

CITY

Vol. 28



Connects



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» Planning the future of
Bainbridge Island

CRITICAL OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE Future of Bainbridge Island

This summer, two significant planning updates are converging in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS): the Bainbridge Island Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and the Winslow Subarea Plan Update.

Prepared by experts and reviewed by city planners and engineers, the DEIS evaluates the impacts of accommodating population growth, housing and city services, which is mandated by the Growth Management Act and by new affordable housing requirements established by House Bill 1220.

Growth allocations across Kitsap County were determined through a regional process led by the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council. Bainbridge Island is projected to grow from 25,000 to 29,300 residents by 2044. With this growth in mind, the DEIS informs decisions on future transportation and land use planning and development, particularly in the Winslow Subarea and Neighborhood and Industrial Centers.

To guide the planning process for both the Winslow Subarea Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, the City is considering three potential scenarios through the DEIS. These scenarios serve as tools to help us determine the most desired course of action for our community. They are not exclusive options but rather provide insights that can be combined to create a new approach tailored to Bainbridge Island's needs.

Chapter 2 of the DEIS describes each of the three alternatives in detail. The DEIS evaluates each alternative for possible impacts in the following areas:

- » Land Use
- » Housing
- » Population and Employment
- » Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- » Environmental Justice
- » Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change
- » Utilities
- » Natural Environment
- » Public Services
- » Transportation



Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) thoroughly assesses how proposed alternatives could affect many aspects of our physical and natural environment. The DEIS aims to integrate environmental considerations early in the planning phase, minimizing adverse effects and enhancing positive outcomes.



Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan)

establishes the long-range vision for the Island, identifying the characteristics the community wants to retain/foster and generating related goals, policies, maps, actions and capital improvements. Under the WA Growth Management Act, the Comp Plan must be updated regularly.

Winslow Subarea Plan (WSP)

sets land use and transportation policy within the area around Winslow Way and nearby residential neighborhoods. The WSP includes sections on housing, open space and trails, public facilities, transportation, utilities and capital facilities, and it was last updated in 2006. The WSP update process launched in the winter of 2022-23.

How can I participate?

Review a digital copy (scan the QR code) or hard copy (available at City Hall, the Bainbridge Public Library and the Senior Center) of the Draft EIS.

Attend an Open House

- » **Island-Wide Open House: September 18** (5–7 p.m.) at Bainbridge High School, Building 100/cafeteria.
- » **Neighborhood and Industrial Centers Open Houses:**
 - » Island Center—**September 14** (10 a.m.–12 p.m.) at Island Center Hall (8395 Fletcher Bay Road)
 - » Rolling Bay—**September 14** (3–5 p.m.) at Rolling Bay Presbyterian Church (11042 Sunrise Drive NE)
 - » Lynnwood Center—**September 15** (12:30–2:30 p.m.) at Lynnwood Commons Community Room (4779 Lynnwood Center Road NE)
 - » Day Road Industrial Area—**September 16** (4–6 p.m.) at Seabold Hall (14450 Komedal Road NE)



Comment no later than 4 p.m. on October 10 (10/10).

- » Through the comment portal online (scan QR code) at <https://cityofbainbridgeisland.civilspace.io/en/projects/2024-comprehensive-plan-periodic-update>;
- » Via email: pbest@bainbridgewa.gov;
- » Via mail or hand deliver your comments to City Hall;
- » In-person at the Island-Wide Open House September 18

The City is committed to fostering an inclusive and participatory approach to planning, ensuring that our community continues to thrive while preserving the unique characteristics of Bainbridge Island.

How do we create the best possible Bainbridge Island?

Your input about the various alternatives, or combination of the alternatives, is critically important to us. Public feedback provides crucial community perspective so that, when combined with environmental impact data, a preferred alternative will be identified.



Baseline (No Project)

What if we did nothing to accommodate growth? Alternative 1 analyzes the predictable growth and development patterns and the problems that will still arise if we do nothing. It gives us a baseline to compare with the other two alternatives for analytical purposes.



Dense Centers (Go Up)

What if we accommodated growth by building up (buildings might get a little taller in Winslow and other neighborhood centers like Lynnwood and Rolling Bay)? Alternative 2 analyzes the outcomes of making vertical growth choices.



