

# CITY

Vol. 30

## Connects



### ***In this issue***

» From Bud to Bond—  
Spring Delights and  
Open Space Milestones



# The Crews That Keep Bainbridge Blooming

City landscape crews are responsible for maintaining all public rights-of-way, including medians and other streetscaping features—except along SR 305, which is maintained by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). City crews also care for City-owned flower beds or bioretention cells (rain gardens), such as those along Winslow Way, at City Hall, in the roundabout at High School and Madison, at the Ted Spearman Justice Center and in Waterfront Park.

Their physically demanding work keeps Bainbridge Island looking clean, vibrant and connected to its natural roots. Crews work systematically from one end of the island to the other, tackling a large volume of tasks each day. Mornings often begin at 6:30 a.m. when crews prep tools and equipment. By 7:30 a.m., they are pruning, weeding, trimming, lifting, digging and hauling. Work finishes around 3:00 p.m. when crews begin cleaning up and packing away equipment. They head home by about 4 p.m.

The City has no standalone landscaping team—crew members wear multiple hats and juggle a variety of responsibilities to keep the City running smoothly. Seasonal workers are brought on as needed during the peak landscape maintenance season from spring through fall. All of this essential work falls under the City's Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division, which also oversees the City's water, sewer, stormwater, streets, fleets and facilities infrastructure. Their efforts are carried out with care and precision to protect the environment, safeguard public health and preserve the physical assets of the City.



## Meet Omar

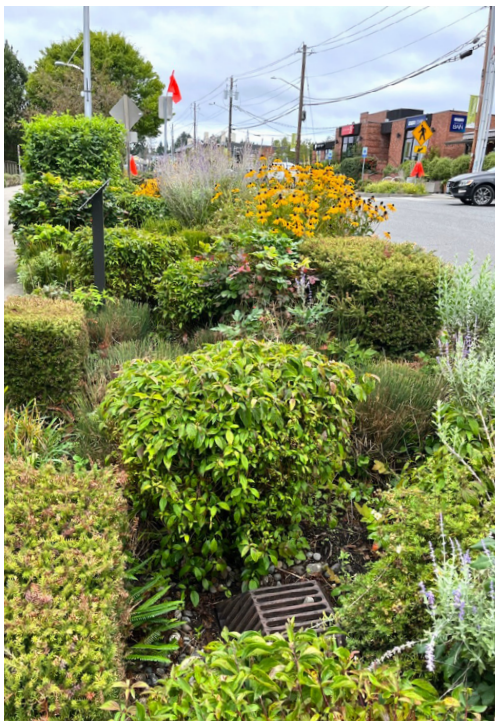
Omar Lopez is a Streets Technician II with the City of Bainbridge Island. He first joined the City in 2015 as a seasonal worker focused on landscaping, building on years of experience working for his four uncles' landscaping business. Today, Omar's work centers on City streets, including overhead tree trimming and road repair.

### Omar Says: Don't Skip These Simple Water-Wise Tips

*Before* you turn on the sprinklers, check your timers, make sure spray heads aren't watering the sidewalk and avoid giving your plants more water than they need. Water early in the morning or later in the evening when it's cooler—and don't forget to mulch. Mulching helps lock in moisture and keeps your soil happy and hydrated.

Omar's favorite spring hangout is Waterfront Park. He likes to sit on the lawn and enjoy the view of the water.

## Rain Gardens



Rain gardens are shallow, planted areas that capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff—reducing flooding, filtering pollutants and recharging groundwater. They're also beautiful and provide valuable habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Bioretention cells are engineered rain gardens. The bioretention cells along Winslow Way are planted with native Northwest plants and other species well adapted to our local climate.

Different plants thrive at different levels of a rain garden, depending on how wet or dry the area stays. Some popular native rain garden plants are Oregon grape, coastal strawberry (great for groundcover) and lupine for vibrant seasonal color.

Interested in creating a rain garden at home? *The Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington*, jointly created by a coalition of public and private partners, is a great resource for homeowners. It includes rain garden plant species to consider—just scan the QR code to get started. Questions? Contact [waterresources@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:waterresources@bainbridgewa.gov).



# City Arborist Shares His Tree Smarts



Rob Reed started working for the City last June. As City Arborist, he reviews tree- and vegetation-related permit applications to ensure compliance with the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code. Rob invites residents with questions about securing permission for tree work to contact him directly ([rreed@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:rreed@bainbridgewa.gov)) or visit the City's website (<https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1115/City-Tree-Regulations>). He says, "I'm always happy to be your primary resource for ensuring compliance with the Bainbridge Tree Ordinance."



Before joining the City, Rob worked for a large tree care company and learned to climb trees and oversee a small crew. "After a few years up in the tree canopies of the greater Seattle area," he found his way down to the office environment doing urban forestry consultation and tree permit acquisition. He got his start with the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) where he worked on salmon habitat restoration around the Hood Canal. He also worked in hurricane relief in Florida and the Virgin Islands for brief periods. He earned his bachelor's degree in Riparian Ecology.

