

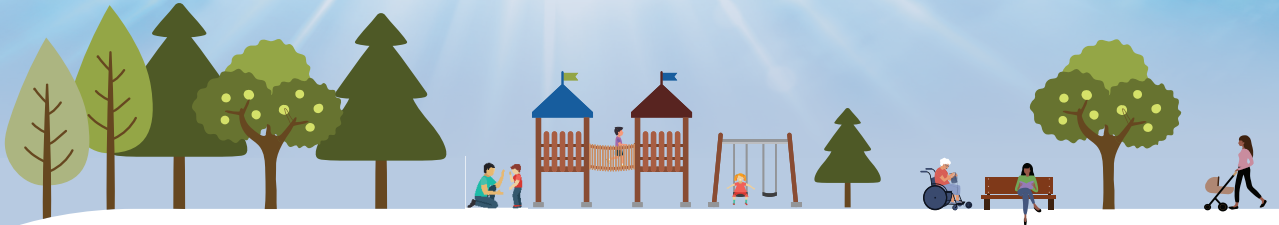
COBI CONNECTS



2022 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

+ 96% of residents positively scored the **preservation of our natural areas.**

+ BI came in the top 13% of the national benchmark as a **great place to live.**



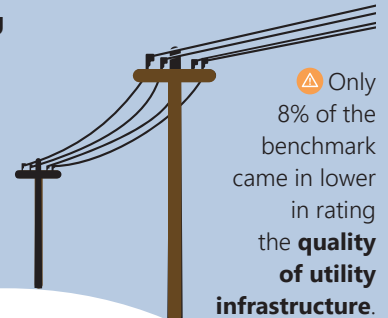
+ BI scored in the top 5% of the national benchmark for **emergency preparedness.**



⚠️ Availability of **affordable quality housing** scored in the bottom 3% of the national benchmark.

⚠️ Only 3% of the national benchmark came in lower than BI did in **attracting people from diverse backgrounds.**

⚠️ Only 8% of the benchmark came in lower in rating the **quality of utility infrastructure.**



+ 80% positively scored **City employee customer service.**



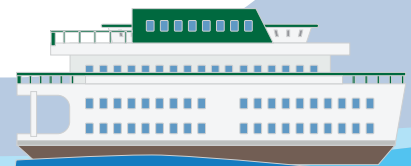
⚠️ Availability of **affordable medical and mental health services** scored in the bottom 3% of the national benchmark.

+ 75% scored the **vibrancy of downtown** positively.

+ BI scored extremely high for **community support for the arts and opportunities for education, culture and art.**



+ Overall **feeling of safety** scored positively with 96% of residents.



2022 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS CONTINUED

In 2022, the City conducted a survey on topics related to City services and the Island's livability. The National Community Survey, a scientific comparison-based data collection project of the National Research Center (NRC) and Polco, gathered responses from a random sampling of Bainbridge Islanders. The NRC then compared the results to a database of more than 500 other communities across the nation who answered the same questions. During the Jan. 24 City Council meeting, the NRC presented the results.

The NRC collects results from a diverse group of Bainbridge Islanders. Because of its scientific approach, the NRC has a 95% confidence rating with a margin of error of only $\pm 3\%$. This means that, if the survey were administered again to a different group of diverse islanders, the results would vary by only as little as 3%. Each category of results was then marked as "higher" (+10 points difference), "much higher" (+20 points difference), "lower" (-10 points difference), "much lower" (-20 points difference) or "similar" to the national benchmark.

Respondents rated the community favorably on park space and recreation opportunities, the overall quality of the natural environment, public safety and emergency preparedness, among other categories. Availability of affordable and diverse housing options, as well as access to medical and mental health care services, were categories with low scores on Bainbridge. See the affordable housing update at right.

The results are available at bainbridgewa.gov/512/National-Citizens-Survey. Although the survey was administered recently, much of the benchmark data was collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NRC and Polco note in their report that this discrepancy could impact benchmark comparisons.

