

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SEATTLE, WA
Permit No. 4776

CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE
ISLAND
280 Madison Ave. N.
Bainbridge Island, WA
98110

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

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

Fall 2022

COBI CONNECTS



CITY EMPLOYEE RETIRES AFTER NEARLY FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE



Delbert "Del" Frantz retired September 1 after 38 and a half years working for Bainbridge Island. In 1982, he and his wife and their two young daughters left Pennsylvania "where there was no work," taking a three-day Greyhound bus ride west, which Frantz laughingly said was "a mistake." Once they arrived on Bainbridge, Frantz started working with relatives as an electrician and later as a landscaper. In 1984, he brought his skills to what was then known as the City of Winslow.

With six colleagues, Frantz worked on everything for the town from water services, roadside repairs, landscaping, sewer and parts inventory, reporting to many managers and mayors over the years. He said, chuckling, "You didn't have to get bored."

After the island incorporated as the City of Bainbridge Island, Frantz spent much of his time working in the wastewater treatment plant, which was its own kind of adventure. A couple of times he had to rescue colleagues who fell into the aeration basin. One time a co-worker was trying to change out the bearings and standing on the paddles to do so, but they began to move, leaving him in a "log-roll type of situation," moving faster and faster until he couldn't keep up. But Frantz himself had to jump in to the basin a number of times to pull out items people had dropped into the sewer system, items like key rings, pagers, TV remote controls and toys, which could "goof up the equipment" if he didn't pull them out. He said he never found a diamond ring but did see plenty of dollar bills and lots of spare change. He also called the alarm on one of the sewage leaks that plagued the aging system over the years.

When asked what retirement might look like, Frantz said he and his wife of 48 years will probably do some traveling. He likes the idea of driving trips with no time limits and spending time in "peace and quiet watching nature."

THE STATE OF THE CITY CITY MANAGER KING LOOKS BACK AT HIS FIRST YEAR



For 40 years, Bainbridge City Manager Blair King has been dedicated to one pursuit: local government. King, who grew up near Yosemite National Park and who had a daily 75-mile one-way bus ride to high school while growing up, remembers local government employees as heroes. If they didn't provide basic services like plowing snow from the roads and public safety, for example, people were in trouble.

"There's one federal government," he said. "That's what we hear about the most often. And most people know a little about their state government too. But local government is the one that regularly provides people with the most services, and it's equally important to federal and state governments, not subordinate to them." One of King's pet peeves is when people talk about being "promoted" to state office. "Local government is the closest to the people," he said.

King began his Bainbridge job a little more than one year ago in the middle of the pandemic and during the onset of an economic downturn and a large-scale withdrawal from employment that has become known as the Great Resignation. He explained that, when he first started, they were just reopening City Hall after the coronavirus (COVID) shutdown. At the same time, he was developing hybrid work schedules to facilitate employees working from home. As a person who "values face-to-face interaction," even during COVID he scheduled 40 socially distanced, one-on-one meetings with residents and employees to get to know people and the community. In the midst of continuing to manage day-to-day city government, King and staff were also working to navigate the various policies and procedures as new information about the virus emerged.

Continued on page 2.

CITY BUYS FIRST ELECTRIC VEHICLE

The City's new Ford Mach-E, which has been assigned to the Bainbridge Island Police Department (BIPD), is COBI's first all-electric vehicle and produces zero emissions. It will be used primarily by the Community Health Navigator and BIPD administrative staff.

Police Chief Joe Clark explains that the car will not be used for patrol; however, he says, "the department is evaluating the car's suitability for that purpose. Considerations will include the range over a 12-hour shift, length of time to recharge, capacity to carry the necessary equipment and useability in all weather conditions."

The Bainbridge Climate Action Plan calls for the City to transition COBI's fleets to primarily electric vehicles and use biofuels when electricity is not an option. Climate Mitigation Officer Autumn Salamack says about the Mach-E, "This vehicle marks an important first step in our transition to zero emission fuels. On- and off-road fleet vehicles are responsible for approximately 20 percent of our annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from municipal operations, so this transition helps us meet our Climate Action Plan goals and improve air quality on the island." Salamack adds that the City is "currently working to add more electric vehicles and charging infrastructure at City facilities."

Earlier this year, the City converted City vehicles from diesel and B20 biodiesel to renewable diesel (R99). R99 is a diesel fuel substitute produced from nonpetroleum renewable sources including vegetable oils and animal fats. The change will reduce the City's GHG emissions.