## Rob's Favorite Spring Bloomers

Pacific Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) will show its creamy white petal-like bracts in April through June. Some specimens may even bloom for a second round in late summer. This subcanopy tree species is often found in partially shaded forests to fully exposed forest edges.



## Supporting Native Trees: When (and When Not) to Step in

- Native tree species have evolved to thrive in our region and will continue to evolve as long as human interference doesn't threaten their ability to do so.
- Native trees that have voluntarily established themselves on your property don't need much attention at all.
- Native trees often only require thoughtful human interaction when they
  - have a major structural malformation,
  - are particularly susceptible to pathogens or insect infestation,
  - are being invaded by noxious weeds or
  - are located adjacent to established or proposed structures.

## Need to remove a tree?



Check City regulations to see if you need a permit: [bainbridgewa.gov/1115](https://www.bainbridgewa.gov/1115)

## How to Find an Arborist

The Critical Areas Provider List is an excellent source of local arborists. These arborists have signed the Statement of Tree and Vegetation Requirements Standards form and are, therefore, the only ones who may perform tree work that requires a critical area permit.



## Native Plants and Where to Find Them

Andrew Fraser, the Stewardship Manager of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT), is a fan of red flowering currant, one of the native plants that puts on a show in spring on Bainbridge Island. He also enjoys spring-emergers osoberry (Indian Plum), sword fern, salal and Oregon grape. For Andrew, one of the best places to see the spring show is at the BILT Springbrook Creek Preserve on Fletcher Bay.

## Andrew's Preferred Native Plants for Yards

For shady sites (dry to moist): sword fern, salal, dull Oregon grape, trilliums, fringe cup, youth-on-age, oceanspray

For part shade/sunny (moist to dry): thimbleberry, red flowering currant, salal, snowberry, Nootka rose, tall Oregon grape, red twig dogwood, mock orange, slough sedge (if site is a bit on the wetter side)

For all sun: camas, Pacific madronas, Nootka rose, mock orange, red flowering currant, kinnikinnick (really good along driveways where it's very hot and dry and everything else fries)

For more information, check out this page and associated links from the Washington Native Plant Society: <https://www.wnps.org/native-gardening>.



# City Completes and Pays Off Open Space Bond



In 2001, in a special election, Islanders overwhelmingly supported (by about 70%) an \$8M Open Space Bond that would help the City purchase more than 202 acres as well as easement property to add to Island parks, trails, wildlife habitat and farmland. The principal and interest for the bonds were collected from annual property taxes in excess of regular levies. Residents are now free of the tax obligation for debt service, which completed in 2024.

Bainbridge Island volunteers served on an Open Space Advisory Commission (OSC) to help the City government carry out the Open Space project. After the original \$8M bond levy had been expended by the end of 2005, in 2007 City Council approved the purchase of four additional open space properties (totaling 66 acres including 311 feet of waterfront) based on recommendations by the OSC: Nute's Pond, Meigs Farm/Lowery Properties, Williams Property, and the Olson Property (with fundraising assistance from the Bainbridge Island Land Trust). All four of these properties included forested uplands with wildlife habitat and potential trail connections, and the Williams property included waterfront. Additionally, the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee and OSC worked together to recommend the acquisition of the Pine Way easement and the Bethany Lutheran Church trail easement, each connecting with or continuing other trails.

As these purchases (totalling \$3.66M) exceeded funds provided by the \$8M bond levy, the City Council agreed to finance them with proceeds from the sale of portions of other properties, general revenue funds, limited tax general obligation bonds (which are paid from regular property taxes and other available city funds) and grant money. Because of the bond and subsequent purchases, Island parks grew from fewer than 600 acres in 1994 to more than 1,500 acres today, including 48 miles of public trails, while the City also expanded public waterfront access, preserved natural habitats and secured community farmland. In total, the City owns 60 acres of farmland, 21 acres of which are leased by farmers with additional property, roads, fencing and an irrigation system used by multiple farmers. Gradually, many of the purchased properties have been transferred to Park District ownership so that the District can manage them for public use.

