

# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND



## Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	4	LOS Measure: Quantity .....	67
District Board .....	4	Quality (LOS Measure) .....	76
District Staff .....	4	Distribution (LOS Measure).....	79
Consultant Team.....	4	LOS: Quantity, Quality, Distribution .....	83
Executive Summary.....	5	Key Takeaways.....	83
Introduction .....	10	How We Get There.....	84
What We Have .....	14	Background .....	84
Park Land & Facilities on Bainbridge		Roles, Goals, Objectives Overview .....	85
Island.....	21	Planning Framework.....	87
Quick Definitions: .....	21	Partner Organizations .....	88
1. System Areas .....	22	Primary Partner Core Contributions: .....	91
Natural Areas .....	26	System Areas Planning Framework .....	94
Recreational Shoreline .....	32	Active Use Park Lands with Facilities.....	95
Active Use Park Land.....	36	Natural Area Park Land .....	101
Indoor Facilities.....	42	Recreational Shoreline.....	102
Trails.....	47	Recreational Trails .....	103
Recreation Program Areas .....	<b>Error!</b>	Recreation .....	104
<b>Bookmark not defined.</b>		Sticking the Landing: .....	105
Aquatic .....	51	Implementation Framework.....	105
Recreation Age Groups .....	54	Long-Term Impact Considerations:...	<b>Error!</b>
Special Events .....	55	<b>Bookmark not defined.</b>	
What We Heard.....	56	6-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	
Engagement Timeline.....	57	2025–2030.....	112
Mapping Assets & Opportunities .....	58	Funding .....	126
Understanding the Budget.....	60	Funding Sources .....	126
Parks, Trails & Recreation Survey.....	61	Funding Landscape .....	127
Key findings .....	62	Future Funding.....	129
What We Need .....	64	Appendices.....	131
Quick Definitions: .....	64	A. Trail vision Map.....	131
Measuring Park Level of Service .....	65	B. Comprehensive Plan survey Report	
Measuring LOS on Bainbridge Island.....	66	C. Public Comment Log	
Create a metric that reflects the assets		D. Glossary	
of bi parks and partners .....	66	E. Park Exhibits	

# **A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S**

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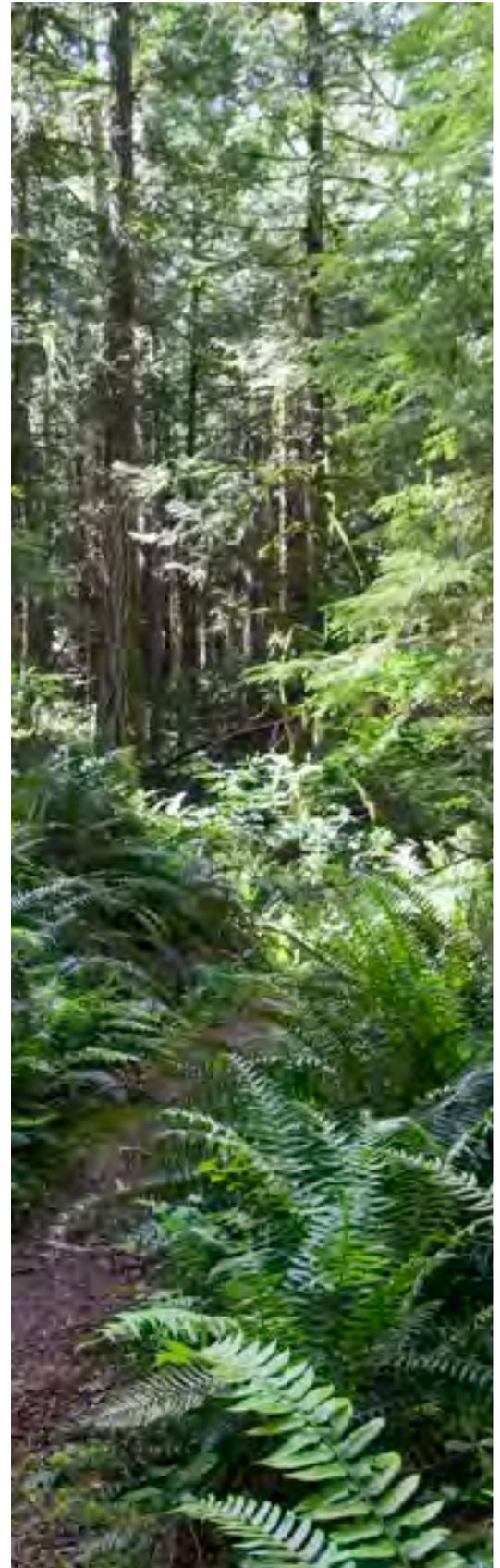
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Bainbridge Island is a unique community both geographically and demographically. Situated a ferry ride away from the Seattle metropolis, the island has access to urban amenities but maintains a land use pattern that is far less dense, and with an abundance of open space. The median age of 50.7 also distinguishes it as older than other Washington cities, and the 65+ segment of the population is slated to continue to grow.

Parks, recreation, and open space are part of what makes a city special, and are key aspects to quality of life. On Bainbridge Island, parks provide access to shoreline on the Puget Sound, forested areas, and athletic facilities. They contain trails leading to historic relics, public art, and iconic vistas. They are places to gather, watch performances, and learn.

Since 1965, the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District has worked to maintain a system of park land dedicated to opportunities for recreation, culture, and access to nature. They have worked with partners to acquire additional land, develop beloved parks, and build premiere facilities. They continue to operate a diverse array of programming, from athletic leagues to art classes and outdoor excursions.

Throughout this planning effort, we worked with the community to create a vision for the park system moving forward. We asked how the parks, trails, and facilities were adding to people's lives, and what would allow them to use parks more regularly. We looked at maps to identify favorite places and places that could use some improvement. We talked about the realities of the current budget and discussed top priorities for capital spending.



## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE THE 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

- **2021:** Purchase of the Bainbridge Athletic Club for use as the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center (BIRC), with over 50,000 square feet of space for recreation and community programming.
- **2022:** Formation of the Natural Resources department, encompassing trail maintenance and development, volunteer programming and community conservation, and the protection and management of the Park District's natural spaces.
- **2022:** Completion of the KidsUp Playground, a one-of-a-kind, inclusive playground at Battle Point Park.
- **2024:** Addition of Pia the Peacekeeper, a troll sculpture made by Thomas Danbo, into Sakai Park.
- **2024:** Completion of the island's first bike-dedicated facility, Strawberry Hill Bike Park, in partnership with the Parks and Trails Foundation.



## SYSTEM AREAS & LEVEL OF SERVICE

A key task of this planning effort was to create a new structure to organize the document. With such a unique and immense array of assets, a clear system was needed to help the community understand exactly what they have access to. This resulted in the 5 system areas introduced in this plan: **Active Use Park Land**, **Natural Areas**, **Recreational Shoreline**, **Recreational Trails**, and **Indoor Facilities**. These categorize the key ways in which park lands are utilized, representing different levels and types of development, facilities, and maintenance.

Another initiative of this plan update was to translate community feedback into a new Level of Service metric, to more accurately measure what the park system provides. The previous plan measured 59.23 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, and outlined a plan to acquire the land necessary to maintain that ratio amidst population growth. This method focuses on the quantity of park lands, and does not account for the quality or distribution of these assets throughout the island.

### Park Level of Service: Quantity, Quality, and Distribution

Following guidance from the Washington State Conservation and Recreation Office (RCO), this plan update outlines a level of service metric that measures the quantity, quality, and distribution of park land and facilities throughout the island.

**Quantity:** This plan uses a peer comparison to evaluate the quantity of park land and facilities provided on the island. Four peer jurisdictions were selected based on population size, median income, and other factors. Compared to these jurisdictions, Bainbridge Island has more park land, trail miles, and indoor facilities, earning it scores of 5 across the board.

**Quality:** BI Parks staff evaluated how each system area is meeting its intent within each park land and facility. On a 1-5 rubric, scores of 3 indicate that a system area is meeting its intent. The average score of 2.82 indicates that there is room for improvement through addition of facilities, maintenance and renovation, habitat restoration, or other initiatives aimed at improving the condition of park lands.

Distribution was evaluated by calculating the percentage of the population within a certain range of system area assets. Scores were assigned based on RCO guidelines for service ranges, with an average score of 4.6, indicating that the majority of Bainbridge Island residents are within service range of park land and facilities.

Table: Average Level of Service Scores (on a scale of 1-5)

	Quantity	Quality	Distribution
Average Score	5	2.82	4.6

## Level of Service: Takeaways

The level of service calculation shows that there is no shortage of park land and facilities, and that these assets are well distributed throughout the island. Park quality is the area with opportunity for improvement, indicating the potential to add and upgrade existing facilities.

Improving park land quality does not exclusively entail capital projects. Natural Areas, for example, receive the lowest quality score of 2.5, indicating a need for additional habitat restoration. Park quality can also increase through repairs to facilities, which can be done with relatively little budget.

As the Park District continues to complete and update its list of capital projects, the level of service helps to inform project priorities. These priorities are further delineated in the implementation section, which outlines key values and decision-making criteria.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Translating what we heard during public engagement and the level of service analysis, the goals and objectives provide clarity around core priorities. For each system area, this plan outlines long range community goals that pertain to the entire PROS system, as well as more specific objectives to be carried out by the Park District in the next six years.

Below, overarching community goals are listed by system area:

**Active Use Park Land:** Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities

**Natural Areas:** Conserve and manage the community's natural resources by varied efforts to:

- Increase access to nature where planned.
- Conserve ecosystems of high ecological value such as streams, wetlands, and salt marshes for the benefit of local flora and fauna.

- Pursue climate resilience and the mitigation of environmental impacts.

### Recreational Shoreline:

- Enhance safety and appropriate public access along the shorelines of Bainbridge Island.
- Preserve and enhance opportunities for shoreline access and protection.
- Expand water dependent recreation activities within designated recreational shoreline areas.

**Recreational Trails:** Increase connectivity of the community's trail network, expanding the access and useability of recreational trails.

**Recreation:** Provide opportunities for exercise, socializing, learning, and celebration, through classes, events, performances, and other recreational activities.

## KEY VALUES GUIDING IMPLEMENTATION

The ability of the Park District to maintain or increase levels of service depends on the availability of funding as well as the capacity of partner organizations. New project decisions must be carefully vetted to ensure that resources are allocated towards those with the greatest benefit to the island. A key addition to this plan update is an implementation section, which outlines how the Park District and partners will make these decisions.

### Implementation: Key Values

The following values guide implementation initiatives:

**Safety:** Properly maintaining facilities is crucial for safe usership. The management of forestlands, specifically to reduce fire risk, is also key to this value.

**Access:** This term and value encompass many meanings: affordability, distribution, proximity, universal design... Overall, valuing access means striving to ensure that people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and income levels can enjoy park assets.

**Experience:** Valuing experience means providing comfort, offering unique amenities, creating opportunities for community building, and fostering pride for the island's history, culture, and assets.

**Ecological Stewardship:** When making decisions, leaders should also consider ecological aspects such as habitat contiguity and aquifer recharge.

## KEY CHALLENGES MOVING FORWARD

This plan comes at a time when the Park District is determining how to move forward amidst growing budget demands. The immense system of park land, facilities, and programs utilizes 94% of the current budget, leaving a small amount for capital

improvements including needed renovations and repairs. To add new park land or facilities to the system means not only drawing from that capital improvements budget, but committing to the additional associated operation costs.

The collection of property taxes, one of the Park District's main sources of revenue, has not kept up with inflation, meaning that the District essentially collects less money than it did previously. To ensure that the Park District can maintain what it currently owns and manages, this plan recommends a levy lid lift to secure additional funding. This voter-approved measure will need to be put forth during the coming 6-year planning cycle, likely in 2028.

In the next six years and beyond, the Park District will continue to work with its partners, the value of whose efforts cannot be overstated. It is through these partnerships that the PROS system has grown to what it is today, a truly unique system that contributes to better quality of life for residents and visitors of all ages.

# I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (“BI Parks,” BIMPRD, or the “Park District”) has been undergoing the update process per the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requirement to update plans every 6 years to build a vision for the District, and to maintain grant funding eligibility. This update process is an opportunity to connect with the public, check in about priorities, and set a vision for the system of parks, trails, and indoor facilities on the island.

This document outlines key findings and decision points related to growing and maintaining the assets that allow Bainbridge Island residents to recreate, experience nature, and enjoy public gathering. These include assets owned and operated by the Park District, as well as partner assets. While the plan focuses on priorities for the coming 6-10 years, the missions and values established serve as foundational definitions.

This plan is meant to be both a resource for residents to understand the park assets they have access to, and to guide staff and the Parks Board towards implementing the shared vision for the future. This document is organized into 5 sections:

## *Who we are:*

What are the demographics of Bainbridge Island residents? How are those demographics likely to change over the planning horizon?

## *What we have:*

What currently exists within the park, trail, and recreation system on Bainbridge Island? What is owned and managed by BI Parks, and what is offered by partner organizations?

## *What we heard:*

What public engagement efforts have been conducted as part of this effort? What priorities have we heard from the community?

## *What we need:*

How do we evaluate the Quantity, Quality, and Distribution of parks, trails, and indoor facilities?

## *How we get there:*

What should the Park District prioritize, and how will that be funded?

## PLANNING CONTEXT

The Park District Comprehensive Plan evaluates how the park, recreation and open space system (“PROS”) is serving the public. Each planning effort includes a focused public engagement process resulting in an updated vision for how the PROS system should evolve to meet changing needs.

Sometimes referred to as PROS Plans, these documents must be updated every six years to remain eligible for funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (“RCO”). Under the RCO’s Planning Manual 2, a PROS Plan must contain the following:

- Goals and Objectives
- Inventory
- Public Involvement
- Demand and Need Analysis
- Capital Improvement Program
- Adoption

The updated Comprehensive Plan will be used for 2026-2032 grant cycles and relies on population forecasts to align with the City of Bainbridge Island’s Comprehensive Planning efforts.

**Table: Bainbridge Island Population Growth**

	2020	2025	2044
Population	24,825	25,530	29,349

### Metropolitan Park District

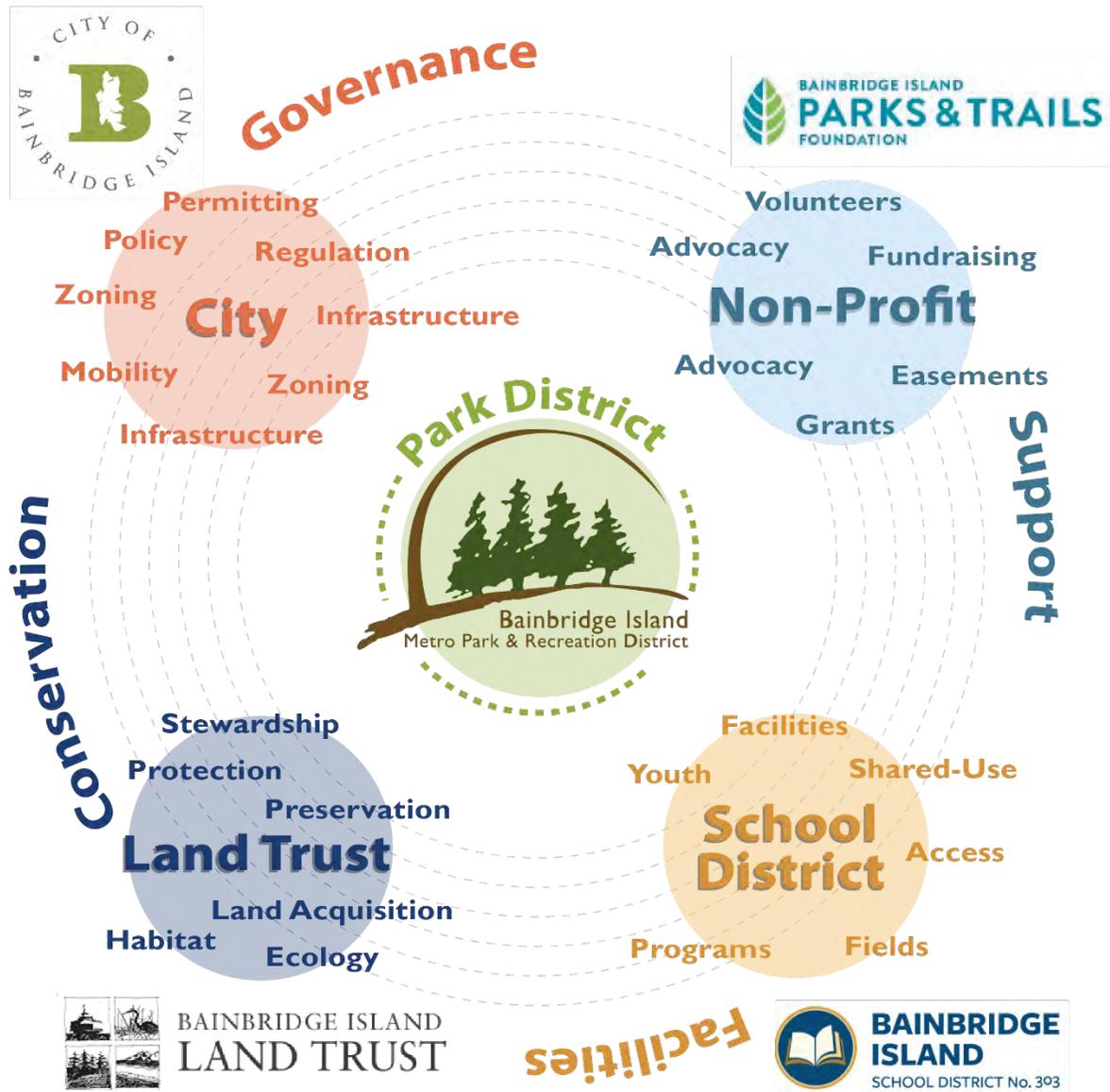
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### Park Board

Placeholder

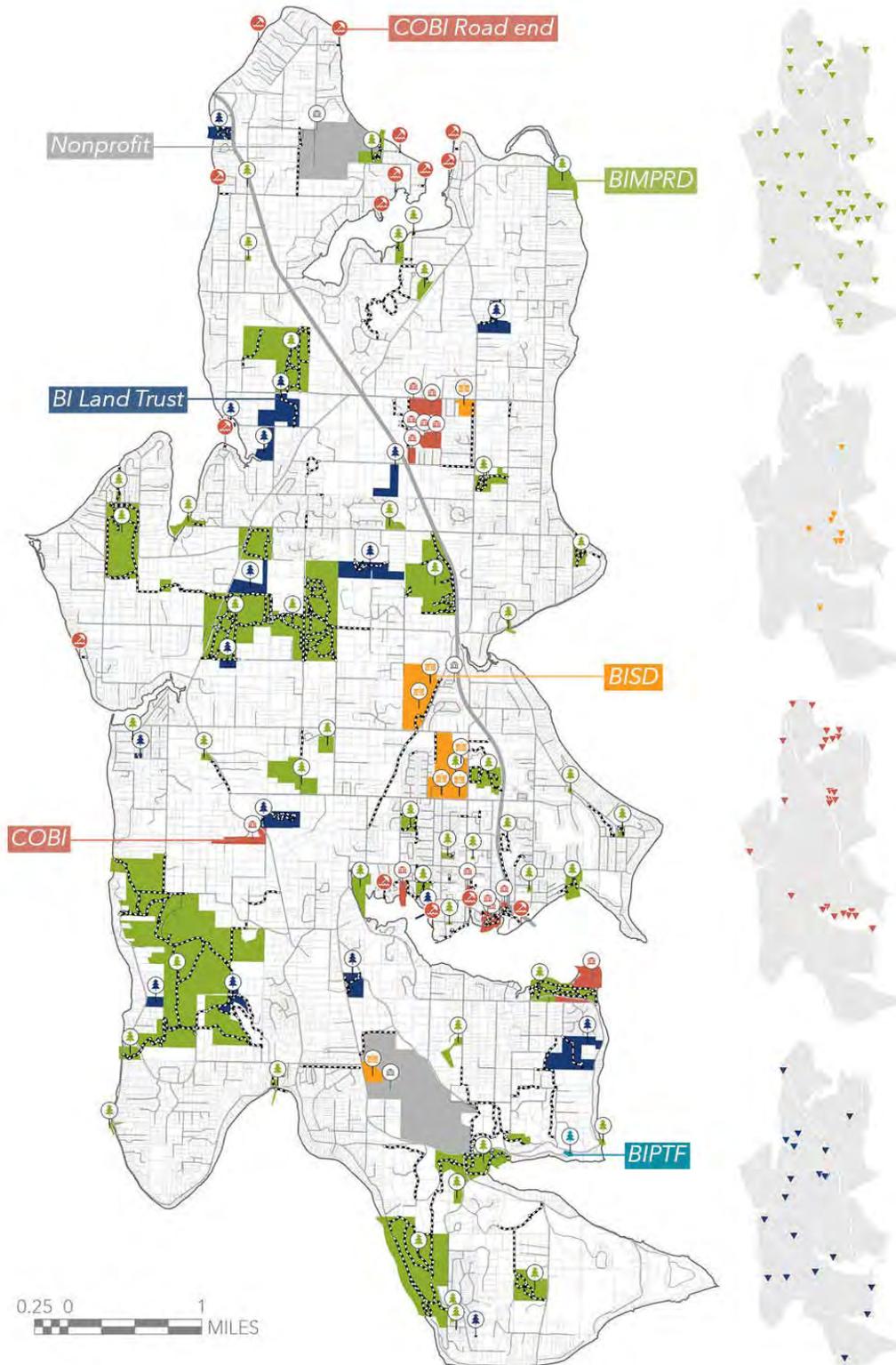
**Graphic: Who Provides Park Land, Trails, & Facilities on Bainbridge Island?**

The following diagram shows the principal agencies and partners involved in providing and caring for Bainbridge Island’s many parks, trails and recreational facilities. These partnerships work towards supporting the community and maintaining accessible green spaces for residents and visitors alike.



## Map: Park, Recreation, and Open Space System Ownership

Properties that contribute either park land, park facilities, and/or natural areas to form Bainbridge Island's comprehensive park system



# WHO WE ARE

## Population Distribution, income and home value

Bainbridge Island’s population is heavily concentrated around Downtown Winslow. The map on the following page shows population density compared to Seattle and Bremerton. The Park’s District has worked to provide a diversity of parks within and around Winslow to support this population hub. Not surprisingly, however, most of the Island’s biggest parks are distributed among less populous parts of the island.

Because Bainbridge has relatively low population density, fewer households are responsible for carrying the cost of new Parks facilities than other cities in Seattle’s urban periphery of similar geographic area; providing a diverse array of facilities for different types of recreation is consequently hard to pay for despite high property values (the majority of the parks budget comes from property tax revenue). Although Bainbridge Island’s median home value is 52% higher than Washington state median home value at \$1,076,200 (compared to \$519,800) (ACS 5-Yr 2019-2023), Bainbridge has just 904 residents per square mile (ESRI, 2025 Population per square mile). For context, more urban peer cities like Mercer Island, Sammamish, and Edmonds are home to 4,025, 3,343, and 4,8934 residents per square mile, respectively, providing a much larger tax base.

*As shown in the figures below, households living within ¼ mile of park properties have a slightly lower median income and home value than the island at large, indicating that the Parks District is not disproportionately serving more affluent households.*

### Bainbridge Island

Median Home Value



**\$1,076,200 ↑**

Median Home Value (ACS 5-Yr)  
This is 52% higher than **Washington**.  
**Washington** has a value of **\$519,800**.

Median Income



**\$228,970 ↑**

Average HH Income (ACS 5-Yr)  
This is 43% higher than **Washington**.  
**Washington** has a value of **\$129,559**.

### Within .25 mile radius of BIMPRD park property

Median Home Value



**\$1,014,267 ↑**

Median Home Value (ACS 5-Yr)  
This is 49% higher than **Washington**.  
**Washington** has a value of **\$519,800**.

Median Income



**\$211,942 ↑**

Average HH Income (ACS 5-Yr)  
This is 39% higher than **Washington**.  
**Washington** has a value of **\$129,559**.

*Population Density: Each point represents  
50 people*

*(ESRI, 2025 total population by census group)*



The table below shows a comparison by income bracket between households living within a quarter mile of public park properties (as the crow flies) and Bainbridge Island at large. Although not significantly different, the parks buffer does capture a higher proportion of very low-income households. Additionally, a larger proportion of renters live within a quarter mile of a park property (25% as opposed to 20% for the Island at large, ACS 5-Yr, 2019-2023).

2025 Households by income (Esri)

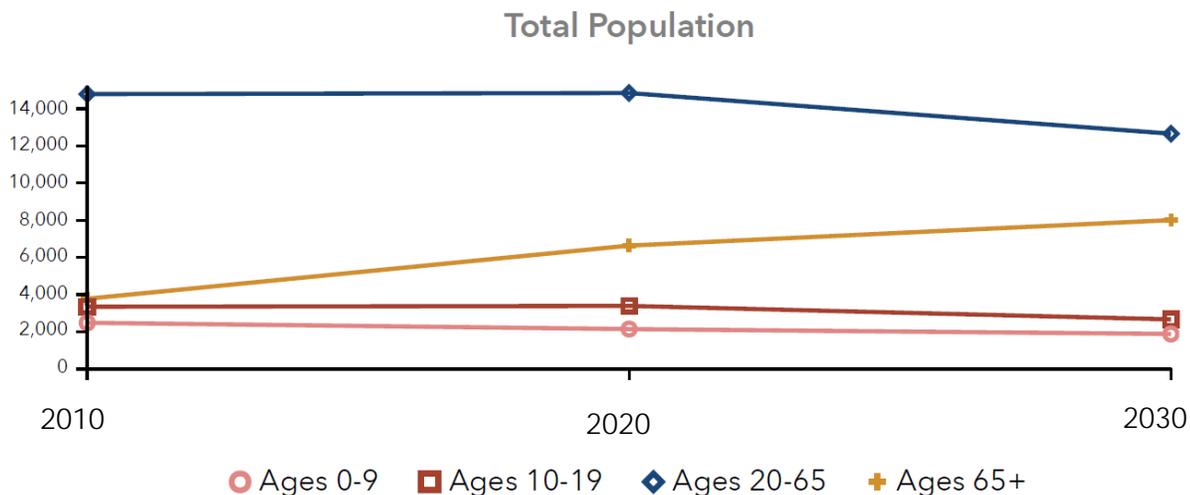
The largest group: \$200,000+ (37.0%)

The smallest group: \$25,000 - \$34,999 (2.2%)

Indicator ▲	Value	Diff
<\$15,000	4.2%	+1.1%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	2.5%	+0.7%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	2.2%	-0.3%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	5.2%	+1.0%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	8.5%	+0.3%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	8.2%	0
\$100,000 - \$149,999	16.7%	+0.3%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	15.5%	-0.9%
\$200,000+	37.0%	-2.3%

### Age, Mobility, and Disability

Park access priorities are shaped by population age, disability rates and types of mobility. The pyramid diagram on the following page compares Bainbridge Island and Washington State 5-year age distribution and shows a significantly larger senior population and a significantly smaller young adult population than the state-at-large. This trend is likely to persist, as shown in the chart below.



The chart shows a growing senior population, and a decline for all other population segments. Bainbridge’s median age is 50.7 years old, 12.6 years older than the state median age of 38.1. The largest population segment is currently females between the ages of 75-79. The map on page 5 shows median age by census block group. Blocks surrounding Downtown Winslow have a higher median age – which is likely influenced by the large number of senior living communities. This finding has implications for park amenities within that area, potentially

pushing priorities toward ADA accessibility and recreation opportunities that favor senior preferences.

Just under 20% of Island households have one or more members with a disability. This number is not disaggregated by type of disability - different types of disabilities have different implications for accessibility. However, this number does indicate the importance of providing ADA accessible offerings.

### Median Age



50.7 ↑

Median Age

This is 12.6 higher than Washington. Washington has a value of 38.1.



7,436

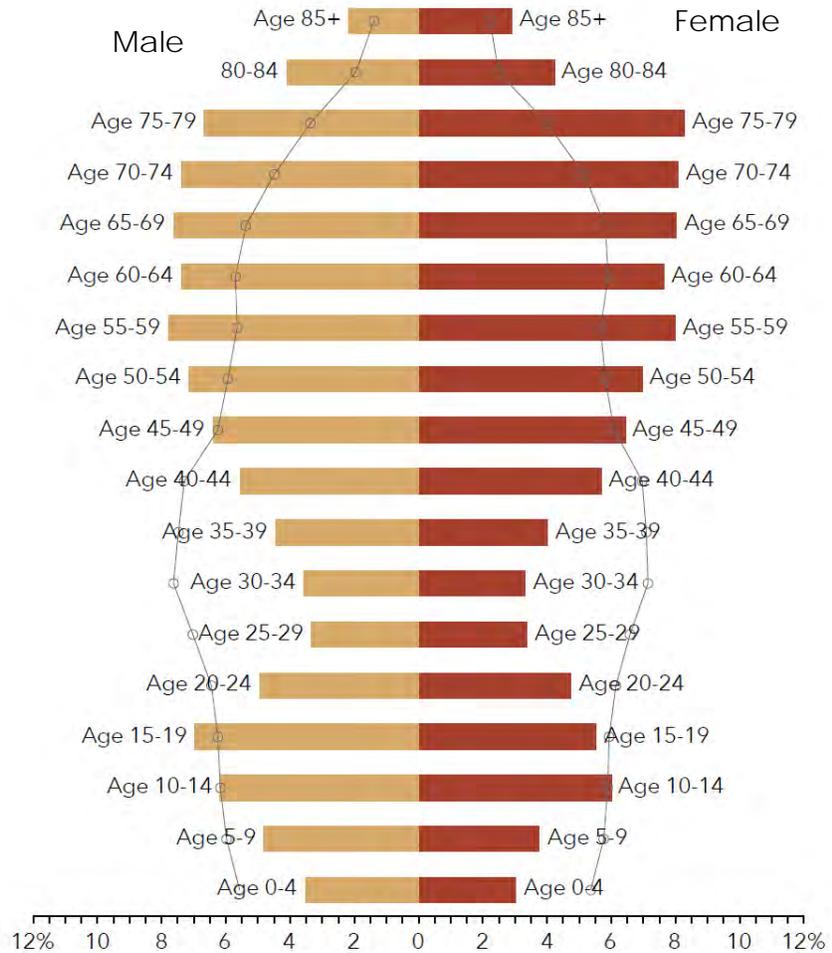
Population 65+



1,918

Households With Disability

58% of Bainbridge's school age kids live within a quarter mile of a public park (2,279 of 3,899)



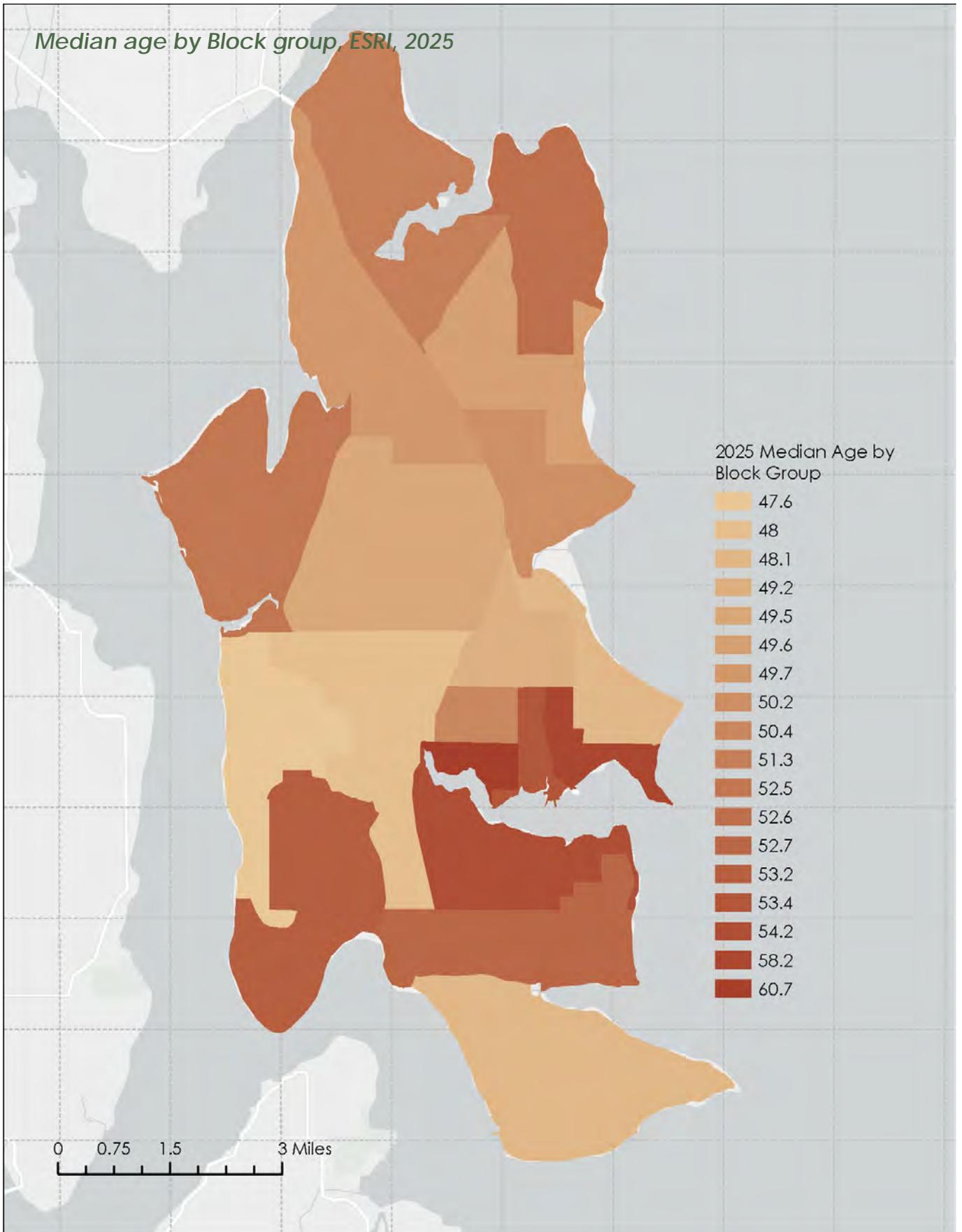
The largest group:  
2025 Females Age 75-79: Percent

The smallest group:  
2025 Males Age 85+: Percent

3,899

Total Population Ages 5 to 18

Median age by Block group, ESRI, 2025



## Race/Ethnicity

A stated aim of the Parks District is to provide cultural experiences and to equitably provide parks. Around 84% of Bainbridge residents are white not Hispanic/Latino. The population composition within a quarter mile of parks properties is slightly less white than the island-at-large. The map on the next page shows population distribution by race/ethnicity within census block groups. Race and ethnicity as defined by the Census Bureau and used for data categorization by Esri do not adequately capture the heterogeneity of different groups, however the distribution map on the following page could provide a basis for further discussion about what types of cultural programming the District offers.