Distributed Density (Go Out)

What if we accommodated growth by expanding out slightly from the heart of Winslow and, if necessary, from the other neighborhood centers? Alternative 3 analyzes the outcomes of more horizontal growth choices.



The preferred alternative could be a mix of all three alternatives.



City Project Updates



The **Bundled Madison Project** is currently on schedule, with sidewalk and raised bike lane improvements nearly completed between Wyatt Way and High School Road. The contractor is now working on to the next phase of the project – sidewalks, bike lanes, stormwater and sewer improvements north of High School Road. Additionally, city staff recently received a \$500K grant from the State Transportation Improvement Board to support the project, which will allow almost all of the corridor from Winslow to New Brooklyn to be re-paved. The overall project is expected to be completed around the end of the year.

The **Winslow Water Tank Project** completed a major milestone in late May when more than 100 cement trucks contributed to the pouring of the tank foundation in a single Saturday afternoon. In early fall, the project will move into the next phase—steel erection, which will continue for 12 months. The offsite water line improvements, which are required to deliver and control water pressure from the new tank, will likely go to bid in early fall and begin construction in 2025.



The **Eagle Harbor/Wyatt Way Non-Motorized Improvements Project** recently met deadlines for a federal grant, allowing the project to retain \$1M in funding. The project design and right-of-way acquisition phases are complete, and staff expect to seek construction bids in the fall and start construction in late spring 2025.



City Council Approves Federal Grant Application for Sound to Olympics Trail Expansion



The City Council authorized the City Manager to apply for a federal Active Transportation and Infrastructure Investment (ATIIP) grant. The federal grant requires a 20% local match. The grant with match will fund 100% of the design and construction of the Sakai Pond Trail segment and 100% of the design of the Copper Top segment of the Sound to Olympics Trail (STO). Funding for the local match will be supplemented by a new one-tenth of 1% sales tax increase, aligning Bainbridge Island with Poulsbo's tax rate. Any additional revenue from this new source will bolster the Transportation Benefit Fund, which can be used for various transportation projects including projects outlined in the Sustainable Transportation Plan (STP).

The total project cost is estimated at \$15,300,000. The grant application seeks \$11,500,000, necessitating the \$3,100,000 local match. The City has already received a \$1,700,000 separate federal RAISE grant for the planning and design of the STO. The Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation offered assistance in preparing the grant application, which was due by mid-July 2024.

How does the STO fit in with the Sustainable Transportation Plan (STP)?

The STO is a major part of the long-range 2045 vision of the STP, which calls for connecting Rolling Bay to Lynwood Center via Winslow (the Connecting Centers Project). The STO will provide this connection and integrate with the Connecting Centers project at Sportsman Club Road.

Why is the STO being prioritized for the ATIIP grant?

The ATIIP grant eligibility criteria emphasize the importance of active transportation infrastructure projects that connect multiple communities and are regionally significant. Because the STO is the only existing active transportation project on Bainbridge Island that spans multiple jurisdictions, it is the most competitive project for this grant application.





In This Drought Emergency, Practice Water Conservation

The State Department of Ecology declared a drought emergency in April for most of the state. The declaration was prompted by low snowpack and forecasts for a dry and warm summer. As climate change continues to affect our Northwest weather patterns, we are likely to experience more periods of abnormally hot weather.

During a drought, the City's water infrastructure and some private shallow wells face a greater challenge in meeting water demand. Start practicing water conservation now to protect our water resources and reduce your utility bills.

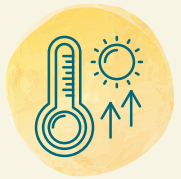
Water Consumption Numbers



Most of the water (up to 90%) people use outdoors is for irrigation of lawns and gardens.



On average, some residential properties use 350 gallons per day for irrigation (data from Rockaway water system).
















On a high-heat day, Winslow customers can consume up to 1.5 million gallons.

STAY GOLDEN!
Brown grass is not dead—it's dormant.