Affordable housing update

-  The City is in the middle of developing a Housing Action Plan (HAP), in part to tackle the community's need for affordable housing.
-  The City has budgeted for hiring additional staff to work on housing issues.
-  The City is assessing the location of the 625 Winslow Way police station for potential redevelopment of the site for affordable housing.
-  City Council has asked the Planning Commission for recommendations on the HAP framework.
-  Check the website for updates and to sign up for update notifications: cityofbainbridgeisland.civilspace.io/en/projects/housing-action-plan.

BAINBRIDGE PREPARES PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES BIG AWARD

In November, the Bainbridge Prepares partnership, which includes the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island Fire Department (BIFD) and Bainbridge Prepares (BP), received the highest honor from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). The City's Emergency Coordinator Anne LeSage, BIFD's Fire Chief Jared Moravec and BP founder Scott James attended the IAEM's 70th annual conference in Savannah, Georgia, to receive the 2022 award for the National Emergency Management Voluntary Organization of the year.

The award is presented to one U.S. volunteer organization that during the year made extraordinary emergency management contributions within the United States. The BP partnership was recognized particularly for its work during COVID to vaccinate residents. The BP partnership was also a recipient of the 2021 Bainbridge Community Foundation Humanitarian Award for its work during the COVID pandemic.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials and private sector and non-governmental organizations.



BP COVID vaccination project facts:

Partners:



More than **90 vaccination clinics** hosted since 2020

More than **45,000 doses** administered to residents of Kitsap, King and Jefferson counties



More than **500 volunteers** participated, giving **45,000 hours of service** to the local and regional community.

← LeSage, James and Moravec receiving the award at the IAEM Annual Conference.

COMMUNITY READS PROGRAM ENGAGES BAINBRIDGE ON THE TOPIC OF RACE

In October, the City and its Race Equity Advisory Committee, along with its partners Eagle Harbor Book Company (EHBC) and the Bainbridge Public Library, launched a six-month community reads program called BI Reads for Justice (BIR4J). The book selected for the community read was the abridged version of “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You,” by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi.

Part of the program involves community events related to the book. EHBC hosted a panel discussion in November for a standing-room-only crowd about why we should talk about race. In December, the Bainbridge Public Library hosted “Living Room Conversations,” a guided conversation practicing communicating across differences while building understanding. On February 12, in honor of Black History Month, the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art hosted a public screening of “Beyond Black and White,” a documentary about race and education that focuses on Seattle’s Roosevelt High School. In addition, discussions about the book have been held monthly at the Senior Center.

The community reads program was an idea that islanders came up with as a strategy to foster collective conversation around diversity, equity and inclusion. City Manager Blair King had read “Stamped” as part of a community read event in another community, and “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You” was already being taught at Woodward Middle School as a part of the eighth-grade curriculum, so it was a natural choice for the first book. King explained his support for community reads programs: “They build a common understanding. They support literacy. They lend themselves to community-building activities.” He added, “Our primary ask of people is to read the book. We guarantee you that you will be more informed if you read the book. You’ll have a broader view. There’s no requirement to agree, but how will you know unless you read the book?”



Ellyze Francisco, the City’s National Urban Fellow, stressed the importance of the accompanying community events: “Our first event at EHBC gave people of all ages an opportunity to discuss race on Bainbridge Island. Our second event at the library provided a safe space for community members to talk about race in smaller groups and particularly with people they might not have met otherwise. The film screening event broadened the conversation to how these issues permeate throughout the region and affect us here on Bainbridge today.”

BIR4J wrapped up the “Stamped” community read on March 13 at Bainbridge Cinemas with a Watch Party hosted by Seattle Arts and Lectures and featuring author Jason Reynolds. The next community read, not necessarily focused on justice, will begin this Spring. The City hopes to plan two community reads a year with alternating topics. Information on all of the events, discussion questions and the next community read can be found on the City’s website: cityofbainbridgeisland.civilspace.io/en/projects/bi-reads-for-justice-stamped.

← BI Reads for Justice panel at Eagle Harbor Bookstore.