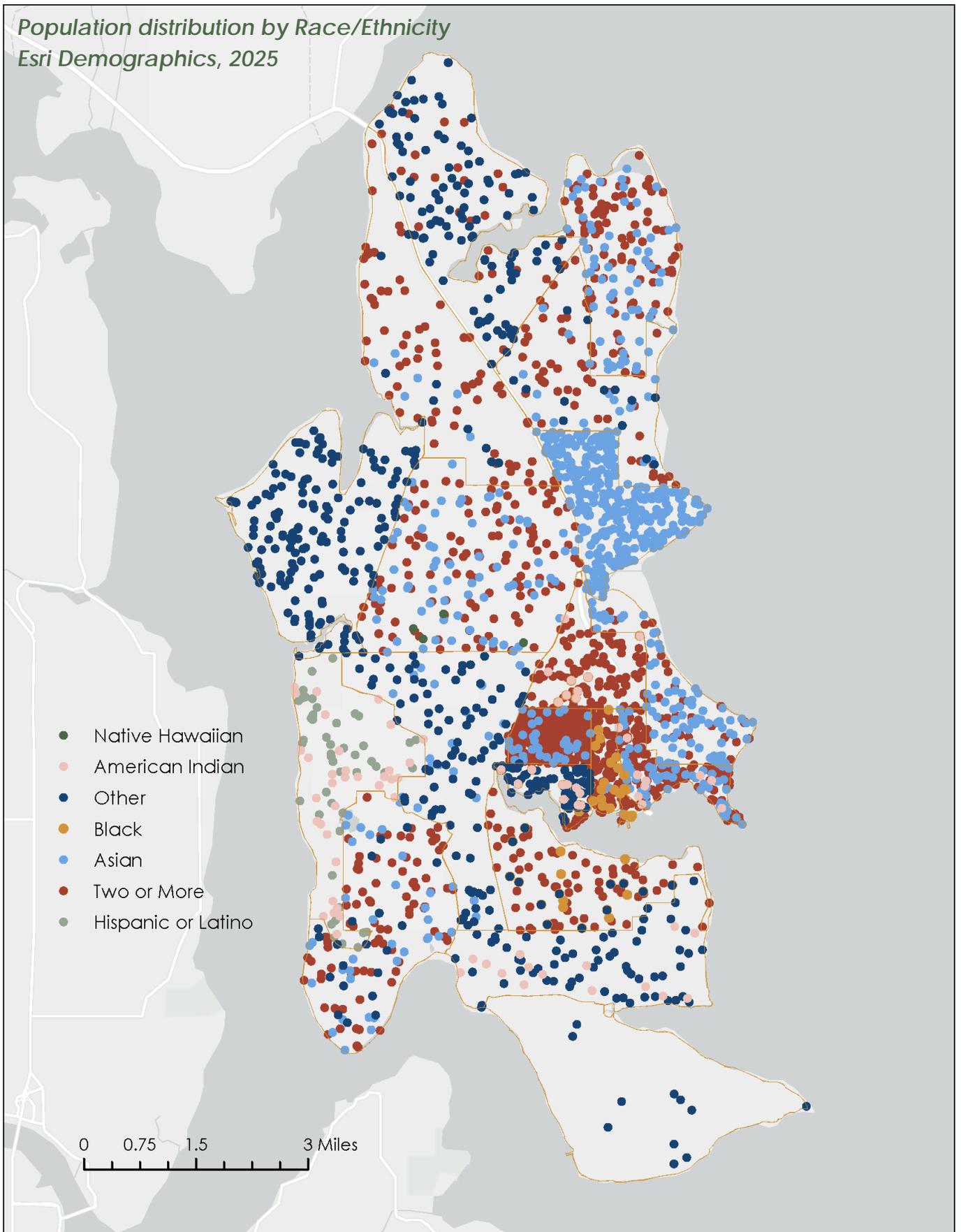
### 2025 Race and ethnicity (Esri)

The largest group: White Alone (83.51)

The smallest group: Pacific Islander Alone (0.15)

Indicator ▲	Value	Diff	
White Alone	83.51	-0.48	
Black Alone	0.65	+0.07	
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	0.57	+0.07	
Asian Alone	3.93	+0.16	
Pacific Islander Alone	0.15	0	
Other Race	1.44	+0.15	
Two or More Races	9.76	+0.04	
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	5.44	+0.26	

Population distribution by Race/Ethnicity  
Esri Demographics, 2025



# WHAT WE HAVE

TAKING INVENTORY OF PHYSICAL & PROGRAMMATIC ASSETS

## PARK LAND & FACILITIES ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Bainbridge Island residents enjoy access to a variety of parks, trails, and facilities owned and managed by the Park District as well as other providers. By assessing how much park land there is, how it is being used, what kind of facilities are available, and how assets are distributed throughout the island, we establish a baseline from which to determine how the system should grow, shrink, or stay the same in the future.

### QUICK DEFINITIONS:

#### Park Land:

This plan uses the term **Park Land** to describe lands that are used for recreation and/or cultural activities. This plan focuses on park lands owned by the Park District, the City of Bainbridge Island, Land Trust, or School District. Park Lands tend to be public, outdoor spaces, but may contain buildings with community, internal operations, or utility uses.

#### System Areas:

System areas describe how park lands are used. These uses are associated with different levels and types of site development, facilities, and programming. In this plan, we identify Active Use Park Land, Natural Areas, Recreational Shoreline, Recreational Trails, and Indoor Facilities as the core system areas of BI Parks.

#### Facilities:

Facilities are structures and assets that facilitate park land use for exercise, play, gathering, and learning. This includes facilities used for recreation and community gathering, sports fields and courts, trails, playgrounds, and much more.

#### Amenities:

The additional features within parks and recreation facilities that provide for comfort and/or facilitate park land use. This includes benches, restrooms, picnic tables, water fountains, bathrooms, parking lots, and lighting.

## SYSTEM AREAS

This plan uses 5 categories to talk about how Park Land on Bainbridge Island is used.

### Active Use Park Land

This is park land acreage that is developed for recreational and/or cultural use. This includes sports courts and fields, playgrounds, lawns, planted areas, paved paths, and many more facilities and amenities that we associate with a classic park.

### Natural Areas

Natural Area acreage is minimally developed, contains a high density of tree canopy, and/or is largely unpaved. These areas often contain trails to facilitate experiences in nature and may have other amenities such as interpretive signage, benches, and parking lots. Natural areas may or may not have use restrictions, such as CC&R's, conditions placed on title by seller, previous owner, federal, state, or city required setbacks or other use conditions placed on the site by the Board of Commissioners that constrain different types of access.

### Recreational Shoreline

Recreational Shoreline is land along the shore that is primarily used for water, beach, and/or tideland access. These park lands may contain facilities such as kayak launches, docks, or other structures that facilitate water recreation.

### Indoor Facilities

Indoor facilities provide recreation, culture, and community spaces within buildings.

### Trails

Recreational Trails are paved or soft-surface trails within or outside of park lands that are designed to facilitate exercise, exploration, and experiences in nature.

*\* The inventory summary below includes figures directly provided by partner agencies, or estimates based on GIS attributes provided by partner agencies.*

*\*\* NI = Not inventoried: these figures may exist, but are not represented in this plan*

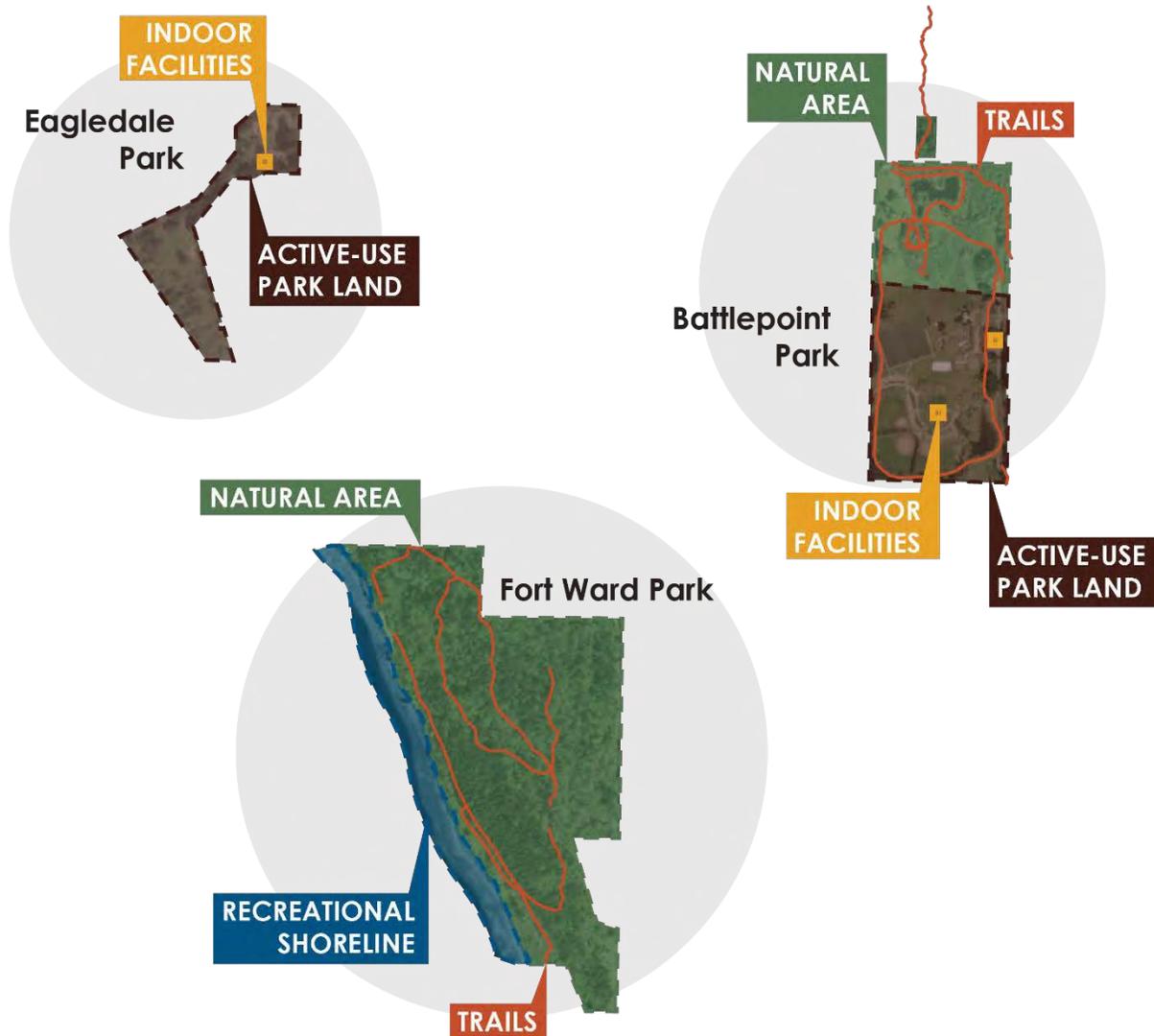
**Table: Park Land Use and Ownership**

Owner	Active Use Park Land	Natural Areas	Recreational Shoreline	Recreational Trails	Indoor Facilities
<b>BI Parks</b>	129 acres	1562 acres	76 acres	42 miles	49,400 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>COBI</b>	5 acres	144 acres	22 acres	≈ 11 Miles	≈ 21,780 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>BISD</b>	104 acres	104 acres	0	NI	≈ 87,120 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>BILT</b>	0	535 acres	NI**	≈ 23 miles	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>239 acres</b>	<b>2009 acres</b>	<b>98 acres</b>	<b>76 miles</b>	<b>49,404 ft<sup>2</sup></b>

## Graphic: Parks and System Areas

Park lands may contain one or more system areas.

- Eagledale Park's acreage is entirely **Active-Use**, and it hosts one **Indoor Facility**, the Eagledale Pottery Studio.
- Battlepoint Park has **Recreational Trails** and **Indoor Facilities** situated **Natural Area** and **Active-Use** acreage.
- Fort Ward Park is largely **Natural Area** acreage with **Recreational Trails** throughout, as well as **Recreational Shoreline** acreage.



## Graphic: Facilities Inventory

Bainbridge Island park lands contain a wide variety of spaces and structures that facilitate use for exercise, gathering, and other activity. Below, facilities are grouped into types—this is not an exhaustive list, but outlines which are quantified in the inventory table in Appendix E.



### PLAYGROUNDS

- Tot lots
- Natural play scapes
- All ages playgrounds



### ATHLETIC FIELDS + COURTS

- Soccer fields
- Lacrosse fields
- Football fields
- Baseball/Softball fields
- Roller Hockey courts
- Basketball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Sand Volleyball courts



### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Campsites
- Cabins
- Picnic shelters
- Plaza space



### CULTURAL FACILITIES

- Historic features
- Public art
- Memorials
- Theaters/stages
- Labyrinths



### SHORELINE ACCESS FACILITIES

- Kayak launches
- Boat ramps
- Docks
- Shoreline view amenities
- Access amenities
- Shoreline shelters



### AQUATIC FACILITIES

- Pools



### INDOOR FITNESS & WELLNESS

- Gymsnasiums
- Tennis courts
- Exercise & strength building



### INDOOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Meeting halls
- Classrooms & studios

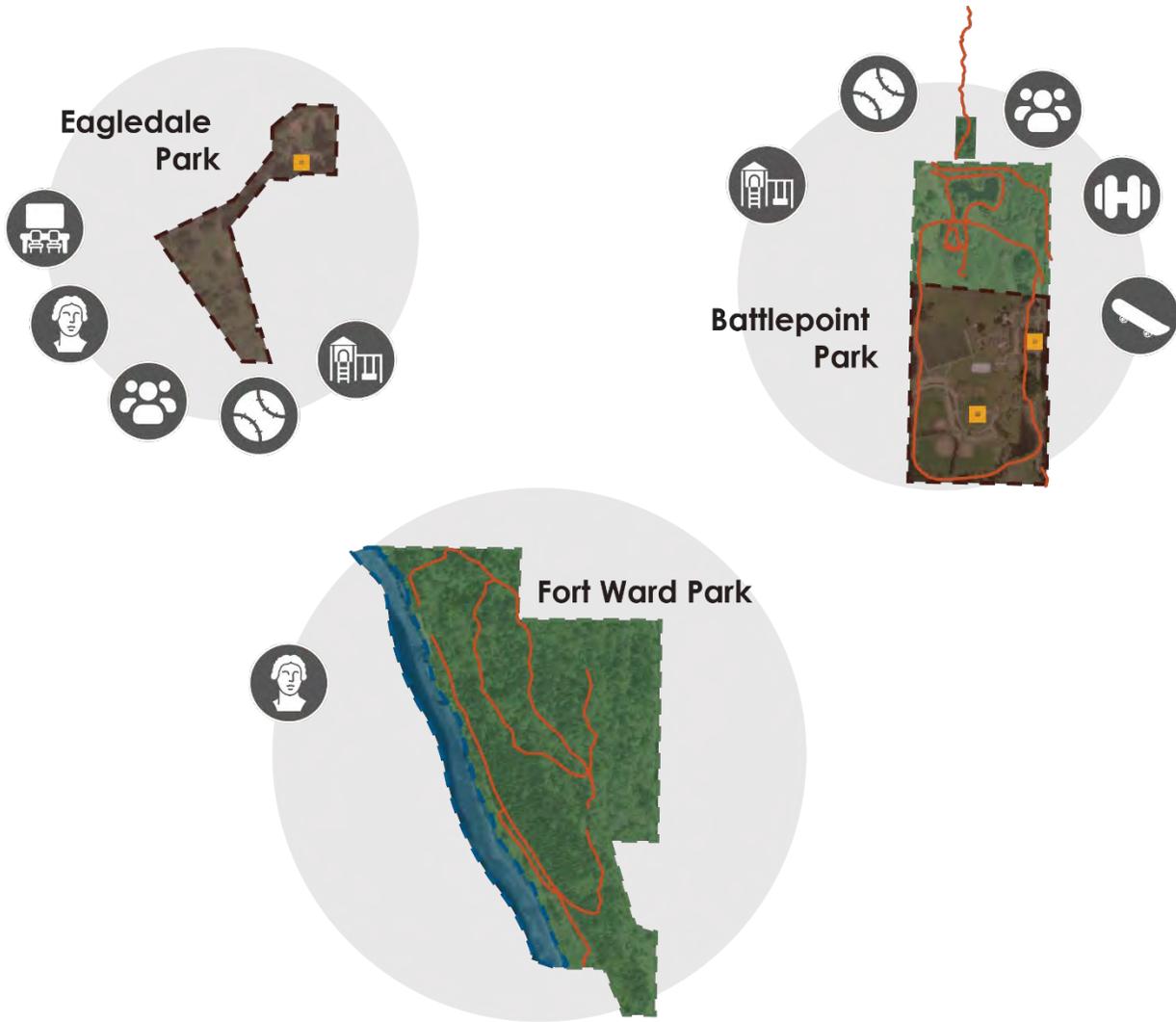


### SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

- Golf
- Garden plots
- Disc golf
- Horse corral
- Observatory
- Bike facility
- Off-leash dog area
- Skatepark

### Graphic: Park Land System Areas, Facilities, and Amenities

Bainbridge parks contain a wide variety of facilities. Below, icons represent facilities categories, showing the wide range that some parks offer.



## SNAPSHOT: ACTIVE USE PARK LAND

### How does Active Use Park Land serve Bainbridge Island?

- Provide opportunities for competitive sports.
- Provide opportunities for informal recreation.
- Provide spaces for day to day gathering and events.
- Provide venues for art, education, and cultural exchange.

### How are Active Use Park Lands developed and maintained?

- Grading land to make it suitable for desired program.
- Adding facilities for play, respite, and gathering.

### What kind of Active Use Park Lands are there on Bainbridge Island?

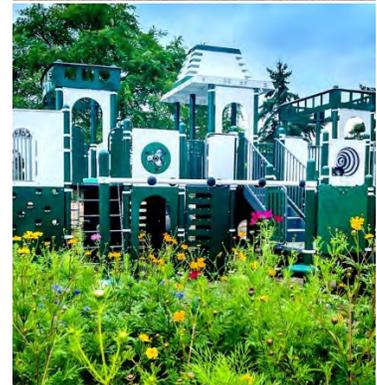
- **Neighborhood Parks** that provide basic facilities such as playgrounds, trees, and benches for the people who live nearby.
- **Community Parks** that provide larger or more unique facilities such as Indoor Facilities, large playgrounds, multiple sports fields, a pump track, or a dog park.
- **Regional Parks** that provide access to historic relics or large natural areas with additional facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields, or trails.

### What kind of facilities are found in Active Use Park Lands?

- Athletic fields and courts
- Playgrounds
- Cultural Facilities
- Community Facilities

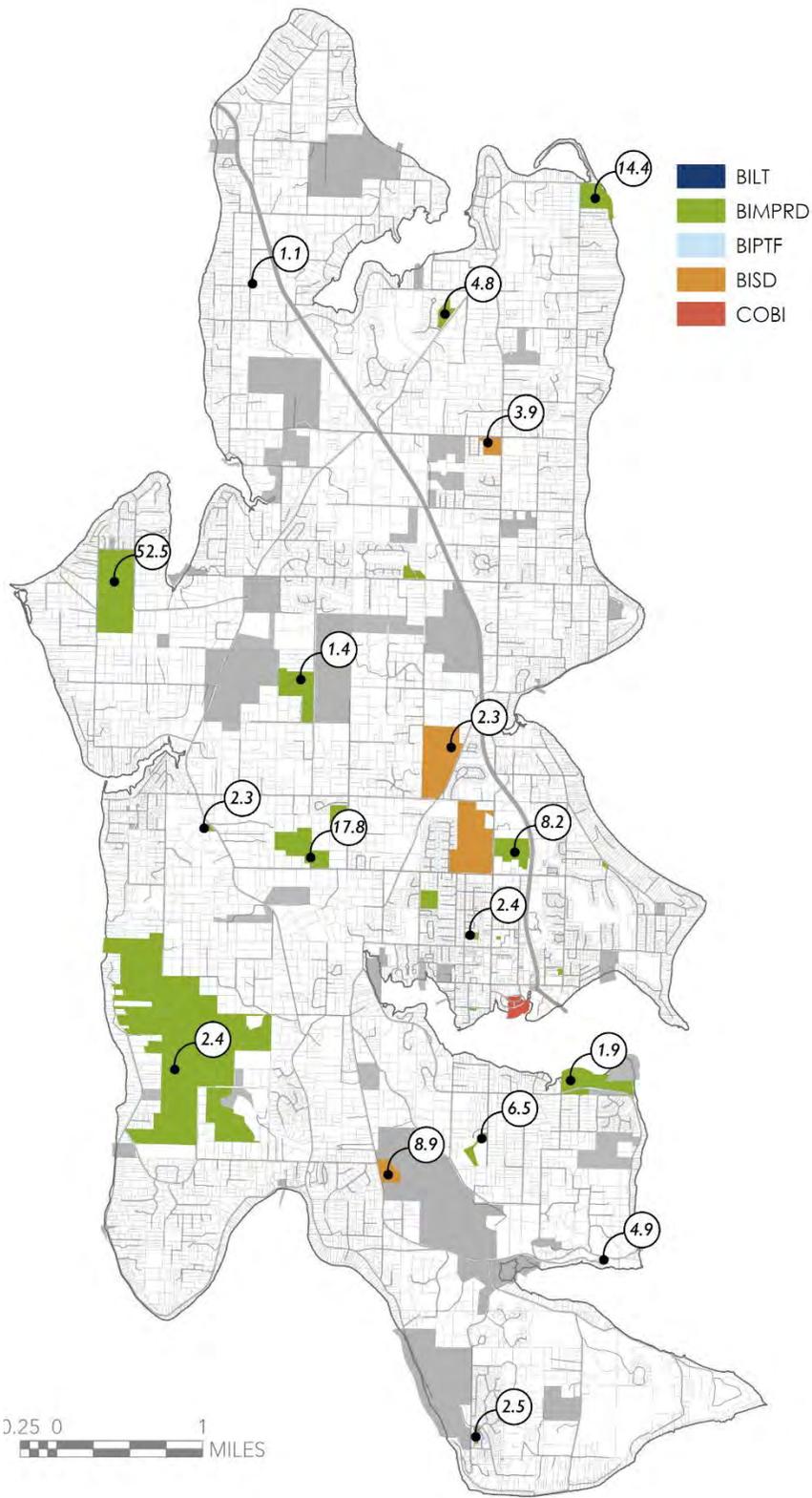
### Related Plans and Studies

- Sakai Park Concept Plan and Feasibility Study
- Strawberry Hill Concept Plan



## Active-Use Park Land: Evolving System Strategies and Highlights since the 2020 Plan

- Use of the Sakai Park Concept Plan and Feasibility Study to identify desired Active Use Park Facilities and where and how to best pursue implementation
- Property Donations from Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation for Strawberry Hill Off-leash Dog Park Expansion and Installation of Mountain Bike Park Special Use Facilities
- User Group Fundraising for the installation of Battle Point Pickleball and Sakai Tennis Athletic and Recreation Court Facilities
- Community-wide funding campaign, including neighborhood fundraising, for renovation of the Kids-Up Playground and the installation of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds Play space Facilities
- Park Planning for Strawberry Hill Park, resulting in community-based Park Plan for desired Active Use Park Facilities with coordinated infrastructure, development guidelines, and environmental impacts for permit facilitation.

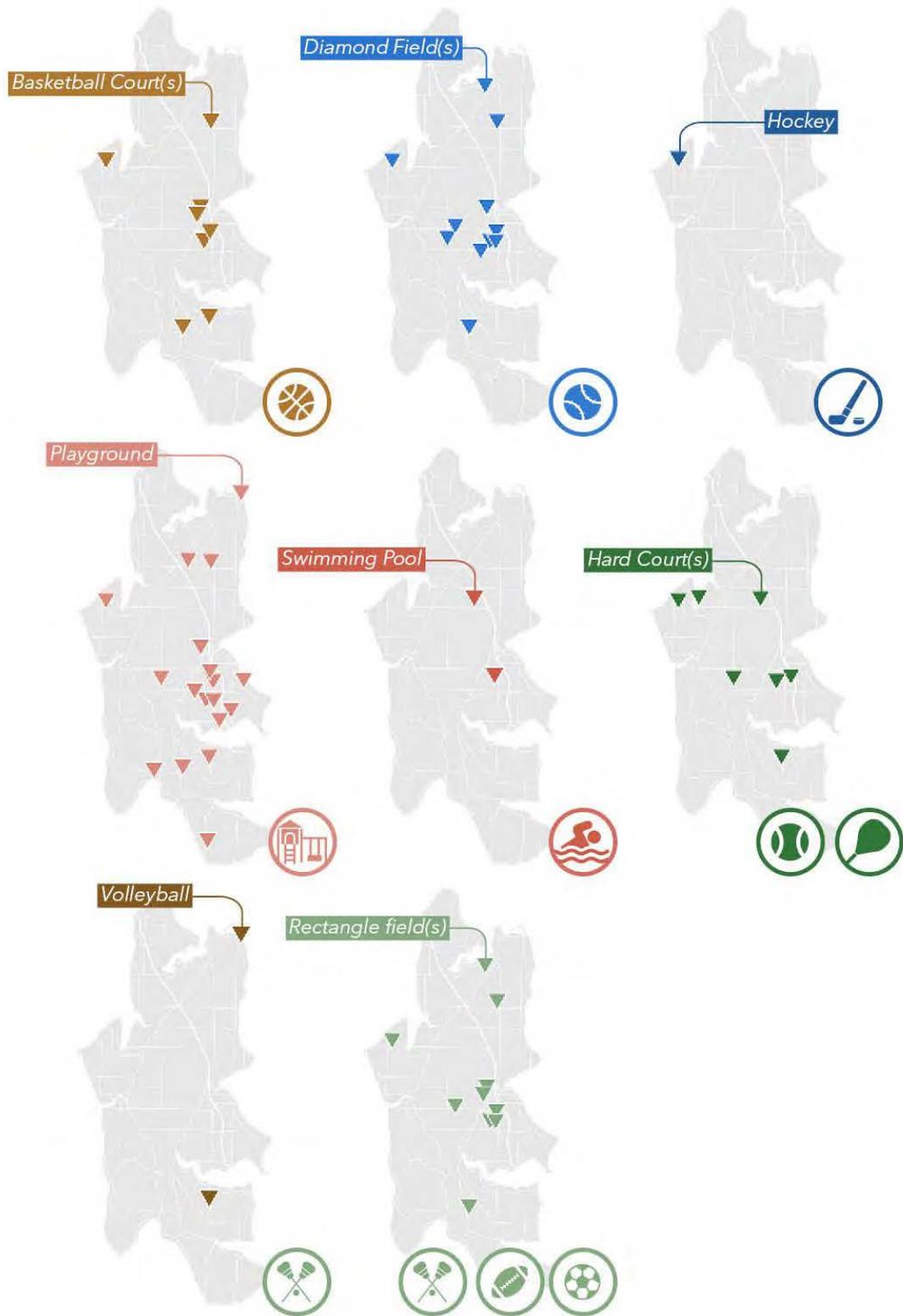


**Table: Active Use Park Land Acreage**

<i>Owner</i>	<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Active Use Park Land Acres</i>
BIMPRD	Aaron Avenue Tot Lot	0.7	0.7
BIMPRD	Aquatic Center	1.5	1.5
BIMPRD	Battle Point Park	88.2	52.5
BIMPRD	Blakely Harbor Park	51.7	0.18
BIMPRD	Camp Yeomalt	2.9	0.27
BIMPRD	Cave Family Heritage Park	0.91	0.91
BIMPRD	Eagledale Park	6.5	6.5
BIMPRD	Fay Bainbridge Park	22.4	14.4
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Hall	0.2	0.2
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Parade Grounds	2.52	2.52
BIMPRD	Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve	471	2.41
BIMPRD	Gideon Park	2.42	2.42
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Ballfields	7.8	4.8
BIMPRD	Hilltop	34.8	1.37
BIMPRD	Island Center Hall	2.3	2.29
BIMPRD	Madison Avenue Tot Lot	0.4	0.43
BIMPRD	Manzanita Park	115	0.3
BIMPRD	Pritchard Park	36.4	1.94
BIMPRD	Red Pine Park	0.5	0.48
BIMPRD	Rotary Centennial Park	0.8	0.75
BIMPRD	Rotary Park	9.6	7.19
BIMPRD	Sakai Park	22.9	8.19
BIMPRD	Sands Avenue Ballfield	10.0	7.5
BIMPRD	Seabold Hall	1.1	1.07
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Park	17.8	17.8
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Bike Park	10.7	7.9
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Park Addition	9.2	9.22
BIMPRD	Bainbridge Island Recreation Center (BIRC)	5.7	0.32
COBI	Civic Center Plaza	2.4	2.4
COBI	City Hall	0.1	0.13
COBI	Waterfront Park	6.1	2.1
COBI	Waterfront Park Community Center	0.3	0.34

<i>Owner</i>	<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Active Use Park Land Acres</i>
BISD	Bainbridge High School	45.0	45.0
BISD	Blakely Elementary School	8.9	8.88
BISD	Commodore Options School	2.6	2.62
BISD	Ordway Elementary School	1.2	1.18
BISD	Sonoji Sakai Intermediate School	2.3	2.3
BISD	xaliic (Halilts) Elementary School	3.9	3.88
BISD	Woodward Middle School	40.6	40.6

Graphic: Sports facility distribution (all Public Providers)



# SNAPSHOT: NATURAL AREAS

## How do natural areas serve Bainbridge Island?

- Provide respite.
- Provide places for exercise, learning, and exploration.
- Provide critical habitat including habitat corridors.
- Protect and clean the island's water supply.
- Provide buffers between roads and built areas.