SPORTSMAN CLUB/NEW BROOKLYN INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS FINISHED IN TIME FOR SCHOOL

The specific goals of the now completed safety improvements at the busy school route intersection at New Brooklyn and Sportsman Club included narrowing the width of traffic lanes to 10 feet on all legs of the intersection; replacing the asphalt shoulder with sidewalk, curb and gutter; providing multi-use path connections; and building 5-foot-wide asphalt shoulders on the intersection approaches.

Because carrying out the safety improvements required closure of part of New Brooklyn for a few months, the project had to be started and completed during school summer vacation. But there were still challenges within that timeframe, most notably the Rotary Auction, which happens at Woodward Middle School in early summer every year. The City coordinated closely with Rotary leadership to limit impacts to volunteers, donors making dropoffs and auction attendees. Full closure of New Brooklyn Road west of the intersection with Sportsman Club Road was postponed until after the July Fourth weekend.

The work was completed through a competitive bid contract with Sound Pacific Construction for a total of \$1,114,625. Project costs were partly covered by \$635,000 of Federal Highway Administration grant funds. The City is seeking additional reimbursement funds up to \$100,000 as they become available through the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) local programs office.



Continued from page 1.

In King's first challenging year on the island, a lot has happened. He reviewed the City's major milestones:



Received \$7 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money and is working with the Council on how to use it best.



Completed the sustainable transportation plan.



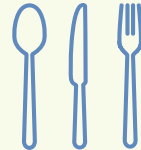
Launched the Housing Action Plan.



Is evaluating the potential reuse of recycled water from the wastewater treatment plant.



Is evaluating the use of solar and battery energy storage systems for community disaster hubs.



Directed implementation of the City Council-passed plastics reduction ordinance.



Reduced staff vacancy rate to less than 10%.



Hired climate action staff in support of the Climate Action Plan.



Allocated resources for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) training for staff.



Assessed the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and scheduled to launch a restart with an easier-to-understand document and greater community engagement.



Initiated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan requirements by reprogramming \$60,000 of unspent ARPA funds.

What's next? "We want to be strategic to focus on priorities. The Climate Action Plan will require a lot of time to be successful," said King. "I don't want people to forget about that. It's easy to focus on a new activity. I want to be sure that what we do focus on is sustainable, predictable and achievable." Priorities for the next few years include the following:

- » Continuing to reduce the City staff vacancy rate.
- » Implementing the Climate Action Plan.
- » Following through with spending the ARPA money strategically.
- » Carrying out the 2024 update of the Comprehensive Plan.
- » Completing the evaluation of solid waste services.
- » Developing the Housing Action Plan; Hiring staff to focus on housing.
- » Completing the Groundwater Management Plan.
- » Completing the Winslow Subarea Plan Update.
- » Moving into the new police/court facility by the third quarter of 2023.

About living on Bainbridge, King said that he loves walking around Pritchard Park and riding his bike over to Crystal Springs Drive. And, he added somewhat sheepishly, "I really do like the blackberries."

When asked how he made it through this first challenging year at work, King said, "A level of experience. The dynamics are not new. They are variations on a theme." But he also explained, "Every day is different. You learn something new every day." He anticipates that to continue to be true going forward. "It will be interesting," he said. "I think we've changed permanently as a society in some ways. We just don't know how yet." He added, "I just hope we don't lose our ability to meet face to face."



Since reopening after COVID shutdowns, the Planning & Community Development department has expanded counter hours for in-person service to Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–3 p.m.

Follow along every week:

- ✉ City Manager's Report
- 📺 City Update



NEW HIRES AND PROMOTIONS AT COBI



Patty Charnas, Planning & Community Development Director



Jerrie Davies, Court Administrator



Ben DeBriac, Senior IT Specialist



Lisa Folden, Administrative Specialist II



Carrie Freitas, Senior Financial Analyst



HB Harper, Planning Manager



Shannon Hays, Communications Coordinator



Ian Lince, Maintenance Technician I



Hannah Ljunggren, Climate Action Outreach Coordinator



Joanne Mendenhall, Planner



David Pepicelli, Police Officer



Nollan Quinn, Police Officer



Zachary Robtoy, Police Officer



Edgar Travers, Maintenance Technician I



Rustin Webb, Utilities Technician II



Kiilani Yette, Mechanic II

CITY GETS ITS FIRST NATIONAL URBAN FELLOW



Ellyze Francisco, a Georgetown University master's student in public policy, is joining the City's Executive Department for the next nine months. Francisco comes to us as the City's first National Urban Fellow (NUF). The NUF program is a leadership training program designed to support the development of professionals "committed to equity, public service and social impact" and working in public service and administration.

