

CHAPTER 4.3 RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The Recreational Trails classification categorizes park land that has recreational trails. Recreational Trails are primarily off-road, soft surface, non-motorized trails intended primarily for enjoyment and exercise, and include:

- Trails through natural areas,
- Trail corridors within parks,
- Trails that connect parks to parks,
- Trails that connect neighborhoods to parks, especially where a walking route provides closer access than via existing roads
- Trails that connect parks to the shoreline
- Trails that connect parks to points of interest
- Trails that connect parks to public spaces
- Trails that connect parks to transportation corridors

The Park District is responsible for the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of recreational trails, including water trail facilities and infrastructure. The District will continue to collaborate with other public and private agencies to assure that multi-jurisdictional trail to trail and road to trail connections are well coordinated and cost-effective.

The following Trails Vision Plan outlines the future direction for expansion of recreational trail inventory and how these recreational trails connect to other jurisdictional trail systems. Included as part of the Trails Vision Plan are several attachments that indicate the existing trail inventory, possible future recreational trails, water access trails, trails standards and trail details.

This plan has been drafted by Park District Staff in coordination with the Trails Advisory Committee, as well as in consultation with the City of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation, and citizen input through the comprehensive plan public engagement process.

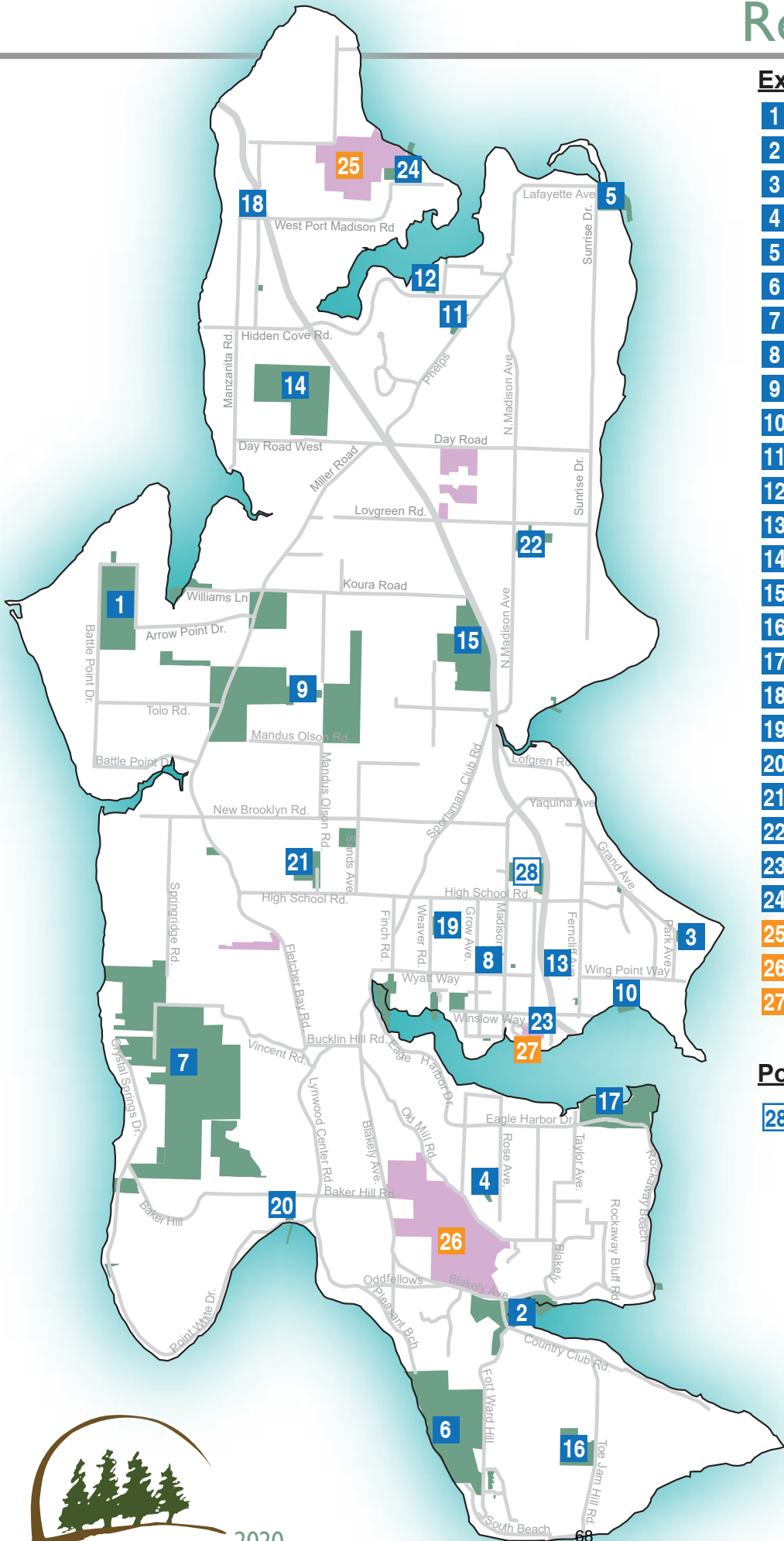
Recreational Trails

Existing Recreational Trails

- 1 Battle Point Park
- 2 Blakely Harbor Park
- 3 Camp Yeomalt
- 4 Eagedale Park
- 5 Fay Bainbridge Park
- 6 Fort Ward Park
- 7 Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve
- 8 Gideon Park
- 9 Grand Forest
- 10 Hawley Cove Park
- 11 Hidden Cove Ballfields
- 12 Hidden Cove Park
- 13 John Nelson Linear Trail
- 14 Manzanita Park
- 15 Meigs Park
- 16 Nute's Pond
- 17 Pritchard Park
- 18 Rotary Centennial Park
- 19 Rotary Park
- 20 Schel Chelb Park
- 21 Strawberry Hill Park
- 22 Ted Olson Park
- 23 Waypoint & Waypoint Woods
- 24 West Port Madison Nature Preserve
- 25 Blodel Preserve
- 26 IslandWood
- 27 Waterfront Park

Potential Recreational Trails

- 28 Sakai Park



Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District

Recreational Trails Vision Plan

March 6, 2020

Introduction

This Trails Vision Plan serves as a guiding document for the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (BIMPRD) to use in acquiring, planning, developing and maintaining recreational trails on Bainbridge Island.