## Properties and Easements Acquired by the Bond

Property	Size	Price	Features						
			Waterfront	Forest	Wetlands	Agriculture	Estuary	Trail	
1. Rockaway Beach	0.5 acres	\$575,000	●						
2. Hawley's Cove Park (Hall Property)	12 acres, 600 ft. waterfront	\$795,000	●	●	●				
3. M&E Tree Farm	13 acres	Donated				●			
4. Manitou Beach	1.36 acres, 200 ft. waterfront	\$350,000	●		●		●		
5. Morales Farm	4.74 acres	\$210,000				●			
6. Crawford Farm	2.3 acres	\$150,000				●			
7. Pritchard Park*	50 acres, 1,300 ft. waterfront	\$500,000	●	●					
8. Close Property*	64.3 acres, 500 ft. waterfront	\$1,250,000	●	●				●	
9. Battle Point/Grand Forest Trail properties	10.66 acres, 1 mile trail	\$248,000		●				●	
10. Schel-Chelb Estuary/Beach	0.74 acres, 240 ft. waterfront	\$285,000	●		●			●	
11. Lost Valley	6 acres, 402 ft. trail	\$280,000		●	●				
12. Peters Property	49 acres	\$1,010,000		●				●	
13. Yama	7.5 acres	\$150,000		●					
14. Strawberry Plant (Eagle Harbor)	4.2 acres, 260 ft. waterfront	Exchanged	●				●		
15. Bentryn Farm	11.5 acres	\$771,000				●			
16. Hidden Cove Park (Spargur)	6 acres, 330 ft. waterfront	\$815,000	●	●					
17. Blossom Properties	4.2 acres, 100 ft. waterfront	\$525,000	●	●	●				
18. Gazzam Beach	7.74 acres, 500 ft. waterfront	Donated	●	●				●	
19. Nute's Pond*	33 acres	\$600,000		●	●				
20. Olson Park addition*	5 acres	\$125,000		●				●	
21. Meigs Farm and Lowery Properties*	24.9 acres	\$1,725,000		●	●				
22. Williams Property*	4.04 acres, 381 ft. waterfront	\$1,704,000	●	●					
23. Pine Way Easement*	398 ft. by 10 ft. easement	\$20,000						●	
24. Bethany Lutheran Easement*	1,300 ft. easement	\$20,000						●	
<b>Acquisition Total</b>	<b>323 acres 4,411 ft. waterfront</b>	<b>\$12,108,000</b>							

\*OSC properties acquired with other city funds.

# 2007 Open Space Acquisition Highlights

## 1 Williams Property

4.04-acre upland parcel, including a home and 311 feet of waterfront plus an adjacent tideland parcel of 4.2 acres on the southeast shore of Manzanita Bay at the end of Williams Lane

Open lawn and meadow with some trees at the eastern and western boundaries

Abundant population of clams

Spawning grounds for herring, sand lance and surf smelt

Unarmored shoreline with intact overhanging vegetation



## 2 Meigs Farm/Lowery Property

Almost 20 acres near 305 and Koura Rd with large areas of wetland, open water and drier land

Fairly dense cover of mixed deciduous and evergreen plant species: Douglas fir, western hemlock, red alder, big leaf maple, willows, cascara, madrona and western red cedar

Blackberry, thimbleberry, salmonberry, salal, Oregon grape, Scotch broom and various grasses

Some areas remain open and meadow-like and are currently interlaced with walking trails

Large patches of open water and wetlands dominated by wetland plant species

Large pond near the center of the property

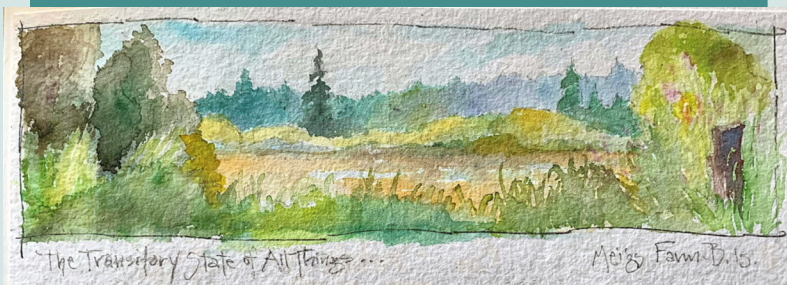
Mammals, reptiles and amphibians

More than 80 species of birds including neo-tropical (birds that breed in the north but winter in Central or South America) migrating birds

Major nesting area for redwing and tricolor blackbirds

Major aquifer recharge area

Site of what is believed to be the first dairy farm on the island



**Meigs Farm** by Pamela Wachtler, watercolor

## 3 Bethany Lutheran Easement

1,300-foot easement along Sportsman Club Rd and Finch Rd

Safe route to schools and a link to open space

Important connection between High School Road and Carmella Lane

## 4 Olson Property

5 acres of level forest and wetlands adjacent to the 10-acre Ted Olson Preserve on the north end of Bainbridge Island near Rolling Bay

Transitional forest with mix of alder, big leaf maple, Douglas fir, western red cedar and hemlock and a healthy understory of vine maple, salmonberry, huckleberry, salal, Oregon grape, sword fern and blackberry

Includes a Category III forested mosaic wetland

Coyote, deer, raccoon, eagle, hawk, owl, opossum, songbirds, pileated woodpecker, flicker, and pheasant

Part of the upland wildlife corridor that runs north-south on the east side of the Island.

