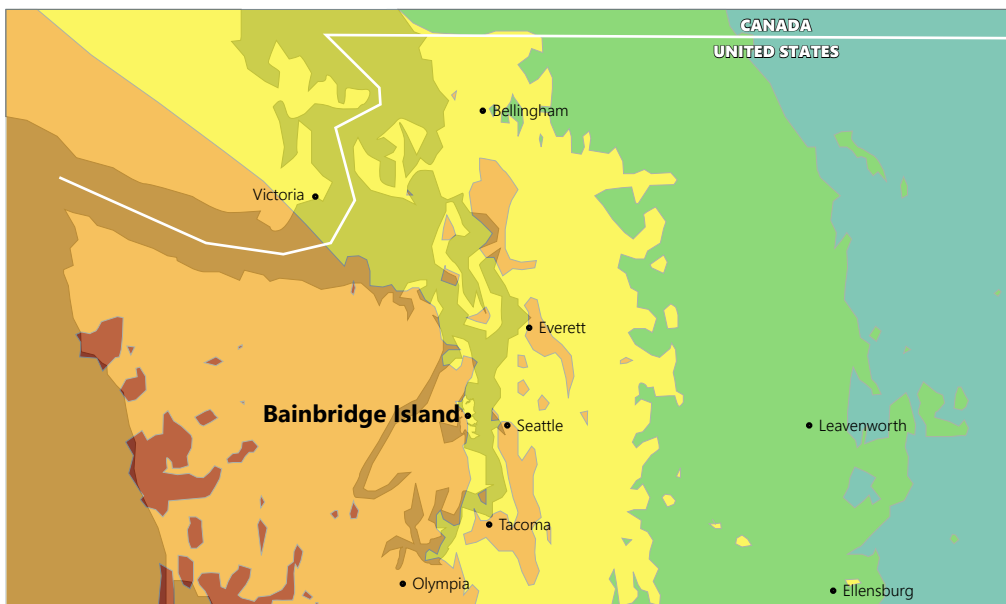


## Tsunamis

A 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake will generate tsunamis all along the Pacific Coast in Washington. It will also generate smaller tsunamis in Puget Sound. Although tsunami water level and speed have not been quantified for most of Bainbridge Island, assume that a massive earthquake might generate rising sea levels and potentially dangerous waves anywhere on the coastline. As soon as the earthquake has stopped, if you are at sea level get to higher ground. Aftershocks will likely generate additional tsunamis.

Areas most at risk for 4- to 8-foot waves:

- » Port Madison
- » Manitou Beach
- » Murden Cove
- » Eagle Harbor
- » Rich Passage
- » Battle Point
- » Fletcher Bay



## Shakemap (Intensity)

- IV (Light)
- V (Moderate)
- VI (Strong)
- VII (Very Strong)
- VIII (Severe)

This map shows the projected impacts of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Retrieved from: [preptoolkit.fema.gov/web/nle-2022/cascadia-rising-resources](http://preptoolkit.fema.gov/web/nle-2022/cascadia-rising-resources)

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Have a story idea for COBI Connects? Email [communications@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:communications@bainbridgewa.gov)



Get weekly updates on City topics: [bainbridgewa.gov/500](http://bainbridgewa.gov/500)



## CITY BEGINS WORK ON HOUSING ACTION PLAN

The City is moving ahead with its Housing Action Plan (HAP) after approving a contract with consulting firm ECONorthwest on March 8. Washington state law authorizes grant assistance to communities that develop HAPs to increase housing diversity, including through affordability to accommodate residents of all income levels. The law supports activities that range from allowing accessory dwelling units to reducing parking restrictions to increasing density.

Last year, the City Council directed the City Manager to begin work to develop a HAP. The first steps of the process are conducting a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), which should be completed in early fall, and eliciting community and stakeholder engagement. Once the HNA is done, the City will review its policies, programs and regulations regarding housing development with the goal of identifying ways to encourage construction of affordable and market-rate housing in a greater variety of types and densities and at a range of cost levels.

The City received and accepted a grant of \$100,000 in February from the Washington State Department of Commerce for development of the HAP. Additional information is available at [bainbridgewa.gov/1189](http://bainbridgewa.gov/1189).

Sign up here to stay informed about the HAP project: [bainbridgewa.gov/List.aspx](http://bainbridgewa.gov/List.aspx)



## CITY PARTNERING WITH CHAMBER TO BRING BACK GRAND OLD FOURTH

As the Chamber of Commerce puts it on their website, "Cross your fingers. ..." If COVID numbers remain stable, the Bainbridge Island annual Grand Old Fourth celebration will be back this year with the perennial favorites: Hometown Parade; Pancake Breakfast; BYS Fun Run; Street Fair; Classic Car Show; Beer & Wine Garden at Waterfront Park; Kids Zone including games, a giant slide and pony rides; and live entertainment.

Those events are scheduled for July 4th. The Rotary Auction & Rummage Sale is tentatively scheduled for the 2nd and the Downtown Winslow Street Dance for the evening of the 3rd.

In addition to participating in the parade, the City will be contributing police support and traffic barricades and helping to share information about the citywide waste reduction campaign with the public.

Updates available at [bainbridgechamber.com/bainbridge-island-grand-old-4th](http://bainbridgechamber.com/bainbridge-island-grand-old-4th).



## FIREWORKS BAN

This is a friendly reminder that consumer fireworks are not allowed on Bainbridge Island. The City Council in 2019 approved a ban on the sale, possession and use of consumer fireworks following concerns related to wildfire risk, noise, safety and environmental impacts.

### What's allowed?

- » Display fireworks & special effects shows (both require a permit).
- » Trick or novelty devices. These are small firework devices not classified as a consumer or display firework. Examples include toy caps, toy smoke devices, party poppers, snappers, snakes and glow worms.

### What's not allowed?

- » Sparklers (these pose a danger similar to other consumer fireworks, as they burn at a high temperature and can cause injuries and fires)
- » Roman candles
- » Mine and shell devices
- » Aerial shell kits
- » Cone fountains
- » Firecrackers



We appreciate your cooperation to keep everyone in our community safe.