EMPLOYEE RETIRES AFTER TWO DECADES OF SERVICE

In December, Public Works Manager Chuck Krumheuer retired from the City of Bainbridge Island after 21 years of service. He first joined the City as Public Works Supervisor after 20 years of experience working for utilities in other locations. Chuck was promoted to Public Works Manager in 2010; he oversaw the Operations and Maintenance division, which includes fleet, facilities, water, sewer, streets and wastewater treatment. During his tenure, Chuck handled the aftereffects of windstorms, snow, flooding, road closures, broken pipes and power outages, bringing to each situation his deep institutional knowledge, a calm demeanor and an appreciation for spreadsheets, no small feat. The City is grateful for Chuck’s dedicated service.



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION REGULATIONS IN EFFECT



QA

Why is COBI banning single-use plastics?

To fight climate change, protect human health and reduce plastic pollution in the ocean.

In November 2021, the Bainbridge Island City Council adopted an ordinance that took effect the first of this year intended to reduce single-use plastic waste. The ordinance requires all food retail establishments to offer reusable dishes for on-site dining and to provide home compostable ware for to-go food and drink service. The ordinance also requires businesses to charge 25 cents per disposable cup for to-go beverage orders and requires lodging establishments to replace plastic packaging for single-use personal care products with home compostable packaging (refillable dispensers are encouraged).

These regulations are intended to fight climate change and reduce waste in the environment. Single use plastics are often used for just a few minutes before being thrown away. Plastic production and disposal is responsible for 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and at least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year (OECD.org and Earth Day Network). The regulations are also intended to protect public health by requiring that all home compostable food service ware be certified to be free of all intentionally added fluorinated chemicals (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances), often referred to as PFAS chemicals. Some PFAS chemicals have been found to persist in the environment for long periods of time and have been linked to cancer and other harmful health effects (US EPA).

As people get used to these new regulations, the City urges patience and kindness toward affected businesses. The City is grateful for the many organizations that have worked to facilitate this transition including the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce, the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association and Bainbridge Island Zero Waste. For more information, visit bainbridgewa.gov/ZeroWaste.

Disposable cup fee

Starting January 1, local cafes and restaurants began charging 25 cents per disposable cup for to-go beverage orders. The fee is intended to help offset some of the cost of purchasing home compostable disposable cups for to-go orders and incentivize customers to reduce waste by bringing their own reusable cups. Businesses will alert customers about the fee before and after a transaction. Businesses retain the 25-cent fee and it is subject to sales tax. Retailers do not need to charge the fee when providing free drinking water in small, unlined paper cups upon customer request.

Save money and reduce waste.
Bring your own cup!



REUSABLE CUPS FROM CUSTOMERS MUST BE:

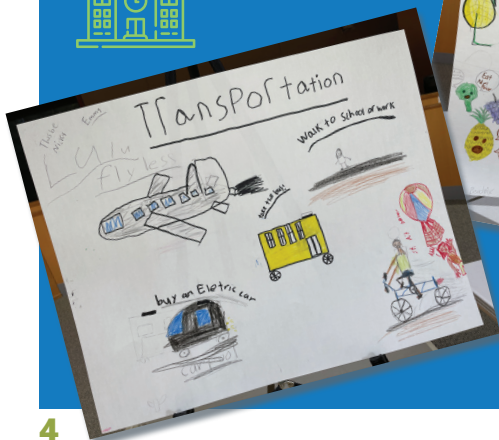
Clean

Sturdy

Appropriately insulated

(when used for hot beverages)

Or cup may be refused.



Climate Smart Youth Program launches at Ordway Elementary School

During a six-week program at Ordway Elementary School this fall, a team of students measured their carbon footprints, addressed climate anxiety and identified concrete climate solutions, using Community Climate Solutions curriculum customized by the City for Bainbridge Island 4–12 graders.

After the six weeks, the students presented posters at City Hall about what they learned.

The City is hoping to continue the program with other schools in Fall 2023. Find additional resources and lesson plans for grades 4–6 and 7–12 on the City's website at bainbridgewa.gov/1359/Climate-Smart-Bainbridge.

City shares Climate Action Plan progress in 2022

The City's Climate Officer presented the first Climate Action Plan Annual Progress Report during the Dec. 13 City Council meeting. The report highlights the City's achievements in implementing the Climate Action Plan between November 2020 and October 2022.

Read the report at bainbridgewa.gov/ClimateAction.