Fellows are graduate students at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy who spend nine months in a mentorship placement with a partner organization. There are 268 mentorships sites, including COBI, and 369 fellows across the nation.

COBI Connects asked Francisco to talk briefly about her experience so far.

How/why did you choose Bainbridge for your mentorship?

As someone living in NYC, I was excited to experience somewhere that was so connected to nature but still have access to a bigger city. I also have a strong organizing background but little experience in local government, so I'm interested in learning more about how to answer to the community's immediate concerns in a formal context.

It's definitely a smaller community than NYC but similarly has a lot of visitors and a robust arts community that I'm excited to explore.

What do you like about working on Bainbridge?

Everyone in City Hall has been super welcoming and excited for me to learn more about the community and meet new people. I'm currently living in Seattle, so I've been enjoying the picturesque ferry ride every day. I've lived and worked in five different countries and have never had such a beautiful commute!

What does the NUF mentorship do for fellows that grad school alone would not?

NUF is unique in that it guarantees that students have professional experience upon graduating. In an exclusively academic setting, jobs are mostly limited to TA positions. Not too many programs offer both theory and practice, so we have the advantage of experiencing what we learn in class at our mentorships. I've already seen parallels from my Georgetown classes in my everyday tasks at City Hall.

What have you been doing so far in the mentorship?

So far, I've been working closely with other departments to create an e-bike survey and updating the legislative policy guidelines with the department heads.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES NEEDED TO KEEP CITY WORKING

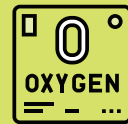
Last year marked the 30th anniversary of the incorporation of Bainbridge Island. COBI inherited much of the previous infrastructure from the City of Winslow, and that infrastructure is now approaching 50–60 years old and in need of major rehabilitation or replacement. This year the City is replacing one of its water reservoirs, which is no longer operating effectively. Three other City-run facilities are now also needing upgrades.

The **Winslow Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**, near Hawley Cove Park on Donald Place, is nearing its functional capacity. The Class-3 secondary-activated sludge plant treats and disinfects sewage from the Winslow wastewater collection system. Recent sewage spills signal the breakdown of specific technologies and processes that will need to be addressed in the near future. The plant operates with a Department of Ecology (DOE) permit, and DOE has given the City a few years to upgrade the facility to qualify for a new permit.

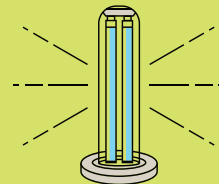
A closer look at the Winslow Wastewater Treatment Plant

One example of aging technology is the secondary treatment of the sewage piped into the WWTP.

The first treatment involves using dissolved oxygen and settling to remove solids.



The remaining liquids are then disinfected with UV lights before being discharged into Puget Sound.



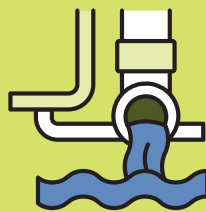
But the neighborhood where the plant is located has for years been experiencing frequent micro-power outages in which the power goes out for a second or two and then immediately restarts.



Unfortunately, as Public Works Director Chris Wierzbicki explains, when the power immediately comes back on, the 20-year-old UV lights do not. Wierzbicki adds that the plant generators don't even have the chance to activate during these brief interruptions.



The manufacturer of the UV lights has not been able to solve the problem, and Puget Sound Energy has not been able to manage the cause of the micro-power outages. The result of the lack of UV light is effluent that doesn't meet the standards of the City's permit.



Wierzbicki says that the City is planning to replace the UV lights system and install an uninterrupted power supply. This work is currently underway.

The City hired a consultant to evaluate the plant, resulting in a three-step plan:

- Operational improvements at plant.** These improvements are minor changes to the operational procedures that will increase efficiency and result in better overall plant performance.
- Short-term improvements.** Within the existing infrastructure, the City will work to optimize technology and integrate mechanical improvements over the next few years, such as UV disinfection and solids settling, without having to expand the footprint of the plant.
- Long-term improvements.** The City anticipates that within 10 years there will no longer be any technological optimizations possible at the plant and the infrastructure will need to be expanded. This level of improvement will be particularly challenging since the plant is surrounded by a neighborhood and a wetland.