## 5 Pine Way Easement

398' by 10' easement crossing a private property east of Pine Way off Taylor Ave

Link in a non-motorized access trail from Blakely Harbor Park to Pritchard Park

## 6 Nute's Pond

33-acre forested property at the top of Toe Jam Hill

Second-growth forest

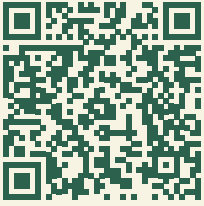
Wetland complex unique to this area of Bainbridge Island

More than 2-acre freshwater pond likely created by seismic activity; contains bass



# Project Updates

## Bundled Madison Avenue Project

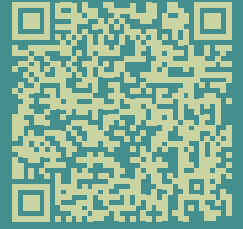


Remaining work on the Bundled Madison project includes final paving between Wyatt and High School Road striping.

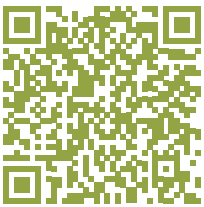
Nighttime paving—planned for early May—requires temperatures above 45°F. Striping will follow about three weeks later, with full project completion expected by June 30.

## Comprehensive and Winslow Subarea Plan Update

The Comprehensive and Winslow Subarea Plan Updates are currently under review by the Planning Commission, which is developing recommendations for a Preferred Alternative to present to the City Council. Community members are encouraged to stay engaged in the Planning Commission process.



## Eagle Harbor Fish Passage at Cooper Creek



The City received a \$2.3M construction bid—below the \$2.6M estimate—and a \$700K state grant to support the project. Work is expected to begin in late summer, overlapping with the Eagle Harbor/Wyatt Non-Motorized Improvements, which went to bid in late April. A three-week road closure will be required for fish passage work, with traffic detoured via Fletcher Bay Rd. The completed project will add wide shoulders to a current pinch point for cyclists and pedestrians.

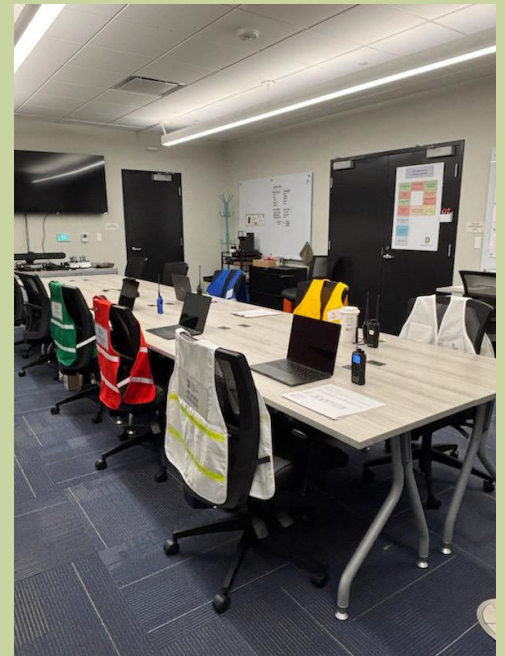


## City's Emergency Operations Center Is Ready for Action

The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located at the Ted Spearman Justice Center, is nearly fully operational. The EOC is where different departments and agencies—such as the City, Police Department and the Bainbridge Island Fire Department—meet to oversee their coordinated response to a disaster.

Over the past year, Anne LeSage, the City's Emergency Manager, and Bainbridge Prepares volunteers have been building out a highly functioning EOC. Anne explains that "having a dedicated EOC, ready to go when needed, will allow us to activate and coordinate emergency response actions much quicker." The previous EOC location was City Hall. In emergencies, staff had to set up the EOC in the Council Conference Room and Council Chambers, creating a delay of 60 to 90 minutes. Now, at the Ted Spearman Justice Center, the EOC is always set up and ready for activation.

You can visit the EOC at an open house later in the spring. Look for updates in the weekly City Highlight email (sign up information on the back page).



## Features of the Completed EOC



Auxiliary communications/internet network that can operate even if the City network goes down



Generator that can power all the outlets in the EOC, the EOC communications room and the Emergency Manager's office



TV monitors



Printed maps of Island infrastructure



Whiteboards



Starlink satellite internet

# In These “Precarious Economic Times,” City Creates “Fiscally Sustainable” Budget

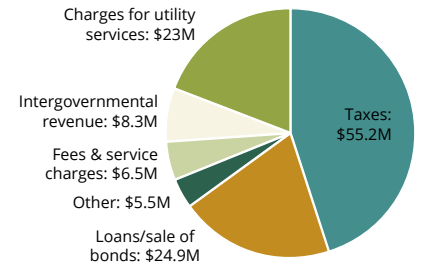
In a letter to the City Council accompanying the City’s Adopted Budget for 2025–2026, City Manager Blair King described what he called “precarious economic times”: “[W]e still struggle to recover from the fallout caused by the pandemic. We face what seems to be emerging stagflation with high inflation and flat-to-declining revenues.” In May of 2024, Council was presented with a long-term financial projection that said if the City “remained on financial autopilot,” expenditures would exceed revenues. Back then, City staff promised a balanced budget for 2025–2026. As Blair told Council in his recent letter, staff have delivered on that promise.