## How are natural areas developed and maintained?

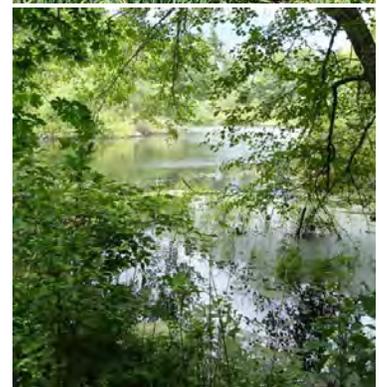
- Developing soft-surface trails and boardwalks for recreational access.
- Adding wayfinding signage.
- Performing invasive species removal and fire management (removing woody debris).

## What kind of natural areas are there on Bainbridge Island?

- Agency-owned natural area properties with trail systems including woods, wetlands and some meadow.
- Conservation easements held by BI Parks and BILT (permanently undeveloped).
- Historic Farm Properties.

## What kind of facilities and amenities are found in natural areas?

- Trails, boardwalks, bridges, stairs
- Bathrooms and benches
- Wayfinding signage and interpretive information
- Animal/habitat viewing areas

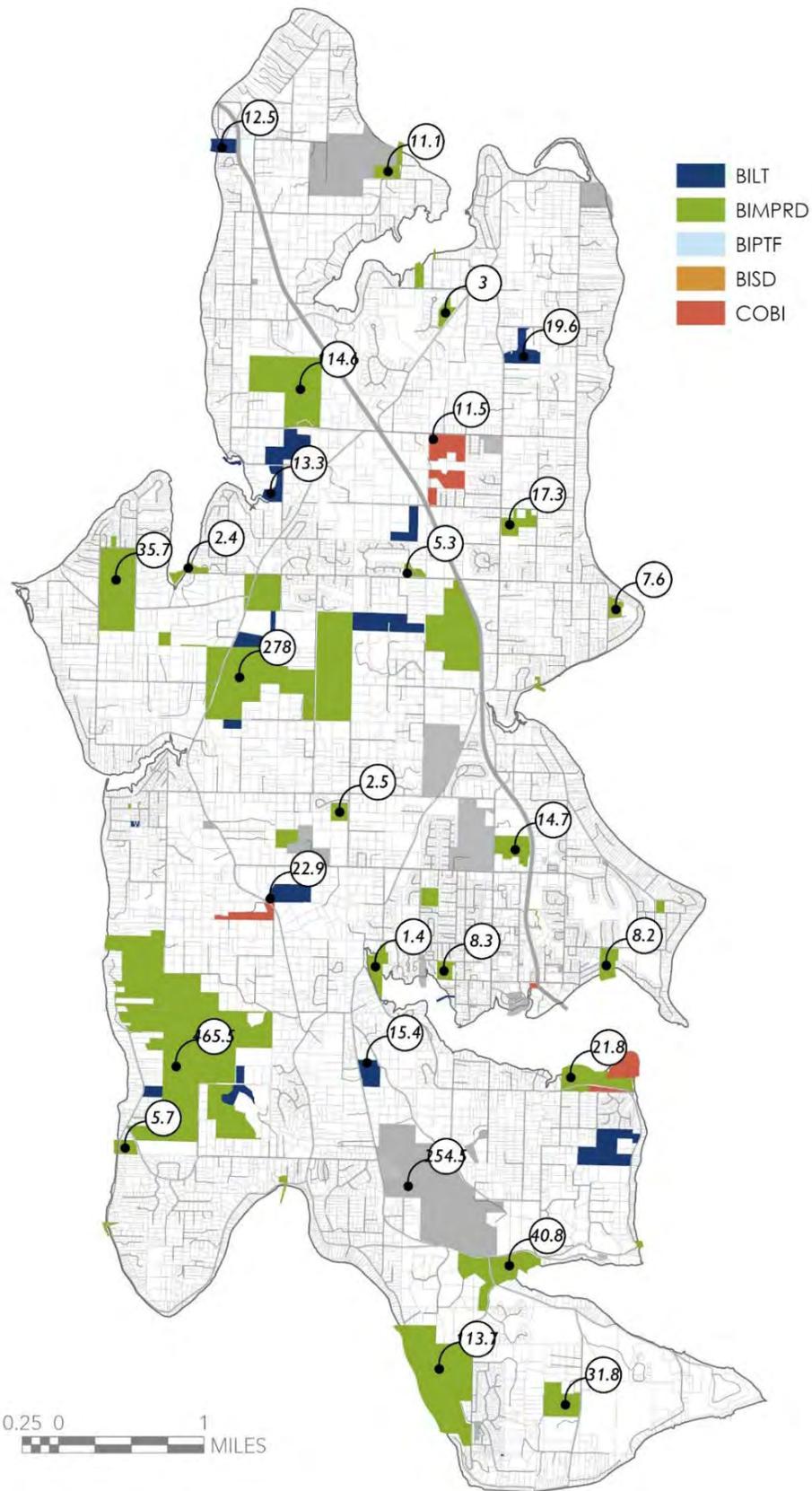


## Natural Areas: **Evolving System Strategies and Highlights since the 2020 Plan**

- Acquisition and conservation protection of Grand Forest East, a 40-acre addition to the Grand Forest, through partnerships, highlighting the leadership of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust for land and ecosystem conservation
- Creation of a Natural Resource Department with full time staff positions for managing volunteer programs and events, trails, and land stewardship initiatives that include instituting programmatic development standards for invasive plant management, critical area protection, native planting, fire mitigation, and trail installation.
- Expansion of Student Conservation Corps, more than three-fold, through grant programs and island-wide partnership, winning nation-wide recognition of its inclusion of neurodiverse programming coordinated with the Bainbridge Island School District
- Reinvigoration of Invasive Plant Management Program and founding of the Cooperative Weed Management Area, responding to changes to local services and resources from Kitsap County agencies.
- Implementation of land management plan and a stewardship agreement with a private foundation for the Moritani Preserve, to include forest thinning, invasive species removal, and sensitive park uses among cultural facilities and *Site Interpretation and historic feature Facilities*
- Park Planning for Meigs Park, to provide access to nature, improve accessibility, provide for the future Sound-to-Olympic regional trail, and enhance the Conservation Easement area in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust



# Map: Natural Area Park Land Acreage



**Table: Natural Area Park Land Acreage**

<i>Owner</i>	<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Natural Areas Acres</i>
BIMPRD	Battle Point Park/Fairy Dell	88.2	35.7
BIMPRD	Blakely Harbor Park	51.7	40.8
BIMPRD	Camp Yeomalt	2.9	2.6
BIMPRD	Fairy Dell	1.8	1.8
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Park	160.1	114
BIMPRD	Gazzam Lake Properties	472	466
BIMPRD	Grand Forest(** partBISD)	278.0	278.0
BIMPRD	Hawley Cove Park	15.5	8.17
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Ballfields	7.8	3.0
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Park	6.6	6.0
BIMPRD	Hilltop (incl Prue's House)	34.8	33.5
BIMPRD	John Nelson Linear Trail	0.8	0.8
BIMPRD	Lumpkin	17.1	1.44
BIMPRD	Manitou Beach Tidelands/Uplands	2.2	0.49
BIMPRD	Manzanita Park	115	115
BIMPRD	Meigs Park (1st & 2nd acquisitions)	97.1	96.1
BIMPRD	Moritani Preserve	8.6	8.28
BIMPRD	Nute's Pond	31.8	31.8
BIMPRD	Point White Pier	2.0	0.29
BIMPRD	Pritchard Park (jt owned w/ COBI)	36.4	21.8
BIMPRD	Rockaway Beach	2.1	0.84
COBI	Rotary Park	9.6	2.4
COBI	Sakai Park	22.9	14.7
COBI	Sands Avenue Ballfield (**BISD)	10.0	2.5
COBI	Schel Chelb Park	2.9	1.1
COBI	Strawberry Hill Bike Park	10.7	2.78
COBI	T'Chookwap Park	0.6	0.01
COBI	Ted Olson Nature Preserve	17.3	17
COBI	Veteran Open Space Preserve	9.7	5.7
WSF	West Port Madison Nature Preserve	13.6	11.1
Utility Land	Williams-Olson Park	6.0	2.4

<i>Owner</i>	<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Natural Areas Acres</i>
BILT	Yama Property at Blakely Harb Park	7.4	7.4
BILT	Bristle Ridge	6.7	6.7
BILT	Conservation Easements (held by BIMPRD but not open to public)	67.9	67.9
BILT	8-Acre Woods Park	7.6	7.6
BILT	Grand Forest East (NW Corner)	40.0	40.0
BILT	Foster Property	0.4	0.4
BILT	Soutter	10.0	10.0
BILT	BIRC	5.7	5.3
BILT	Waypoint (**COBI)	1.1	1.1
BILT	Bentryn Farm Property	11.5	11.5
BILT	Crawford Farm Property	2.3	2.3
BILT	Johnson Farm	14.0	14.0
BILT	Lost Valley	33.8	33.8
BILT	Lovgren	14.4	14.4
BILT	M&E Tree Farm	13.0	13.0
BILT	Morales Farm Property	4.7	4.7
BILT	Pritchard Prk uplands B	4.2	4.2
BILT	Suyematsu Farm Property	14.8	14.8
WSF	Waypoint Woods (**WSF)	3.7	4
	Puget Sound Energy Agate Pass	0.4	0.4
BILT	Cougar Creek	15.4	15.6
BILT	Croker	5.04	5.04
BILT	Fletcher Bay lots	0.99	0.99
BILT	Fort Ward lot	0.18	0.18
BILT	Heart of the Forest	19	19
BILT	Jablonko	14.2	14.2
BILT	Lindbergh Robbins Tidelands	1.78	1.78
BILT	Miller-Kirkman Preserve	13.3	13.3
BILT	Quitslund Family Farm	19.6	19.6
BILT	Springbrook Creek Preserve	23.0	22.9
BILT	Winslow Rookery	0.43	0.43
BILT	Rockaway Bluff Preserve	44.8	44.8
BILT	Manzanita Ridge Preserve	34.5	34.5

BILT	Gazzam Expansion	6.2	6.2
BILT	NE Lovgreen Preserve	14.8	14.8
BILT	West Bainbridge/Agate Pass Preserve	12.5	12.5
BILT	Wildife Corridor A	9.66	9.66
BILT	Wildife Corridor B	9.86	9.86
BILT	Wildlife Corridor Expansion	15.0	15.0
Misc	Easements	275	275
Misc	Bloedel Reserve	150	150
Misc	IslandWood	255	254

# SNAPSHOT: RECREATIONAL SHORELINE

## How does recreational shoreline serve Bainbridge Island?

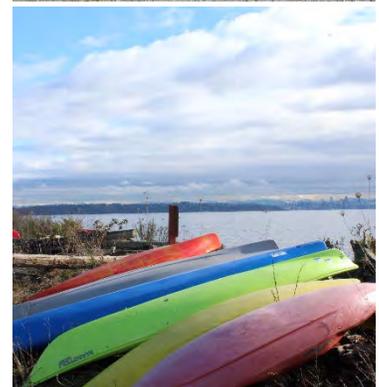
- Provide opportunities for water recreation such as boating, kayaking, and swimming.
- Provide places for respite, learning, and exploration.
- Provide habitat for nonhuman species.
- Preserve public and less developed shoreline.

## What kind of recreational shoreline are there on Bainbridge Island?

- Beaches with facilities such as boat launches and docks.
- Road End beaches that provide water views and/or access via Right-of-Way land.

## What kinds of facilities are found in Recreational Shoreline?

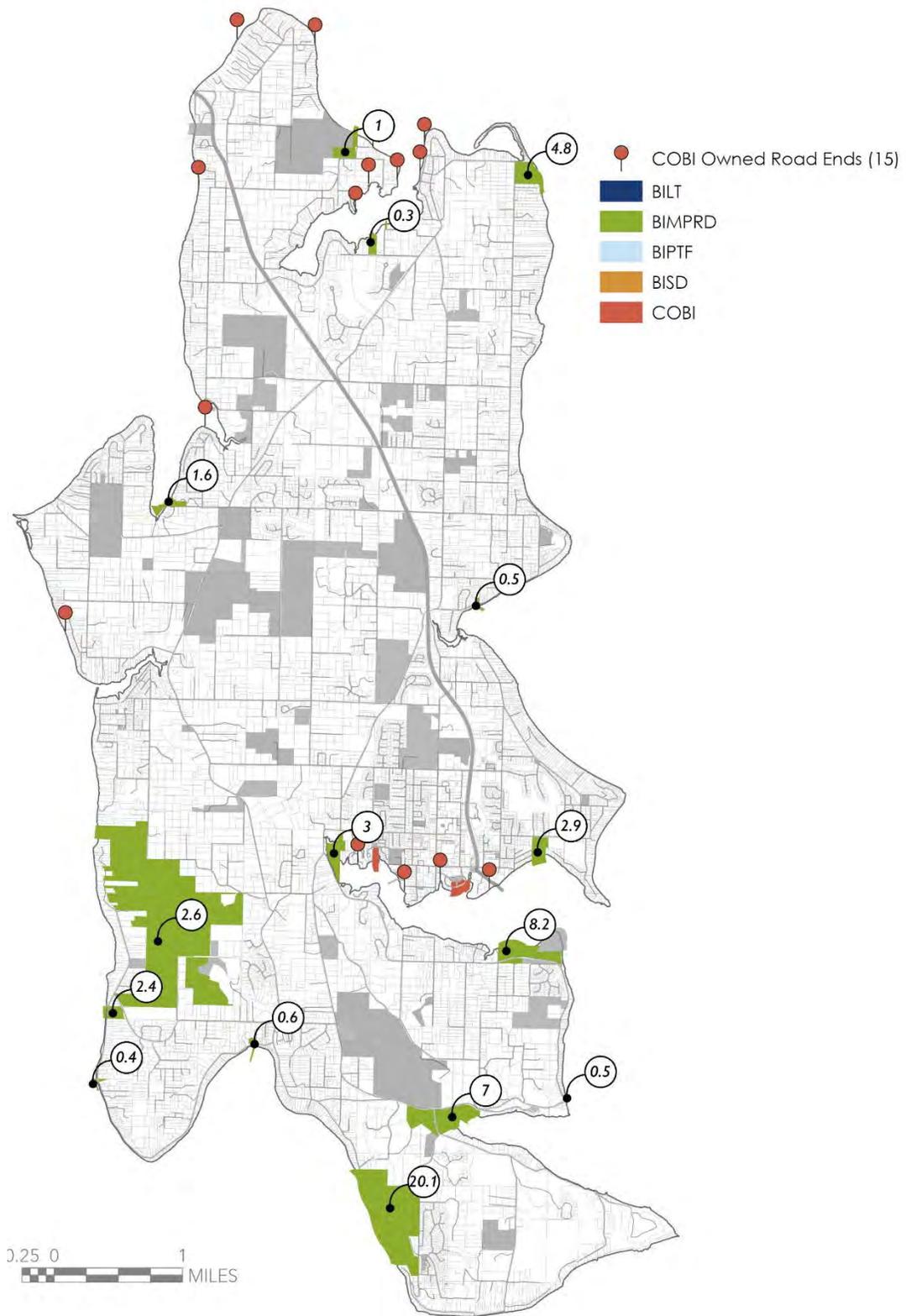
- Shoreline Access Facilities such as docks and boat launches.
- Community Facilities such as water-access camp sites.
- Cultural Facilities such as memorials and historic sites.
- Amenities for access such as parking lots and stairs



## Recreational Shoreline: **Evolving System Strategies and Highlights since the 2020 Plan**

- Renovation of Williams Olson Park with Recreational Shoreline Amenities, including accessible parking area, picnic shelter, and interpretative signage honoring site history and legacy property owners funding improvements.
- Staff-design and build of the Fay Bainbridge Cabin #4 and #5 Outdoor Community Facility, re-using building materials and improving accessibility of Recreational Shoreline Amenities.
- Community-based Design and Permitting of Sail Float Replacement, a Recreational Shoreline Dock Facility, in coordination with City of Bainbridge Island and State of Washington Department of Natural Resources, pertaining to Aquatic Land lease program .
- Installation of accessible Recreational Shoreline Amenities and a Memorial Cultural Facility at Pritchard Park, working with private donators for costs and extending of memorial to wider community.
- Installation of Hawley Cove Boardwalk and re-route to protect natural resources and improve access using grant funding and an innovative low-impact installation techniques per best management practices.
- Work with the City of Bainbridge Island to provide Shoreline Access and Safety Improvements at the Schel Chelb site.
- Corridor Planning with Bainbridge Island Land Trust and Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation, particularly in relationship to the Meigs Park Plan, the East Grant Forest addition, and the Sound-to-Olympics trail alignment that protects natural areas, including tree canopy.

# Recreational Shoreline Acreage



**Table: Recreational Shoreline Acreage**

<i>Owner</i>	<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Recreational Shoreline Acres</i>
BIMPRD	Blakely Harbor Park	51.7	7.0
BIMPRD	Fay Bainbridge Park	22.4	4.8
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Park	160	20.1
BIMPRD	Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve	471	2.57
BIMPRD	Hawley Cove Park	15.5	2.9
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Park	6.6	0.32
BIMPRD	Lumpkin	17.1	2.98
BIMPRD	Manitou Beach	2.2	0.5
BIMPRD	Point White Pier	2.0	0.39
BIMPRD	Pritchard Park	36.4	8.2
BIMPRD	Rockaway Beach	2.1	0.46
BIMPRD	Schel Chelb Park	2.9	0.62
BIMPRD	T'Chookwap Park	0.6	0.3
BIMPRD	Veterans Open Space Preserve	9.7	2.37
BIMPRD	West Port Madison Nature Preserve	13.6	1.01
BIMPRD	Williams-Olson Park	6.0	1.61
COBI	Pritchard Point and Superfund Site (COBI)	13.9	13.9
COBI	Strawberry Plant Park	3.9	3.9
COBI	Waterfront Park	6.1	4

# SNAPSHOT: INDOOR FACILITIES

## How do indoor facilities serve Bainbridge Island?

- Provide venues for year round learning, gathering, and exercising.
- Provide places for community meetings and celebrations.

## How are Indoor Facilities developed and maintained?

- Purchasing existing buildings for recreational use.
- Constructing new buildings on existing park land.

## What kind of indoor facilities are there on Bainbridge Island?

- **Community facilities** including aquatic facilities, recreation spaces, and space for rent for gatherings.
- **Support facilities** such as office space for Park District staff.

## What kind of facilities and are found in Indoor Facilities?

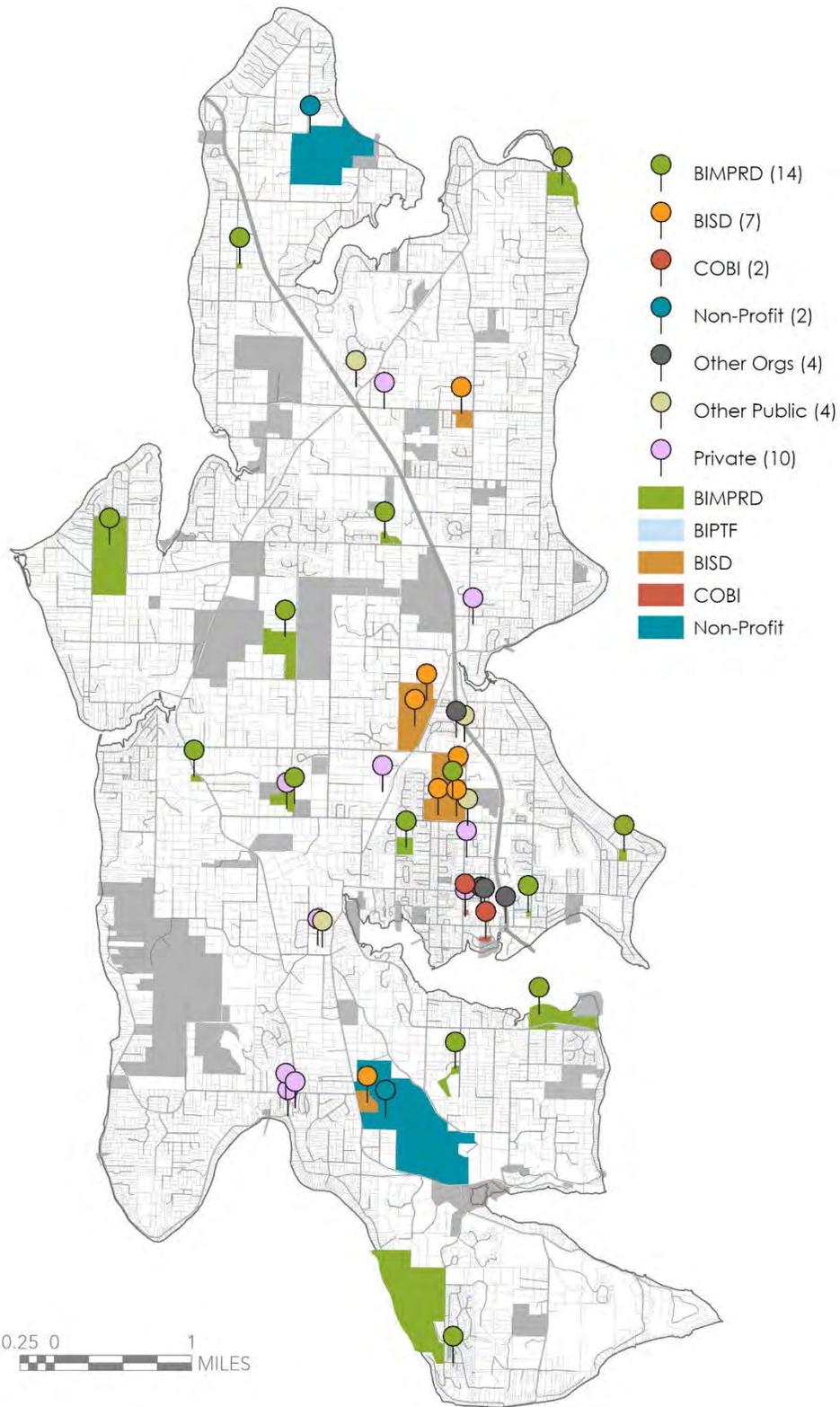
- Aquatic Facilities
- Health and Wellness Facilities
- Cultural Facilities
- Community Facilities



## Indoor Facilities: **Evolving System Strategies & Highlights since the 2020 plan:**

- Use of the cost estimates from the Sakai Park Concept Plan, Aquatic Center Study, and condition assessments to identify facility needs and feasible fiscally-responsible means to maintain services efficiently, such as rehabilitation of office space and extending the life of existing *Aquatic Facilities*.
- Sale of General Obligation Bonds to purchase the “Bainbridge Island Athletic Club”, at more than 50% cost savings of new recreation center construction cost estimates from the Sakai Park Feasibility Study, resulting in over 50,000 square feet of *Fitness and Wellness Facilities*, 4 indoor athletic courts, gymnasium, and a seasonal outdoor pool.
- Use of Reserve Funds for Major System overhaul at Ray Williamson Pool *Aquatic Facility*, after proposing a bond measure in 2022 to engage the community over funding for either expansion of the pool with Bonds and loans or, as elected, preservation of the pool using reserve capital funding.
- Pursuit of warrantee and long-term maintenance fund for pool liner at the Nakata Pool *Aquatic Facility* as well as other scheduled maintenance needs such as the installation of efficient building improvements and refurbishment of the waterslide amenity
- Lease of and Tenant Improvement Agreement of the Ritchie Observatory *Special Use Facility* renovation.
- Commitment of annual capital funds to accessibility improvements, per ADA Transition Plan and on-going building condition assessment studies.

# Map: Indoor Facilities by Owner



**Table: Indoor Facilities(BIMPRD)**

Owner	Facility Name	Sq. ft. of Community Facilities	Sq. ft. of Support Facilities
BIMPRD	Aquatic Center	24,000	6500
BIMPRD	Teen Center	3500	500
BIMPRD	Battle Point Park	7400	10,350
BIMPRD	Camp Yeomalt	1200	0
BIMPRD	Cave Family Heritage Park	2600	0
BIMPRD	Eagledale Park	2900	0
BIMPRD	Fay Bainbridge Park	2000	2400
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Hall	910	0
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Park	3000	0
BIMPRD	Gideon Park	0	730
BIMPRD	Hilltop	1000	700
BIMPRD	Island Center Hall	1700	33.5
BIMPRD	Meigs Park	0	4000
BIMPRD	Pritchard Park	1600	600
BIMPRD	Rotary Park	4200	0
BIMPRD	Sakai Park	0	4000
BIMPRD	Seabold Hall	1400	0
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Park	3080	3045
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Park Addition	0	2810
BIMPRD	Bainbridge Island Recreation Center (BIRC)	50,000	2000

**Table: Indoor Facilities(Partners)**

Owner	Name
BISD	Bainbridge High School
BISD	Blakely Elementary School
BISD	Commodore Options School
BISD	Ordway Elementary School
BISD	Sonoji Sakai Intermediate School
BISD	Woodward Middle School
BISD	xalilc (Haliits) Elementary School
COBI	City Hall
COBI	Waterfront Park Community Center

<b>Non-Profit</b>	Bloedel Reserve
<b>Non-Profit</b>	IslandWood
<b>Other Orgs</b>	Bainbridge Performing Arts
<b>Other Orgs</b>	BARN Community Center
<b>Other Orgs</b>	BI Art Museum
<b>Other Orgs</b>	BI Historical Museum
<b>Other Public</b>	Fire Station 21
<b>Other Public</b>	Fire Station 22
<b>Other Public</b>	Fire Station 23
<b>Other Public</b>	Kitsap Regional Library
<b>Private</b>	American Legion Hall
<b>Private</b>	Bainbridge Dance Center
<b>Private</b>	BI Filipino-American Hall
<b>Private</b>	BI Grange Hall
<b>Private</b>	BI Sportsman Club
<b>Private</b>	Island Fitness
<b>Private</b>	Island School
<b>Private</b>	Lynnwood Theater
<b>Private</b>	Lynwood Commons
<b>Private</b>	Pleasant Beach Village Pool & Fitness

# SNAPSHOT: TRAILS

## How do recreational trails serve Bainbridge Island?

- Provide venues for walking, running, biking, and equestrian activity.
- Provide for access into natural areas and active use park lands.

## What kind of recreational trails are there on Bainbridge Island?

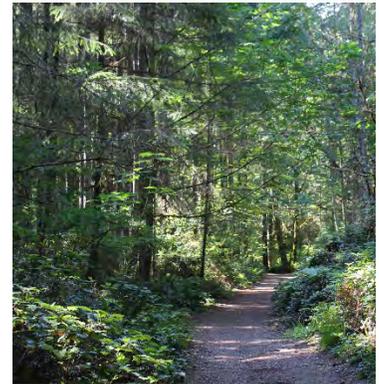
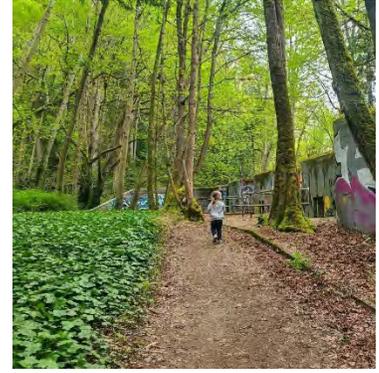
- Soft-surface trails through natural areas or active use park land.
- Trails outside of parks.

## What kind of amenities are found on recreational trails?

- Access amenities such as signage and benches.

## Relevant Planning Documents:

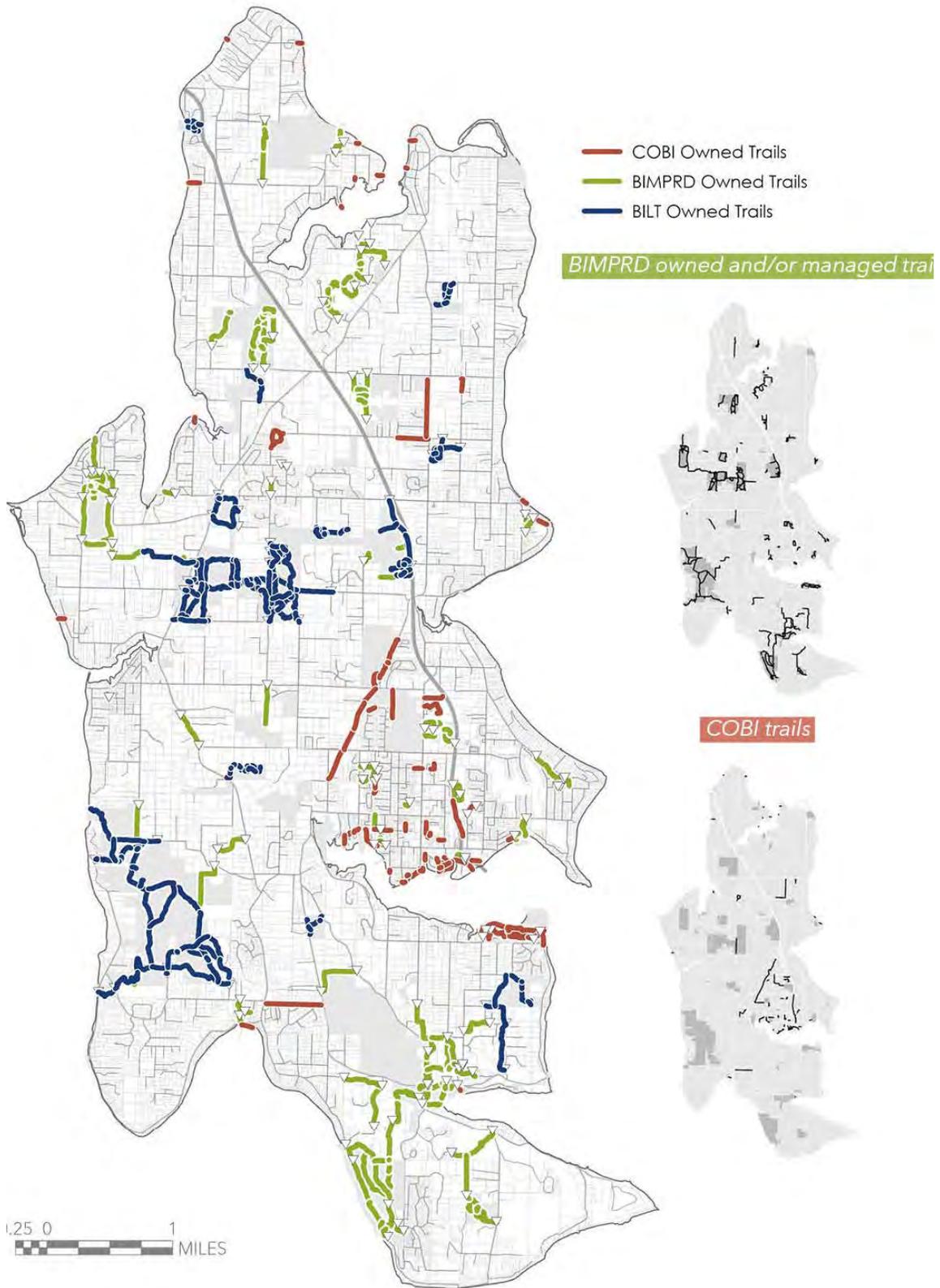
- The BIMPRD Trail Vision Plan, adopted in 2020, outlines key trail types, and goals for expanding and maintaining the trail system. See the Appendix for the **Trail Vision Plan**.



