

**Vision statement for 2016 Comprehensive Plan
Planning Commission Recommendation January 22, 2015
City Council Acceptance February 3, 2015**



Bainbridge Island is notable for its beauty, its maritime climate, its location between Seattle and the Olympic Peninsula, and its support of the arts. The island consists of beaches and harbors, forests and fields, trails and two-lane country roads, homes and businesses surrounded by the waters of Puget Sound. We are defined as much by the water around us as by the ground beneath our feet.

Bainbridge has a rich natural and cultural history including a long presence of indigenous people, followed more recently by European and Asian immigrants who built timber, maritime and agricultural economies. Contemporary Bainbridge Island is home to a diverse mix of people including farmers, artists, students, business professionals, retirees, and is hospitable to visitors.

The people of Bainbridge aspire to accommodate inevitable growth while protecting the wildlife habitat, watersheds, shorelines, open space, and the air and water quality of the island. We welcome innovative ideas, industrious business people, new and traditional cultures, and people of all ages and backgrounds. We strive to provide quality housing, education, health care, and business, recreational, and cultural opportunities for all of our inhabitants. We embrace local food sources, renewable energy, and paths for biking and walking.

Global warming and the impacts of climate change are major issues for our generation, and will be for the foreseeable future. We recognize that it will be challenging to adapt to the environmental and economic changes that we will face in the decades ahead. The good will, imagination, and pragmatism of our citizens will foster a compassionate environment in which we listen to, learn from, and engage with all the people who live here. There is no word for exclusion in the Lushootseed language of Puget Sound.

The people of Bainbridge Island understand that it will take an active approach to not only maintain, but restore and enhance the condition of the island if we expect to continue enjoying its bounty. Island residents balance personal interests with concern for the community and the environment. As the island's population increases, we will manage our lands and waters thoughtfully, with innovative planning policies.

Bainbridge citizens embrace the challenges of our future. That future-calls on residents and visitors alike to actively participate in shaping a joyful, stable, and sustainable community, where its present and future generations are stewards of the land and keepers of its culture.