The new “fiscally sustainable” budget, according to Blair, “provides for maintenance of facilities, equipment and the City’s operations and service delivery elements, all in an environment of uncertain economic times.” City staffing levels at the end of 2026 are budgeted to be lower by about 12 full-time employees, or about 8% lower than the (pre-Recession) peak in 2008 even though the population of Bainbridge Island has grown by almost 10% during this same period. As a result, the City will need to focus personnel and other resources on highest-priority activities and services (see box).

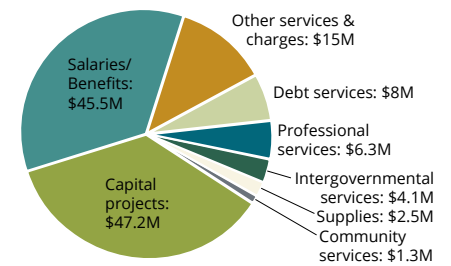
Certain Council high-priority items such as roads maintenance, community service contracts, affordable housing and the Comprehensive Plan were excluded from this reduction. The general fund is the primary operating fund used by the City. Overall, operating revenues for the general fund for 2025-2026 total \$47.5 million while operating expenses are expected at \$47.4 million. The ending fund balance in the General Fund is budgeted to remain stable at \$17.2 million for 2025 and \$17 million for 2026. This exceeds the required reserves by \$10 million for both years.

Although we have a balanced budget, uncertainty remains: Blair cautions that, if we see changes such as a spike in supply costs due to tariffs, reduced sales tax revenue due to changes in purchasing patterns or fewer visitors due to other federal economic decisions, projections may not hold. Following best practice for municipal financial management, staff are keeping a close eye on City revenues and expenditures to be able to make adjustments if necessary.

## Where does the money come from?



## Where does the money go?



## Priority projects established by City Council for the new budget

- Climate Action Plan Implementation
- Affordable Housing
- City Website Improvements
- Sustainable Transportation Plan Implementation
- Comprehensive Plan
- Groundwater Management Plan
- Resolution of Permit Backlog
- Winslow Subarea Plan
- Equity Lens
- Road Maintenance



## Notable Budget Increases

### General Fund

- \$300,000 transfer for manufactured home purchase for City first responder personnel. Market rate rent will be charged to offset the cost of the purchase. (One-time)
- \$160,000 increase for installing electric charging stations. (One-time)
- \$100,000 increase for City website improvements. (One-time)
- \$65,000 increase for temporary planner (2025 only) to help decrease permit backlog. (One-time)
- \$60,000 increase for public farmland management. (Ongoing)

### Other Tax Supported Funds

- \$1.9 million increase in streets spending.

### Utility Funds

- \$25.3 million capital increases driven by new budget funding for the completion of the Winslow Water Tank (\$11.0 million), Wastewater Treatment plant upgrades (\$4.7 million), the Springbrook Fish passage (\$5.8 million), and Cooper Creek Fish Passage (\$300,000)