## Recreational Trails: **Evolving System Strategies & Highlights since the 2020 plan:**

- Work with the Trails Advisory Committee and partnership organizations to update the Trail Vision Plan that sets priorities for the recreational trail system and the basis of trail easement and development agreements with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation
- Coordination with the city Mobility Plan and the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails to connect Winslow to surrounding parks and neighborhoods and to the cross-island trail network
- Work with Bainbridge Island Land Trust to provide conservation-easement-compliant trail access into Gazzam Nature Preserve Park, to include proactive closing and sustainable re-routing of social trails
- Installation of connective trails to park lands, such as Sunny Hill to Nute's Pond and Fort Ward, Port Madison to Bloedel Reserve, and Lost Valley trails to Rotary Park
- Installation of an accessible loop trail as well a segment of the Sound-to-Olympic regional trail at Sakai Park, providing multiple access points - within urban-developing areas of Winslow - to unique landscapes, e.g. a wetland complex with pond, meadow with orchard, and the visitor-generating *Cultural Facilities* (presently, "Pia", the troll art installation!)
- Development and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Bainbridge Island for the Farm Trail

# Map: Trail Ownership



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## RECREATION PROGRAMMING ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

The Park District offers a myriad of unique recreational programs, from mermaid-themed swim lessons to glass fusing and sewing circles; from Snowshoeing trips to tai chi and cheer tumbling. These programs offer ways for the community to get together, learn, exercise, and be creative, utilizing the many indoor and outdoor facilities on the island and beyond.



Where do recreation programs happen?

### Park District Park Lands and Facilities:

- Aquatic Center
- Bainbridge Island Recreation Center
- Camp Yeomalt Park
- Eagledale Park
- Fort Ward Park
- Grand Forest
- Hidden Cove Park
- Island Center Park
- Prue's House
- Sands Avenue Park
- Seabold Park
- Strawberry Hill Park

### Schools:

- Bainbridge High School
- Blakely Elementary School
- Commodore Commons
- Ordway Element School
- Sakai Intermediate School
- x̄alilc (Halilts) Elementary School

### COBI Park Lands

- Waterfront Park

### Private Facilities:

- Family Martial Arts Academy
- Insight Climbing & Movement
- Tabletop Encl

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

The data in this section comes from 2023-2024. In 2024, the District offered over 2000 classes, camps, camps, meetups, and expeditions. The main types of programs are outlined below:

### **Adaptive & specialized recreation:**

While all programs are open to participants with disabilities, adaptive programming is tailored to providing low-sensory environments and enjoyable, adaptive, and specialized activities. In 2024, the number of Adaptive programs increased by 42%, from 102 to 145 programs.

There are adaptive programs available for participants of all ages. Programs include:

- Swim lessons
- Pottery
- Fitness
- Skill building
- Educational and community programs.

### **Aquatics:**

Aquatic programs take place at the Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center and the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center, and include the learn-to-swim program, recreational swimming, and water safety courses. From 2023 to 2024, Aquatics programming increased by 17%, for a total of 976 aquatics programs in 2024.

### **Art & Enrichment:**

Residents and visitors can play games, learn new skills, and spend time being creative through the diverse Art & Enrichment program options, including:

- Crafts
- Drawing
- Painting
- Writing
- Pottery
- Glass staining
- Language
- Music
- STEM
- Canine classes
- After-school programs.

### Camps:

Throughout the summer and non-school periods, the Recreation Department offers activities for youth such as cooking, sewing, soccer, basketball, gymnastics, sailing, paddling, mountain biking, climbing, and imagination camps. These camps take place throughout the island, from the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center to Camp Yeomalt, Fort Ward Park, and Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve.

### Outdoors:

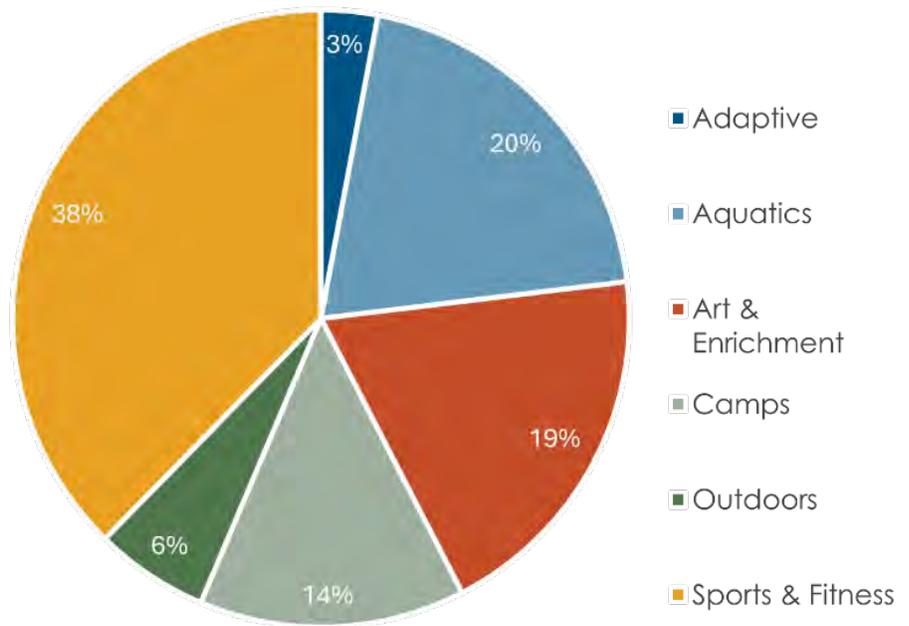
People of all ages can enjoy the outdoors through activities such as hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, snowshoeing, fly fishing, climbing, nature and environmental education. In 2024, the Park District offered 290 classes, rides, paddles, and other adventures, increasing 54% from the year before.

**Table: # of Programs 2023 & 2024**

Recreation Program Area	2023	2024
Adaptive	102	145
Aquatics	832	976
Art & Enrichment	1228	902
Camps	672	676
Outdoors	188	290
Sports & Fitness	1918	1826

### Sports & Fitness:

In 2024, the Recreation Department offered 1826 Sports & Fitness programed, including activities such as walking and running, strength and physical conditioning, gymnastics, tennis, pickleball, softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, sports league play, open gym, yoga and Tai Chi.



## Recreation: Evolving System Strategies & Highlights since the 2020 plan:

- Public Management of the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center, through programmed Indoor Fitness Facilities including a Gymnasium and 4 Indoor Courts, and seasonal outdoor pool that accommodated users during intermittent closures of the Ray Williamson Pool renovation project.
- Programming of Aquatic Center, with increased service levels during the renovation of the Ray Williamson Pool and the creation of Support Facilities for Aquatic staff and maintenance.
- Establishment of free community concert series “Terry’s Sounds of Summer”, along with well-established community gathering events such as the Haunted Hayride, offering community gathering and enrichment, coordinated with sponsors, partners, and non-profits such as Kitsap Transit, Bainbridge Prepares, the Kid’s Discovery museum, and the Battle Point Astronomical Society with open house and tours.
- Technology upgrades particularly in a unified customer interface and program management with innovative on-line tools, marketing, and proactive messaging regarding services, increasing efficiency and participation levels.
- Successful grant funding from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office for the sail float replacement project, which is central to island-wide interdependent public sailing and water-safety programming.
- Constant evaluation of program needs and costs, updating fees using cost recovery principles that include scholarship program.

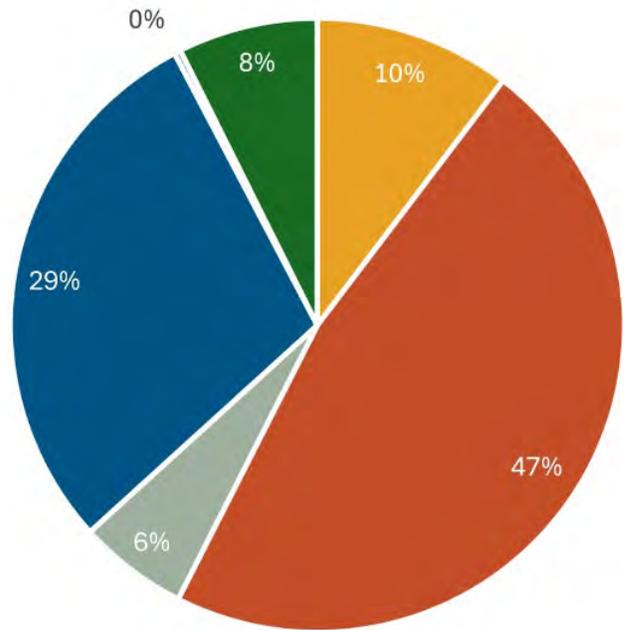
## RECREATION AGE GROUPS

People of all ages can learn, exercise, and meet people by attending one of the many programs offered throughout the year. While some programs are open to both adults and children, many are tailored to varying age groups. The age brackets served by recreation programs are outlined below:

- Early Childhood, ages 0-5 years
- Youth, ages 6-12 years
- Teens, ages 13-18 years
- Adults, ages 18+
- Older adults, ages 50+

The pie chart below shows the breakdown of recreation programming by age group, with programs for youth representing 47% of offerings. BI Parks offers few programs are tailored specifically for Seniors, rounding down to 0%. This service is provided by the Bainbridge Island Senior & Community Center, which offers language classes, potlucks, fitness, and much more.

*Program offerings by Age Group*



- Early Childhood
- Youth
- Teen
- Adult
- Senior
- All Ages

## SPECIAL EVENTS

A wide variety of small and large Park District special events take place annually for the Bainbridge community including volunteer appreciation events, trail and facility grand openings, tournaments, holiday celebrations, and entertainment. The five primary large special events include:

### Haunted Hayride

#### *3-day Halloween Event*

- **When:** Tues-Thurs in October prior to Halloween
- **Average Attendance:** 2000
- **Event hours:** 13.5 hours total

### Sounds of Winter

#### *Annual Indoor Concert Series*

- **When:** Thursdays in February and March
- **Average Attendance:** 100
- **Event hours:** 6 hours total

### Terry's Sounds of Summer

#### *Annual Concert Series*

- **When:** Wednesdays in July & August (8 concerts)

- **Average Attendance:** 2000-2500
- **Event hours:** 16 hours total

### Movies in the Park

#### *Outdoor Movie Series*

- **When:** Fridays in August (4-5 movies)
- **Average Attendance:** 150-200
- **Event hours:** 10 hours total

### Spring Carnival

#### *Community Festival*

- **When:** Saturday in early May
- **Average Attendance:** 500
- **Event hours:** 4 hours total

*The Park District hosts 5 large special events annually, totaling 49.5 hours of programming.*



# WHAT WE HEARD

## ASKING THE ISLAND: HOW SHOULD THIS SYSTEM EVOLVE?

This plan document is intended to answer the question: what do Bainbridge Island community members want from their park, trails, and recreation programs, and what will it take to get there?

That means that a crucial part of this process was asking Park District constituents residents to weigh in on what matters most to them: how are parks, trails, and recreation enriching peoples' lives? Where are there need for maintenance or facility improvements? And which priorities are worth seeking additional funding mechanisms to achieve?

This public engagement process aimed at answering the above questions, as well as deepening relationships with the community and providing education on the roles of the Park District and its partners. The engagement methods and results are summarized on the following pages.

Interactive activities in person were incorporated into the project webpage, including maps for community members to suggest Assets and Opportunities, which were used in identifying service levels and evaluation measures for future implementation of the Plan.

It was part of an intentional constant contact engagement process that began with Education Phase, ahead of Drafting and Adopting stages. Throughout the process, all educational and milestone materials were maintained on-line, for reference through emails to an extensive data base, as well as regular physical and social media postings. Public input was documented and shared in the process from the start of the process at the Earth Day Event in April right through the formal public comments expected after January 22, 2026, when the Park District board proposed the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan to the community. Adoption of the plan is expected a month later with full consideration of public comments and the comment log attached in the appendix.



# ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT PARKS**

Bainbridge Island Park & Recreation District (BIMPRD) is dedicated to fostering sustainable management of parks, open spaces, and the provision of diverse recreational opportunities for all ages. Your feedback will help guide investment in facilities, programs, and services.

How long have you lived in Bainbridge Island? Please enter number of years OR Mark the box if less than a year

Which area of the island do you reside?

North Bainbridge     South Bainbridge     Other  
 Central Bainbridge     Viewpoint/Overlook     Other/None

**SATISFACTION WITH PARKS, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS**

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of parks, facilities, and programs provided by BIMPRD?

	1	2	3	4	5	
	NOT AT ALL SATISFIED					VERY SATISFIED
Events, facilities, and programs that create opportunities to connect with the community	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Fostering a sense of community culture by BIMPRD	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Access to open space, natural areas, and facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Opportunities for recreation and exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>					

**PARK VISITATION**

How often do you or members of your household visit BIMPRD parks or facilities?

	At least once a week	A few times a month	A few times a year	Rarely
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Occasionally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Aug–Nov 2025 +  
Jan 2026**

**May – July 2025**

**May 13 & 22**

**June 21**

**Summer 2025**

A survey was mailed to 5,000 households in May 2025. Once a statistically-valid sample was achieved, an open link survey was made available for all Park District constituents to provide feedback.

Two stakeholder meetings to discuss challenges, opportunities, and play a budgeting game. Invitations, educational information, summary materials, and follow-up to over 200 community stakeholder groups.

An open house, held at the Bainbridge Island High School on a Saturday morning sShared findings from stakeholder meetings and worked to refined the mapping of challenges and opportunities.

Attended community events and met with organizations to build participation on community goals and objectives.

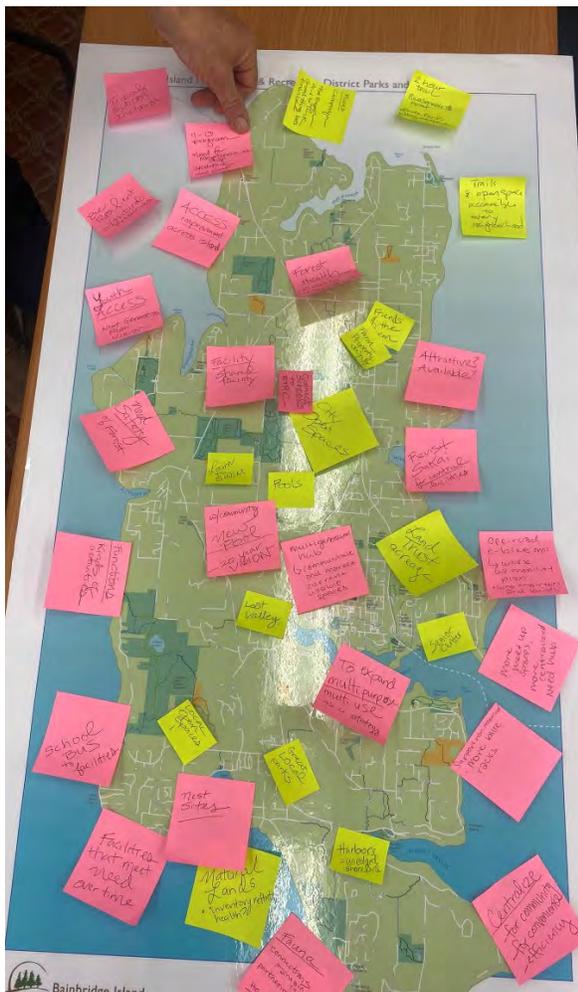
Presentations to the Parks Board occurred on:

- Aug 7
- Sep 18
- Oct 16
- Nov 20
- Jan 8
- Jan 22
- Feb 19



# MAPPING ASSETS & OPPORTUNITIES

At both Stakeholder Meetings and at the Open House, we invited attendees to identify challenges and opportunities on a map of the island. They pointed out assets to maintain, opportunities for improvements, and overall spoke to where the park system is and is not meeting their needs.



The composite map on the following page summarizes these responses. Some trends include:

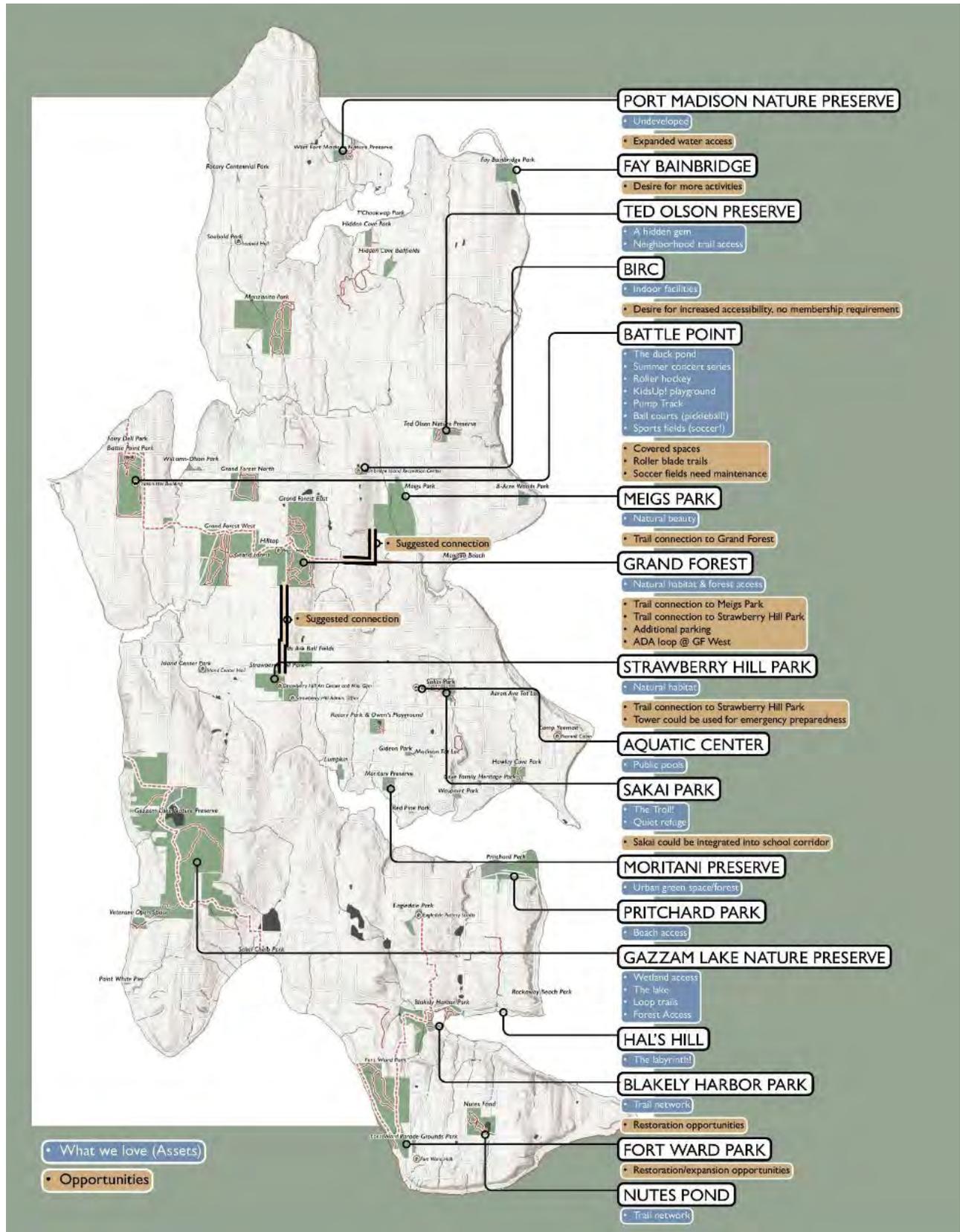
## Assets:

- Wetland access at Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve.
- Public Pools.
- Roller hockey, KidsUp! Playground, and the pump track at Battle Point Park.
- Ted Olson preserve (a hidden gem!)

## Opportunities:

- More trail connections and formalized access into neighborhoods.
- Additional access to docks and boat launches for fishing and swimming.
- Acquisition of shoreline land and use of undevelopable land as pocket parks.

# Graphic: Assets & Opportunities Summary Map



# UNDERSTANDING THE BUDGET

## AT THE MAY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS...

We played a game based on the Park District budget. In the game, participants tried to maintain operations and current levels of maintenance using the limited money they were given. To get more money for Capital Projects, players rolled a dice to try for funding from levies and grants, emulating the reality that for the Park District to complete additional projects, it must secure additional funding.

## WHAT WE LEARNED:

- The Park District budget of around \$14 million goes mostly to maintaining the many parks, facilities and programs that Bainbridge Island residents enjoy.
- Fees for recreation programs and use of indoor facilities help offset the cost of running them, but don't quite cover the costs.
- Much of the Capital Projects budget is slated to go towards renovating existing facilities to keep them in good shape for continued use.
- In order to build new facilities or acquire new land, the District will need additional funds. These funds could come from bond initiatives, additional property taxes, grants, or fundraising by partner organizations.



## WHERE DOES THE PARK DISTRICT BUDGET GO?

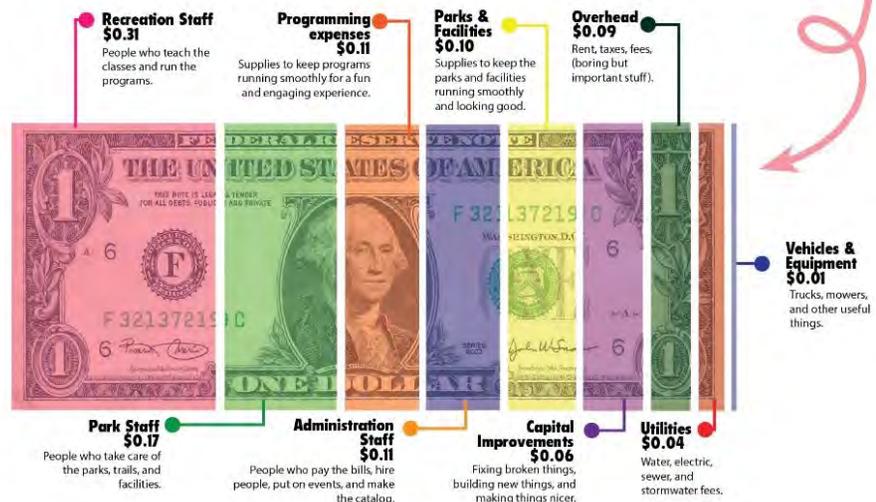
The graphic below shows the breakdown of how the Park District spends its budget, represented as a proportion of \$1.

## PARK BUDGET 101

**Capital Projects** are capital-intensive initiatives aimed at purchasing, constructing, expanding, or improving assets like trails, buildings, ballfields, playgrounds etc. Capital projects differ from maintenance or operating projects due to their scale, cost, complexity, and longevity.

**Bond initiative:** Citizens vote to temporarily raise property taxes to fund a specific public project.

**Property Tax Levy:** Annual taxes levied on all property on BI based on the property value.



# PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION SURVEY

Part of this engagement effort entailed a survey to ask residents about their experiences, hopes, and priorities for parks, trails, and recreation.

## Statistically-valid survey

To encourage responses from a representative sample of the island, a statistically-valid survey was sent to 5000 households. These households, chosen at random, were invited to use the QR code on their postcard to access a password-protected survey.

## Open link survey

To give all residents a chance to provide their feedback in the survey, an open survey was made available. Using that link, anyone could access and fill out the survey. These open link results were kept separate to preserve the results of the statistically-valid survey. Comparing differing results from these two survey pools also provides insight into user demographics and needs.

**Table: Survey responses**

	Statistically-Valid	Open Link	Total
<b>Surveys Completed</b>	389	878	<b>1,267</b>

## Analysis

Survey results were analyzed and summarized by consultant RRC Associates using the following process:

- The demographic profile of the invite sample is compared to known statistics of Bainbridge Island residents using 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates provided by the US Census Department.
- Underlying data from the invitation survey is weighted by the age, gender, housing tenure (own/rent), and household makeup (presence of children).

The weighting process changes the results only slightly but ultimately makes the results more accurate and representative of the population. The key findings from the survey are summarized on the following pages; see the appendix for the full report by RRC.

## KEY FINDINGS

Two samples were collected in the survey effort—the statistically valid **Invite Sample** and the **Open Link Sample**—both of which had strong response rates. The Invite Sample is representative of the whole population of Bainbridge Island, including parks and recreation users and non-users; therefore, the Invite sample is considered more reliable. Respondents from the Open Link Survey are more represented by families and frequent users. Together, both samples provide an excellent source of input on topics addressed in the survey.

Satisfaction with services, facilities, and natural areas is consistently high. Satisfaction is strong across all categories, with Invite respondents generally rating higher. “Opportunities for recreation and exercise” and “accessible natural areas and shoreline” top the list, while “resources for community needs and programming” ranks lowest, especially in the Open Link Sample.

Natural areas, trails, and shoreline access are the community’s highest priorities. These amenities are rated as the most important, with most needs being met. Shoreline access, however, rated higher in importance than meeting the needs of the community, indicating some room for improvement.

Nature-based and fitness activities are the most common uses of parks. Access to natural areas and personal fitness are the top reasons for visiting parks. Other common activities include dog walking, walking/running, and shoreline access—highlighting the importance of nature preservation and active recreation.



### **Expanding trails and improving amenities are the top ways to encourage park use.**

More trail miles and improved trail amenities are the top ways to encourage park use, followed by shade, restrooms, and maintenance.

### **There is strong engagement in Park District programs.**

Participation rates are notably higher in the Open link sample (67%) compared to the Invite sample (43%). Respondents most frequently cited cost, program convenience, and the quality of instructors as key factors influencing their decision to participate.

### **The community’s goals center on health, environmental stewardship, and equity.**

Both samples share the same top goals: active lifestyles, environmental protection, affordability, sustainability, and accessibility.



**Residents show strong support for sustainability and environmental stewardship efforts.** Across both samples, there is clear prioritization of sustainability initiatives, with proactive forest management and wildfire mitigation ranking as the highest environmental priorities. Other widely supported actions include waste reduction, resource conservation, and shoreline protection—demonstrating the community’s commitment to long-term ecological health.

**Trails are the top funding priority for residents.** Both samples direct the most hypothetical funding to trails, followed by Park Land acquisition and shoreline access. Open link respondents allocate more to sports courts, splash pads, gym space, and athletic fields. Bond referendums are the most supported funding method.

**Email is the preferred method for District communication.** Most respondents rate Park District communication positively. The recreation guide is the most used source, but email/newsletters are the most preferred, showing strong alignment with current outreach methods.

#### Top Priorities:

- Maintain existing land, facilities, and programs.
- Increase trail connections.
- Steward existing natural areas.
- Improve access to recreational shoreline and tideland.
- Provide recreation programs for all ages and abilities.
- Add amenities such as shade structures, permanent restrooms, water fountains, and lighting.

# WHAT WE NEED

## MEASURING WHAT PARK LAND, TRAILS, AND FACILITIES PROVIDE

Planning for the future entails evaluating how Bainbridge Island's growing population, changing demographics, and shifting priorities will impact the need for park land, facilities, and amenities. Determining these future needs impacts how the Park District plans for Capital Projects, and how funding strategies are updated.

This chapter takes the feedback we heard in the previous chapter, relates it to the inventory outlined in the "what we have" section, and determines a Level of Service (LOS) to describe how parks, trails, and facilities are serving Bainbridge Island residents.

### QUICK DEFINITIONS:

#### Level of Service:

Level of Service (LOS) refers to the standard or measure of the quality and quantity of park and recreation services provided to a community. It often considers factors like accessibility, amenities, and the ratio of park space to population. Determining an appropriate LOS is key for acknowledging the capacity of a community to serve the needs of residents in a community in an equitable and accountable manner. distribution and community satisfaction.

In accordance with GMA requirements, levels of service need to be related to the Capital Facility Improvement Programs in a communities that conduct a growth impact fee assessment.

WAC 365-196-210(21) describes Level of Service as the "minimum capacity of public facilities or services that must be provided per unit of demand." When demand increases, for example when a population grows, facilities or services must also increase in order to maintain the same level of service.



## MEASURING PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE

There are many ways of measuring the level of service provided by a park and recreation system, and some methods date back to over a century ago. A brief history:

- 1914: Landscape architect Charles Downing Lay recommends 15 acres of park land per 1000 residents. Using this system, a jurisdiction would need to add park land to maintain the LOS as their population grew.
- 1983: NRPA publishes their own set of standards and guidelines, maintaining the same framework but recommending 6.25 to 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.
- 2019: NRPA revokes their standard, citing the need for individualized metrics that take into consideration local demographics and resources.

Now, park planners utilize a myriad of approaches to describe future park and recreation demands. Some approaches involve creating scoring matrices that indicate how well individual parks are performing. Others use capital spending to track park investments year by year and per capita.

jurisdictions continue to use “acres per 1000 residents,” a simple calculation that encourages jurisdictions to set aside public land as their populations grow. Eventually, however, options for new acquisition will be scarce, and it will no longer be possible to maintain the established LOS.

The right approach depends on the specific needs and goals of the community.

### Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Guidelines

The RCO’s Manual 2: Planning Guidelines states: “RCO recommends, but does not require, determination of a level of service for park and recreation planning, including trails.” For jurisdictions that choose to adopt a LOS standard, RCO recommends that it uses indicators in the following three categories (each with measurable elements):

- **Quantity Criteria:** *i.e., number of facilities*
- **Quality Criteria:** *i.e., public satisfaction and facility function.*
- **Distribution and Access Criteria:** *i.e., population served and accessibility*

## **MEASURING LOS ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

The following criteria guide the discussion of how best to measure parks and recreation LOS on Bainbridge Island.

### **Reflect public input**

The LOS metric should reflect what is most important to Bainbridge Island residents. Feedback collected through the parks survey, stakeholder meetings, and other events should directly inform how the LOS is measured and what standards are adopted.

### **Create a realistic metric for measuring ongoing LOS**

BI Parks and its predecessor organization have spent the past 60 years acquiring land, developing parks and trails, and adding recreation programs that provide enrichment for Bainbridge Island residents and visitors. The majority of the available budget now goes to maintaining these assets and running these programs. With a limited budget, it is important that the LOS does not outline a need for growth that BI Parks and its partners will be unable to afford. Instead, this LOS should be achievable and reflect what is truly needed

### **Create a tool that is easy to understand and update for future planning cycles**

There is a balance to strike between using a fine grain tool that most accurately reflects community needs and using a tool that can be easily updated and understood. The goal is that BI Parks staff can update the LOS during future planning cycles without the assistance of a consultant.

### **Create a metric that reflects the assets of BI Parks and partners**

BI Parks is the primary provider of parks and recreation on Bainbridge Island, but City-owned parks, school facilities, and land preserved by the Bainbridge Island Land Trust are also part of the system. By incorporating these lands and facilities into the LOS, the metric will better reflect what Bainbridge Island residents have access to.

This plan uses a three-pronged approach to measure Level of Service. Focusing on the RCO's guidance as well as the criteria outlined above, we have designed a tool that quantifies the services provided by Bainbridge Island parks, trails, and facilities using a 5-point scale. Below, we outline our methods for measuring park Quantity, Quality, and Access.

## LOS MEASURE: QUANTITY

Typical metrics of acres of park land per 1000 residents measure quantity. It tells us how much of a city's land is allocated to parks and open space, and how that relates to the number of people living there. As a population grows, the park land per capita decreases, guiding a city towards acquiring new land to maintain an adopted per capita standard. Because cities have a finite amount of land, an adopted acres/1000 LOS standard eventually becomes infeasible to maintain if a population continues to grow.

Rather than omitting a quantity metric from an assessment of BI Parks, this plan uses a peer cities comparison to frame our understanding of park, trail, and facilities on Bainbridge Island. Rather than choosing a number of park land acres that should be maintained for every 1000 residents, we look at cities with similar demographics to Bainbridge Island to assess how our system compares. By choosing four peer cities, we can yield 1-5 scores based on how Bainbridge Island compares across **Natural Areas**, **Developed Parks**, **Indoor Facilities**, and **Trails**. Because **Recreational Shoreline** is a unique aspect of our island condition, this is omitted from our peer city comparison.

### Identifying Bainbridge Island's Peer Cities

In many respects, Bainbridge Island is both geographically and demographically unique. Choosing the right peers to benchmark parks and recreation offerings is thus challenging. However, finding peers that have similar revenue generating potential, age distribution, and ability to access

amenities beyond their borders is helpful in assessing the performance of the Parks District. Informed by our review of peer cities, the parks district has several key challenges and strengths:

#### **Age distribution:**

the Island has two large age cohorts, those over 50 and those under 18 (the former is significantly larger). These two groups have substantially different recreation preferences and needs.

#### **Geographic isolation:**

unlike communities clustered around Seattle and Bellevue, island communities must be more recreationally self-sufficient. This is particularly challenging for large-scale facilities designed to serve a regional audience – for example, Olympic-sized pools or indoor tracks. An Eastside community for instance, might provide one regional facility and rely on its neighbors to fill other specialized facility gaps.