Another facility reaching the end of its useful life is the **Taylor Well** serving Rockaway Beach. The pumps are no longer drawing as much water as they used to, and the Rockaway Beach neighborhood is consuming considerably more water for irrigation than in previous years. The pumps themselves need to be replaced, which will likely happen this October once water usage has dropped for the year, and the well, which is more than 500 feet below ground, needs to be cleaned. During the upgrades, the City will briefly tie in with the Kitsap Public Utility District water system so that water service is not interrupted.

Still another facility looking at upcoming replacement is the **Wing Point Sewer Pump**, which drives sewage from the Wing Point neighborhood to the plant. The pump is being affected by sea level rise and has already been submerged during a storm surge. The City has a plan to replace and relocate the pump out of the flood zone.



Photo of submerged Wing Point Sewer Pump during a recent storm surge. Such surges are expected to intensify with climate change.

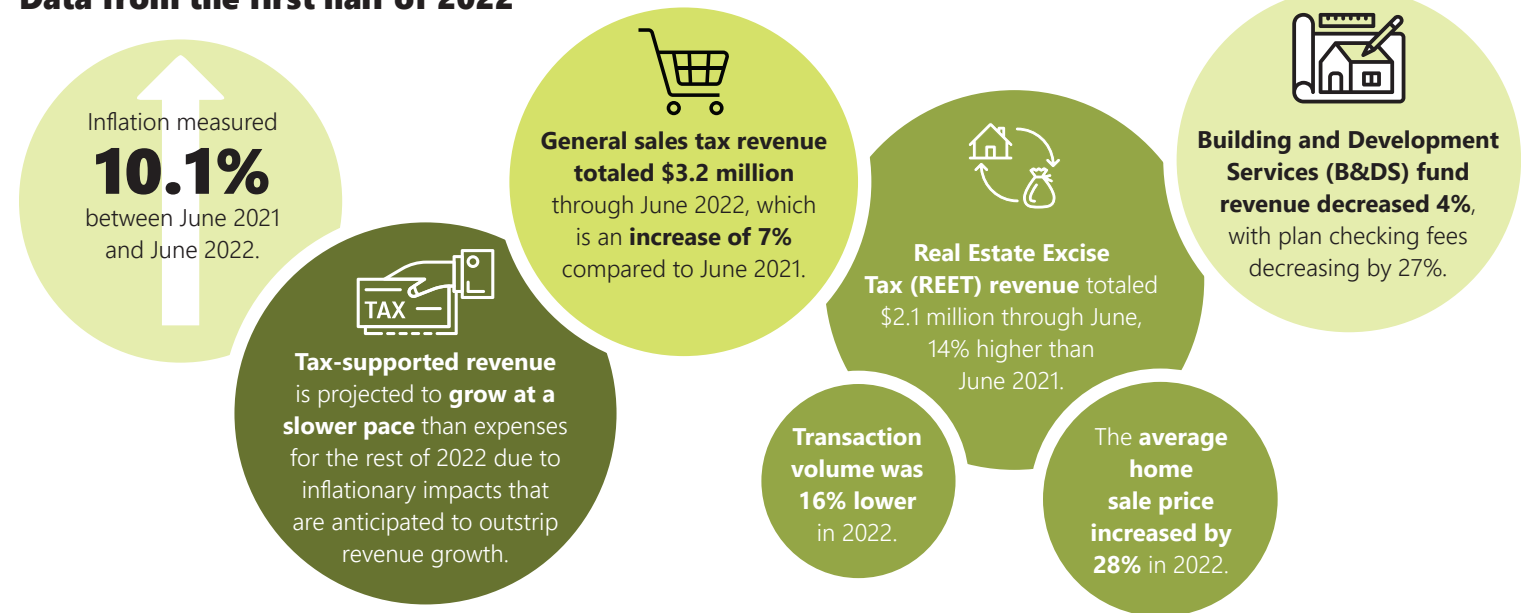
BALANCED BIENNIAL BUDGET HEADING TO COUNCIL

The world is in the midst of high economic volatility. We're early on in the COVID pandemic recovery and experiencing high inflation and supply chain disruption, but the budget planning must go on. Next up is the biennial budget for 2023–2024. Per law, City staff must conduct the last public hearing on the budget no later than 25 days prior to the start of the fiscal biennium, which this year is December 7th. The budget must be adopted no later than December 31, 2022.