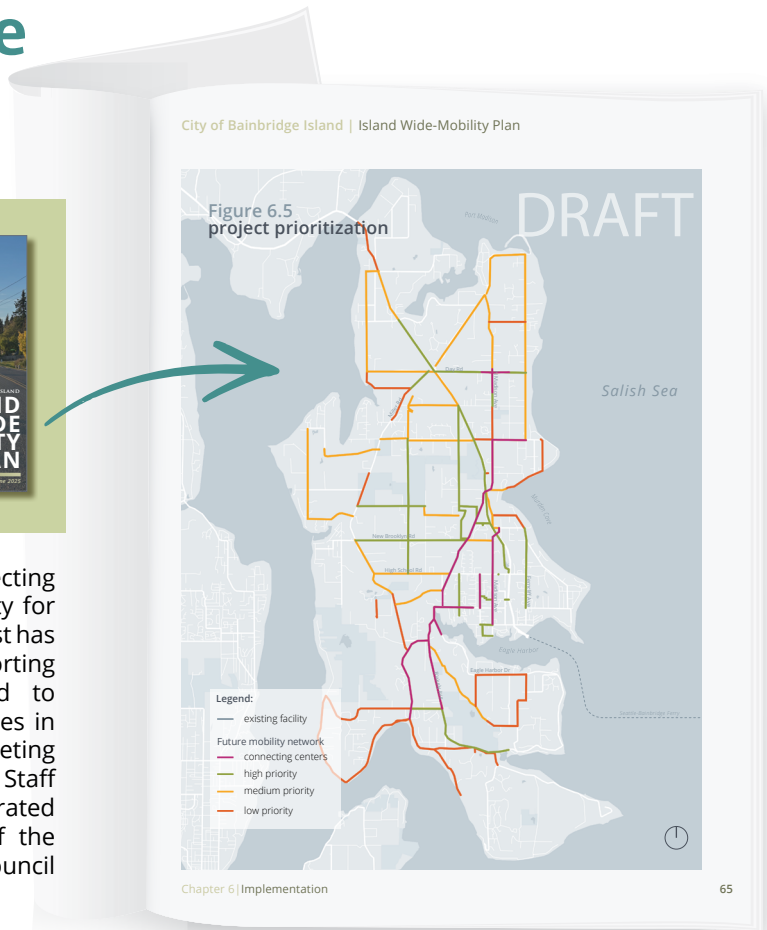
## Notable Budget Reductions

### General Fund

- \$4.7 million decrease in overall transfers largely due to reduced capital spending after the completion of the \$22.5 million Ted Spearman Justice Center and the \$5.8 million bundled Madison Avenue Road construction/non-motorized improvements.
- \$140,000 decrease in outside legal, communication and emergency management services.
- \$70,000 decrease in Executive Department and citywide internships.

# What Is the Island-Wide Mobility Plan?

The Island-Wide Mobility Plan (IWMP) combines and updates the information and projects from the Island-Wide Transportation Plan (IWTP, 2017) and the Sustainable Transportation Plan (STP, 2022) into a single, cohesive transportation planning document. The goal is to eliminate redundancy between the plans and improve transparency. In addition, as the City works to complete its Comprehensive Plan, staff will rely on the IWMP as a reference for the Comprehensive Plan's transportation element.



Learn more:

The IWMP retains the STP Connecting Centers network as the top priority for implementation. A draft priorities list has been developed for other supporting projects. The public was asked to provide feedback on these priorities in the IWMP through an in-person meeting and an online engagement form. Staff compiled the feedback and incorporated comments into a final version of the document, which will go to City Council for approval by the end of May.



## IWMP Goals

Reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a 90% reduction in overall emissions by 2045.

Preserve the Island's characteristic natural landscape and winding roads while providing mobility for all road users.

Improve mobility outcomes for minority groups including people of color, low-income people, disabled people and women.

Create mobility networks that protect and prioritize the most vulnerable travelers.

Improve connectivity on the Island by providing a greater number of route and mode alternatives, especially for non-motorized users.

Protect natural systems and local ecologies. Mitigate impacts on natural systems when disturbances are unavoidable.

## Bainbridge Is a Bike Friendly Community



The City is proud to have received a bronze Bike Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists. This designation reflects the progress made to date on building out Bainbridge Island's non-motorized network and recognizes the advocacy and education efforts of partners like the Bainbridge Island School District and Squeaky Wheels.

In spring, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator Hannah Boettcher loves riding their bike "to Gazzam Lake to take a walk on the trails. Everything is green, the birds are more active and there's an especially sweet smell to the air as spring makes its arrival."



## Pro-tips for spring bike riding:

Dress in layers: Having a packable water-resistant layer is especially helpful.



Watch out for slippery/muddy surfaces especially on the edge of the shoulder!



Sunshine on wet roads can impact visibility. Polarized sunglasses can help reduce glare.



## Meet Laura Rysler, the City's New Climate Manager

Laura Rysler has joined the City of Bainbridge Island as the new Climate Manager—a key role in advancing the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). She brings to the job extensive experience in climate policy and sustainability, having most recently served as Planning Supervisor in Pierce County's Sustainable Resources Division. Her background also includes leadership at the WSU Extension office in Kitsap County and work with the University of Vermont and the Center for World Indigenous Studies.

The City Council adopted the CAP in 2020 and identified its implementation as a top priority in both its 2021 and 2024 goal setting. In her new role, Laura will support City staff, advisory groups and the community on climate-related initiatives, and she'll serve as staff liaison to the Climate Change Advisory Committee.



# Improving Fairness and Flow in the Ferry Line

The City is launching a 60-day pilot project to test automated traffic safety cameras for detecting ferry queue violations at the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal. Two cameras will monitor vehicles, looking for any that skip ahead in line at the terminal's holding area. No citations will be issued during this trial period.

The cameras were authorized under an expanded 2024 state law (RCW 46.63.260). Traffic cameras have long been used for red light and speed violations, but this is a new application—no other jurisdiction in Washington currently uses cameras for ferry queue enforcement. Unlike red light or speed violations, which occur at a fixed point, ferry queue violations can occur anywhere along the line.