#### **Relatively low land value:**

compared to its peers near Seattle, Bainbridge Island has relatively low land value on a per acre basis. Normalizing land value by area helps us to see beyond the high cost of individual properties, to look at the revenue generating potential of different municipalities, as well as the expense of acquiring large tracts of land. For communities like Mercer Island that have more than four times the population density of Bainbridge Island, a million-dollar home sits on a much smaller parcel. This would tend to push a community like Mercer towards active recreation facilities that maximize a small amount of space rather than investing in sprawling natural areas.

Bainbridge Island has a unique combination of lower land values and a relatively affluent community, which has helped the District to hit far above its weight both in terms of active recreation facilities and open space acquisition.

**Lower Density:**

Compared to peers close to Seattle, Island residents are significantly more spread out. This means that providing park facilities and park land within an easy geographic distance of all residents is more challenging.

**Peer selection:**

No community is demographically and geographically identical to Bainbridge Island. Peers were selected based on a combination of factors. Median household income and total population provided the initial pool of comparators. Population density, parks and recreation administrative body, community age distribution, and geographic isolation influenced final selection. Median household income and total population were prioritized because they strongly influence type, quality, and quantity of parks and facilities

**Table: Initial list of peer cities.**

From this list, we selected **Mercer Island, Issaquah, Kenmore, and PenMet** (The metropolitan parks district for Gig Harbor and its neighbors) based on similarities in population size, density, socioeconomics and age distribution.

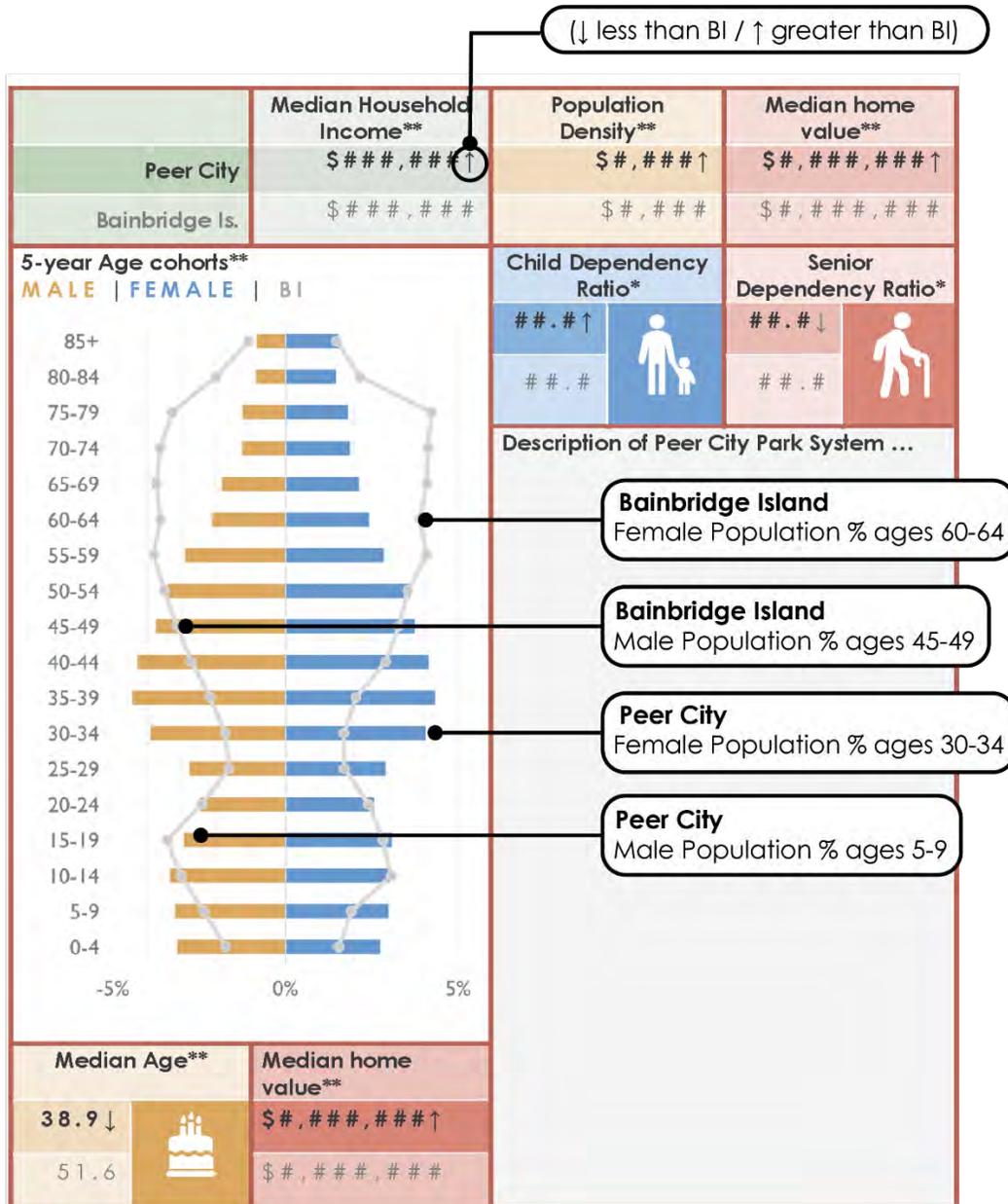
**How to read: Yellow cell values are most similar to Bainbridge Island demographics, Orange to red values are lower than BI, green values are higher than BI.**

City	Population	Median Income	Population Density*	Median Age
<b>Bainbridge Island</b>	<b>24,254</b>	<b>159,882</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>51.6</b>
PenMet	51,426	\$145,437	1,093.90	47.4
Kenmore	23,391	137,926	3,956.00	40.1
Mercer Island	24,742	202,359	4,024.70	45.3
Issaquah	38,977	153,786	3,429.00	38.9
High Bridge	3,147	160,938	459.6	45.6
Newcastle	12,761	162,646	3,082.90	39.5
Lake Forest Park	13,006	158,868	3,854.20	44.2
Woodinville	13,450	158,723	2,498.80	39.7
Eastmont	23,486	139,346	4,784.80	39.3
North Lynnwood	23,653	102,888	7,762.10	35.6
Mill Creek East	25,461	183,466	5,739.10	36.4
Oak Harbor	24,016	43,982	2,616.90	33.1
Frederickson	24,219	53,413	2,338.30	34.3
Moses Lake	26,299	71,115	1,495.80	34.5
Tumwater	27,239	93,635	1,588.00	39.1
Camas	27,254	140,053	2,130.50	34.5
Redmond	80,280	162,099	4,935.30	35.3
Bellevue	151,574	161,300	4,676.80	38.4

## Peer City Benchmarking

The section that follows includes profiles for four of Bainbridge Island’s closest Washington state peers based on similarities in population size, median income, population density, and median age.

Each profile includes the following components:



\* **Age Dependency Ratio (ADR)** is a measure of the nonworking-age population relative to the population of working age that serves as a useful indicator of an area’s age structure. This measure is used to express the relationship between three age groups in a population: under 18, 18 to 64, and 65 and older. Dependent populations are defined as children under 18 years of age and seniors aged 65 and older. For this measure, the population aged 18 to 64 is considered the working-age population.

\*\* 2025 Population estimates (Esri)

## Peer City Comparison: Issaquah

	Population**	Median Household income**	Population Density**
Issaquah	↑ 41,592	↑ \$170,507	↑ 3,429
Bainbridge Is.	24,963	\$163,959	904

5-year Age cohorts**		Child Dependency Ratio*	Senior Dependency Ratio*
MALE	FEMALE		
		↑ 35.5 33.7	↓ 23.6 56.7

Median Age**	Median home value**
↓ 38.9	↑ \$1,249,407
51.6	\$1,125,533

**Park System Description:**  
 Similar to Bainbridge Island, Issaquah sits on the urban fringe. However, I-90 runs through the community, making the city a regional hub. Issaquah's impressive trail and open space system, which includes several regional hikes, serves a high-volume of users.

Issaquah's population is significantly younger than Bainbridge Islands', however, nature-oriented recreation opportunities are also at the heart of the city's recreational offerings. The City does have several large facilities, including a public pool, community center with gymnasium, and Central Park hosts an impressive sports field facility with six full-sized fields.

Unlike Bainbridge, Issaquah's parks and recreation department is housed within the city's government. Consequently, the comparison of active recreation facilities found at the end of this section reflects all City-owned offerings.

## Peer City Comparison: Mercer Island

	Population**	Median Household income**	Population Density**
<b>Mercer Island</b>	↑ 25,688	↑ \$228,003	↑ 3,429
Bainbridge Is.	24,963	\$163,959	904

5-year Age cohorts**		Child Dependency Ratio*	Senior Dependency Ratio*
MALE	FEMALE		
		↑ 37.0 33.7	↓ 38.7 56.7

Median Age**	Median home value**
↓ 45.3	↑ \$1,249,407
51.6	\$1,125,533

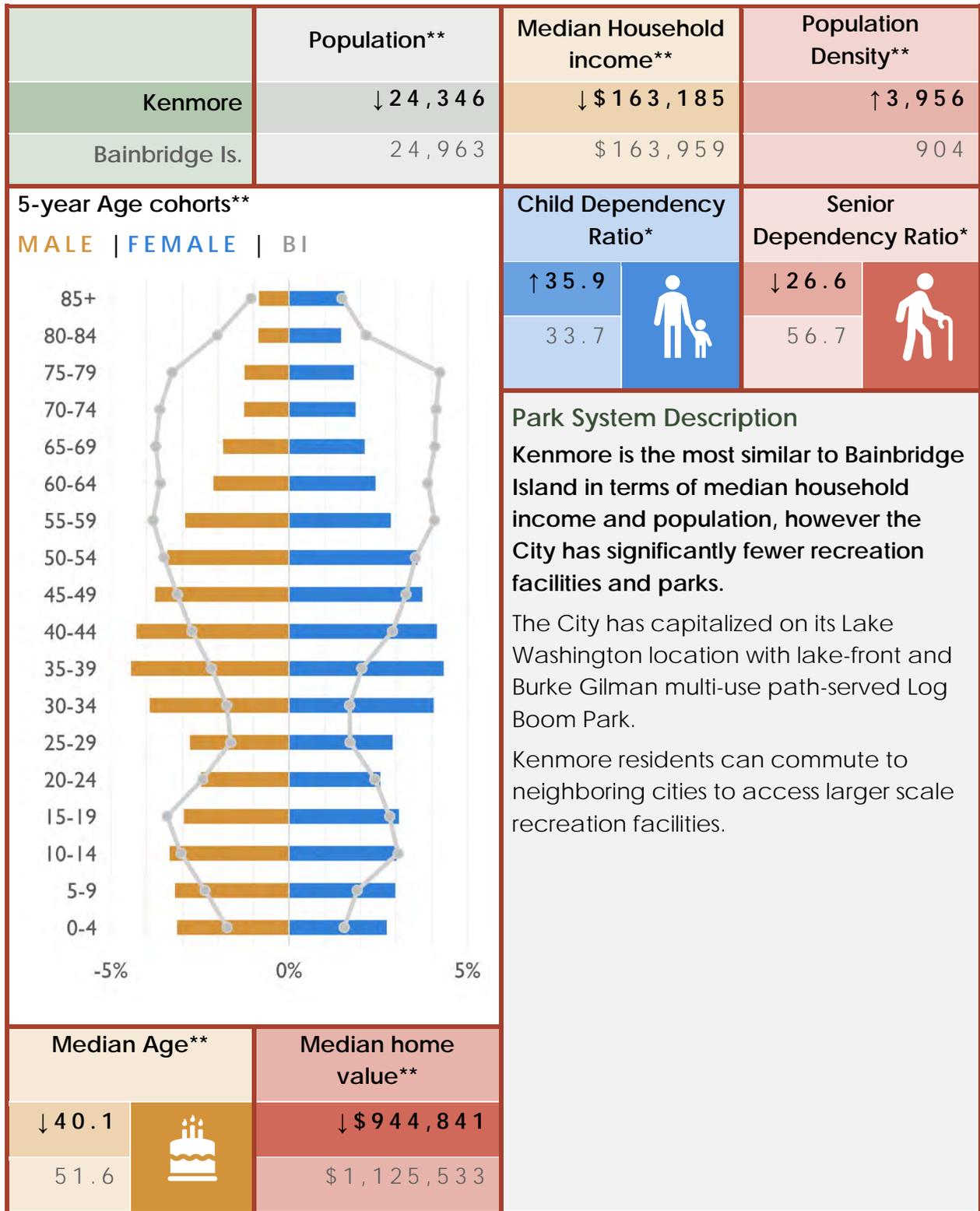
**Park System Description:**

In terms of total population and home value, Mercer Island is Bainbridge's closest island peer. However, with I-90 running through the community, Mercer does not require the same level of self-sufficiency as Bainbridge Island.

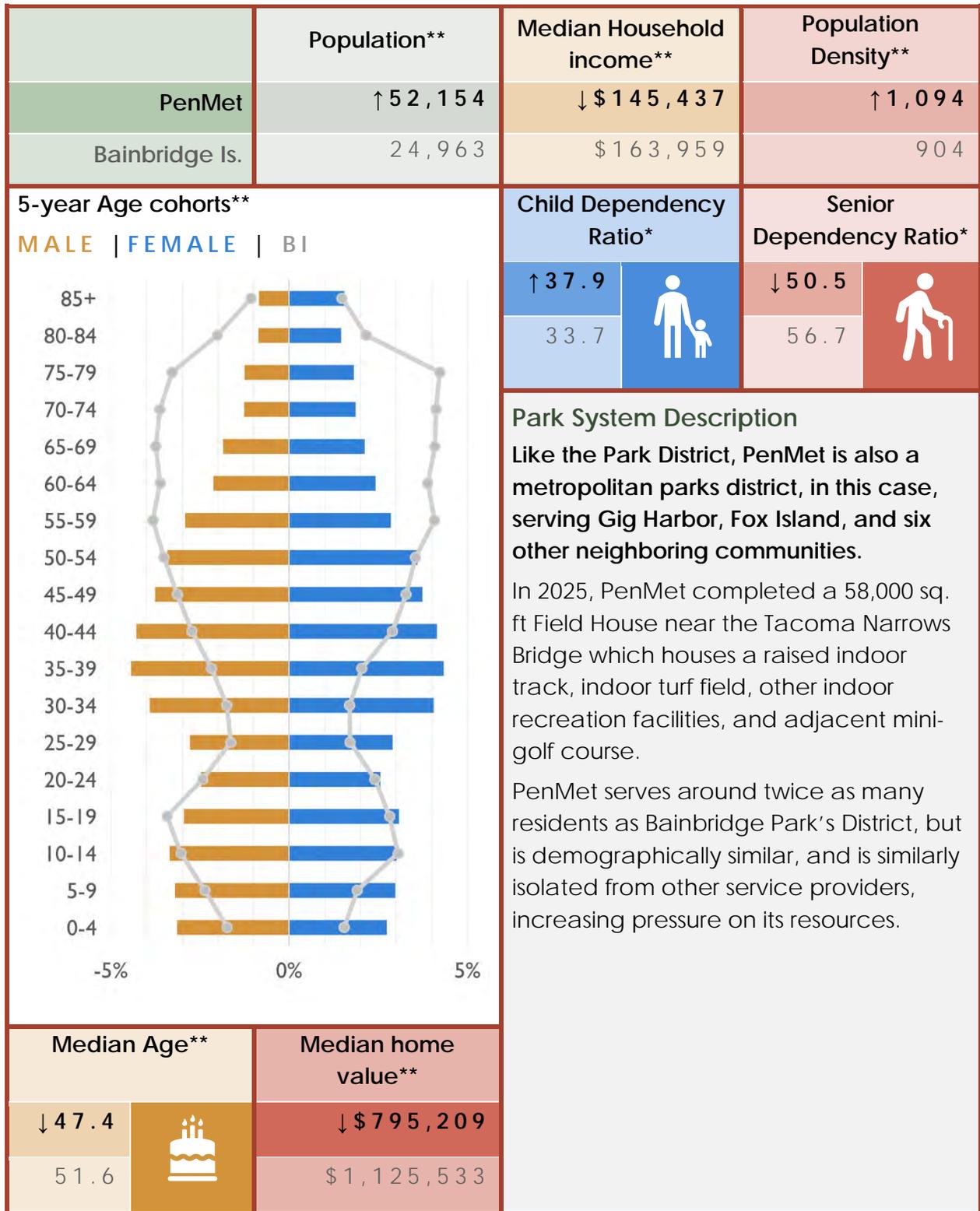
The Mercer Island Parks Department relies heavily on its local school district to provide active recreation facilities, including the Island's only public pool – a 6 lane, 25-meter pool similar in age and size to the District's Ray Williamson Pool.

The City's multi-use community center includes around 12,000 SF of active recreation space including gymnasium and fitness room. BIRC by comparison, 58,000 SF.

## Peer City Comparison: Kenmore



## Peer City Comparison: PenMet



## Assessing Park Quantity on Bainbridge Island

To determine quantities of natural areas, developed park land, indoor facilities, and trails, we referenced the most recent PROS Plan document for each peer jurisdiction. From these documents, we extrapolated numbers for:

- Acres of natural areas/open space
- Acres of developed park land
- Square feet of indoor recreation/community facilities
- Miles of recreational trails

In order to normalize data across jurisdictions as much as possible, we count only properties and facilities within the park department system. This means exclude state parks, private recreation facilities, and conservation easements held by partner organizations. Below, per capita measurements are listed for each jurisdiction.

**Table: Peer City Benchmarking**

Jurisdiction	Natural Areas (acres/1000)	Developed Park Land (acres/1000)	Indoor Facilities (ft <sup>2</sup> /1000)	Trails (miles/1000)
<b>BI Parks</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>1.65</b>
Kenmore <sup>1</sup>	5.13	1.11	0	0.16
Mercer Island <sup>2</sup>	11.6	7.88	469	1.13
Issaquah <sup>3</sup>	38.8	6.58	807	1.08
PenMet	4.55	9.66	1430	0.50

1. Kenmore 2020 PROS plan, page 25 states: "Of the 146 total acres of city-owned park land, 120 acres are natural area." This report thus calculates 26 acres of developed park land.

2. Mercer Island 2022 PROS Plan, page 32 states that "Mercer Island provides 481 acres of Park Land...Open space totals just under 286 acres," for a deduced total of 195 developed acres.

3. Issaquah 2024 PROS Plan, page 24 lists 261 acres of Park and 1537 acres of Open Space.

4. PenMet PROS 2023 Plan, page 37 lists park types and acres. There are 391 acres of Regional Park, Neighborhood Park, Special Use Park, and Trail Corridor, and 96.05 acres of Undeveloped Sites, Water Access, and Open Space.

## LOS Score for Quantity

**Table: LOS Quantity Scores**

Natural Areas (acres/1000)	Developed Park Land (acres/1000)	Indoor Facilities (ft <sup>2</sup> /1000)	Trails (miles/1000)
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

Comparing the figures from the Peer City Benchmarking table, we awarded a 1-5 score based on ranking, with 5 being the highest ranking and 1 being the lowest ranking. As the table

above shows, Bainbridge Island ranks the highest in all categories. This shows that compared to its peers, Bainbridge Island residents have more acres of Natural Areas, Developed Park Land, Indoor Facilities, and Trails per capita.

### How Can LOS Quantity Be Increased?

- **Natural Areas:** Acquire land that contains forested areas.
- **Recreational Shoreline:** Acquire land the contains shoreline.re
- **Active Use Park Land:**
  - Acquire land for use as Active Use Park Land.
  - Develop existing park land with facilities.
- **Indoor Facilities:**
  - Building new recreational facilities.
  - Purchase existing buildings for recreational/community use.
- **Trails:**
  - Build new trails in existing parks.
  - Build new recreational trails outside of parks.

### What Does This Tell Us?

The way other cities invest in their parks, preserve open space, or build trails does not dictate what Bainbridge Island residents desire and are willing to invest in. And while peer cities were chosen based on comparable population sizes and median incomes, the context of each city is unique. Benchmarking is thus not a standalone tool for guiding decision making, but a point of reference that tells a story about what the Bainbridge Island park system provides.

Consider Natural Areas: currently BI Parks owns and manages 53.1 acres of land for every 1000 residents. Lowest on the list, Kenmore and PenMet both provide around 5 acres per 1000 residents. The next highest peer city is Issaquah, providing 38.8. (It's worth noting here that Issaquah residents have access to many acres of State Park land that are not reflected in this figure, and that the BI Parks figure omits the 535 acres owned by the Bainbridge Island Trust.) The wealth of Natural Areas acreage on Bainbridge Island aligns with the survey feedback: Natural Areas are very important to residents, and they are largely satisfied with current facilities.

Mercer Island is the next highest peer when it comes to trails, providing 1.08 compared to Bainbridge Island's 1.65. Something to consider is how the difference in size (at 27 square miles, Bainbridge is nearly twice the size of Mercer) impacts how much of each city the trail systems provide access to. Survey feedback shows that trails are very important to Bainbridge Island residents, and that while 85% report that trail meet their needs, 60% report that additional trail miles or amenities would increase their park usage.

As populations in peer cities change and new facilities are developed, the way Bainbridge Island compares to its peer cities may change, and these numbers can be updated as new documents are adopted. For this point-in-time assessment, we deduce that park, trail, and indoor facility quantity on Bainbridge Island is excellent.

## QUALITY (LOS MEASURE)

When people are asked what they want from their park system, their answer is often that they want more sports fields, upgraded playgrounds, more maintenance, or amenities like public art or signage. These aspects of quality are not reflected in the quantity scores, which focus on the volume of land and assets. Evaluating the quality of the park system is thus an important piece of the Level of Service puzzle, and one that tells us more about how people are able to use parks and facilities, and what condition they are in.

There are many ways to evaluate quality, from calculating per capita figures for key facilities such as tennis courts and playgrounds, using survey responses to establish public satisfaction, or evaluating park maintenance levels. For this assessment, we are using a staff assessment of how well parks, trails, and indoor facilities are meeting their intent based on the number and condition of their facilities and amenities.

### Assessing Park Quality on Bainbridge Island

This assessment aims to provide an understanding of park performance through the eyes of those who best understand their intents and functions. It is similar to the GRASP® assessment, a proprietary tool that uses a 1-3 score of park land, facilities, and amenities. In this system, BI Parks staff provide a 1-5 rating for the natural areas, recreational shoreline, developed park acres, indoor facilities, and trails within the BI Park system. The following rubric guides the assessment of these areas:

<b>Not in Use 1</b>	These are park lands that lack the facilities needed in order for them to serve their intended uses. This could be land slated for Neighborhood Park development that is currently inaccessible, or land meant as Natural Area that requires significant remediation.
<b>Underperforming 2</b>	These are parks that lack some needed facilities or amenities, or whose facilities or amenities are in need of repairs or maintenance. For Natural Areas, this could pertain to parks that have a high need for habitat restoration, or those that lack the trails needed to provide adequate access. For a Neighborhood Park, this could mean one whose playground is in need of replacement.
<b>Meeting Expectations 3</b>	These are parks that have the facilities and amenities to serve their intended use, and these facilities and amenities are in working order.
<b>Exceeding Expectations 4</b>	These are parks that have new, ample, bespoke, or otherwise exceptional facilities in working order.
<b>Above &amp; Beyond 5</b>	These parks are resident and visitor favorites because they have outstanding facilities, ample amenities, well-maintained trails, art or historic elements, and/or provide access to local natural wonders

Using the above rubric, BI Park staff evaluated existing facilities, providing scores for the 5 Park Land Use Categories. Averages for each Park Land Use Category provide the quality scores below.

## LOS score for Quality

Table: LOS Quality Scores

Natural Areas	Recreational Shoreline	Developed Park Land	Indoor Facilities	Trails
2.47	2.84	3.07	2.92	2.77

### How Can LOS Quality Be Increased?

- **Natural Areas:**
  - Invasives species removal and fire management.
  - Addition of facilities such as trails, overlooks, or wayfinding signage.
  - Providing access to the site through the addition of parking lots, signage, and trails.
- **Recreational Shoreline:**
  - Provide access to currently inaccessible land through the addition of parking lots, paths, or other facilities.
  - Adding shoreline access facilities such as docks or kayak launches.
  - Adding amenities such as benches, bathrooms, or signage.
- **Active Use Park Land:**
  - Performing maintenance and updates to existing playgrounds, athletic fields, community facilities, or cultural facilities.
  - Adding new amenities such as lighting for athletic fields, benches, or signage.
- **Indoor Facilities:**
  - Performing maintenance and updates to existing aquatic facilities, indoor fitness and wellness facilities, cultural facilities, or amenities.
  - Adding new pool lanes, gym equipment, or other facilities.
- **Trails:**
  - Perform maintenance on existing trails.
  - Add trail amenities such as benches, bathrooms, or signage.

### What Does This Tell Us?

All Park Land Use Categories hover above or below 3, showing that overall, parks, trails, and facilities are serving their intended function. In the RCO Manual, 80% of facilities meeting their intended function is an A grade. In our interpretation, this shows that while park lands are more or less meeting their intended function, there is room to improve.

Natural Areas show the lowest score of 2.47, which reflects needs for invasive plant removal, reduction of fire risk, and overall improvement of forest health. Other improvements could include the addition of wayfinding or interpretive signage, benches, or overlooks.

For Trails, increasing the score from 2.77 could entail additional trail maintenance, ensuring that all trails are functioning appropriately based on their classification. The addition of trail connections would also raise the score, creating options for longer continuous hikes, and more

opportunities to connect to other parks, trails, and neighborhoods using recreational trails. Accessibility improvements were also considering in this assessment, as we the presence of amenities such as benches and wayfinding signage.

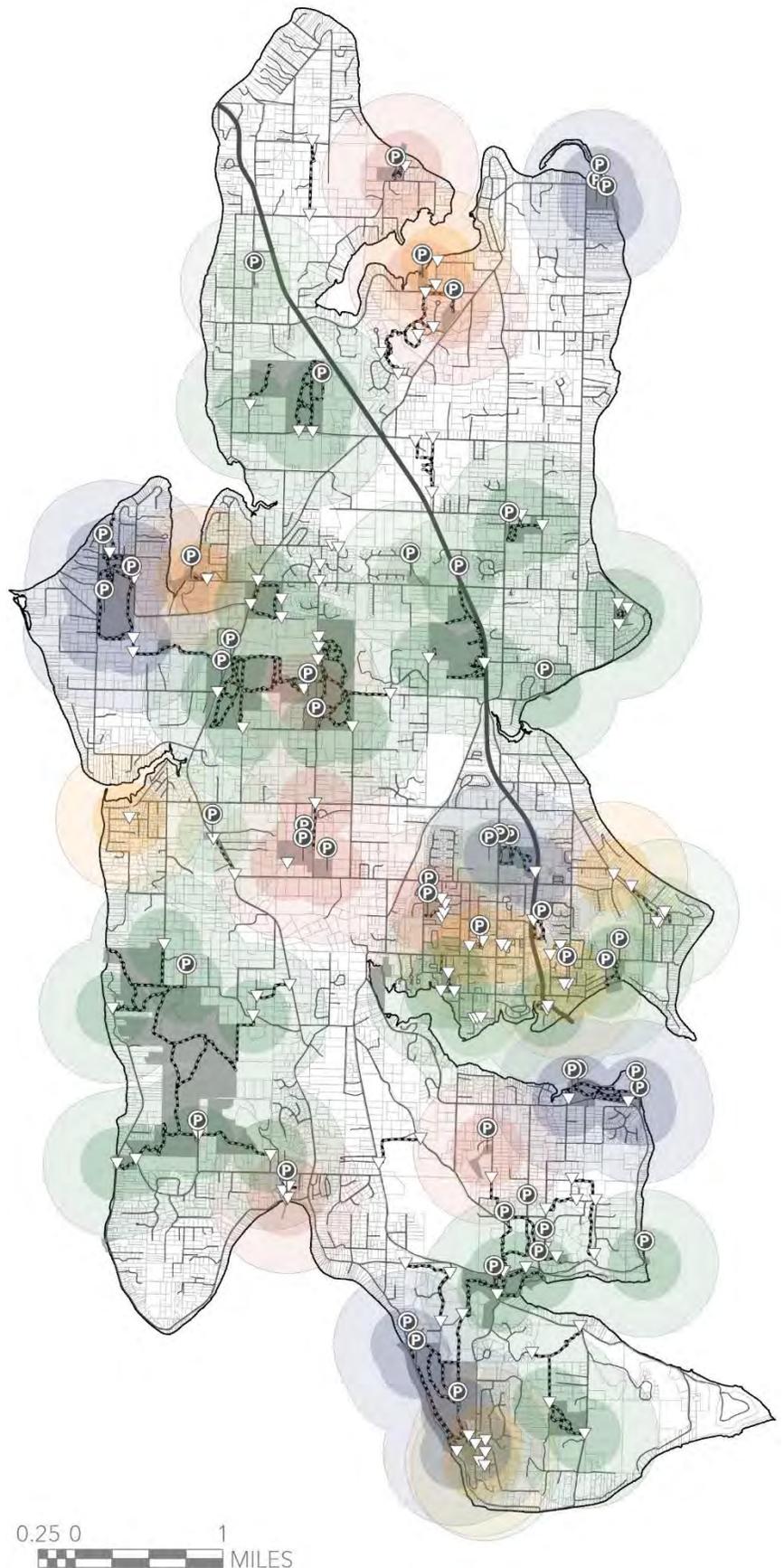
For Recreational Shoreline, improving the score could mean adding kayak launches, docks, or other structures that facilitate the use of the water. It could also mean adding parking lots, bathrooms, or campsites.

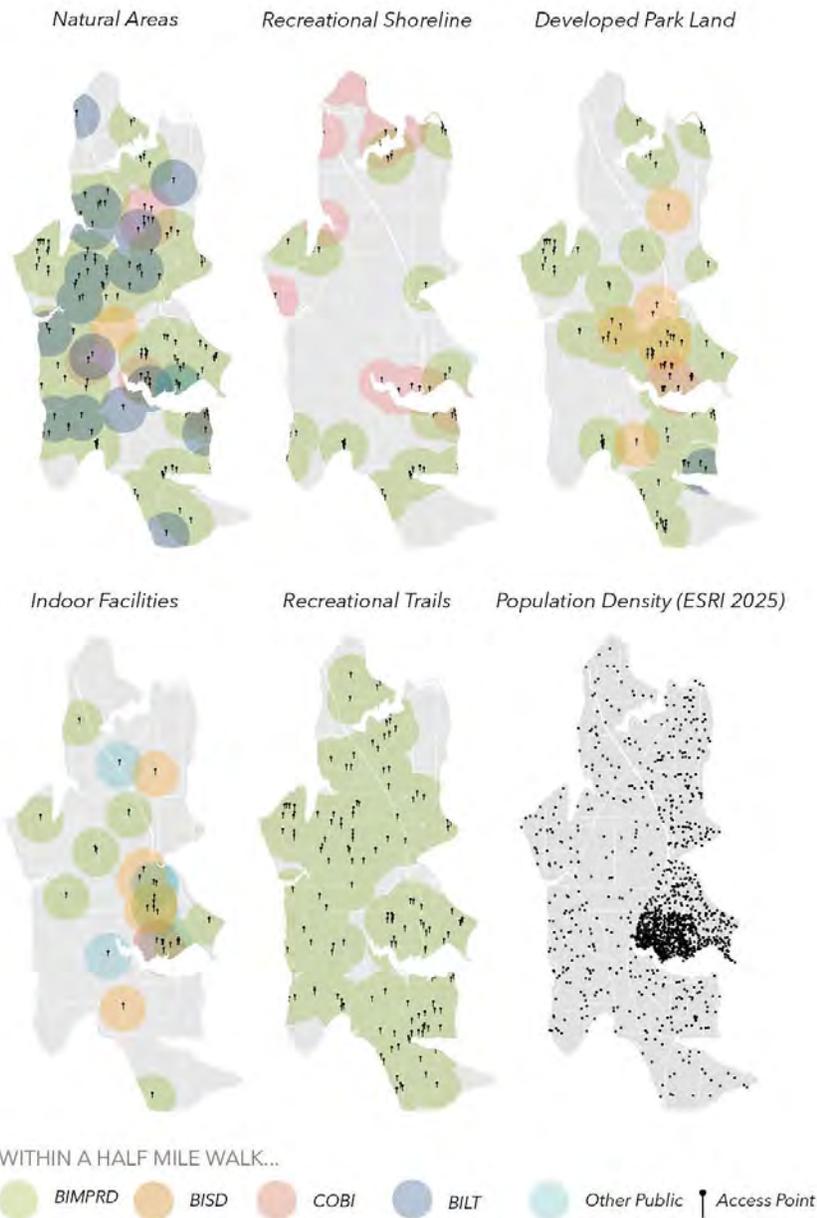
Overall, parks, trails, and facilities are meeting their intended function. We recommend setting a LOS standard of 3 for each Park Land Use, while striving to increase scores through habitat restoration, upgrades to existing facilities, and the addition of new facilities and amenities when possible.