Purpose

The purpose of the Trails Vision Plan is to provide the District and the community with a guide for the future growth of recreational trails on the island.

Vision Statement

Develop community through a system of interconnected trails, and trail infrastructure, that offer prescribed, healthy, outdoor experiences, within a rich variety of landscapes and natural habitats.

Goals of the Trails Vision Plan

- Promote health and wellness for community members with nature trails for pedestrian, bicycling, and equestrian use.
- Provide access/educate the community about conservation and preservation of our natural resources through a system of prescribed trails, carefully laid out to minimize impacts to sensitive areas and routed to avoid significant tree removal.
- Provide for community connections to highlight our unique historical venues, park landscapes and the island's natural beauty.
- Increase community connections between the Winslow core, parks, recreation centers, schools and neighborhoods by linking to other publicly maintained non-motorized corridors.
- Partner and collaborate with other agencies and non-profits on opportunities, as they arise, for key connections and trail system development and expansion.
- Develop and implement a trail classification system that meets the needs of a large variety of user types and abilities.
- Develop trail connections by integrating multi-jurisdiction trails, such as District recreational trails and the City of Bainbridge Island's non-motorized transportation corridors, to create long distance routes north and south, and east and west.
- Promote education of trail use that include trail etiquette, conservation, preservation, and leave-no-trace principles.
- Design trails that protect, conserve, and blend in with the natural landscape by maintaining tree canopy and minimize impacts to natural stormwater flows.
- Design multi-use trails for public use that carefully consider the impacts to wildlife.
- Enhance and support the volunteer program for citizens and organizations to assist with trail maintenance activities.

Community Benefits of an Interconnected Trail System

Trails provide numerous quality of life, environmental, and economic benefits to the individuals they serve and the communities in which they are located.

Examples of the benefits of a well-developed trail system:

- Increases recreational and health opportunities.

- Satisfies the high local public expectation for quality trails, parks, open space and outdoor recreation.
- Provides benefits to the environment by connecting people with the natural environment.
- Preserves important natural areas and habitats.
- Provides protection of sensitive landscapes, natural areas, and habitats by allowing education and access to these landscapes.
- Provides social benefits by connecting people with neighbors and generating a stronger sense of community.
- Provides a sense of spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being through immersion in nature, as well as moments of peace and tranquility in an increasingly noisy world.
- Increases public access to historical, cultural and natural environment.
- Provides interconnected trail systems that encourage active transportation.
- Provides for non-motorized options of travel
- Increases tourism.
- Increases property value.
- Reduces green house gas emissions by providing alternatives to automobile travel.
- Provides fish and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Trail Development

The Park District assumes the major responsibility for the planning, development, and operation of a variety of recreational based trails. Trail types primarily include off-road multi-use (hike/bike/equestrian) soft surface trails, and water trails.

The following principles should guide trail development decisions:

- Purposely prescribe use of sensitive areas by carefully routing trails to minimize impact while providing for public access and educational opportunities.
- Consider and include trail corridors and trail infrastructure that enhance emergency access and wayfinding.
- Utilize “Best Management Practices”, techniques, and the latest industry trends in the development of recreational trail systems that create the least impact to natural areas in the planning phase of trails and during construction activities.
- Seek educational opportunities for staff and volunteers on the latest “Best Management Practices”, techniques, and trends in construction and maintenance of recreational trail systems.
- Consider potential user conflicts in the development of site-specific trail development. Special-use trail systems may need to be considered as community needs arise.
- Develop trail design and standards that are easy to maintain and access by maintenance, security, and other appropriate personnel, equipment, and vehicles.
- Trail development should include an island-circumnavigating water trail, and regional water trail designation for non-motorized small watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, etc. This could include designations such as the Cascadia Marine Trail. The trail may incorporate and improve a system of boat ramps, landings, and other general improvements to public facilities, such as drinking water, restrooms, picnic tables, etc., where practical.
- Coordinate with the City of Bainbridge Island to identify low-use roads and other sources when possible to increase connectivity.

Trail Development Priorities

Specific trail priorities will be set by the District Board of Commissioners, primarily during the annual budget development process, with the possibility of adjustments throughout the year.

The District will focus its trail resources on the priorities established by the District Board annually. Trail priorities are subject to change and may include the following, in no specific order:

- Trails between parks (e.g. Forest to Sky Trail).
- Trails within parks (e.g. Grand Forest Trails).
- Trails that lead to points of interest, such as shoreline access or viewpoints.
- Trails that connect neighborhoods to parks, especially where a walking route provides closer access than via existing roads.
- Cross-island trails (East/West, North/South) independent of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Core 40.
- Trail development that includes a series of trailheads, trailside rest stops, viewpoints, interpretive exhibits, and trail signage systems that integrate hike, bike, and horse trails with specific historical, cultural, environmental, and scenic points of interest.
- Trails linking parks to COBI's Non-motorized Transportation Plan, Core 40 corridor. (See Appendix J).
- Trail projects that enhance emergency personnel's access to trail users and ability to protect community assets.
- Trail projects that can increase accessible trail options.
- Trails that are likely to receive the heaviest usage, and as a result benefit the greatest number of users.