Tips to reduce outdoor water usage:

-  Don't overwater your plants. They don't need or want it.
-  Limit lawn watering. Lawns go dormant until the rain returns in the fall.
-  Reduce the amount of grass you have.
-  Switch to native plantings that don't need supplemental watering once established.
-  Use drip irrigation for the most efficient watering, close to roots, reducing evaporation.
-  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.
-  Check often for leaks and clogs at outside spigots and garden hoses/irrigation systems.
-  Add a weather sensor to your automatic watering system.
-  Use rain barrels to catch water from downspouts and then water plants with it.
-  Only water perennials and shrubs when they're dry. Water approximately 30 minutes per week and never more than 1 inch per week.
-  Water fruits and vegetables deeply for approximately 20 minutes every other day for a total of 1 inch per week.
-  Help retain soil moisture. Add 3–8 inches of mulch per year and 1 inch of compost per year. Remove weeds and consider adding a groundcover.
-  Plant drought tolerant plants. They can thrive on our limited summer rainfall once established (2–5 years).

Get more *efficient* lawn care information here:



Easy Composting for the Win

According to the EPA, approximately 58 percent of methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills comes from food waste. Composting food waste, instead of disposing of it in the garbage, prevents methane release since oxygen is present. Composting also helps store carbon in the soil, reducing greenhouse gases.

Composting is simpler than you might think. Just use a bucket or bin to collect your kitchen scraps and leftover food. Once it's full, transfer the contents to your outdoor compost bin or pile or even to an indoor or porch worm bin. Alternatively, if you have a green yard waste bin from Bainbridge Disposal, you can place your food waste there.



What can you compost?



Wooden Utensils and Stirrers



Greasy Pizza Boxes



Clamshell Containers



Napkins and Paper Towels



Coffee Filters



Grains



Meat



Bones



Poultry



Fish



Eggshells



Dairy



Fruit Leftovers



Prepared Food



Vegetables



Plant Trimmings

Leave out



Paper cups with a glossy interior—throw these out



Fats and oil



Pet waste



Noxious weeds (or you'll spread them through the compost!)

Poet's Place & Community Lens

This is a space for creativity inspired by a topic given in the previous issue. Last issue, we invited you to share your art and creative musings on "getting around the island without a car."

Cars Whiz By

Long days it rains
We read, tea strains
Music plays
Bread bakes
Till the sun breaks

Then bike to Winslow
through favorite places
Mist speckling spectacles
And fresh on our faces

At TnC friends said
We saw you, but we
Saw only the car they drive
Whizzing by

Who wants to be unknown, whizzing by?
Miss sensing the day, whizzing by
Leave life unembodied, whizzing by

Chilly hills to climb
Make frequent triumphs
Drink in breaths
Till taken by the view
and the rush of wind
you spin free

by Ellen Brown, Arrow Point



Grand Forest

by Lily Diament-Hansen (quilt textile art)

"As a textile artist I've found inspiration for many of my panels on island walks. The Grand Forest is a magical place for me and was one of the first panels (quilts) I hand stitched depicting the natural wonders found walking Bainbridge."

Vespa at T&C

by Douglas Walch (ink wash)

"I saw a cute Vespa in the T&C parking lot and fell in love with it. I did a quick sketch, returned home and did another loose ink and watercolor. Great fun. I want on!"



Off-The-Road

When I drive to work and traffic stops
I take the time to look around
at the foliage and the greenery and the landscape
taunting me to explore more . . .
It's fleeting as the traffic eventually moves on.

So, I decide one day to leave my car
step outside, take a side trail route
keep my step-counter at home
for who needs to total steps?
It's the flower buds I count
as they dance in the wind alongside me
clapping their petals together in unison with my stride
tree limbs bow as I saunter along the moss-carpet path . . .
I feel like a celebrity meandering through nature's Hollywood runway.

Passing through not to REACH a destination
like the pressure-laden & confines a speeding car implies
for I find the need to "get there"
doesn't matter anymore.
replaced by an off-the-road adventure.

by Rebecca Carroll Christensen



We want to feature your work in City Connects. For next issue, we're looking for art (drawings, photos, poems, tasteful jokes, etc.) that address **What is fall and/or winter to you on Bainbridge Island?** Be as creative or pragmatic as you wish. Submit your work, your first and last names and whether you are under 18 or 18 and older to communications@bainbridgewa.gov by September 20.