## DISTRIBUTION (LOS MEASURE)

Being able to get to a park or trail is an important factor in determining how often you'll use it, especially for young families, elderly folks, and other people for whom mobility is a challenge. The more parks are distributed throughout the city, the more people who might be within walking distance of their nearest park. The RCO recommends measuring the percentage of a population that is within ½ mile of a neighborhood park, with larger buffers for larger park types. For this assessment, we focus on the five Park Land Use Types to understand how they are distributed throughout the island and where there are gaps. Notably, we include assets owned by other jurisdictions in this assessment to reflect the different recreation options residents have access to, and to ensure that duplicative efforts are not double counted.

This assessment uses Esri's Community Analyst tool to translate the inventory of parks, trails, and facilities on Bainbridge Island into maps, which provide a visual of asset distribution throughout the island as well as data on the percentage of residents that fall within these ½ mile buffers. For each park, trail, and indoor facility owned by BI Parks, COBI, BISD, or BILT, the access points are given a buffer of ½ mile





**Table: % of Population Within ½ Mile Radius**

<b>Natural Area Park Land</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Recreational Shoreline</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Developed Park Land</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Trails</b>	<b>87%</b>

To translate the above percentages into scores of 1-5, we use the RCO Manual, which assigns grades of A through F based on percentage of the population that's within a mile range of assets based on their intended audience (neighborhood, community, or regional).

**Table: LOS Distribution Scores**

<b>Natural Areas</b>	<b>Recreational Shoreline</b>	<b>Developed Park Land</b>	<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	<b>Trails</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## What Does This Tell Us?

This assessment uses a ½ mile buffer, which is meant to represent a distance that someone could feasibly walk to their neighborhood park. We are applying this system to things like indoor facilities and recreational shoreline, which are community assets and thus may more reasonably be expected to be within 5 miles based on RCO Manual guidelines for Community Parks. We are using ½ buffer system for all Park Land Use types, but rate them on different scales based on the populations they were meant to serve (i.e. neighborhood, community, or region).

Another consideration is how people are getting to the parks, and what barriers may make even a ½ mile journey difficult. Missing bike lanes, incomplete sidewalks, large road crossings, or lack of parking could all hinder people from accessing their parks using their preferred method of transportation. While improvements to transportation facilities are not within the purview of the Park District, understanding these barriers can enrich our understanding of what the access buffers mean.

Recreational Shoreline produces the lowest percentage of residents within ½ mile, including City of Bainbridge Island's Road Ends. At 48%, this is nearly half of the island that is within walking distance of public water access. We draw the following conclusions:

- **A 5-mile buffer**, in line with RCO's recommendation for community assets, **covers most of the island**, which shows that current coverage meets RCO standards, but does not provide helpful information as to where the Park District might consider new shoreline land acquisitions should they become available.
- **Given the shape of the island, 100% coverage at the ½ mile scale is not possible**, but that buffer map reveals more useful information.
- While current coverage rates as an "A" in RCO's manual based on 5-mile coverage, we assign a "B" or a "4" to reflect that shoreline access is a high priority and there are opportunities to provide more access points. This could be via recreational shoreline acquired and managed by BI Parks, or through the addition of Road Ends by the City.

The other Park Land Use not rated a 5 is Indoor Facilities. With 53% coverage at the ½ mile scale, this far exceeds what is expected of these assets, which could be considered community or regional assets (for example, people travel from neighboring cities to visit the aquatic center because of the unique facilities it offers). We are rating it a 4 based on opportunities to expand partnerships with groups that could provide additional indoor recreation throughout the island.

*Overall, almost every Bainbridge resident is within a ½ mile of a park, trail, or indoor facility. Natural Areas and Trails have exceptional coverage, and there are opportunities to provide better access to Recreational Shoreline through strategic acquisition of land or the development of more road end beaches by the City.*

## How Could LOS Distribution Be Increased?

The below are strategies that could increase distribution LOS when pursued in a strategic manner to fill geographic gaps. Whether the Park District should pursue any of the following strategies is addressed in greater depth in the final chapter of this plan, "Sticking the Landing".

- **Natural Areas:**
  - Acquire land that contains forested areas.
  - Add trailheads/access points.
- **Recreational Shoreline:**
  - Acquire land that contains shoreline.
  - Partner with COBI to provide access to Road Ends.
  - Add trails/access points.
- **Active Use Park Land:**
  - Acquire land for Active Use Park Land.
  - Add trailheads/access points to existing parks.
- **Indoor Facilities:**
  - Build new facilities.
  - Purchase existing buildings for recreational/community use
  - Partner with other organizations to provide recreation programs.
- **Trails:**
  - Build new trails in existing parks.
  - Build new recreational trails outside of parks.
  - Add trailheads and connections.

# LOS: QUANTITY, QUALITY, DISTRIBUTION

*Table: LOS Quantity, Quality, & Distribution*

	Natural Areas	Recreational Shoreline	Developed Park Land	Indoor Facilities	Trails
Quantity	5	5	5	5	5
Quality	2.5	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.8
Distribution	5	4	5	4	5
<b>Average</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Bainbridge Island residents have access to a wealth of park land, trails, and indoor facilities. Compared to peer cities, there is an abundance of land devoted to recreational uses. These different system areas are distributed throughout the city, offering opportunities for respite in nature, trail walks, indoor and outdoor recreation.

The greatest area for improvement is in Quality. While most park lands are meeting their intended uses, additional maintenance, upgrades or additional facilities will improve the way residents and visitors can use and enjoy them.

Maintaining the above service levels will require investments into continued maintenance of the parks, trails, and indoor facilities on the island. As the population grows, additional wear and tear on facilities will result in the need for additional maintenance. Some facilities, such as pickleball courts, indoor facilities, and picnic shelters may show signs of limited capacity. This depends not just on the population size, but changing demographics as well.

The next section outlines how we take the above LOS assessment and translate it into action.

# HOW WE GET THERE

## IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

### BACKGROUND

The community sets long-range direction for Island-wide parks, recreation, and open space system, a.k.a. “PROS”. Every six years, the community conducts a comprehensive review of the PROS system in a public planning process. The focus of this effort is on public service levels.

The process first acknowledges various components in the system for their purpose and assesses their functions and performance per existing community goals. With public guidance on effective measures and desired outcomes, the plan is to guide the community towards desired service levels.

Long range goals and objectives are refined in the process to align with emerging needs, opportunities, and priorities. These goals and objectives work in tandem with Level of Service (LOS) metrics found in the Implementation Chapter, and together, supply high-level direction that is consistent with the City of Bainbridge Island Comprehensive Plan.

To that end, goals and objectives and LOS metrics are presented in “System Areas” in order to ensure a tight feedback loop between intent, action, and measurement of outcomes.



## ROLES, GOALS, OBJECTIVES OVERVIEW

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (the Park District) is charged to guide a systematic comprehensive approach to the community's park, recreation and open space system (PROS).

The Park District takes the lead operational responsibility to provide public parks, open space, recreation trails, park facilities, and recreation activities throughout the Island. However, the Park District is one of several public and private organizations that work together to coordinate and manage the Island's unique system of diverse park and recreation opportunities.

Through the public PROS planning process, the community sets direction by refining long-range goals and overarching objectives for the system. The Park District commits to these, as well as more specific Implementation Objectives in the areas of: Planning and Acquisition, Design and Development, and Operations and Maintenance.

In an open, community-based, comprehensive planning effort, the following questions were raised along with corresponding actions to update the community's PROS plan:

- What are the current needs and opportunities in the park, recreation, and open space system?
  - “Engage and Educate” among diverse and representative perspectives
- In what ways does the existing system serve the entire community?
  - Evaluate service levels in meaningful ways, across the system.
- How can the existing system best serve the Bainbridge Island community in the future?
  - En-“Vision”, with the community, the desired growth
  - Set accountable service level goals that instruct public resources across the system.
- What roles does the community play - particularly related mission-driven providers?
  - Strategize to achieve overarching objectives that give direction to community goal

## System Area Approach

This updated Comprehensive Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space on Bainbridge Island provides a framework to address these questions. It provides an updated system approach that strategizes around related system functions and public services. The plan identifies and provides focus for Island-wide System Areas that, together, comprise the unique, interdependent, park, recreation, and open space system on Bainbridge Island.

- Focus on functions/services for park and recreation services
- Evaluate public demand, needs, and opportunities
- Measure service-related functions in meaningful metrics that assess and set service levels
- Establish Community Goals and Overarching Objectives
- Commit the Park District to the Primary Objectives of each System Area

The 5 System Areas, defined and presented within the Goals and Objectives that follow are:

1. **Active Use Park Land with Facilities** (inclusive of all public access acreage for diverse park uses)
2. **Natural Areas** (inclusive of dedicated public and private open space land)
3. **Recreational Shoreline Areas** (inclusive of developed amenities and natural tidelands)
4. **Recreational Trails** (inclusive of multi-purpose trails in the City's transportation network)
5. **Recreation** (inclusive of local athletic teams, private providers, and non-profit programs)

The "inclusive" notations, above, highlight the system approach which takes into account related resources across the Island's system. No one service provider can address the diverse, always evolving, community interests. Likewise, no public agency can manage the functions of any one Section Area.

For example, the Natural Areas System Area is only effectively planned and advanced as whole, by the community. By its composition, this System Area functions as a result of actions across the Island, right down to the how individuals steward their own properties or manage household waste.

The services associated with the Park Lands around the Fort Ward area provide a good demonstration of the System Areas - how they function, relate to one another, and take definition and direction from System Area planning.

- The **Active Use Park Lands System Area** is best demonstrated in the open play fields of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds, recently improved with a playground with fundraising spearheaded by the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation. This Neighborhood Park provides recreation in walking-distance to homes and serves as a bus stop within a safe environment for the Bainbridge Island School District.
- **Natural System Areas** consist of the forested hillside acres above the shoreline which provide the community the benefits of nature. These areas are both accessed by the public and conserved by best practices, informed by the Strategic Conservation Plan of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust.

- There are **Shoreline Recreation Areas** along Rich Passage, publicly accessible by trails which have been, in the past planning cycle, pulled back from the shoreline edge to prevent erosion. Shoreline Recreation Areas, by both regulation (City of Bainbridge Island in compliance with State law), and by aspirations of the Bainbridge Island community, require specific attention due to the Island's unique system.
- The recreational trail network here - also identified as a high community interest - are addressed within the **Recreational Trail System Area**. Goals in this section speak to an interconnected recreational system across the south end of the Island, typically by way of easements negotiated and purchased through the efforts of the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.
- The nearby Community Hall (the historic "Fort Ward Bakery") - renovated and owned by the Park District since the last PROS plan update - falls within the **Facilities System Area (associated Active Use Park Lands)**. Like the community facilities encapsulated in this system area, it is a facility designed and maintained for a wide range of community functions.
- Finally, the programming of the Community Hall is evaluated and guided by the goals and objectives of the **Recreation System Area**, to include ensuring accessible public events and gathering spaces.

In summary, the planning framework recognizes existing public assets by their purpose and roles. From there, the Plan establishes strategic and impactful ways to advance system objectives such as providing play space for all ages and abilities. With system needs and priorities in mind, new recreation facilities or programs are responsibly related across the entire public system. Finally, implementation strategies and actions, such as determining long term maintenance costs, are an outgrowth of the systematic approach to community investments.

## PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Long-range community goals are presented for each System Area, along with overarching objectives to be coordinated by the Park District, among community members and organizations.

While there is community-wide dedication to advancing the system and the plan goals, public agencies are required to invest public assets and efforts with accountable service levels. Not duplicating resources or playing conflicting roles is one outgrowth of a mandate for concurrent and consistent planning.

The objectives identified in each System Area give direction to the Park District's implementation actions, provided in this plan and specified further in follow-up strategic and operational plans. Many of these objectives are the basis of partnerships between providers with varying roles per implementation actions, based on expertise, interest, and capacity.

Bainbridge Island's park, recreation, and open space system is the result of combined efforts of multiple organizations. While the Park District provides system leadership, implementation relies on collaboration through dynamic relationships and initiatives across agencies, nonprofits, and community groups.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

### PARTNERS IN THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PARK, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM:

1. Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (BIMPRD)
2. Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation (BIPTF)
3. Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT)
4. Bainbridge Island School District (BISD)
5. City of Bainbridge Island (COBI)

This identification of partner organizations and their contributions is neither comprehensive nor a measure of impact or of public expectation. It is also important to clarify that partner organizations define their own roles, primary objectives, and implementation actions. The effort at hand is to collectively account for, take ownership, and set strategies for the Island's park, recreation, and open space system.

Organizational roles are always evolving as evidenced by the many standing agreements between partners. Strategic partners of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, identified below, have committed to the overarching objectives of the plan.

#### System-Wide Principles for Collaboration

- **Shared Vision, Distinct Roles** – each partner maintains its mission while contributing toward community-wide goals.
- **Mutual Support** – plans, agreements, and investments are coordinated across partners.
- **Flexibility and Evolution** – roles adapt as needs, opportunities, and partnerships evolve.
- **Leverage and Efficiency** – joint projects maximize benefits, reduce costs, and build on partner strengths.



## Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation

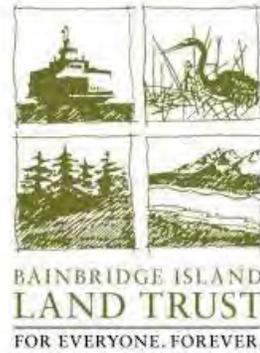
### **Mission:**

*“Building on community creativity and inspiration, we mobilize resources to improve parks and trails on Bainbridge Island.”*

### **Role Statement:**

The Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation (“The Foundation”) serves as the 501 (c)3 non-profit community facilitator for parks and trails across the Island. The organization brings together community members, public agencies, community groups, and private stakeholder groups to advance shared goals, leveraging its flexibility and community connections to support priority projects.

The Foundation’s work includes fundraising, grant acquisition, easement negotiation, public engagement, support for volunteer and community initiatives, and project development. By convening partners and mobilizing resources, the Foundation accelerates improvements that extend beyond the capacity of public tax funding alone.



## Bainbridge Island Land Trust

### **Mission:**

*The Bainbridge Island Land Trust’s mission is to conserve and steward the diverse natural environments of Bainbridge Island for the benefit of all.*

### **Role Statement:**

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust (“BILT,” or “the Land Trust”) is the Island’s leading conservation partner, dedicated to protecting and stewarding natural environments for long-term community benefit. Using science-based strategies and acknowledging work within the aboriginal territory of the Suquamish People, the Land Trust safeguards forests, shorelines, wetlands, streams, wildlife corridors, and other critical habitats.

Through acquisitions, conservation easements, habitat restoration, and ecological planning, the Land Trust maintains a resilient network of natural lands. It collaborates with public agencies, tribal representatives, landowners, and community organizations, and helps connect residents to nature through thoughtfully planned trails, public access partnerships, and conservation education.



## Bainbridge Island School District

### **Mission:**

*“As a community, we collectively commit to honoring and nurturing the unique skills, talents and passions of every student. We provide a welcoming and respectful environment where students flourish and forge a life-long love of learning through relevant, engaging learning experiences. We empower our students to find purpose and contribute to a more just and equitable world.”*

### **Role Statement:**

The Bainbridge Island School District (“BISD,” or “the School District”) supports community recreation through joint-use facilities and coordinated programming that benefit students and the broader public. The School District and the Park District collaborate on shared fields, gyms, and athletic spaces; maintain cooperative scheduling; and align long-range planning where goals overlap.

School District facility planning, including the Long-Range Facility Plan and the State-mandated Study and Survey, identify needs and ensuring that publicly supported assets serve both students and the community effectively.



## City of Bainbridge Island

### **Mission:**

*“To provide high quality services to the citizens of Bainbridge Island consistent with the vision for the future in the Comprehensive Plan.”*

### **Role Statement**

The City of Bainbridge Island (“COBI,” or “the City”) guides land use, environmental protection, and infrastructure development through its Comprehensive Plan, zoning regulations, and related functional plans. The City plays a critical role in shaping access to parks and trails, stewarding natural resources, and coordinating long-range planning under the Growth Management Act.

The City and the Park District work together through aligned planning, interlocal agreements, and joint initiatives related to mobility, climate resilience, shoreline management, and open space protection. The City’s ongoing consideration of a Park Zone reflects a shared commitment to improving development processes and maintaining high standards for parks and recreation.

## PRIMARY PARTNER CORE CONTRIBUTIONS:

### Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (BIMPRD)

#### **Mission:**

*“The mission of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District is to build a healthy community through effective, sustainable stewardship of the District’s parks and open space, and through the development and delivery of innovative cultural and recreation opportunities.”*

#### **Role**

Jurisdictional/Elected oversight of the metropolitan park district, per State Code  
• Lead public provider of parks, recreational trails, and recreation services • System Coordinator

#### **System Areas:**

Active Use Park Lands, Facilities, Natural areas, Shoreline Recreation, Recreational Trails, Recreation, including system-wide operations and maintenance

#### **Core Contributions:**

- Comprehensive planning, public engagement.
- Stewardship, maintenance, and re-investment into public assets.
- Recreational and community program delivery and equitable public access.
- Land and facility planning and development.

#### **Key Plans and Initiatives Related to this Plan:**

Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, Community Trail Vision Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Interlocal Agreements, Project Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding

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### Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation (BIPTF)

#### **System Areas:**

Active Use Park Lands, Facilities, Natural Areas, Shoreline Recreation, Recreational Trails, Recreation

#### **Core Contributions:**

- Bring community groups together to address issues and seize opportunities.
- Raise and manage private funds, often as a holding partner, for Island parks and trails.
- Secure grants and donations from organizations, often with BI Parks.
- Acquire easements for priority trail segments.
- Support community groups in project development.

#### **Key Plans and Initiatives Related to this Plan:**

BIPTF Strategic Plan; Public and Private Board level Resolutions; Master Agreements with BI Parks regarding: Community initiatives including special-use recreational facility development and programs such as Student Conservation Corps; Development Agreements for park and trail projects; Joint-board plans regarding community events and outreach.

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## Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT)

### *System Areas:*

Active Use Park Lands, Natural Areas, Shoreline Recreation, and Recreational Trails

### *Core Contributions:*

- Plan at the ecosystem and watershed scale.
- Acquire and protect natural lands and critical areas.
- Pursue, implement, and manage conservation easements.
- Restore habitat and salmon-bearing streams.
- Provide education as part of providing access and conservation functions.
- Coordinate with tribal partners and public agencies.

### *Key Plans and Initiatives Related to this Plan:*

BILT Strategic Plan; Conservation easements, and legal protection instruments, and in-direct management rights on public and private land; Public and Private Board level Resolutions; Master Agreements with BIMPRD regarding: Land conservation programs, Trail planning and management, Ecological monitoring; Accredited studies demonstrating best practices in areas such as natural habitat preservation.

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## Bainbridge Island School District (BISD)

### *System Area Concentrations:*

Active Use Park Lands, Facilities, Natural Areas, Recreational Trails, Recreation, including the School's District system-wide planning, operations, maintenance, and transportation services.

### *Core Contributions:*

- Ensure safety and well-being of the community, particularly school students, to include public transportation.
- Align long-range facility planning with partners per demographic projections.
- Support youth athletics and recreation programs, beyond school sites and hours.
- Provide gyms, athletic fields, open space, trails, and playgrounds for community recreation.
- Lease and co-manage school district sites such as the Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center, gym for recreational gymnastics, and Sands Ballfields.

### *Key Plans and Initiatives Related to this Plan:*

Long-Range Facility Plan (2024–2039); Study and Survey of needs (required by WAC, every 6 years); Interlocal Agreements: Memorandums of Understanding; Public Board level Ordinances and Resolutions; Property leases; Master Agreements with BIMPRD regarding: community outreach and programming; development, management, and use of facilities including priority and secondary use rights.

## City of Bainbridge Island (COBI)

### *System Area Concentrations:*

Active Use Park Lands, Facilities, Natural areas, Shoreline Recreation, Recreational Trails, Recreation, including Island-wide, systems-wide planning, operations, and maintenance involving jurisdiction power providing public safety and services, i.e., law enforcement, infrastructure, and Public Works investments.

### *Core Contributions:*

- Coordinate long-range public community planning under the State's Growth Management Act, adopting 20-year population projections and ensuring consistent, concurrent, and conforming long-range plans among local agencies and junior taxing authorities (BIMPRD, BISD, and the Bainbridge Island Fire Department).
- Provide for the public safety and law enforcement per municipal code including the Park Code Title enforced in COBI parks and applicable to BIMPRD public parks.
- Lead transportation planning, particularly for the public Right of Way, among agencies such as Kitsap Transit, which are critical components for the Community Trail Vision Plan.
- Manage land use planning, development regulations, and permitting, to include development of a Park Zone to align city code with Park and Recreation best practices.
- Regulate shorelines and critical areas, coordinating environmental regulations across the City.
- Implement mobility, accessibility, climate resilience, and water management initiatives.

### *Key Plans and Initiatives Related to this Plan:*

Comprehensive Plan with implementation measures, including: Zoning and development standards, Island-wide Capital Facility Improvement Program with a 20-year planning horizon, Transportation Element with Mobility Plan; Interlocal Agreements; Memorandums of Understanding; Public Ordinances and Resolutions; Property Leases; Master Agreements with BIMPRD regarding: Emergency management, Community programming, and Public property management including trail maintenance, and coordination of facilities such as the Senior Center.

## SYSTEM AREAS PLANNING FRAMEWORK

### *Description:*

Defines a component of Bainbridge Island's park, recreation, and open space system, treated as "System Areas" in this plan, based on shared functions and impacts on public service levels.

### *Goal:*

Names the long range, desired system outcome of community planning and collaboration

- The "What" is the desired system outcome of the Plan.
- Community-wide, beyond the reach of any one organization.
- Related to a 20-year planning horizon.

### *Overarching Community Objective:*

- The "How" and "Why" the plan addresses the Goal over the next 6 years.
- Coordinated across the Island by the Park District and partner organizations.

### *Primary Objective (Park District-level)*

- Reflects the Park District's-specific approach to the long-range Goal – usually already established as part of implementing Park District Mission.
- Often the basis for focused efforts and the setting of priorities for next 6 years.

### *Implementation Objectives*

- State Park District Guidelines for Plan Implementation over the 6-year planning horizon.
- Indicate Capital Facility needs related to long range plans, projected out 6 years, and evaluated in adopting the Park District annual budget.

### **And, From Here?**

*Implementation Strategies and Actions* are presented within the Implementation Section, related to assessing and targeting Levels of Service.

## ACTIVE USE PARK LANDS WITH FACILITIES

### *Description:*

Active Use Park Land Areas are lands in the system that address diverse developed park uses. Like other System Areas, Park Land areas represent acreage within properties, both in and out of the Island's public parks. They provide for park and recreation facilities, either existing or planned. They differ from Natural Areas and Recreational Shoreline Areas acreage in that they developed for diverse active park and recreational activities, typically to serve as Neighborhood, Community, and Regional parks.

There are sub-components presented below in order to bring attention to how specific types of facilities relate to the Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:

- A. Playgrounds & Play Spaces
- B. Outdoor Athletic & Recreational Facilities
- C. Indoor Athletic & Recreation Facilities
- D. Cultural Facilities
- E. Community Facilities

### *Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:*

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

### *Overarching Community Objective for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:*

Maintain and enhance Park Lands as community assets.

### *Primary Objective (Park District):*

Increase accessibility and useability of active use Park Lands and park facilities.

### *Implementation Objectives:*

[PA] Engage and work with the community to identify active use Park Lands where improvements or development projects best align with the needs expressed in public planning processes.

[PA] Establish plans for park properties, with the community, to address needs, embrace opportunities as they arise, and advance community goals.

[DD] Provide detailed site plans or park master plans with a level of detail that can set development standards or guidelines, particularly towards Park Zone implementation and streamlining the permitting process with other agencies.

[OM] Follow the guidelines and priorities set in the District's ADA Plan for improvements to parks and park facilities, while also aiming to remove all types of barriers for active use by the entire community.

### **A. Playgrounds & Play Spaces**

#### *Description:*

Playgrounds & Play Spaces provide venues for play, exercise, and socialization for all ages. They can be either outdoors or indoors, with traditional structures or with play elements

designed to adapt per interest and users, such as temporary or permanent elements for the Park District's parkour camp.

***Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:***

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

***Overarching Community Objective:***

Provide play opportunities for all ages distributed across the Island.

***Primary Objective (Park District):***

Work with community partners to provide a diversity of playgrounds, play spaces, and informal play opportunities that serve different ages and abilities.

***Implementation Objectives:***

[AP] Provide playgrounds across the Island, siting new playgrounds in places that lack facilities.

[DD] Provide a variety of structures that provide play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.

[OM] Maintain and go beyond the certification standards for safe playgrounds and play spaces.

## **B. Outdoor Athletic Fields & Courts**

***Description of components:***

- Competitive athletic fields provide space for committed athletes and may host regional tournaments.
- Recreational athletic fields may be used by beginner and casual sports leagues and organizations, as well as for open recreation.
- Hard-surfaced courts including basketball, tennis, pickleball, roller hockey, and others serve as venues for casual and competitive play.

***Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:***

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities

***Overarching Community Objective:***

Provide opportunities for youth and adult recreational and competitive sports through a variety of athletic fields, sport courts, and open lawns

***Primary Objective (Park District):***

Maintain and improve multi-purpose fields or courts for the broadest range of uses

***Implementation Objectives for Outdoor Athletic Fields & Courts:***

[PA] Coordinate with BIRD to avoid duplication of facilities.

[DD] Support community-driven athletic facilities when and where development does not reduce the Park District's focus on general recreation opportunities.

[DD] Consider specialized athletic facilities when organizations demonstrate need as well as funding for construction and long-term maintenance.

[OM] Maintain sport courts and fields for safe use.

## C. Indoor Athletic & Recreation Facilities

Description: Indoor athletic and recreation venues include dedicated facilities such as basketball courts, tennis courts, and pools as well as multi-use flexible spaces that support group or individual exercise.

### ***Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:***

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

### ***Overarching Community Objective:***

Provide facilities for a wide range of year-round recreation and exercise.

### ***Primary Objective (Park District):***

Maintain and improve indoor athletic facilities such as sport courts, gyms, and pools, to offer benefits to a broad range of users;

Look for opportunities to provide new indoor or covered athletic facilities with user groups and community organizations.

### ***Implementation Objectives:***

[PA] Where appropriate, work with BISD and relevant user groups to plan specialized indoor athletic facilities that share costs, ensure operational needs, and are scaled to the Island community.

[DD] Develop Schematic Plan and cost estimates for capital, maintenance, operational reserves as part of project evaluation.

[OM] Maintain Bainbridge Island Recreation Center and its programming spaces to maximize exercise, instructional, recreational, and complimentary competitive opportunities.

[OM] Maintain aquatic facilities and its programming spaces to maximize exercise, instructional, recreational, and complimentary competitive opportunities.

## D. Cultural Facilities

### ***Description:***

Cultural facilities and installations provide for public art, cultural heritage, and local history. Public art can take the form of sculptures, paintings, colorful pavement, monuments and memorials, as well as public performance, ranging from temporary exhibits to permanent installations. Cultural facilities typically offer culture experiences such as educational opportunities and can include a site, such as an outdoor stage or indoor exhibition space. Historic and heritage features are often aspects of these facilities and include artifacts, buildings, landscapes, and interpretive materials.

### ***Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:***

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

### ***Overarching Community Objective of Cultural Facilities:***

Provide opportunities for cultural enrichment and preservation through the addition of art and interpretive elements to parks and indoor facilities, and by providing access to historic features within parks.

**Primary Objective (Park District):**

Collaborate with community organizations representing a diversity of local voices to host public artwork and to facilitate educational opportunities that illuminate local histories and culture.

**Implementation Objectives:**

[PA] Support cultural preservation by considering acquisitions of historic or cultural sites.

[DD] Where possible, incorporate artwork into indoor and outdoor facilities to provide enrichment and opportunities for local artists.

[DD] Provide education about historic sites, and events within parks as well as the history of the parks themselves.

[OM] Maintain public performance spaces to host public arts, culture, and education events.

**E. Community Facilities**

**Description:**

Community facilities serve the community in specific ways, beyond athletic, recreational and cultural venues. They provide for diverse community uses and include venues for gathering and general park amenities open to all. They also support a wide range of community activities, particularly in the areas of gathering spaces, specialized use, and support facilities and utilities.

**Subcomponents of Community Facilities include:**

- E.1. Event, Meeting, & Gathering Spaces
- E.2. Specialized Recreational Use Facilities
- E.3. Park District Support Facilities

Each subcomponent is presented below with its related Community Overarching Objective and Primary Objective for the Park District.

The Implementation Objectives for Community Facilities follow the subcomponent's focus.

**Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:**

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

**Overarching Community Objective:**

Provide spaces and amenities for a diversity of community events, gathering, and specialized recreational opportunities .

**Primary Objective of Community Facilities (Park District):**

Ensure affordable, open, and accessible community facilities that serve a general audience rather than specialized facilities better served by private and nonprofit entities.

**E.1. Event, Meeting, and Gathering Spaces**

**Description:**

Event, meeting, and gathering space includes indoor and outdoor spaces for community use. They include spaces made available for rent or by reservation for events, meetings, and private gatherings.

***Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:***

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

***Overarching Community Objective:***

Ensure Bainbridge Island community members have a wide variety of indoor meeting spaces for community and private events, recreational programming and meetings that support community cohesiveness, wellness, and vibrancy.

***Primary Objective (Park District):***

Provide the public with affordable event, meeting, and gathering spaces in unique, distinctive, and historic properties and premises across the Island.

**E.2. Special-Use Recreational Facilities**

***Description:***

Special-Use Recreation Facilities provide unique recreational opportunities, often through private providers or by way of user groups. Special use facilities offered by the Park District currently include the mountain bike park, skate park, sail float, pump track, and roller hockey rink, among others.

***Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:***

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

***Overarching Community Objective:***

Provide special use recreation opportunities, such as non-conventional exercise programs, for Island community members to suit a wide range of interests, ages, and abilities.

***Primary Objective (Park District):***

Work with community organizations to build or acquire additional specialized facilities where there is demonstrated community demand, and where partnerships commit to capital improvements and future maintenance costs.

**E.3. Support Facilities**

***Description:***

Support facilities are required to ensure effective oversight of the park and recreation system and responsive stewardship of public interest and investments.

The Park District employs a workforce that plans, manages, and maintains facilities for optimal implementation of its mission. Park District support facilities are particularly critical for the workforce to perform overall maintenance, plan and manage parks and park facilities, program recreation, conduct community outreach, steward natural resources and manage volunteers, and provide for leadership, administrative, and finance functions. community outreach, and administrative and finance functions.

***Community Goal for Active Use Park Lands, with Facilities:***

Meet the needs of daily recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

### ***Overarching Community Objective***

Collaborate with partner organizations towards effective utilization of the community inventory of assets, particularly where there are opportunities for joint management, community stewardship, and shared efficiencies that avoid duplication and redundant overhead requirements.

#### ***Primary Objective:***

Ensure that facilities used for District operations contribute to the efficient and effective implementation of the Park District Mission and prioritize customer service and the health and safety of District employees.

#### ***Implementation Objectives for Community Facilities:***

[PA] Consider novel acquisitions and funding models to fill facilities gaps where there is demonstrated public interest.

[PA] Evaluate financial impacts and cost recovery principles in facility development, particularly in cases where other community providers plan or offer private and public park and recreation opportunities.

[DD] Replace and renovate administration and maintenance facilities when they reach the end of their useful lives and/or become unsafe or uneconomical to operate.

[DD] When renovating, or building new facilities, prioritize the use of high-quality materials, construction techniques, and design to increase operational resource efficiency, reduce maintenance costs, extend the life of assets, and reduce the environmental footprint of Park District facilities.