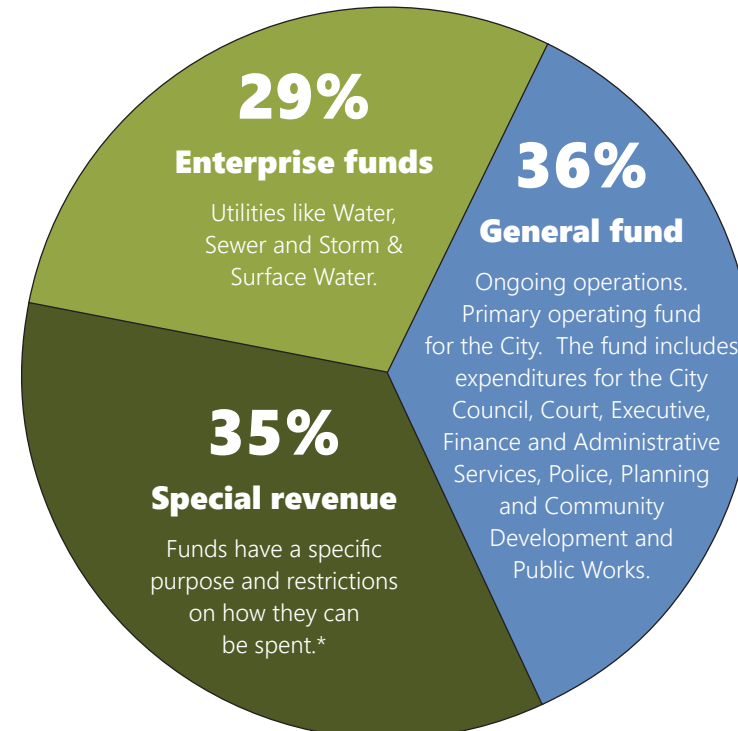
In order to prepare the budget, staff must first project income and expenditures from now until the end of the fiscal year on December 31, 2022. Next, staff must project income and expenses over 2023. Finally, staff will project income and expenses for 2024 because Bainbridge Island has, since the beginning of 2009, adopted a two-year budget cycle.

The finance staff is working on a budget that will be, per City Manager Blair King, "balanced and conservative," as a reflection of the challenging economic backdrop. The City Council passed an ordinance in March 2022 that increased most fees, permits and service charges in the Building and Development Services (BDS) fund effective September 2022. This ordinance also includes automatic CPI-U (consumer price index for all urban consumers) adjustments starting in 2023 for most fees, permits and service charges.

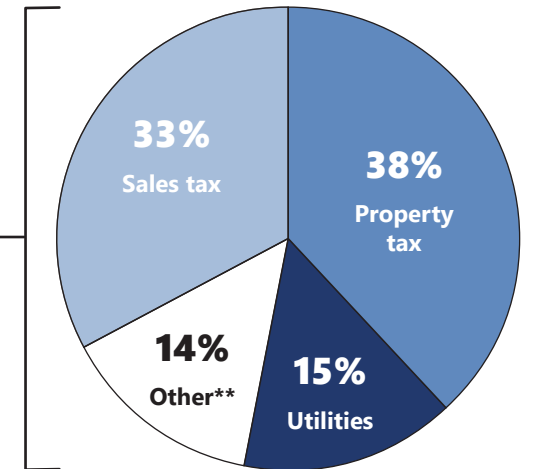
Data from the first half of 2022



Budget breakdown



General fund revenue sources



Cities are legally required to have a balanced budget, which means that the appropriations should not be greater than the available resources. The Government Financers Officers Association more specifically defines a structurally balanced budget as one in which the recurring expenditures are not greater than the recurring revenues.

*Examples of special revenue funds include streets, capital, affordable housing and the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

**Other revenue sources include business licenses, business and occupation (B&O) taxes, penalties, investment earnings and grants not reported elsewhere.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR HIGHLIGHTS TWO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONCERNS

Anne LeSage, the City's Emergency Management Coordinator, wants islanders to know about two emergency issues that have recently come to light.