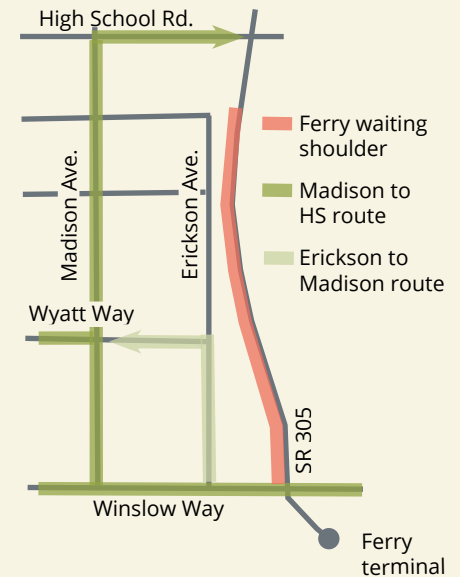
Given the unique layout of the area, extra care will be taken to avoid flagging vehicles headed to nearby homes or businesses. In addition, the captured video and still images of a vehicle (and license plate) suspected of violation will be reviewed by trained police staff before any enforcement action is taken.

The project will begin in late spring or summer. It includes new signage in the Winslow core to guide ferry-bound drivers to High School Rd, easing congestion along Winslow Way.

## New Ferry Wayfinding Signs



The City's Transportation Operations Committee (TOC) reviewed a plan for new ferry wayfinding signage in response to Washington State Ferries' recent reconfiguration of ferry lane traffic on Bainbridge Island. Eleven new signs have been installed to guide drivers from key points in central Winslow toward the ferry via High School Rd and SR 305—discouraging entry via Winslow Way.



# Bainbridge Reaffirms It's a Welcoming, Inclusive City



In February, the City Council reaffirmed its 2017 resolution and ordinance declaring Bainbridge Island a Welcoming and Inclusive City—one that embraces all people, regardless of identity, race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, mental ability or physical ability. The ordinance also prohibits the Bainbridge Island Police Department (BIPD) from taking action based solely on immigration status or nationality. BIPD policies align with these protections, reinforcing the City's commitment and ensuring Bainbridge Island remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

# Poet's Place & Community Lens

## hope springs eternal

This is a space for creativity inspired by a topic given in the previous issue. Last issue, we invited you to share your creativity on "hope springs eternal."

### Spring: A Haiku

Mother Nature hums

Happy Birthday, dear Bainbridge

The island, reborn!

by *Miriam Byers Chandler*  
(Turning 81 this spring)

I wake to a world draped in grey,  
the morning fog slow to fade away.  
But deep in my heart, I know it's true  
today holds promise, bright and new.

The air is crisp as I step outside,  
fresh with the scent of the changing tide.  
This island breeze, so soft, so known,  
whispers gently, You're not alone.

Onto the ferry, I find my place,  
watching time move at its steady pace.  
Lights dim low, the engines hum,  
the world stirs softly, hope has come.

Through the mist, I see her eyes,  
a father's hand, a child's surprise.  
Laughter spills, a love so pure,  
some things in life will long endure.

An old man smiles, a phone in hand,  
capturing light as it graces the land.  
The sun ascends through fog's embrace,  
golden threads in heaven's lace.

A woman stands, coffee warm,  
breathing in the breaking morn.  
The weight she carried starts to wane,  
hope unfurls where once was rain.

Two old friends, once strangers here,  
trade their stories, share their cheer.  
Laughter rises, light and free,  
joy is found in company.

The fog has lifted, the city gleams,  
Seattle wakes with golden beams.  
And in my heart, I know once more,  
hope will rise like days before.