Key Climate Action Achievements

- ✓ Hired climate action staff to implement the Climate Action Plan.
- ✓ Passed new regulations to reduce waste from single-use plastics.
- ✓ Adopted the Sustainable Transportation Plan with a core focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Added new bike lanes including a new segment of the Sound to Olympics Trail.
- ✓ Purchased the first electric vehicle in the COBI fleet and installed the first fleet-focused charging station.
- ✓ Was selected as one of 12 communities in the country to receive technical assistance for renewable energy and resilience from U.S. Department of Energy.
- ✓ Launched the Climate Smart Challenge with more than 190 households participating through the end of 2022.
- ✓ Received two grants to map sea level rise vulnerabilities on the island.
- ✓ Evaluated six community disaster hubs for solar panels and battery storage and identified two sites for implementation.
- ✓ Hosted climate action community workshops, presentations and tabling events.
- ✓ Updated climate action resources on the COBI website and in COBI communications.
- ✓ Created climate change lesson plans for Grades 4–12 and piloted an after-school "Climate Smart 4th Grader" program.

PUBLIC WORKS ACHIEVES PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION BY THE APWA

At a presentation during the Oct. 25 City Council meeting, the City's Public Works Department (PW) was honored with full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA), a designation earned by only nine public works departments in the state to date. The award recognizes that the department has achieved full compliance with the APWA's recommended management practices of the highest standards.

PW Director Chris Wierzbicki explained that, although the COVID pandemic slowed the process of achieving accreditation, the department was nonetheless able to review each one of its 400 policies to ensure it would score an excellence rating of 97% or more with the APWA.

"Accreditation is an important tool," said City Manager Blair King, because public agencies "cannot use market share or a profit or loss statement to measure performance."

The accreditation will stand for four years during which the City will have to provide semi-annual updates to demonstrate continuing compliance. An ensuing re-accreditation process will require demonstration of continuous improvement and compliance with newly identified practices.

Washington's other fully accredited public works departments are in the cities of Bellevue, Bothell, Shoreline and Tacoma; Kitsap, Pierce and Thurston counties; and Clark Regional Wastewater District. Bainbridge is the smallest agency thus far accredited.



2022 Public Works staff photo.

The Public Works Management Practices Manual

- » Guides a self-assessment of many aspects of agency performance.
- » Helps determine how agency practices ensure effective delivery of public works services.
- » Documents agency approach to a variety of program areas.
- » Does not include direction for how a function must be accomplished.
- » Does not set quotas or productivity metrics.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FACILITY UPDATES





Islandwide speed limits

At the Jan. 24 meeting, the City Council held a public hearing on setting consistent islandwide speed limits. The decision was consistent with the recommendations of the Sustainable Transportation Plan, which was developed with significant input from a resident steering group, and with the recommendations of expert transportation and engineering firm, Transpo Group. Beginning in 2021, Transpo Group evaluated each section of the island's collector and arterial streets against existing data, including vehicle speed and volume, existing speed limits and signage, documented collision history from 2019–2021, planned road improvements detailed in the City's Sustainable Transportation Plan, bicycle stress level, bicycle volume and City geographic information system (GIS) data.

The ordinance limits local access streets to 20 mph. For other limits, see the map. The ordinance went into effect on Feb. 8. New speed limit signs and enforcement will go into effect in stages this year. Some secondary arterials and collector roads will reduce speed by 5 mph in March. Marked Local Access Streets will change to 20 mph this summer. Unmarked local access streets have been reduced to 20 mph, a speed limit currently in effect and enforceable.

The highlighted street speed limits are lowering 5 miles per hour to the following new levels:

-  20 miles per hour
-  25 miles per hour
-  30 miles per hour

Average pedestrian survival rate in a car accident based on the speed of the car:



← Map shows the secondary arterials & collector roads that will be lowered; for a more detailed map visit: bainbridgewa.gov/1415/Islandwide-Speed-Limit-Study.

Police/court facility on-time construction

Construction at the police/court facility at 8804 Madison Avenue N. continued through the winter holidays. Construction progress is on-schedule for the building opening in the fall of 2023.