Acknowledgements

- The Park District acknowledges COBI as the lead agency for development and maintenance of road ends and on-road pedestrian and bicycle touring routes and scenic drives. The Park District may consider management, or transfer of ownership, of trails that meet the District's established criteria of recreational trails in this plan.
- The Park District will, wherever feasible, connect recreational soft surface trails with other, publicly accessible, jurisdictional trails systems (including public, private, and non-profit entities) to provide public routes that can be utilized by a variety of users. Where these connections occur, there will be transitions from other jurisdictional trail standards to District recreational trail standards.
- The Park District will partner with public, private, and non-profit entities when available and applicable to expand, develop and maintain an integrated system of trails on Bainbridge Island.
- When consistent with the established criteria of recreational trails in this plan, the Park District may coordinate with other agencies to create a water trail around Bainbridge Island for non-motorized small watercraft utilizing park properties, road ends and other public properties.

Implementation

On an annual basis the Board, with input from staff, the Parkland Acquisition Committee, and the Trails Advisory Committee, and consultation with other jurisdictional planners (such as COBI) and non-profits (such as the Park Foundation) will determine through the budget development process, which trail projects to prioritize.

While plans will be set annually, the District should remain flexible to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities as they arise to improve, expand, or create connections across the Island within the Districts trail systems and to other public trail systems.

Inventory

The District strives to provide quality trails to all user types. Generally, the District's priority is to provide inclusive, multi-use trails rather than exclusive, use-specific trails. However, community needs, and expectations may warrant the consideration of special use trails, or trail systems to avoid predictable user

conflicts. Special use options may include pedestrian-only trails, equestrian trails, off leash dog trails, mountain bike trails, and water trails.

The District currently uses a trail classification system with 3 trail categories. Generally, trails are multi-use and any trail restrictions are posted on specific trails if applicable. This system consists of the following trail classifications and is inventoried on the attached map.

- Class I trails are wide enough for users to pass from opposite directions without leaving the trail or having to stop to make way for another user. Class I trails are the standard of choice for major trails in the park system.
- Class II trails are recreational trails that serve as secondary loops or trails within parks and are easily accessed by parking areas or other close points of entry.
- Class III trails are recreational trails that provide a more intimate experience through natural areas or trails that traverse difficult terrain and provide access to points of interest, such as shoreline access, scenic views, sensitive areas, or historic sites.
- An additional classification could be considered for transportation corridors that would need to be funded by COBI, other agencies, or donation/grant opportunities. These corridors would be vetted by the District and approved by the Board of Commissioners. Alternative hardened surfaces (such as a bonded wood or similar product) would be preferred over concrete or asphalt.
- The District should collaborate with COBI on a standard classification of trail where parks connects to the Sound to Olympics trail, or similar, regional shared-use paths traverse through park property. (up to 8 feet wide with a 12% maximum grade).
- Where approved by the Board of Commissioners, the City of Bainbridge Island will be allowed to construct sections of the Sound to Olympic Trail through District property to the 10 to 12 feet wide standard, similar to the existing completed sections of the STO.

Attachments

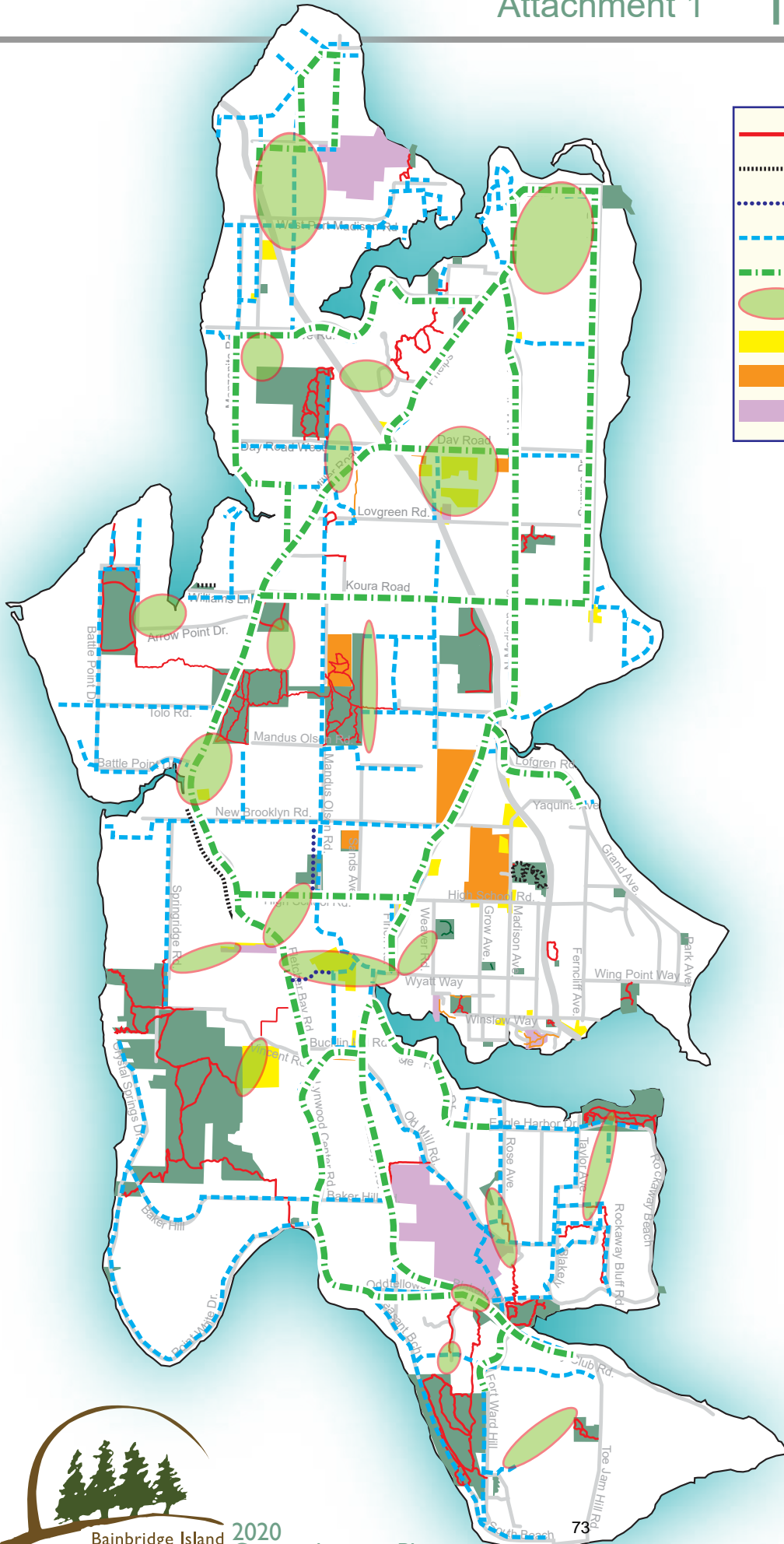
1. Attachment 1: Graphic - Trail Vision Plan
2. Attachment 2: Graphic - Trail Inventory
3. Attachment 3: Graphic - Water Access/Trail
4. Attachment 4: Chart - Trail Standards
5. Attachment 5: Trail Details (a: standard trail, b: multipurpose trail, c: multi-jurisdictional corridor trail connection, d: accessible trail)