[OM] Monitor the capacity of community spaces to ensure that there is adequate affordable and accessible space for indoor and outdoor gatherings throughout the year.

[OM] When purchasing new maintenance equipment, appliances, and fleet vehicles, prioritize the procurement of high-quality and energy-efficient equipment.

[OM] Ensure regular maintenance and facility improvements that extend the life of assets, increase operational efficiency and efficacy, and reduce the environmental footprint of District operations.

# NATURAL AREA PARK LAND

## *Description:*

Natural areas are largely undeveloped open spaces that offer environmental benefits to the Island. Natural Areas System Area include acres that are dedicated acres for ecosystem and habitat protection as well as acres with public access, managed for passive recreation opportunities in nature, such as hiking or environmental education. Some natural areas have conservation easements attached to them to protect ecological values held by both public, non-profit, and private parties.

## *Community Goal for Natural Areas:*

Conserve and manage the community's natural resources by varied efforts to:

- Increase access to nature where planned.
- Conserve ecosystems of high ecological value such as streams, wetlands, and salt marshes for the benefit of local flora and fauna.
- Pursue climate resilience and the mitigation of environmental impacts.

## *Overarching Natural Area Objective:*

Expand and enhance the existing network of protected open spaces and accessible Park Land natural areas.

## *Primary objective (Park District)*

Encourage access to and experience in natural Park Land areas by way of trails and supportive amenities that allow people to access nature, while using best practices to reduce ecological impacts.

## *Implementation Objectives:*

[PA] Coordinate with the City of Bainbridge Island to ensure that planning and policy updates, including the implementation measures related to climate resilience and land use, reflect the role of parks and the public mission, objectives and expertise of the Park District, particularly in environmental stewardship, forest health, and fire mitigation.

[PA] Acknowledge expertise and facilitation roles of jurisdictions such as the Suquamish Tribe and of community organizations like the Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT) to facilitate the study, planning, acquisition, and monitoring of open space and conservation programs, particularly wildlife habitat.

[DD] Use strategic site design and approved development guidelines based on regulatory guidance and best practices that enable public access to natural area Park Lands.

[OM] Collaborate with community organizations and public agencies to ensure that the management of Park Land natural areas supports Island-wide ecosystem health, watershed management, and water resource objectives.

[OM] Continue to engage the community and individuals in the stewardship of natural areas and resources through public education and guidance that support established Park District trail standards, land management practices, and Natural Resource strategies.

[OM] Continue prioritizing invasive species removal, native species revegetation, and fire mitigation while improving ecological function of natural area Park Lands.

## RECREATIONAL SHORELINE

### *Description:*

Recreational shoreline and tidelands offer the Bainbridge Island community compelling opportunities to enjoy water-dependent recreation, tidal exploration, and water views in the center of Puget Sound. Publicly owned Park Lands and road ends offer limited public access to the shoreline and tidelands that surround the Island.

### *Community Goals for Recreational Shoreline Areas:*

- Enhance safety and appropriate public access along the shorelines of Bainbridge Island.
- Preserve and enhance opportunities for shoreline access and protection.
- Expand water dependent recreation activities within designated recreational shoreline areas.

### *Overarching Recreational Shoreline Areas Objective:*

Enhance shoreline recreation opportunities around the Island while using best practices to reduce ecological harm. Work with community on initiatives that are consistent with the City's Shoreline Master Program which specifically supports public access, water-dependent activities, and environmentally approved amenities.

### *Primary Objective (Park District):*

Coordinate safe and accessible recreational opportunities on the Island's shorelines and tidelands with supportive amenities that increase access and use.

### *Implementation Objectives:*

[PA] Prioritize acquisition of shoreline land for public benefit when feasible and available.

[PA] Designate recreational shoreline areas for improvement within Island-wide Park Lands.

[DD] Ensure that development of shoreline properties does not conflict with Island-wide planning objectives including shoreline management, climate resilience, and emergency management.

[DD] Provide shoreline access through amenities such as accessible view platforms and boardwalks, trails, bicycle facilities, and environmentally sensitive drop-off and parking areas.

[DD] Support shoreline recreation activities through amenities such as docks, boat launches, shelters, and restrooms.

[OM] Inform the community about recreational shoreline opportunities, both programmed such as sailing classes and unprogrammed like sites along Kitsap County's water trail system.

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS

### *Description:*

Recreational trails provide opportunities to exercise and enjoy nature. At times, they provide connections to other destinations. They may be paved or soft surface and typically are within parks and natural areas.

### *Community Goal for Recreational Trails:*

Increase connectivity of the community's trail network, expanding the access and useability of recreational trails.

### *Overarching Recreational Trail System Area Objective:*

Strategically expand the Island's Recreational Trail system to increase safe access to Park Lands, community facilities, and recreation opportunities.

### *Primary Objective (Park District):*

Maintain recreational trail network as safe, well-maintained, and sustainably built.

### *Implementation Objectives:*

[PA] Guide Island-wide planning efforts around trail development in partnership with City of Bainbridge Island, including its Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Element and multi-modal levels of service.

[PA] With all partners, regularly update the Island's Trail Vision map.

[PA] Prioritize connections to existing trails that connect neighborhoods to local parks and other park lands while expanding trail routes.

[DD] Develop trails using best practices to reduce ecological harm.

[DD] Provide trail amenities that allow for safe and comfortable use of trails.

[DD] Utilize existing partnerships to develop trailside art and educational information to create engaging experiences.

[OM] Support maintenance efforts on select transportation trails.

[OM] Improve access to information about trail routes to help residents and visitors of all abilities to plan their trail usage.

## RECREATION

### *Description:*

Recreation includes organizing and facilitating a wide variety of activities, events, classes, camps, and leagues that provide opportunities for exercise, competition, education, skill building, artistic expression, community building, and other forms of enrichment.

### *Community Goal for Recreation:*

Provide opportunities for exercise, socializing, learning, and celebration, through classes, events, performances, and other recreational activities.

### *Overarching Objective for Recreation:*

Maximize reach of community resources in order to provide recreational opportunities as widely as possible.

### *Primary Objective (Park District):*

Provide a wide range of classes, camps, and events for exercise, education and socializing, to foster community and personal enrichment.

### *Implementation Objectives:*

[PA] Provide a variety of programming options and ensure that it continues to be relevant by periodically evaluating program attendance and audiences served.

[PA] Periodically evaluate cost-recovery guidelines for recreation programs, services and events in order to account for program costs and to reduce barriers to access.

[DD] Consider additional recreation opportunities at park properties outside what is normally offered by the Park District.

[OM] Provide recreation programming for people of all ages and abilities, as well as people with limited access to market-based recreation options.

[OM] Provide low barrier access to recreation through affordable programs and partnerships with local recreation providers.

[OM] Increase community awareness and education on current and upcoming opportunities.

[OM] Where appropriate, work with community partners to support a "share economy" by providing equipment and storage space for recreation related supplies to be made available to park users at affordable rates.

# STICKING THE LANDING:

## IMPLEMENTATION

The updated Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan will be implemented across the community by service providers through related strategic and operational plans, and most directly, by way of their own implementation initiatives. In the process, park, recreation, and open space service levels will be tracked by the Park District and used to reflect upon the implementation of community values.

Outlined below, a decision-making framework for plan implementation translates topline values from the community goals and objectives, into criteria questions that can be used to evaluate related initiatives. Community members can expect the Park District to use this framework when assessing a new initiative. Of course, the public decision making process will also be enriched by other evaluation frameworks as community members and organizations propose initiatives based on their own considerations, ideas, plans, and objectives related to community goals and values.

This framework is specifically to address the question:

*How does the Park District make decisions that positively impact the community in alignment with this plan?*

The guidance below does not prescribe or obligate the Park District to take specific actions. Ultimately, Park District projects and initiatives are reviewed on a case-by-case basis acknowledging specific, contextual factors which include current practices, operational needs, financial responsibilities, and partnership agreements. Additionally, long-range system planning must be balanced against immediate operational needs and the Park District priorities, represented in the policies, decisions, and directives of the Park District Board of Commissioners.

The proposed implementation framework is specifically intended to support the Park District:

- Proactively pursue programs, capital projects, acquisitions, and strategic partnerships that align with the goals and objectives for each system area.
- Provide criteria to assess whether an outside proposal should be pursued, altered, or rejected based on its alignment to the goals and objectives, and its cost to the District.

The implementation framework provides 7 steps related to alignment with the Comprehensive Plan which can augment the decision-making policy and procedures already in place at the Park District.

Following acknowledgement of existing processes in place, the next section outlines the considerations and questions involved in each step.

**Step 1:** *Ongoing Assessment of Levels of Service (LOS)*

**Step 2:** *Review of Key values*

- Safety
- Access
- Experience
- Ecological Stewardship

**Step 3:** *Assigning impact*

**Step 4:** *Determining Project Costs*

**Step 5:** *Balancing Impact and Costs*

**Step 6:** *Board Discernment*

**Step 7:** *Project and Budget Authorization*

### **Step 1: Ongoing Assessment of Levels of Service (LOS)**

The evaluation process begins by acknowledging the current state of the system, on an on-going basis, in three Levels of Service Areas.

As described and assessed in the “What We Need” Chapter:

- **Quantity:** The amount of inventory in assets and services
- **Quality:** The condition and appeal of assets and services
- **Distribution:** Geographic reach and demographic accessibility

**Table: Average Level of Service Scores (on a scale of 1-5)**

	Quantity	Quality	Distribution
Average Score	5	2.82	4.6

This plan recognizes the area most in need of focus to be around “Quality” and prioritizes the improvement and enhanced maintenance of existing resources. The “Distribution” LOS, relates

to geographic distribution and is most relevant when considering the siting of future assets and facilities in consideration of their intended services, such as walkable recreation opportunities to neighborhoods. Quantity considerations are asserted when existing parks and facilities do not meet needs and there is a unique opportunity presented by community interests.

As these metrics are oriented towards the long-term and typically not impacted in significant ways by singular projects, this first step is about systematic awareness and introduces the process of identifying applicable values and decision-making criteria presented below.

## **Step 2: Review of Key values**

Key Values below stem from the Goals and Objectives and are measured by the LOS metrics of the Comprehensive Plan.

At their core, these priorities relate to four key values for parks, trails, and recreation are to be considered when looking at impacts, to include the impact of one choice or commitment that may preclude others:

1. Safety
2. Access
3. Experience
4. Ecological Stewardship

The values above should be considered in the order written. Safety is fundamental and always prioritized. Public accessibility is also crucial to the Park District. Investments should be viewed favorably when they address these values.

Access, Experience, and Stewardship, however, are core to ensuring that the park, recreation, and open space system meets the needs and opportunities of community. They reflect the priorities expressed during the public engagement process.

The goal of this step is to translate the values into decision-making measures and criteria for strategic implementation and alignment with the plan Goals, Roles, and Objectives.

**Table: Measures of Safety**

Measure	Evaluation Questions	LOS Measure Impacted
Safety	Would investment in this asset or project improve safety for many users?	Quality
Wildfire Mitigation	Does the project manage fire risk, especially at the wildland-urban interface?	Quality

**Table: Measures of access**

Measure	Evaluation Questions	LOS Measure Impacted
Spatial Distribution	How quickly/easily can a user reach this type of asset across the island (on foot, bike, transit)?	Distribution
Network building	Would this asset help many users travel further continuously and safely, and does it help them reach community hubs like Downtown Winslow or Battle Point Park, or does it create a new hub on the existing network?	Distribution, quantity (rec trails, new park assets)
Wayfinding	How easy is it to find and understand the park asset both on the ground and online?	Quality
Utilization	Does the asset, improvement or interlocal agreement “unlock” an underutilized asset? For example, building a staircase to a shoreline gives park users access to a key environmental feature, and an inter-local agreement can provide new users access to an existing community asset.	Quality, Quantity (rec trails)
Affordability of service	Can users participate without significant burden? Is there tiered or subsidized pricing for those who can't afford to participate at cost?	Quality
ADA and Universal design	Does the asset/ improvement make the property more accessible and comfortable for all abilities/mobilities?	Quality
Program distribution	Does it provide new opportunities to a population that was previously underserved by existing programming? Does it serve a population that cannot access the program on the private market?	Quality

Proximity/adjacency	Does the asset/improvement build help to build a "one stop shop" where users can avail themselves of multiple opportunities? Is the park close to other community assets?	Distribution, Quality
Oversubscription	Is the asset over X% capacity during X% of operating hours? Is the waitlist for a program over X% of the spots available?	Quality

**Table: Measures of park and recreation experience**

Measure	Evaluation Questions	LOS Measure Impacted
Useability	Does it allow users to take advantage of the best qualities/the intended use of the site? For instance, access to a shoreline, adding or upgrading a playground in a neighborhood park, etc.	Quality
Comfort	Does the asset or improvement provide amenities like benches, bathrooms, lighting, and/or shelter that take care of the "whole human"?	Quality
Placemaking	Does the improvement/programming foster a connection to place - whether historical, ecological or cultural?	Quality
Uniqueness	Does the asset provide something that users cannot experience anywhere else in the system? Does the system at large include many different types of facilities or conditions?	Quality
Community building	Are there opportunities for co-production, enhancement of space including volunteer opportunities? Does the facility support the community coming together?	Quality
Culture and identity	Is it unique to Bainbridge Island? Would it instill community pride?	Quality

**Table: Measures of Ecological Stewardship**

Measure	Evaluation Questions	LOS Measure Impacted
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Contiguity of Open Space, Critical areas, Trails	Does the asset or project increase habitat contiguity especially for key populations like anadromous fish species?	Quality, Quantity
Diversity of ecosystems	Does the asset or project conserve high quality habitat, supportive of a diverse ecosystem? Does it protect under-conserved habitats, underrepresented in the rest of the system?	Quality, Quantity
Climate Resilience	Does the asset or project support aquifer recharge and other water resources?	Quantity, Quality

### **Step 3: Assigning impact:**

Determining impact helps us understand the degree to which a project will increase safety, access, experience, and/or stewardship. It provides clarity

When evaluating projects for impact, the board should consider:

1. Which of the aspects listed above are already system strengths, weaknesses? For instance, spatial distribution is a strength across all system areas (see "Distribution" LOS scoring).
2. How many estimated users will benefit from the project? At what level of benefit in terms of quantity and quality of participation?
3. Which of the aspects above does the project support/strengthen?
4. Does the project help alleviate one or more system weaknesses?
5. Are there negative effects that can lessen the positive impact? An example may be the lost opportunity to co-develop a broader facility with user groups.
6. Does this address the Park District Mission and/or the desired qualities of this unique system, such as accessible recreational shoreline areas?

### **Step 4: Determining Project Costs:**

Costs include not only upfront capital costs, but long-term asset management, maintenance, staff time, partner time, and often volunteer time.

- A. What is the up-front cost for the project?
- B. What is the ongoing maintenance cost for the facility, and what is its anticipated life span?
- C. What anticipated staff time, partner time, and volunteer time will the project entail?

### ***Potential Revenue/ Savings/ Offset***

- D. Is there a feasibility study that takes into account market demand and user base that demonstrates the potential for cost recover?
- E. Is the project a good candidate for private fundraising, grant funds, or interest by foundations or endowments, or is there a specific user group that would be willing to contribute?
- F. Is there a business plan that demonstrates program revenue or funding streams to cover long-term operations and maintenance?
- G. Does investment in this improvement increase operational efficiency leading to long term savings (ROI)?

## Step 5: Balancing Impact and Cost:

### *Rules of thumb:*

- Actions that have a high impact, but low cost should generally be most highly considered.
- Strategic improvements or agreements that “unlock” assets often have lower costs and higher rewards. Unlocking assets can include improvements that make a site or asset useable at all times of year, to a new population of users (wheelchair users for example), or that facilitate access to important site features (like the Gazzam lake glacial erratic), or that allow new users access to community assets outside of the Parks District.
- For several system areas, further study is needed to evaluate opportunities - for instance an Updated and Regularly Condition Assessment Study of all Facilities, taking into recommended reserve funding.

### *Project Impact Scale:*

#### **Low Impact**

Does not address priority safety or regulatory concerns and results in minimal improvement to park or facility levels of service (LOS).

#### **Medium Impact**

Addresses documented needs within the parks or facilities system and supports a broader capital or maintenance strategy to maintain or improve LOS.

#### **High Impact**

Directly addresses priority safety, regulatory, or risk concerns and presents a strong opportunity to improve park or facility LOS, access, or asset condition.

### *Project Cost Scale:*

#### **Low Impact**

Initiative estimated to cost Up to \$50,000 or alternative revenue such as grants and donations

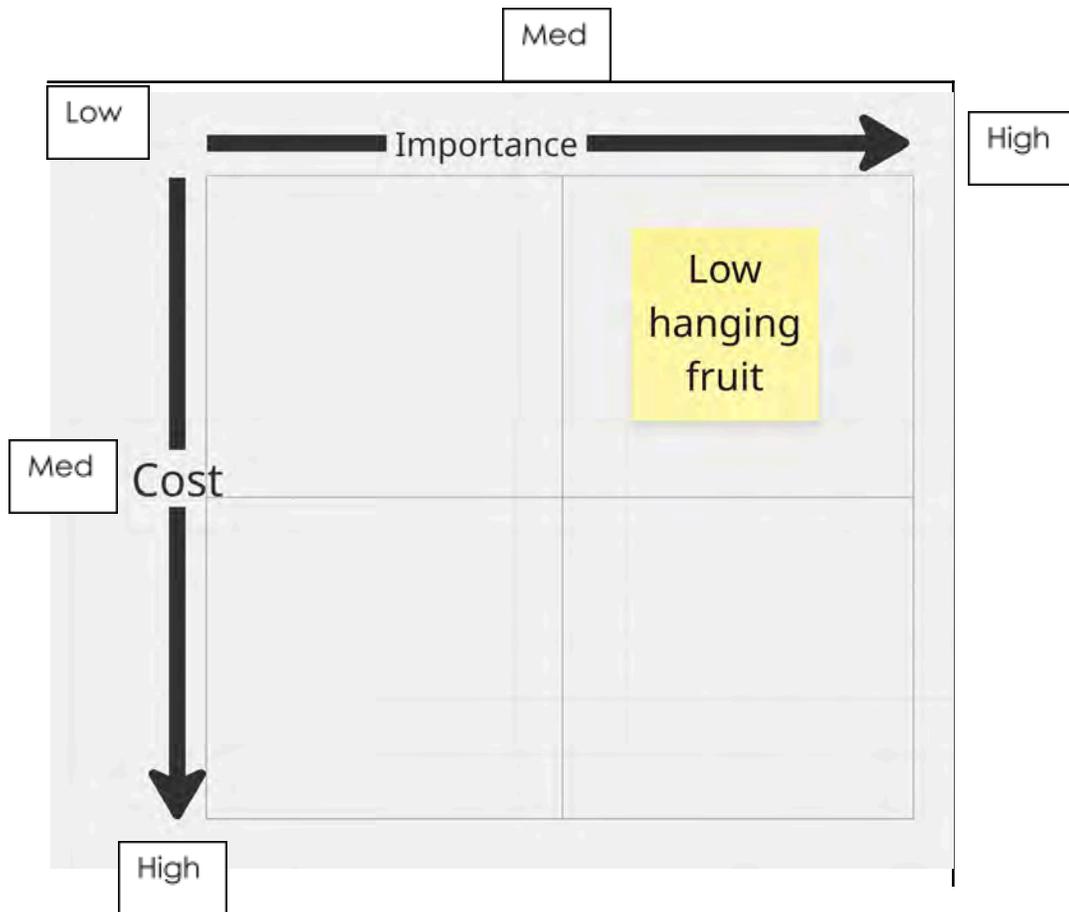
#### **Medium Impact:**

Estimated to cost between \$50K - \$250K, with consideration of leveraging of outside funds that contribute to Impact evaluation

#### **High Impact:**

Estimated to cost the Park District over \$250K – policy limits regarding reserves

**Graphic: Balancing of Costs and Importance/Impacts**



- Cost and Impact “scores” for potential projects can be evaluated in a metric form, as in the simple graphic above.
- Initiatives that score in the more favorable quadrant can be considered “low hanging fruit”, based on high importance/impact provided at a low cost.
- Initiatives should be considered for further scoping and cost estimates when they are in more favorable positions as potential implementation projects .
- In the process, “Implementation Initiatives” may be proposed as projects for community input, staff evaluation, and board decision-making, utilizing Steps 1-7 of the framework.
- This process will be used by the Park District on an annual basis, particularly in the setting of the 6-year Capital Facility Plan.

## **Step 6: Board Discernment**

The final evaluation regarding a Park District project or commitment is presented to the Board of Commissioners. The Board balances the evaluation with a number of wider-consideration such as:

1. Park District Mission (The Ultimate Test): Does the idea align with the Mission and the purpose of the Metropolitan Park District?
2. Policy Compliance: Does it adhere to all current District and legal policies?
3. Community Interest & Commitment: Is there a demonstrated, sustained demand?
4. Partnership & Grant Opportunity: Does it leverage unique external resources or collaborative roles?
5. Asset Protection: Does it ensure protection of public assets and investments, particularly efficient and effective stewardship of public funds?
6. Financial Health: Is this a responsible use of long-term funding

## **Step 7: Project and Budget Authorization**

The Board's discernment over direction-setting considerations, including factors above, ultimately resolve priorities for the Park District. Those priorities are then translated and to be demonstrated in the day-to-day operations and financial responsibilities of the Park District. Priorities are exercised through various implementation plans, such as Recreation Program Business Plans and Financial Management Plans. Needs and opportunities are further realized in constantly evaluated services within the District, such as Event Management and Trail Planning.

For example, the plan priorities accessibility and commits to "Adopting an American with Disabilities Accessibility (ADA) Transition Plan" as an Implementation Focus item for the next 6-years. Possible initiatives will be proposed from this process. They may take the form of physical improvements such as wider pathways or the form of improved services such as working with community transportation services. With scoping and cost estimates, these initiatives can become a listed project, or, get incorporated in a programmatic approach, as demonstrated in the first Program listed in the plan, "AUP-1: Set-aside capital funds annually for ADA improvements", tied to improving Quality and to addressing Accessibility.

The most specific tie to the Comprehensive Plan is the 6-year capital facility plan, adopted by the Board with each budget cycle. Initiatives that are listed for the long-range planning horizon, that round out this Chapter on Plan Implementation, are to be considered each year for updating into the 6-year CIP, particularly when funding is identified.

The CIP is presented below. It is followed by the Implementation Focus areas for each System Area for the upcoming 6-year plan cycle. Finally, unscheduled implementation initiatives are listed for long-range planning horizon. These lists will continue to evolve each year but, importantly, they demonstrate the direction-setting provided by the plan and the decision-making framework now established.

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## 6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) 2025–2030

Adopted as part of the annual budget, the CIP reflects District capital project planning for a 6-year time frame. It reflects the on-going priority-setting that result from staff and board assessments, in on-going public processes, and, ultimately the Park District Board's budget authorization.

The table below represents the CIP projects as adopted in the 2026 budget, including project listing that get reviewed and amended with each budget cycle. While the listed projects conform to the Comprehensive Plan, they also take into account community plans, policies, and asset management.

The table is organized into two sections:

- The first section, made up of lines 1- 61, identifies projects which are planned to be allocated funding from the Park District General Fund or from Park Levy Lifts.
- The second section, beginning on line 62, identifies projects that are projected to receive other funding, such as dedicated grant funding or potential endowment funding.
- Some projects are listed in both sections of the table, indicating that their total project cost comes from a combination of funding sources.

Projects	FY25A	FY26	FY27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30
1 AQ Nakata Boiler	\$54,261			\$150,000		
2 AQ Door Replace						
3 ADA Improvements		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
4 AQ Nakata Pool Liner	\$16,396					
5 Aquatic Ray Renovation	\$2,349,633	\$3,000,000	\$400,000			
6 Aquatic Slide interior recoating	\$170,000					
7 Aquatic Ray Loan payment						
8 AQ restroom and locker updates						
9 AQ Nakata Lighting			\$80,000			
10 AQ Nakata Solar panels						
11 AQ Ray Pool Solar (water)				\$60,000		
12 Aquatic staircase	\$146,872					

Projects	FY25A	FY26	FY27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30
13 Aquatic Ray Planning	\$280,956					
14 Asphalt Improvements				\$100,000		
15 Aquatic Nakata steel truss re-coating				\$200,000		
16 Battle Point picnic shelter renovation						
17 Battle Point Turf Field		\$1,200,000				
18 Battle Point Turf Field (TRFR)		\$130,000				
19 Ballfield Improvements	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
20 Maintenance Area Plan					\$500,000	
21 Battle Point Bathrooms Building and Septic	\$165,000	\$100,000				
22 Battle Point Transmitter roof				\$50,000		
23 Camp Yeomalt Improvements						\$250,000
24 Cave Property Improvements			\$100,000			
25 Demolition - Ft Ward/SHO						
26 Dog Park Expansion						
27 Eagledale Roof-Pottery Studio		\$75,000				
28 Eagledale Pottery Studio Reno				\$150,000		
29 Eagledale Shelter Roof	\$8,052					
30 Eagle Harbor Sail Float		\$230,000	\$670,000			
31 Fay Bathroom/shower (building and Septic)					\$350,000	
32 Ft Ward Shelter						\$120,000
33 Grand Forest East Parking Expansion			\$50,000			
34 Hidden Cove Shelter						\$50,000
35 Island Center Hall Heat				\$30,000		
36 Island Center Hall Septic					\$50,000	

Projects	FY25A	FY26	FY27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30
37 Meigs trails corridor trail construction				\$150,000		
38 New Admin Building						
39 Gideon Playground Improvements						
40 Playground Improvements					\$50,000	
41 Pt White Pier						
42 Pritchard Park improvements						
43 Pru's/Hilltop septic						
44 Rotary Improvements				\$10,000		
45 Sakai Improvements			\$50,000	\$50,000		
46 Sakai Road Approach						
47 Seabold Playground						\$100,000
48 Seabold Roof Replacement				\$40,000		
49 Seabold Foundation				\$50,000		
50 Solar Projects			\$100,000			
51 Strawberry Hill Batting Cage						
52 Strawberry Hill Mountain Bike Park	\$37,476					
53 Strawberry Hill Ballfield Bathroom						\$75,000
54 Strawberry Hill Skate Park Improvements						
55 Strawberry Hill Center Heat Pump		\$30,000				-
56 Strawberry Hill Recreation Office				\$50,000		\$675,000
57 Strawberry Hill Tennis Court						
58 Strawberry Hill Skate Bowl Painting	\$32,641					\$35,000
59 Strawberry Hill Snack Shack roof			\$25,000			

Projects	FY25A	FY26	FY27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30
60 Court Resurfacing (program)	\$60,400	\$75,000				\$75,000
61 Waste Disposal Sybertech				\$75,000		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL AND LID LIFT FUNDING</b>	<b>\$3,371,688</b>	<b>\$4,940,000</b>	<b>\$1,575,000</b>	<b>\$1,190,000</b>	<b>\$1,050,000</b>	<b>\$1,480,000</b>
62 Aquatic - Nakata Liner						
63 Aquatic/BIRC Solar						
64 Aquatic - Ray Pool						
65 Battle Point Turf Field		\$170,000				
66 Battle Point Picnic Shelter (Kids Up)			\$200,000			
67 BP Tennis/Pickleball improvements	\$137,916					
68 BIJAEMA Visitor Center		\$620,000				
69 Controlled Burn						
70 Eagle Harbor Sail Float		\$500,000				
71 Eagle Harbor Sail Float		\$500,000				
72 EV Stations		\$75,000				
73 Meigs Trail Improvements (Boardwalks)			\$100,000			
74 Moritani Habitat						
75 Point White Pier			\$750,000			
76 Eagle Harbor Sail Float						
77 Strawberry Hill Bike Park	\$433,748					
78 Strawberry Hill Snack Shack				\$50,000		
79 Strawberry Hill Skate Park Improvements			\$1,150,000			
80 Strawberry Hill Batting Cage						

<b>Projects</b>	<b>FY25A</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY 28</b>	<b>FY 29</b>	<b>FY 30</b>
81 Tennis courts	\$70,000					
82 Williams Olson Improvements	\$10,000					
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDING</b>	<b>\$651,664</b>	<b>\$1,865,00</b>	<b>\$2,200,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
		<b>0</b>				
TOTAL GENERAL AND LID LIFT FUNDING	\$3,371,688	\$4,940,000	\$1,575,000	\$1,190,000	\$1,050,000	\$1,480,000
<b>TOTAL ALL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$4,023,353</b>	<b>\$6,805,00</b>	<b>\$3,775,000</b>	<b>\$1,240,000</b>	<b>\$1,050,000</b>	<b>\$1,480,000</b>
		<b>0</b>				

## Implementation Focus Initiatives

The following initiatives are aimed at addressing the highest needs for each system area. They build on current Park District work plans and already prioritized projects with a favorable balance between cost and impact. Most actions address Quality, the lowest scoring indicator from the LOS matrix. These Focus initiatives represent the decision-making framework that results from the Plan Update per System Area.

**Table: Implementation Focus Initiatives of the Plan for 2026-2032**

<b>System Area</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>LOS Area impacted</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<b>Natural Areas</b>	Implement active management of natural resources, including restoration forest thinning for fire mitigation and safety in and around parks	Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Stewardship</li> <li>• Maximization of assets</li> <li>• Maintenance</li> <li>• Addresses need</li> </ul>	Med	High
<b>Recreational Shoreline</b>	Study existing public shorelines and implement access improvements	Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Maximizing assets</li> <li>• Addresses need</li> </ul>	Low	Med
<b>Active Use Park Lands</b>	Adopt ADA Transition Plan and pursue accessibility priorities	Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Experience</li> <li>• Comfort</li> <li>• Broad use</li> <li>• Maximizing assets</li> </ul>	Low-Med	High
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	Update Condition Assessment for facilities; Implement safety measures	Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Experience</li> <li>• Maximizing assets</li> <li>• Maintenance</li> <li>• Asset protection</li> </ul>	Low-Med	High
<b>Recreational Trails</b>	Pursue connective, off-road routes to, and between, parks, working with COBI plans and management agreements	Quantity, Quality, Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience</li> <li>• Maximizing assets</li> <li>• Address need</li> <li>• Efficiencies</li> </ul>	High	Med
<b>Recreation</b>	Grow marketing efforts ensuring opportunities for all ages and abilities	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience</li> <li>• Maximizing assets</li> <li>• Depth</li> </ul>	Low	Med

## Implementation Initiatives from the Plan Update, for 2030-2046

Beyond the immediate list of scheduled capital projects, the 2026 Plan Update introduces Implementation Initiatives. These are long-range initiatives reflecting the direction setting of the Plan Update. They are under on-going consideration and incorporation into plans and project proposals to advance by the Park District over the next 20 years. These initiatives are not yet fully scoped or scheduled but are essential to implementing the vision of the Plan Update. They only include projects planned for and by the Park District.

The list is not exhaustive; the listing does not include partnership projects or community-based projects, even those under consideration but not appropriate to list as commitments ahead of scoping, cost estimates, and development plans. There are programs and master plans that identify possibilities for items such as indoor and covered athletic facilities or multi-purpose recreation facilities with other public and private providers.

By identifying these initiatives, the Park District commits to sustained efforts in areas that require ongoing investment, community coordination, and strategic foresight in pursuit of the Park District Mission.