The City seeks public input for naming the new police/court facility. The suggestions will be reviewed by a temporary, council-appointed ad-hoc naming committee that will narrow down the top finalists for City Council to review and choose from. Suggestions are due by April 7. Learn more: cityofbainbridgeisland.civilspace.io/en/projects/police-and-municipal-court-building-naming



City Manager Blair King looks over building plans. →





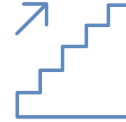
Police/court facility construction milestones



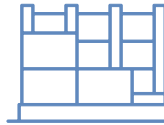
The covered impound area exterior framing is almost completed.



The structural framing and seismic upgrades are now complete meeting the highest standards for earthquake safety.



The West addition stairwell, which will serve as primary access for officers and police support staff, is almost completed.



Partition wall framing is completed in February.



Furniture and IT infrastructure purchasing commences in March

Changes coming for parking violations

In 2017, inspired by a Missoula, Montana, parking enforcement program, the City largely stopped fining for illegal parking and instead had its Parking Enforcement Officer issue one-time “forgiveness tickets.” As the COVID pandemic subsides and the number of visitors to downtown Winslow and other city centers return to pre-pandemic levels, parking violations have increased significantly: by 48 percent between 2021 and 2022. Downtown businesses have also voiced concerns about the lack of parking turnover for customers.

The City Council decided at its Dec. 13 meeting that the Bainbridge Island Police Department (BIPD) should now return to its pre-2017 policy and issue fines for parking violations.

Parking citations are issued to discourage improper parking, not to generate revenue, and the City does not rely on the fines as a revenue source.



Parking fines, per Bainbridge Island Municipal Code and the Revised Code of Washington

Most parking violations: **\$50**

Disabled parking stall violations: **\$450**

Parking within fire lane: **\$100** and vehicle may be towed or impounded at owner’s expense

Electric vehicle parking stall violations: **\$124**

Electric vehicle charging stations

This year, the City is planning to install new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at City Hall for public use. This change will increase the need for the BIPD to discourage drivers of nonelectric cars from parking in EV reserved spots. The Parking Enforcement Officer will begin issuing \$124 dollar fines for improper use of all public electric charging station parking spots.



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Web: bainbridgewa.gov



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

WINSLOW SUBAREA PLAN UPDATE

The City has begun work on the beginning stages of planning for updating the Winslow Subarea Plan, which sets land use and transportation policy within the downtown core area and surrounding residential areas. The current Winslow Subarea Plan includes sections on housing, land use, open space and trails, public facilities, transportation, utilities and capital facilities, and most of these sections will be updated.



There will be an extensive public engagement process for the Winslow Subarea Plan. To learn more about these upcoming opportunities, scan the QR code (right) (www.bainbridgewa.gov/List.aspx) to sign up to be notified via text or email about these opportunities and for project updates. All are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the process.



NOTICE



The City's annual stormwater billing includes a utility tax on its stormwater utility. This tax is billed on most property owner's property tax statement by Kitsap County and has been since the 1990s. This message is to provide notice of that tax. For more information see the City's utility tax webpage: bainbridgewa.gov/874/Utility-Tax.

NEW MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

During their Jan. 10 meeting, the City Council chose members Brenda Fantroy-Johnson and Jon Quitslund as mayor and deputy mayor, respectively. Mayor Fantroy-Johnson makes history as the City's first African American mayor.

The City of Bainbridge Island is a non-charter code city with a council/manager form of government in which the City Council choose one of their members as chair/mayor on a biennial basis. However, this particular Council has decided to choose a new mayor every year and a deputy mayor every six months. The mayor presides at Council meetings and serves as the head of the City for ceremonial purposes while continuing to have all the rights and privileges of a councilmember.

2023 City Council



Brenda Fantroy-Johnson
Mayor, North
Ward, District 2



Jon Quitslund
Deputy Mayor,
South Ward,
District 3



Joe Deets
North Ward,
District 7



Kirsten Hytopoulos
At Large, District 1



Clarence Moriwaki
Central Ward,
District 5



Michael Pollock
South Ward,
District 6



Leslie Schneider
Central Ward,
District 4