This plan serves as an update to the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District's 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Any changes to this Trails Vision Plan including attachments will require a formal process to amend the Comprehensive Plan.

Legend

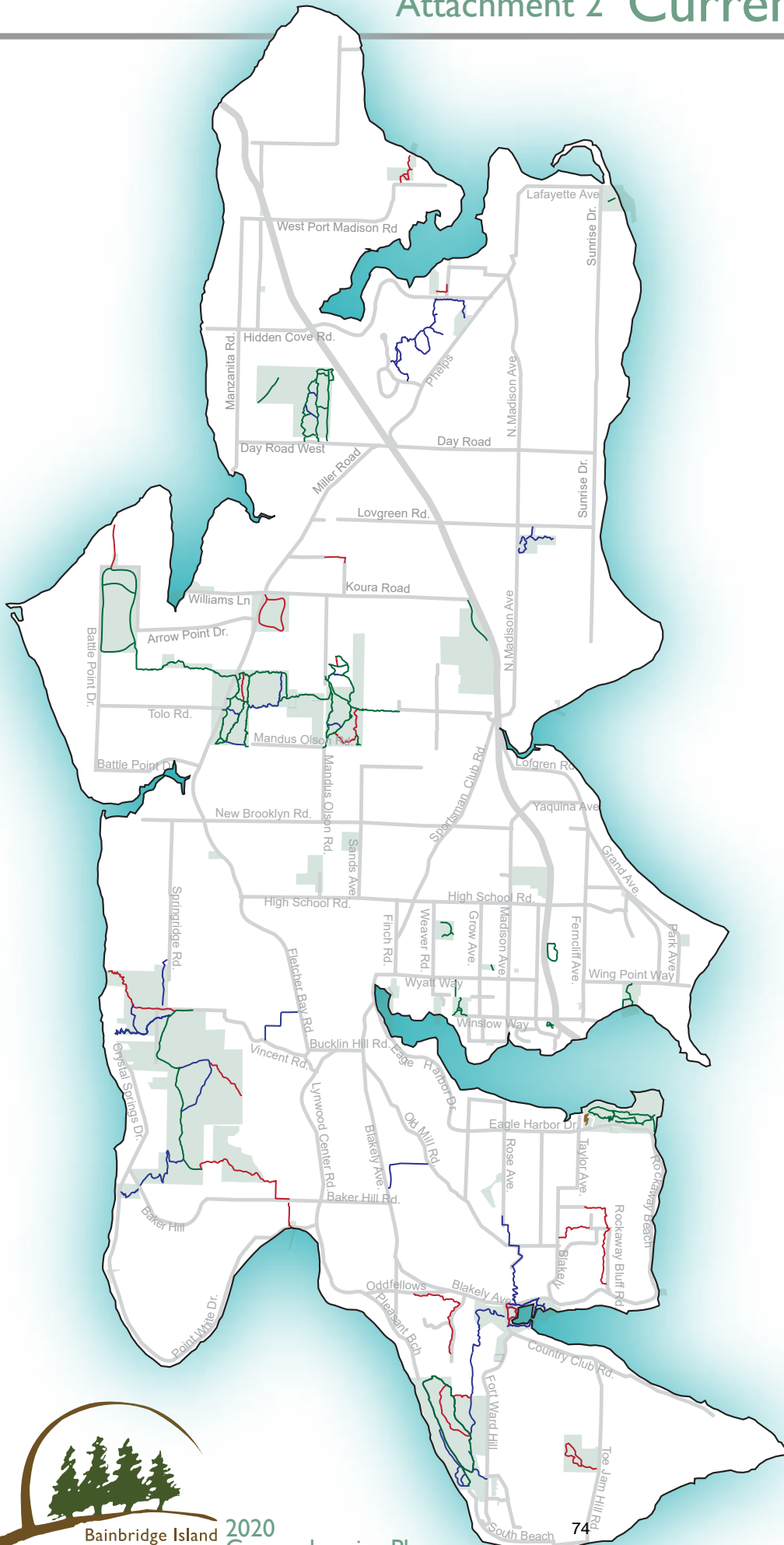
	BIMPRD Trails
	Planned BIMPRD Trails
	Future BIMPRD Trails
	COBI Non-motorized
	COBI Core 40
	Potential Corridors
	City Property
	School Property
	Other Open Space