Your City Staff

Embodying Their Work Beyond the Office

Christian Berg

Water Resources Specialist, Engineering

"If we want our kids to enjoy babbling brooks and be able to watch baby coho salmon grow up in our little island streams, then we need to reconsider how we landscape and how water gets consumed. In my household, we harvest rainwater in above-ground tanks, run full loads in a small (20") dishwasher, use a dual flush toilet and use drip irrigation for vegetable plants. We get to decide how we treat our stormwater and how much water we pump from our aquifers. As the climate changes and more people call this island home, we must keep a balance between our human needs and those of the aquatic inhabitants on the Island."



Adam Nebenzahl

Management Analyst, Executive Department,
working on waste reduction for the City

"I currently own a FoodCycler. This product allows me to grind up my food waste to prevent smell and allow for more composting before I dispose it into my food and yard waste bin. I take my plastic bags and other plastic films to the grocery store (Target, QFC, Fred Meyer or Safeway) to recycle them. If I had the opportunity, I would also sign up for Ridwell, which provides this service among other recycling opportunities. If there's one thing I'd like residents of BI to know about waste reduction, it's that "commercially" compostable cups and regular paper and plastic disposable cups cannot be recycled or composted in Kitsap County due to their glossy shiny interior coating. Throw them in the trash!"



Jon Bingham

Lead Marine Officer, Bainbridge Island Police Department (BIPD)

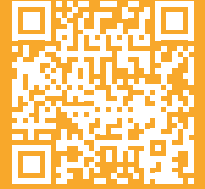
"I have been on and around the waters of Puget Sound since I was 6 years old, served in the Marine Program with BIPD for the last 10 years and worked as the lead Marine Officer for the last 5 years. The Marine Officer is in charge of managing the waters of Bainbridge Island and enforcing the law there. I keep track of buoys and patrol for derelict vessels. I am responsible for the ongoing water life saving training of BIPD and Bainbridge Island Fire Department personnel. The Marine Program's main objective is life saving. We do multiple rescues a month throughout the year. The most important thing people should know about boating and safety is to wear their life jackets! In Washington State, 55% of recreational boating fatalities are paddlers—most of these deaths could have been prevented by life jackets.





Award-Winning Communications

Our video profile on Ted Spearman for the new Ted Spearman Justice Center received first place in its category at the Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards hosted by the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) in New Orleans in May. NAGC is committed to advocating for, promoting and



Scan to watch the film

honoring excellence in government communication across national, state and local levels. Watch the film on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@cityofbainbridgeisland8869.

Short-Term Rental Ordinance in Effect September 30

In February, the City Council approved a new Short-Term Rental Ordinance (2024-02) that implements a streamlined, easy to use registration portal for short-term rental owners and operators. The ordinance, which was drafted in consultation with Bainbridge Island Innkeepers and the Chamber of Commerce, is a collaborative effort to enhance community standards, support responsible rental practices, provide neighborhood transparency regarding vacation rentals and ensure business license compliance.

Do you own a short-term vacation rental? Here's what you need to do by September 30.

1. Register your short-term rental with the City to get your certificate. You will be asked to provide information such as the following:

- » unit location,
- » maximum overnight capacity,
- » number of off-street parking spaces provided,
- » whether you intend to stay on the property while the unit is rented,
- » whether the unit is your primary residence and
- » how to reach a contact who is available 24/7 and can respond within an hour.