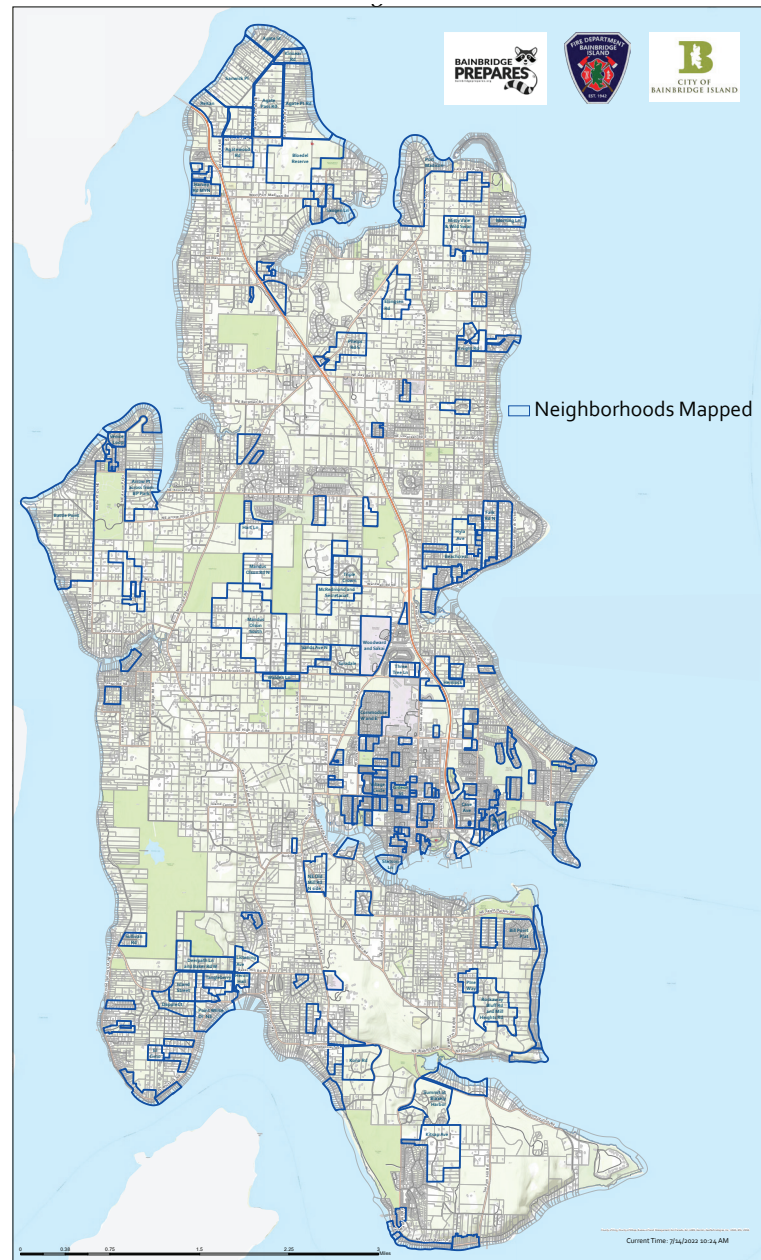
Unmapped neighborhoods

The Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program forms the basis of Bainbridge's disaster preparedness strategy. But the latest review of participation in the program reveals that only 35 percent of island neighborhoods have enrolled.

MYN organizes communities in neighborhoods of 15 to 20 homes that work together to form the second level of preparedness, after each individual household. The neighborhood group receives training from the City and then, under the leadership of a captain, shares basic information to help in an emergency. That information includes what relevant tools people have (e.g., chainsaws), what relevant skills people have (e.g., medical training), where propane shutoff valves are located, and what special needs people have (e.g., use a wheelchair). This information will help neighbors work together following an emergency to provide the first level of support, including first aid and transportation to the nearest disaster hub.

To increase participation, LeSage is spearheading an awareness campaign this fall to help drive the community toward 100 percent MYN participation. People can find out if their neighborhood is part of MYN by consulting the map on this page. Those whose neighborhoods are part of the 65 percent that have yet to participate should contact LeSage at alesage@bainbridgewa.gov. She will provide training materials to get the MYN process started. The initial training session lasts about 90 minutes. LeSage can also inform people about who their neighborhood captains are, if they are already part of MYN.

Additional information on the MYN program and a link to view the map are posted online here: bainbridgewa.gov/MYN.