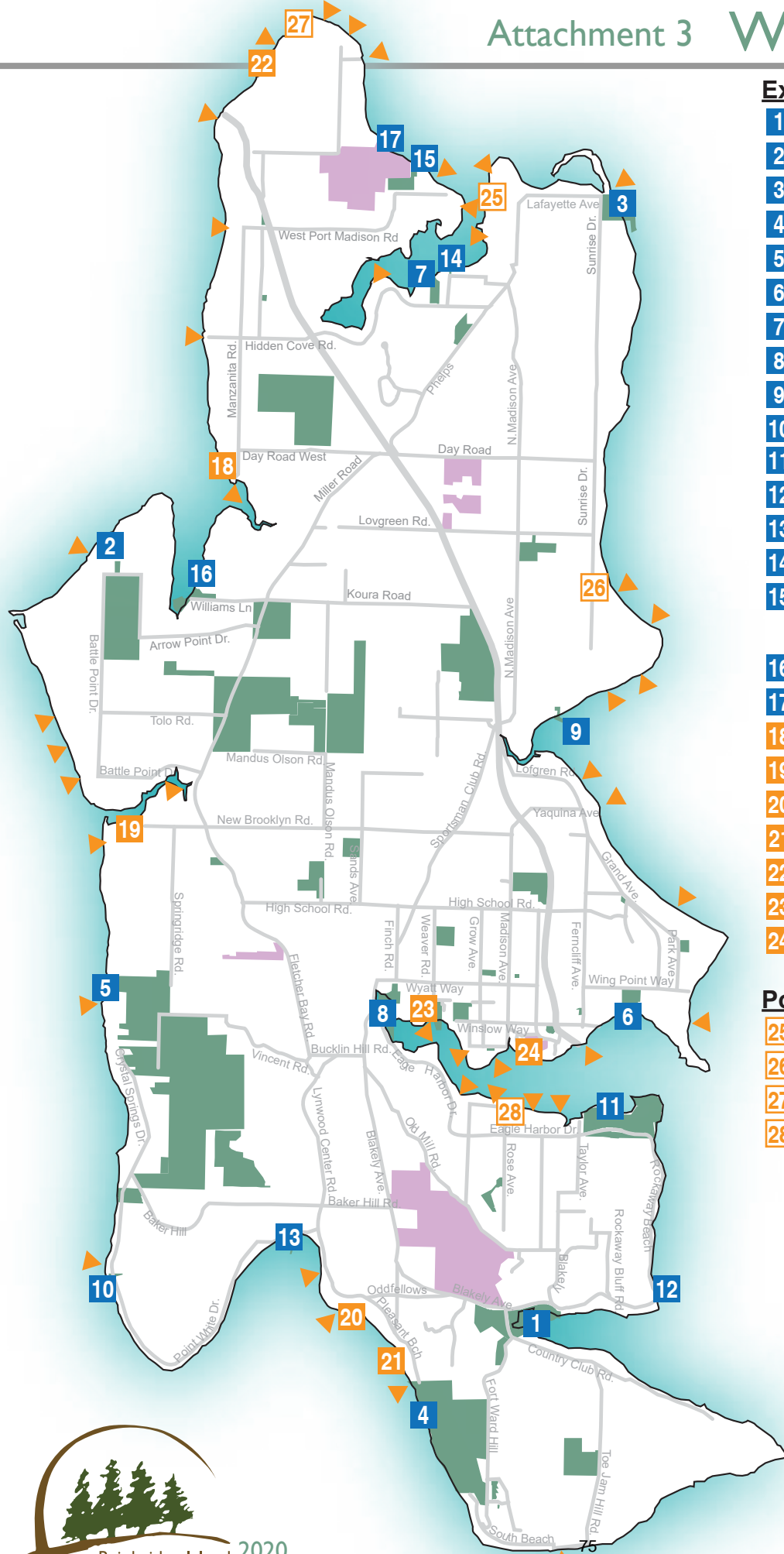


Attachment 2 Current Trail Inventory

Legend

- Class I Trails
- Class II Trails
- Class III Trails





Existing Waterfront Access

- 1 Blakely Harbor
- 2 Fairy Dell Trail
- 3 Fay Bainbridge Park
- 4 Fort Ward Park
- 5 Gazzam Lake Park
- 6 Hawley Cove Park
- 7 Hidden Cove Park
- 8 Lumpkin
- 9 Manitou Beach
- 10 Point White Pier
- 11 Pritchard Park (co-owned COBI)
- 12 Rockaway Beach Park
- 13 Schel Chelb
- 14 T'Chookwap Park
- 15 W. Port Madison Nature Prsv.(high bank)
- 16 Williams-Olson Park
- 17 Bloedel Reserve
- 18 Dock Street
- 19 Fletcher Bay
- 20 Lytle Road
- 21 Pleasant Beach Drive
- 22 Puget Sound Energy
- 23 Strawberry Packing Plant
- 24 Waterfront Park

Potential Waterfront Access

- 25 Lafayette Avenue
- 26 Mountain View Road
- 27 Sanwick Street
- 28 Ward Avenue

Other Road End Access



Trail Standards

Trail Classification System

Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District

March 6, 2020

ATTACHMENT 4

Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 Main Trails or Loops, Multi-Modal connections	Trail Class 2 Secondary Loops, Long Distance connections	Trail Class 3 Periphery loops, Nature trails, and difficult terrain trails
Recreational Useage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use unless specifically signed More frequent 2-way traffic Standard used when linked to Non-Motorized trail system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use unless specifically signed Less frequent 2-way traffic Through connections and connections to trailheads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use unless specifically signed Connector trails within larger trails Less frequent 2-way traffic
Tread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread width, 5-6ft, may be reduced for short distances to avoid significant features Corridor width 7 to 8 feet Permeable native and non-native soft surface materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread width 3-4ft, may be reduced for short distances to avoid significant features Corridor width 5 to 6 feet Native soils and non-native materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tread width, 3 ft maximum Corridor width 4 feet Typically, native materials
Obstacles Construction Criteria Winter Storm Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few obstacles Few exposed roots Generally moderate grades 1st priority after winter storms As barrier free as feasible Machine built and maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More obstacles than Class 1 2nd priority after winter storms Machine built and maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be sizeable roots 3rd priority after winter storms Some steep grades Narrow trail corridor Typically, hand built and maintained
Structures and Trail Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be several built structures: steps, bridges, boardwalks, signage, culverts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be several built structures: steps, bridges, boardwalks, signage, culverts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural materials preferred 3rd priority after winter storms Built structures as needed Typically, hand built and maintained
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal pruning of trail corridor Routine inspections of trail conditions Proactive approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal pruning of trail corridor Annual inspections of trail conditions Proactive approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal pruning of trail corridor Annual inspections of trail conditions Proactive approach