by *Martin Ortiz*

### Revival

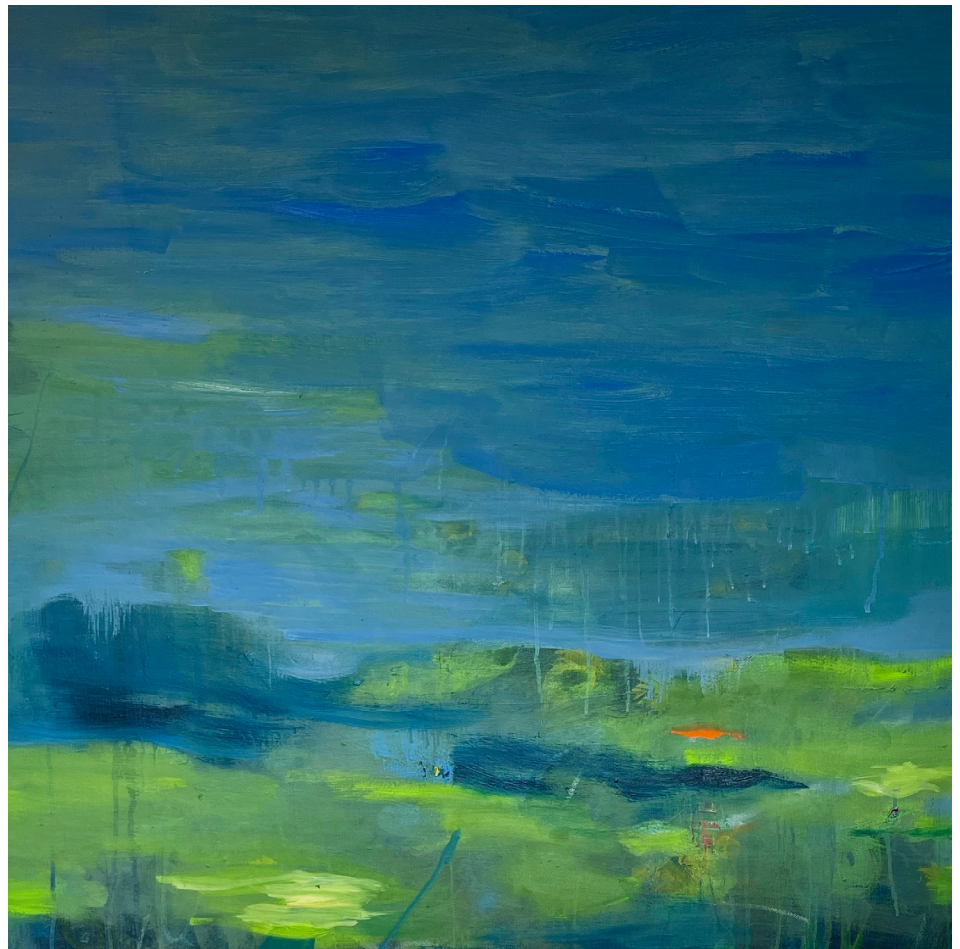
Green quills vigorously emerge from the dull earth,  
quickly transforming the landscape into a splattering of yellow.

Creamy white petals extend from the forest's dark edge,  
creating a gentle veil over the narrow roadways.

Pink puffs are prominent on burgundy leaved trees,  
satisfying the desire for a more diverse palette.

Daylight extends and dreariness dissolves,  
scents abound and sweeten the scene.

by *Marcia Claire Millican*



*Garden by Jennifer Davey, oil painting*



For our next issue, share how you "melt into summer" through a sketch, poem, painting, photo, sculpture or any other art form. Submit your work with your first and last name to [communications@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:communications@bainbridgewa.gov) by June 11.



Heyday Farm by Peggy Muir, pen and watercolor



The Mountain Pika by Donna Letterese

## Your City Staff

What do you love or find renewing about spring in the PNW?



### Madison Downing

Maintenance Technician I

I love getting back to hiking with my dog and gearing up for sporting trials—it's a great way to shake off winter. I enjoy clearing out my flower beds and seeing new growth from sprouted seeds and getting ready for summer dahlias. The longer days feel renewing, and I especially love hearing and seeing all the birds returning to the Pacific Northwest.



### Carrie Freitas

Budget Manager

There's nothing like the quiet shift from PNW winter to spring—when crocuses, hyacinths and daffodils emerge, and fresh green leaves stand out against the deep evergreen of the cedars and firs. This past weekend, I tended my early spring garden and stood beneath my blooming weeping elm, listening to bumblebees at work and breathing in the crisp, rain-washed air. It was a simple, renewing moment that made spring here feel magical.



### Auburn Lovett

Associate Planner

Spring is the best—everything is sprouting, and it's such a joy! I love going on long walks in the wind and rain (sometimes even catching a hint of sun). I come home soaking wet and feeling completely rejuvenated. I often describe spring as a sigh of relief—a long-awaited reprieve from the dark and lingering PNW winter. I especially love spotting the first signs of life: horsetails pushing up through the soil, sword ferns unfurling and of course cherry blossoms bursting into bloom.

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SEATTLE, WA  
Permit No. 2400

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

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



Island Garden, Fletcher Bay by Pamela Wachtler, watercolor and Pentel.

### FOLLOW US



## B.I. READS

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

**Coming soon!**  
The next book will be announced on June 10. Scan the QR code to learn more.



## Cover Art Features PNW Native Species

Artist: Amy Moon Zafman



*Trillium ovatum*  
(Western Trillium)



*Camassia leitchlinii*  
(Great Camas)



*Rosa nutkana*  
(Nootka Rose)



*Maianthemum dilatatum*  
(False Lily of the Valley)



*Iris douglasiana*  
(Douglas Iris)



*Sisyrinchium idahoense*  
(Idaho Blue-Eyed Grass)



*Celastrina echo*  
(Echo Azure)

### City Highlight

UPDATES FROM CITY HALL

EACH FRIDAY IN YOUR INBOX



**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

Stay up to date on Important Bainbridge Island topics—including a message from the City Manager.

BainbridgeWA.gov/500

You will receive an email to confirm your subscription—be sure to check your junk folder.