Tsunami simulation

The July 2022 Washington State Geological Survey tsunami simulation for Puget Sound raised some worries for Bainbridge Island. The simulation was based on a Seattle Fault Zone 7.5-magnitude earthquake. The Seattle Fault Zone runs east and west across Puget Sound and the lower portion of the island.

The three major problems highlighted by the simulation are inundation risk, strong current risk and the rapidity with which the first waves will arrive on our shores. According to the simulation, people on Bainbridge have only two to three minutes between an earthquake on the Seattle Fault Zone and tsunami waves, which in some areas of the island could produce as much as 32 feet of flooding. The simulation predicts an increase in currents as well, up to 25 knots. (Note that an earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone could be larger, but resulting tsunami waves could take hours to arrive in Puget Sound.)

When there's an earthquake, people should immediately get away from the water and climb to higher ground, at least 30 to 40 feet above sea level.

Predicted inundation levels

- » Fay Bainbridge: 11 feet
- » Manitou Beach/Murden Cove: 32 feet
- » Yeomalt Point: 24 feet
- » Eagle Harbor: 21 feet
- » Pritchard Park: 26 feet

Predicted current speeds

Note that current speeds around Bainbridge are often in the -5 to +5 knot range.

- » Port Madison: 19 knots
- » Restoration Point: 25+ knots
- » Murden Cove: 25+ knots
- » Point White: 25+ knots
- » Bill Point: 25+ knots
- » Fletcher Bay (entrance): 25+ knots
- » Blakely Harbor: 25+ knots
- » Agate Passage: 25+ knots

COBI BECOMES WEATHER-READY AMBASSADOR

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) welcomed the City of Bainbridge Island on August 29 into its team of more than 12,000 Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors. The NOAA initiative is intended to strengthen partnerships with external organizations toward building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events.

As an ambassador, the City is expected to help minimize and mitigate weather-related disasters by prioritizing employee preparedness, disseminating weather preparedness information to the public and helping residents become more weather resilient.

Read more about the initiative here: weather.gov/wrn/amb-tou.



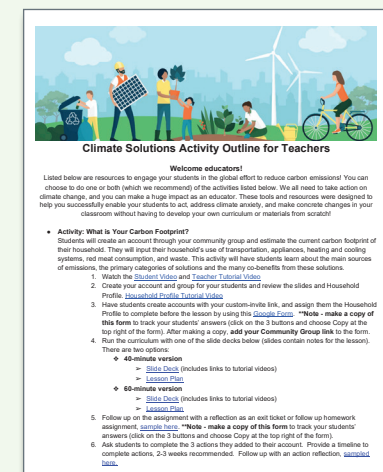
BE A CLIMATE SMART BUSINESS LEADER

Starting in 2023, all retail food and lodging establishments will be required to follow new waste reduction requirements for onsite dining, to-go food orders and personal care product packaging. But businesses that get a jump on the requirements early and pledge to reduce their use of single-use plastics now will be recognized by the City as Climate Smart Bainbridge Business Leaders. Those businesses will get free social media promotion, be included in newspaper ads and receive an official window cling to show off their climate smarts.

Customers can do their part too by supporting local business efforts and pledging to reduce their own use of single-use plastics. Learn more and take the Erase the Waste pledge at bainbridgewa.gov/ZeroWaste.



CITY-SPONSORED CURRICULUM ENCOURAGES KIDS TO JOIN THE CLIMATE SMART CHALLENGE



Autumn Salamack, the City's Climate Mitigation/Adaptation Officer, wanted to find a way to get Bainbridge youth engaged in the island's Climate Smart Challenge. So she and the City's new Climate Action Outreach Coordinator, Hannah Ljunggren, customized Community Climate Solutions curriculum for Bainbridge Island 4-12 graders. Salamack explains: "The goal is for teachers and groups to use the lesson plans to talk about climate change, get students to encourage their households to join the Challenge and then start completing actions in the Challenge." She adds that the City's goal is to get 250 households signed up for the Challenge by the end of the year; they're currently more than halfway there.

The lesson plans, which feature short videos and slide decks, are posted on the City website for public access. Students can use the online platform to measure their carbon footprint, take action to reduce that footprint and talk about solutions. Ljunggren says, "This curriculum includes easy-to-use lesson plans for teachers to incorporate climate change into their classroom with minimal effort." Resources for younger kids will be available soon.

For more information, contact Ljunggren at hjunggren@bainbridgewa.gov.

Access the curriculum here: bainbridgewa.gov/ClimateSmartBainbridge.