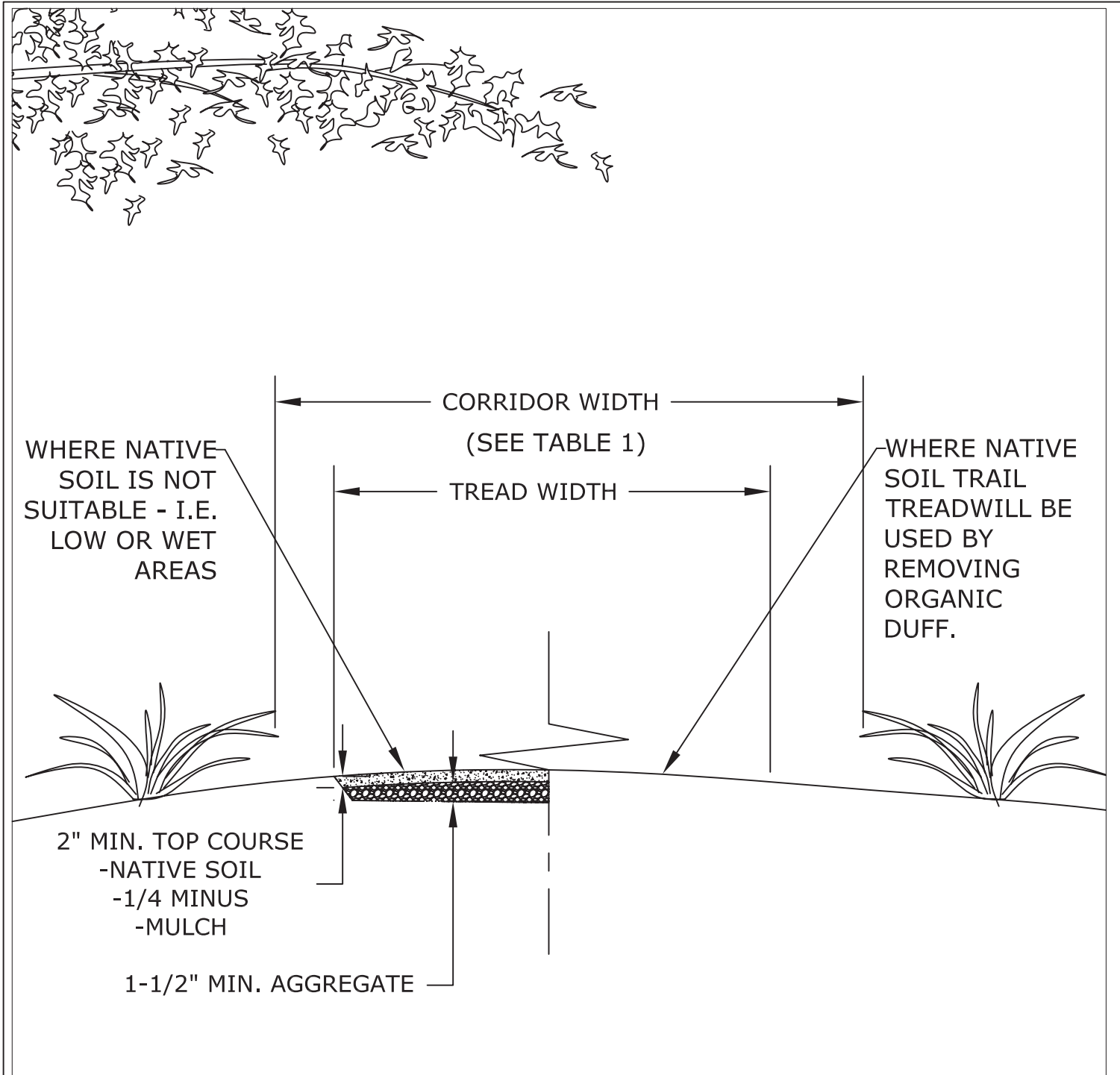


TABLE 1

CLASS	TREAD WIDTH	CORRIDOR WIDTH
I	5-6 FEET	7-8 FEET
II	4 FEET	6 FEET
III	2-3 FEET	4-5 FEET



Bainbridge Island
 Metro Park &
 Recreation District₇₇

Standard Trail
 CLASS I-II-III

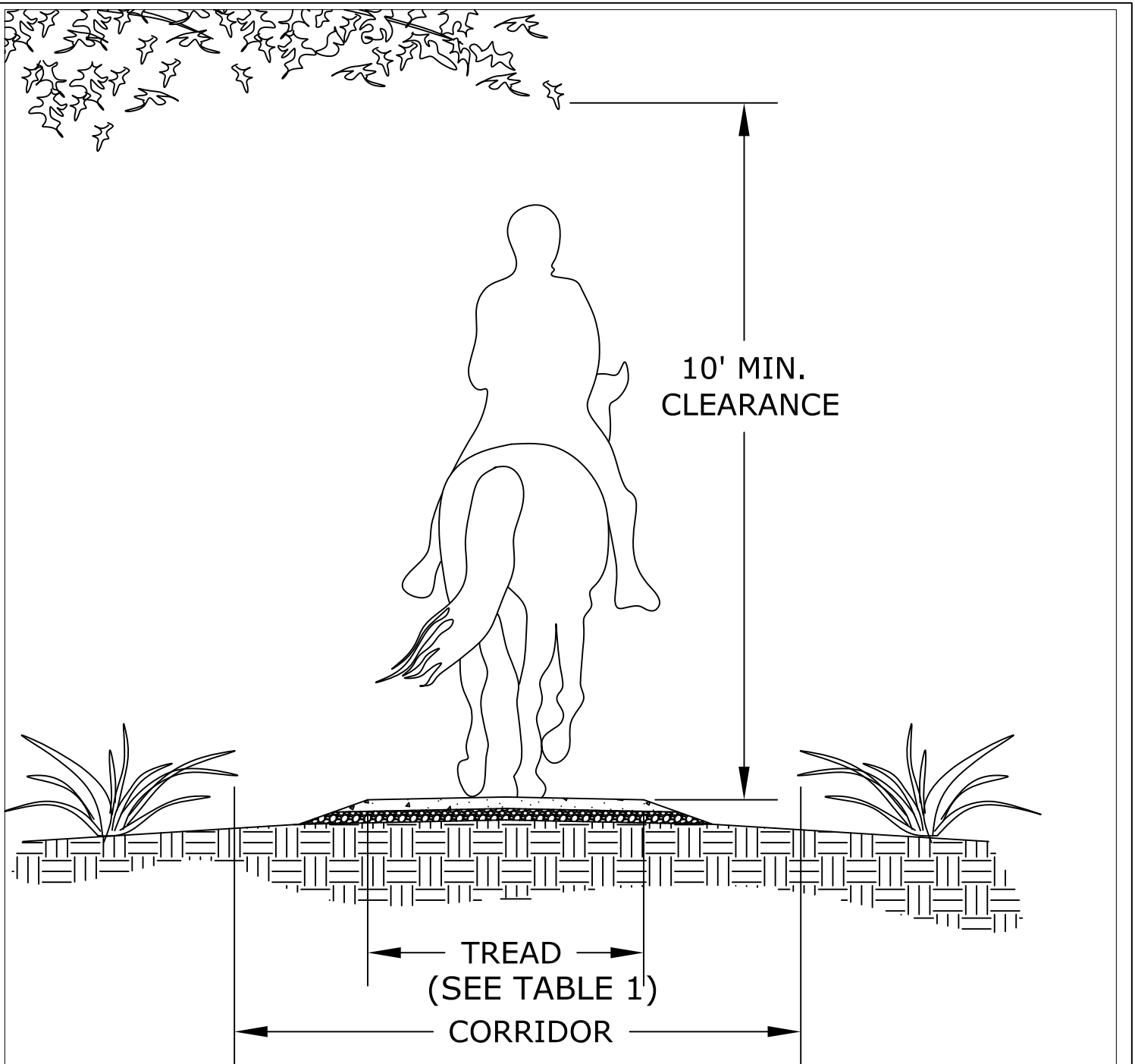


TABLE 1

CLASS	TREAD WITDTH	CORRIDOR WIDTH
I	5-6 FEET	7-8 FEET
II	4 FEET	6 FEET
III	2-3 FEET	4-5 FEET



Bainbridge Island
 Metro Park &
 Recreation District⁷⁸

Multipurpose Trail
 CLASS I-II-III

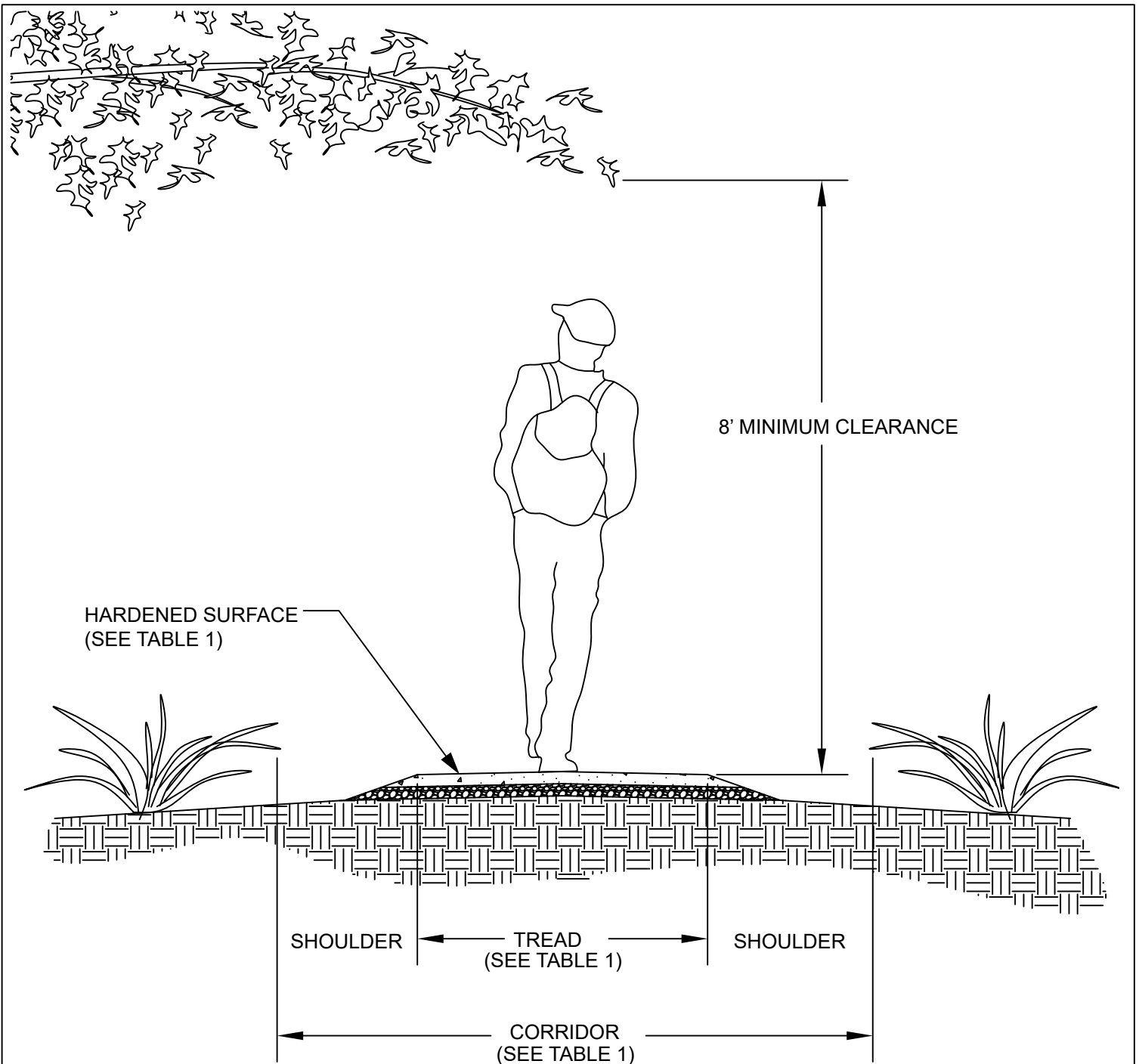


TABLE 1

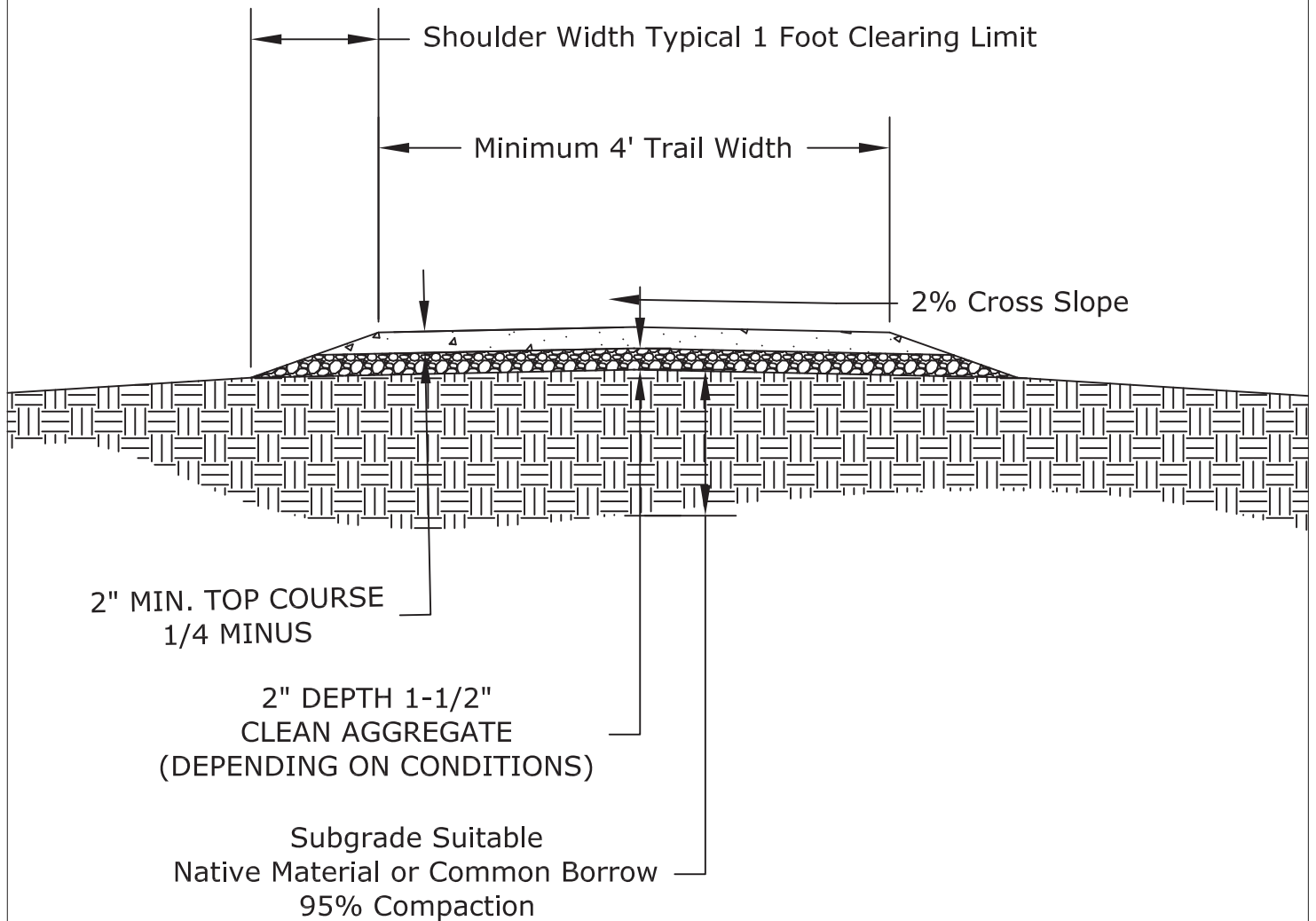
CLASS	TREAD WIDTH	CORRIDOR WIDTH	HARDENED SURFACE
1A	6-8 FEET	8-10 FEET (2 FOOT SHOULDERS)	OTHER THAN ASPHALT OR CONCRETE
STO	10-12 FEET	14-16 FEET (2 FOOT SHOULDERS)	ASPHALT OR CONCRETE



**Bainbridge Island
Metro Park &
Recreation District**

**Multi-jurisdictional
Corridor
Trail Connection**

(ONLY WHERE APPROVED BY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS)



2" MIN. TOP COURSE
1/4 MINUS

2" DEPTH 1-1/2"
CLEAN AGGREGATE
(DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS)

Subgrade Suitable
Native Material or Common Borrow
95% Compaction

- A. Section shown is for typical conditions, trail may be modified to accomodate site specific requirements.
- B. Crushed surfacing base course depth and size of aggregate is minimum requirement. Actual depth of aggregate may vary per site specific conditions
- C. Stake trail alignment and trail clearing limits in the field before clearing
- D. Trail is shown with minimum width. May vary with site specific requirements.
- E. All organic materials shall be removed down to native material.
- F. Accessible trail layout and construction shall utilize Forest Service Trail Access Guidelines (FSTAG)



Bainbridge Island
Metro Park &
Recreation District

Accessible Trail