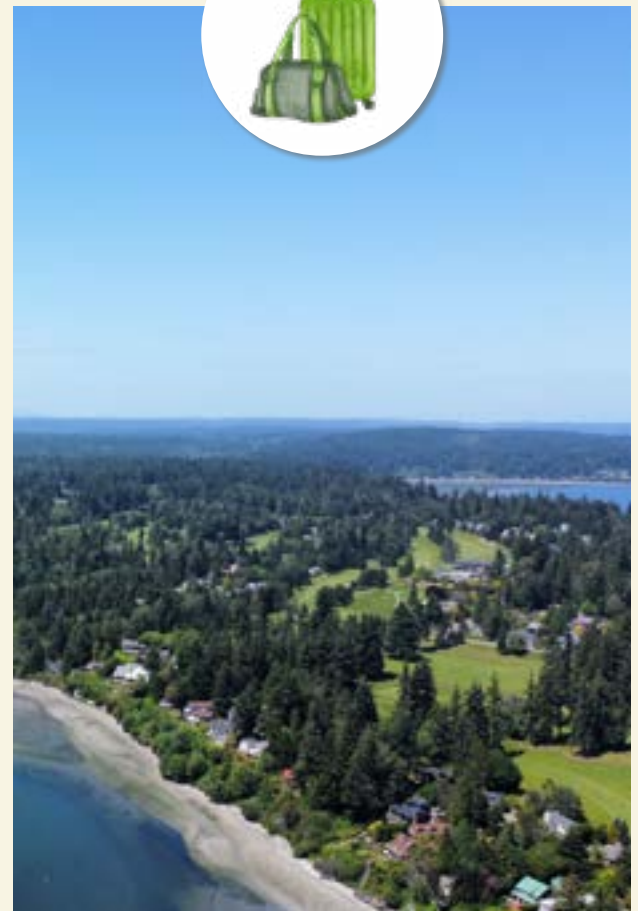
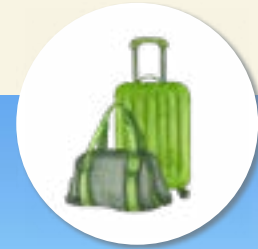
2. Ensure you are complying with all City and State regulations:

- » have an up-to-date State business license with a City endorsement (use NAICS Code 721199),
- » file an annual State B&O tax return,
- » file an annual City B&O tax return,
- » file monthly State lodging taxes and
- » maintain a minimum of \$1M in primary liability insurance (State mandate RCW 64.37.050).

3. While renting,

- » adhere to the City's
 - » Food Service Ware and Waste Reduction regulations.
 - » Nondiscrimination rules and
 - » Nuisance regulations (parking, trash and noise) and
- » post a discrete notice showing that the short-term rental is recognized by the City.

Once your certificate is approved, neighbors within 300 feet will receive a friendly notice by mail about the nearby rental, unless it's the owner's primary residence and the owner remains on the property during the rental.



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ISLAND
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98110

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



Stay in the know



Sign up to receive City Highlight, updates from City Hall featuring the City Manager's Report Letter, delivered to your email inbox every Friday. Simply scan the QR code above.

Follow us on Facebook, YouTube, Nextdoor, and X (formerly Twitter) throughout the week for ongoing updates.

City Text Alerts Undergo Changes - Update Your Profile with Email

Are your Nixle emergency text alerts valuable to you? Ensure you're also signed up for Nixle emails, as significant changes are coming this October.

Currently, the City sends Nixle text alerts for major scheduled road work, special events and emergencies impacting the community. Starting in October, major event updates, project notifications and road work details will be communicated through community email notifications. **Nixle text alerts will be reserved exclusively for emergent life, property, and road safety alerts.**



Please update your Nixle profile to include your email address to receive these community notifications. Don't have Nixle yet? Text **98110** to **888777** and register at local.nixle.com/register/.

Why use the Everbridge Nixle app?

The Nixle app ensures you stay informed before, during and after critical community events. Even if you lose cellular data, the app can still deliver information via WiFi when text alerts may not be accessible.



All Traffic Notifications

Visit bainbridgewa.gov/794/Traffic-Notifications to receive all city traffic notifications and sign up for Notify Me.

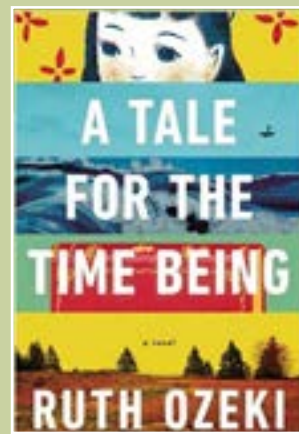


B.I. RE ADS

"A time being is someone who lives in time, and that means you, and me, and every one of us who is, or ever will be."



BI READS is a shared community experience of reading one book together.



Books can be found at the Bainbridge Island Public Library and for purchase at Eagle Harbor Book Co.

Cover art by Gwendolyn Wood.