**Table: Active Use Park Land Implementation Initiatives**

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
AUP	1	Program	Set-aside capital funds annually for ADA improvements, per Transition Plan priorities	Quality	Accessibility	Med-High	High
AUP	2	Program	Install or Improve Picnic Shelters	Access	Maximize Use	Med	Med
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				
			Aaron Tot Lot, Hidden Cove, Fay, Fort Ward, Port Madison, Strawberry Hill				
AUP	3	Program	Remove and Improve site asphalt areas	Quality	Asset Protection	High	Med

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				
			Battle Point, Eagledale, Fay, Ft. Ward, Strawberry Hill				
AUP	4	Program	Enhance Field and Irrigation Systems	Quality	Maximization of assets	Med	Med
AUP	5	Program	Install Park Safety Lighting	Quality	Safety	Med	High
AUP	6	Program	Improve Playgrounds and Play spaces, taking into account lifecycles	Access	Experience	Med	High
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				
			Battle Point, Eagledale, Fort Ward Parade Grounds, Giddeon, Schel Chelb, Strawberry Hill				
AUP	7	Program	Improve Parking Facilities	Access	Usability	High	Med
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				
			BIRC, Grand Forest, Hawley Cove, Manzanita, Meigs, Nutes Pond, Schel Chelb, Strawberry Hill				
AUP	8	Program	Improve Utilities and Infrastructure	Quality	Safety	High	High
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
			Battle Point - Storm, Egleddale-Septic, Pump, HVAC, Fay - Storm, Septic, Island Center - HVAC, Septic, Transmitter - HVAC, Cave House - HVAC	Access	Usability	Med	Med
AUP	9	Program	Provide Transportation Amenities such as bike racks, drop-off areas, loading areas/ramps, EV charging options	Quality	Useability	Med	High
AUP	10	Program	Upgrade Restrooms and, where feasible, install vault toilet per standard	Quality	Comfort	Med	High
AUP	11	Program	Provide Amenities where they can serve the most users and program needs, including benches, shade structures, water fountains, electricity and water supply	Quality	Comfort	Low	High
AUP	12	Program	Improve District-wide Energy and Efficiency, including solar installations	Quality	Efficiency	High	High

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
AUP	13	Program	Court Renovation and Installation of New Court Facilities	Quality	Depth	High	Med
AUP	14	Program	Plan and Coordinate Signage Programs for: a) Way-finding and Accessible Routes on all properties, and b) Interpretative Signage related to environmental features, historic sites and cultural facilities	Quality	Access	Low	Med
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				
			Fort Ward, Gazzam, Point White, Port Madison, Sakai, Schel Chelb, Seabold, Strawberry Hill				
AUP	15	Program	Work with the community to incorporate Public Art into park design and site planning for temporary, permanent, or rotating art installations	Quality	Depth	Low	Med
AUP	16	Blakely Harbor Park	Implement Park Plan for Blakely Harbor Park: Re-use of Generator Building Space,	Quality	Depth	High	High

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
			Shoreline Recreation Amenities, Trail Network, Meadow Restoration, Cultural Facilities				
AUP	17	Meigs Park	Implement Park Plan for Meigs Park: Boardwalks, including East-West park connection, Wildlife and view platforms, Trail network improvement, Sound-to-Olympic Trail development, Parking Areas, and Environmental Stewardship	Quality	Access	High	High
AUP	18	Prit-char d Park	Implement Park Plan for Pritchard Park: Shoreline Recreation Amenities, Trail Network, Cultural Facilities, Visitors Center, Restroom installation, Boardwalks, Interpretative Signage, etc.	Quality	Depth	High	High

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
AUP	19	Straw-berry Hill Park	Implement Park Plan for Strawberry Hill Park: Central Play Area, Indoor/Covered courts, Re-Program of buildings, New circulation, Parking improvements, Staff Support Facilities	Quality	Depth	High	High

**Table: Natural Areas Implementation Initiatives**

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
NA	1	Program	Protect and enhance Conservation Easement Areas owned by the Park District and when they are located on Park District property	Quality	Broadest Use	Low	Med
NA	2	Program	Facilitate open space planning with partners, including land donation and land dedication efforts	Quantity	Stewardship	Low	High
NA		Program	Expand self-sustaining community stewardship programs	Quality	Stewardship	Low	Med
NA	3	Blakely	Remediation of Blakely Harbor (by others)	Quality	Stewardship	High	High
NA		Grand Forest	Forest thinning at Grand Forest East	Quality	Stewardship	Low	High
NA	4	Grand Forest	Parking expansion at Grand Forest West	Quality	Maximization	Low	High
NA	5	Pritchard	Remediation of COBI-owned Point and adjacent shorelines (by others)	Quality	Stewardship	High	High

**Table: Recreational Areas Implementation Initiatives**

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
RS	1	Program	Enhance access to Shoreline	Access	Experience	Med	High
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				
			Fairy Dale, Fay, Fort Ward, Gazzam, Pritchard, Rockaway				
RS	2	Program	Improve Shoreline Amenities	Quality	Experience	Med	High
			i.e.:				
			Boat launch, Storage, Emergency Supplies, Route Guidance pertaining to tidelands, Pathways, Boardwalks, View platforms, Benches, Shade structures, Water/Electricity supply				
RS	3	Fay Bainbridge	Improve Accessibility Routes beyond ADA compliance	Quality	Accessibility	Low	High
RS	4	Fort Ward	Plan and Implement Barrak Area Re-use, maintaining structural footprint	Access	Stewardship	Med	Med
RS	5	Point White	Preserve and Repair Pier, Conduct Site Improvements	Access	Safety	High	Med

**Table: Recreational Trails Implementation Initiatives**

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
RT	1	Program	Pursue priority connections on an annual basis per the Community Trail Vision Plan	Quantity	Experience	Med	Med
RT	2	Program	Provide Wayfinding Signage, Kiosks, Trail Marking, Map Publication	Access	Useability	Low	High
RT	3	Program	Trail renovation and upgrades per Community Vision Trail Plan and Map	Quality	Maximizati on of assets	Low	Med
RT	4	Program	Provide Accessible Trail Experiences	Access	Accessibilit y	High	High
RT	5	Program	Improve Trail Experiences with supportive amenities, including shelter, benches, water fountains, etc.	Quality	Experience	Med	High
RT	6	Program	Engage User Groups regarding special trail interests, such as fitness/challenge/race trails, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, or single-use specialty trail segments	Quality	Depth	Low	Low
RT	7	Program	Work with partners and the WSDOT to	Access	Accessibilit y	High	High

			plan and accommodate the Sound-to-Olympic regional trail where it can compliment Park District properties and plans				
RT	1	Program	Pursue priority connections on an annual basis per the Community Trail Vision Plan	Quantity	Experience	High	Med
RT	2	Program	Provide Wayfinding Signage, Kiosks, Trail Marking, Map Publication	Access	Useability	Low	High

**Table: Recreation Implementation Initiatives**

<u>System Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Site or Program</u>	<u>Initiative</u>	<u>LOS Area impacted</u>	<u>Highest Criteria per Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Impact</u>
REC	1	Program	Regularly Survey for recreational interests outside of current users	Access	Maximizing of assets	Low	Med
REC	2	Program	Plan for Major Building Systems Needs and Updated Program Spaces at Aquatic Center and BIRC, including reserve funding through grants, revenues, and savings,	Quality	Asset Protection	High	High
REC	3	Program	Maintain Updated Program Spaces	Quality	Maximizati on of assets	Me d	High
			<i>Possible locations:</i>				
			Eagledale, Strawberry Hill Center and Mini-gym, Transmitter, Yeomalt, and, also general studio, exercise spaces, classrooms, recreation-related kitchens				

# FUNDING

Like all park departments, the ability to maintain parks, operate programs, pay staff, and make new investments requires funding.

## FUNDING SOURCES

The following funding sources are currently available to the Park District:

1. **Property Tax:** As a Metropolitan Park District, BIMPRD is authorized to collect property taxes.
2. **User and Rental Fees:** Fees charged by the Park District for programs, activities, facility rentals and other services
3. **Donations:** Donations may come from nonprofits, service organizations, individuals, companies and private groups and may be made as cash or property.
4. **Grants:** Funds that come from private foundations and government agencies such as the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). These may require a match by the Park District.
5. **Volunteer Efforts:** Nonprofits, community groups, or individuals may raise money for specific projects or for general contribution to the Park District. This has historically been an important source of funding for the District.
6. **Voted General Obligation Bonds:** These must be approved per WA State requirement by at least 60% of resident voters during an election which has a turnout of at least 40% of those who voted in the last state general election. This debt is paid from a special tax levy.
7. **Non-voted debt:** These do not require a vote of the public and the regular tax levy (operations funds) are used to pay on the bonds.
8. **Reserves:** Funds accumulated by the District may be utilized when the commissioners vote on their use. Below is a graph showing the reserve balance since the District became a Metropolitan Park District in 2005. Reserves are maintained to cover cash flow requirements, emergency expenses, and other outlays.
9. **Real Estate Excise Tax (REET):** RCW 82.46 authorized local government to enact up to .25% of the annual sales for real estate for capital facilities. The Growth Management Act authorized another .25% for capital facilities. Real Estate Excise Tax can only be used for capital projects (acquisitions, development and renovation). The City of Bainbridge Island collects the REET proceeds and would have to agree to share the revenue.

### Property Tax

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park District is a junior taxing district, which means it can levy two regular prop property tax levies:

1. \$0.50 per \$1000 assessed valuation (AV)
2. \$0.25 per \$1000 AV

With a few exceptions, the aggregate regular levy rates of senior and junior taxing districts cannot exceed \$5.90 within the boundaries of any city or county.

The following chart outlines regional tax district rates to provide context to the rate at which the Park District taxes constituents.

Tax District	Tax Rate	Percentage of Bill
Kitsap County Public Utility District No. 1	0.044441	0.56%
Kitsap County Regional Library	0.274411	3.48%
City of Bainbridge Island	0.633263	8.04%
Kitsap County*	0.647465	8.22%
<b>BIMPRD</b>	<b>0.728773</b>	<b>9.25%</b>
Bainbridge Island Fire District	0.948970	12.05%
Bainbridge Island School District	2.123262	26.96%
State Schools	2.476054	31.44%

*\*Includes current expense (which includes levies for mental health and veterans' relief) and conservation futures*

## FUNDING LANDSCAPE

### Organization of Funds

The Park District organizes its dollars into five funds:

- General Fund
- 200 Bond Redemption Fund
- 300 Capital Improvement Fund
- 310 Land Acquisition Fund
- 320 Turf Field Replacement Fund

The District uses strong, codified operational policies including many financial policies and policies tangentially related to financial policies; key financial policies include:

- Budget Process
- Debt Policy
- Financial and Revenue
- Fees and Charges

## Spending: Capital Projects

Between 2015 and 2024, BIMPRD completed approximately 42 capital projects at a total direct cost of approximately \$6,956,870. Projects included:

- Battle Point Pond
- Battle Point Bathroom
- Battle Point Water System
- Blakely phase 1 and 2 restoration
- Blakey Jetty Bridge
- Cave Historic House Renovation
- Dog Park Expansion
- Eagle Harbor Sail Float
- ED Picnic Shelter
- Fay Playground
- Fay electricity for RV Sites
- Fort Ward Playground
- Gazzam Trails
- Gazzam Restroom
- Grand Forest Park RR
- Hawley Cove Board walk
- Hidden Cove Bathroom
- Hidden Cove Dock
- Hilltop Bathroom
- Hilltop House Improvements
- Hilltop Septic
- John Nelson Trail
- Kids Up Play Ground new and renovate
- Meigs Trail Corridor
- Moritani
- Owens Playground
- Pickleball Courts
- Pritchard Memorial Bench
- Pritchard Park Memorial additions
- Ray Pool Renovation
- Rotary Centennial Renovations
- Rotary Ball Park
- Sakai Trail additions
- Schel Cheb playground
- SH Batting Cage
- SH Bike Park
- SH Skate Park
- Tennis Courts Sakai
- Williams Park

## Current Debt

- As of 2024, BIMPRD had less than \$1 million in debt, far below its statutory limit
- In 2024, BIMPRD **expended approximately \$714,533 (equivalent to 4.1% of total revenues) toward debt service** (principal and interest)
- BIMPRD “Debt Policy” for non-voted debt considers 10% a maximum debt load limit

## FUTURE FUNDING

Ensuring funding is sufficient to address programmatic and capital needs involves balancing future revenues with future expenditures, and ensuring appropriate phasing to make sure revenues are available as expenditures occur. Good funding strategies will consider both opportunities to increase revenues as well as opportunities to reduce expenditures. Future expenditures should be scaled based on services Bainbridge residents and park users want and need and the price they can afford and are willing to pay. A few themes define the Park District’s funding trajectory:

- Property tax revenues have remained flat over the historical period, with other funding sources, in particular fees and fines, becoming a significantly larger share of BIMPRD revenues
- It is projected that available funding for capital projects will continue to diminish and competition for general fund dollars will increase, limiting future transfers-in for capital purposes
- Current projections suggest that additional revenues may be needed within the life of this Comprehensive Plan to support BIMPRD programmatic activities (administration, operations, and maintenance) as well as currently defined capital investments (i.e., BIMPRD’s current CIP)
- Increased and/or new revenues will be needed to support any increases in level of service

## Strategies for Meeting Future Funding Needs

- Increase existing revenues:
  - Levy Lid Lift
  - One-year Excess Levies
- Implement new revenue tools
  - Impact fees
  - Novel revenue sources
- Implement financing tools
  - Councilmanic debt
  - Capital bonds

## Levy Lift

The Park District’s two regular property tax levies are considered together for the purposes of 1% annual levy limits (i.e., total growth in revenues from both levies cannot exceed 1% per year, plus revenues from new construction). Voters can approve levy lid lifts to exceed this 1%

limit; without levy lid lifts, the total purchasing power of these revenues is not keeping up with inflation.

### Considerations for Voted Measures

- Must be approved by voters – it is important to identify and package an initiative that voters will coalesce around
- Compete with other taxing districts voter initiatives
- Costly to implement
- Timing is essential

### Impact Fees

Impact Fees (authorized by RCW 80.20.050) are one-time charges assessed against new development to help pay for new or expanded capital facilities that address the increased demand for facilities/services created by that development. They may be levied for fire protection facilities; public streets and roads, as well as multi-modal bicycle and pedestrian facilities designed for commute purposes; publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities; and school facilities. Revenues from impact fees must support “system improvements,” by funding public projects within the capital facilities plan that are reasonably related to the new development.

Impact fees must be implemented by the City of Bainbridge Island and disbursed to BIMPRD. Currently, the City does not collect park impact fees, and discussions indicate that this is not an initiative they are likely to take in the near future.

### Debt

The Park District may issue general obligation debt in an amount equal to 2.5% of AV (i.e., 2.5% of \$13,605,348,220). Of that debt, 0.25% of can be councilmanic (non-voted), and the remainder is subject to 60% voter approval.

According to BIMPRD “Debt Policy”:

*“The Park District shall only use long term debt for capital projects that cannot be financed out of current revenue. Debt financing shall generally be limited to one-time capital improvement projects or purchases and*

*under the following circumstances:*

- *The project’s useful life will exceed the term of financing*
- *The project’s revenue or specific resource will be sufficient to service the debt*
- *When the Board finds the project will benefit the citizens of Bainbridge Island”*

## **Appendix A: Trail Vision Plan**

### **Recreational Trails**

The Recreational Trails classification, used in long-range planning on Bainbridge Island, 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
- Trails within parks
- Trails on private easements
- Trails on public property, including Right-of-Way
- Trails that connect parks to parks
- Trails that connect parks to park lands not classified as parks
- Trails that connect parks to neighborhoods
- Trails that connect parks to natural areas
- 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 Bainbridge Island Park and Recreation District (Park District) is the lead agency on Bainbridge Island for the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of recreational trails, which includes water trail facilities and infrastructure.

The Recreational Trail network is depicted in the Trail Vision Plan, with indications of the ownership of trails. Note that the Park District maintains some trails owned by other providers by way of agreement.

### **Introduction of the Community Trail Vision Plan and Map, for Recreational Trails**

The Park District collaborates with other public and private agencies on multi-jurisdictional trail-to-trail and road-to-trail connections.

The following Trails Vision Plan sets priorities for trail connections within the District's recreational trail system and between multi-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 & Trails Foundation, and citizen input through the comprehensive plan public engagement process.

**Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District  
Recreational Trails Vision Plan  
March 6, 2020**

**Amended:  
2026 Comprehensive Plan Update  
February 19, 2026**

This Trails Vision Plan serves as a guiding document for the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (Park District) to use in acquiring, planning, developing and maintaining recreational trails on Bainbridge Island. It is officially adopted as part of the Bainbridge Island Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan with implementation plans and projects that may alter plan attachments, such as the Trail Vision Map.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Trails Vision Plan is to provide the Park District and the community with a guide for recreational trail development, maintenance, and connectivity.

**Vision Statement**

Develop community through a system of planned, safe, interconnected trails with sustainable, well-maintained trail infrastructure, that offers outdoor experiences within a rich variety of landscapes and natural areas.

**Goals of the Trails Vision Plan**

- Promote health and wellness for community members by providing a network of multi-use recreational trails.
- Provide sustainable trails for prescribed use that minimize the impact of human presence on the environment.
- Provide community connections to neighborhoods, natural areas, parks, other park lands, shorelines, historical sites, points of interest, public spaces, transportation corridors, and community facilities.
- Partner and collaborate with other agencies and non-profits on multi-jurisdictional opportunities for key connections and recreational trail system development and expansion.
- Utilize a recreational trail classification system to meet the needs of a variety of trail user types and abilities.
- Promote education on trail etiquette, conservation, and leave-no-trace principles.
- Design trails that protect, conserve, and compliment natural landscapes by implementing best management practices.
- Design recreational trails that carefully consider the impacts to native vegetation, critical areas, and wildlife.
- Maintain and grow levels of engagement in volunteer maintenance programming for community members of all ages and abilities.

## **Acknowledgements**

- The Park District acknowledges the City of Bainbridge Island 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 Park District's established criteria of recreational trails in this plan. The Park District may also consider trail routes that connect to or enhance the City's Non-Motorized Transportation 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 water trails around Bainbridge Island for non- motorized small watercraft utilizing park properties, road ends and other public properties.

## **Community Benefits of an Interconnected Trail System**

The Park District conducted a statistically significant survey of Bainbridge Island residents in 2025. The survey results reiterated previous findings, that trails enhance quality of life while delivering significant environmental, social, and economic benefits to the Bainbridge Island community.

Example benefits of a well-developed trail system:

- Increases access to recreational trails.
- Provides access to quality trails, parks, open space and outdoor recreation.
- Connects people with the natural environment.
- Provides sustainable routes through important natural areas and habitats.
- Provides community engagement and connection with nature.
- Provides spiritual, mental, and emotional well-being through immersion in nature.
- Increases public access to historical, cultural, and natural environment.
- Provides sustainable, non-motorized travel.
- Attracts tourism.
- Provides wildlife viewing opportunities.

## **Trail Development**

The Park District assumes the major responsibility for the planning, developing and operating recreational trails. Trail types include off-road, soft-surface, multi-use recreational trails and water trails.

The following principles should guide trail development decisions:

- Route trails to minimize impact to natural areas and provide public access.
- Create prescribed trail routes through ecologically sensitive areas.
- Utilize best management practices in the planning, building, and maintenance of recreational trails.
- Provide educational opportunities for staff and volunteers on the latest best management practices in planning, construction, and maintenance of recreational trail systems.
- Consider special use trails to address user conflicts as community interest and needs arise.

- Implement trail design standards that ensure efficient maintenance access for personnel, equipment, and vehicles.
- Improve trail infrastructure and wayfinding to enhance emergency access.
- Provide trail amenities that allow safe, comfortable use of trails.
- Develop and maintain water trails, shoreline recreational amenities and infrastructure.
- Continue to work with partners to increase trail connectivity.
- Create connections that connect to the Non-Motorized System Plan, adopted by the City of Bainbridge Island.

### **Trail Development Priorities**

Specific trail priorities will be set by the Park District Board of Commissioners during the annual budget development process and may be adjusted throughout the year as needs arise.

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

- Trails between parks.
- Trails within parks.
- Trails with high use.
- Trails that lead to points of interest or viewpoints.
- Trails that connect neighborhoods to parks and provide shorter walking routes than roads.
- Trails that promote cross-island access.
- Trail projects that increase accessible trail options.
- Trails linking parks to the planned trail network within the Non-Motorized System Plan, adopted by the City of Bainbridge Island. (See Attachment 6).
- Trail signage that provides wayfinding and interpretive exhibits.
- Trail amenities that offer safe comfortable access for recreational trail users.

### **Implementation**

On an annual basis the Park District Board, with input from staff, the Trails Advisory Committee, and consultation with other jurisdictional planners and non-profits will determine through the budget development process which trail projects to prioritize.

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

### **Inventory**

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

The Park District currently uses a trail classification system with three trail categories. Generally, trails are multi-use and trail restrictions are posted where applicable. (See Attachment 4 and Attachment 5.) Where approved by the Board of Commissioners, the Park District will collaborate with partners on special use trail development.

## **Attachments**

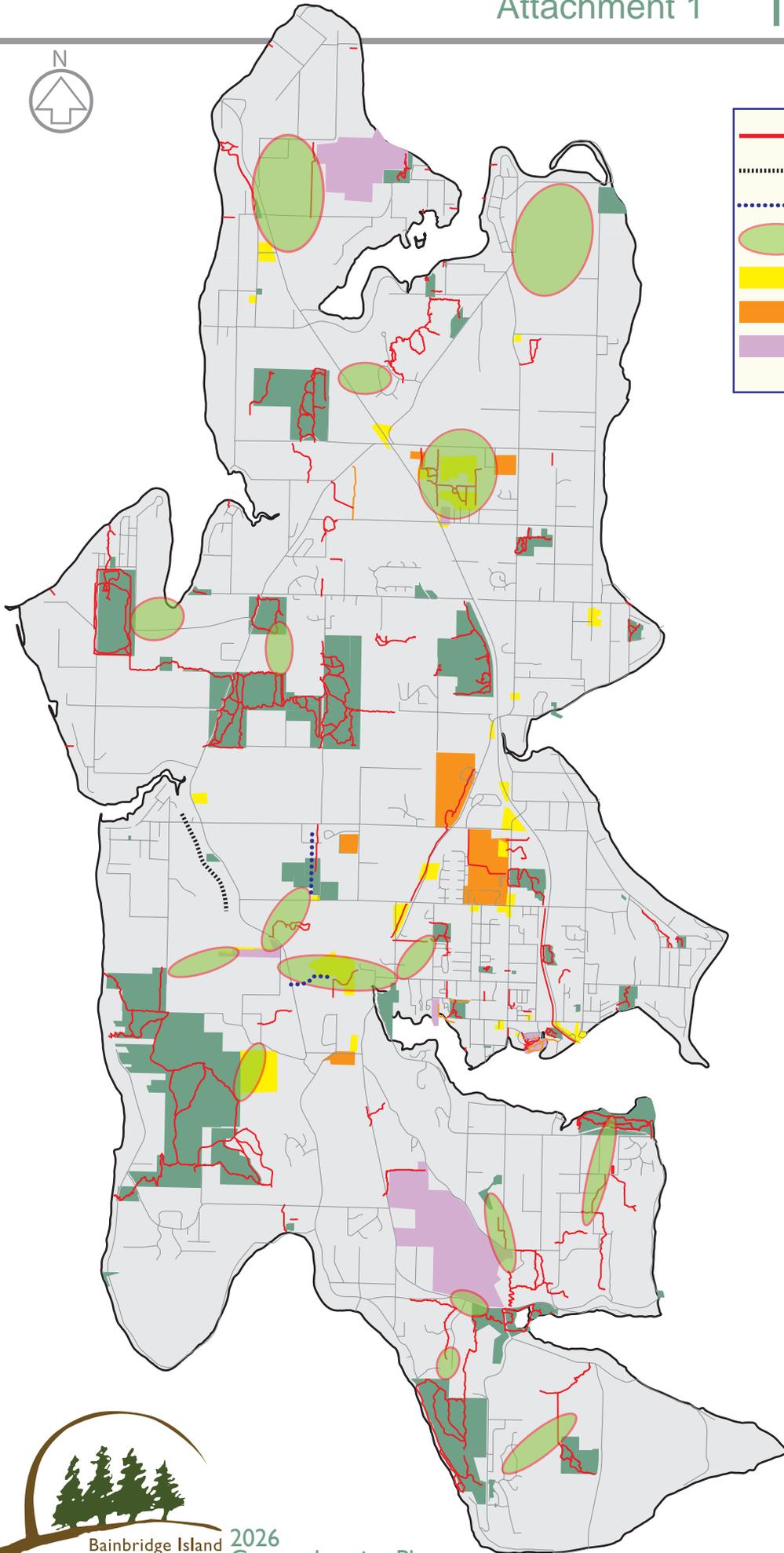
1. Attachment 1: Graphic - Trail Vision Plan
2. Attachment 2: Graphic - Trail Inventory
3. Attachment 3: Graphic - Water Access/Trail
4. Attachment 4: Chart - Trail Standards
5. Attachment 5: Graphic - Trail Design Details
6. Attachment 6: Graphic – Non-Motorized System Plan, adopted by the City of Bainbridge Island

*This plan serves as an update to the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District's 2026 Comprehensive Plan.*

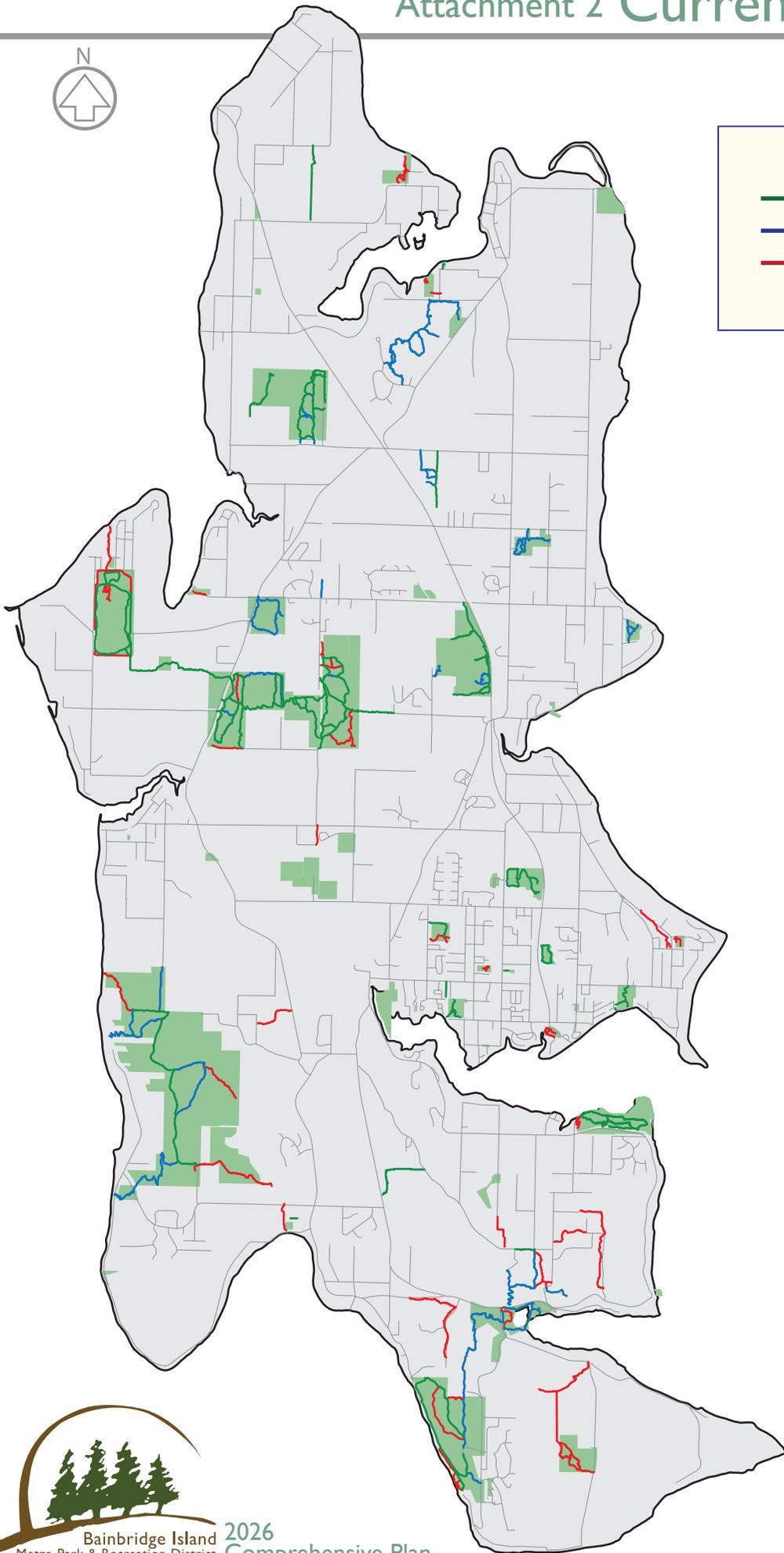


## Legend

- BIMPRD Trails
- Planned BIMPRD Trails
- Future BIMPRD Trails
- Potential Corridors
- City Property
- School Property
- Other Open Space



# Attachment 2 Current Trail Inventory

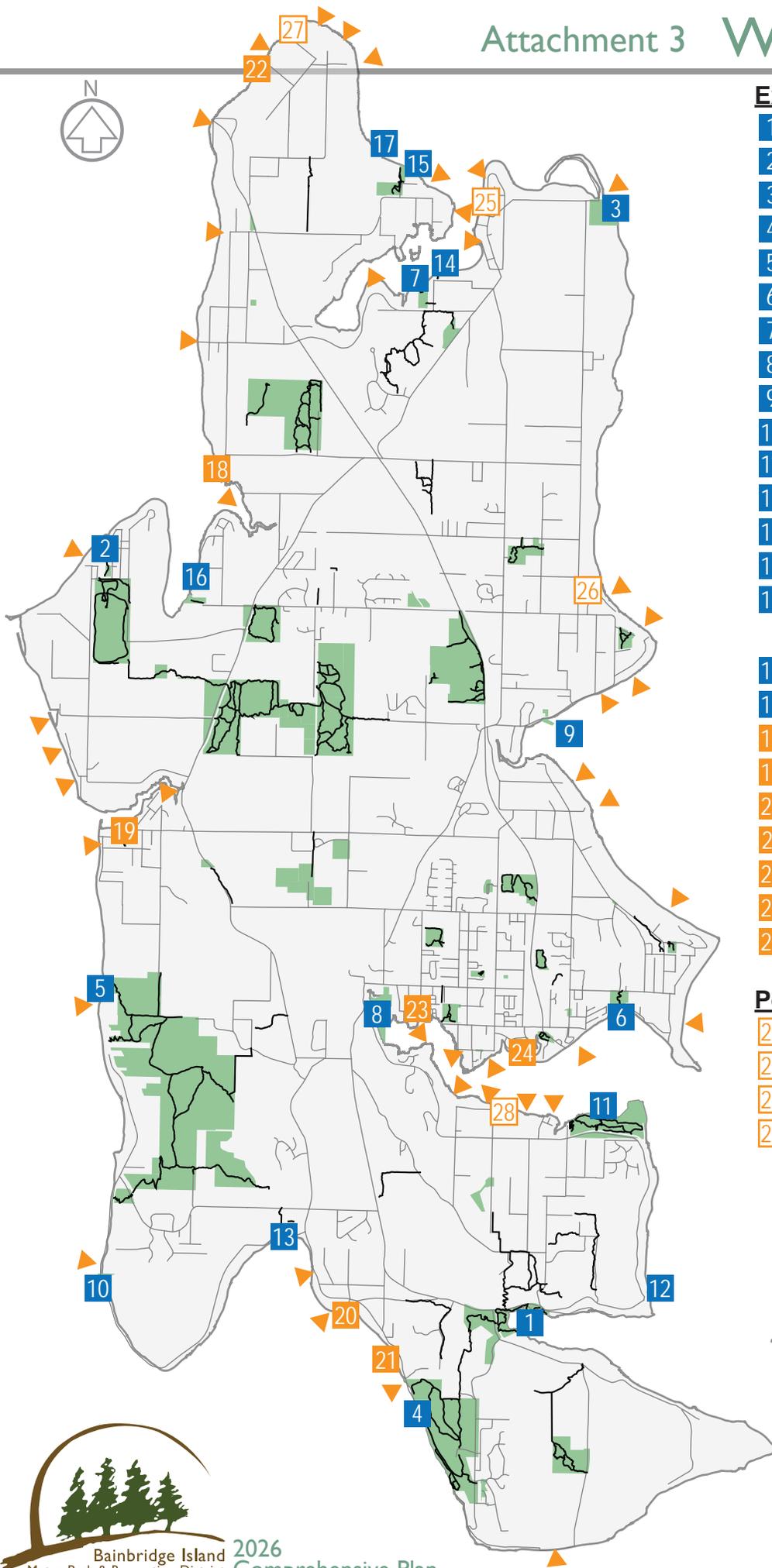


**Legend**

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



# Attachment 3 Water Access/Trail



## 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

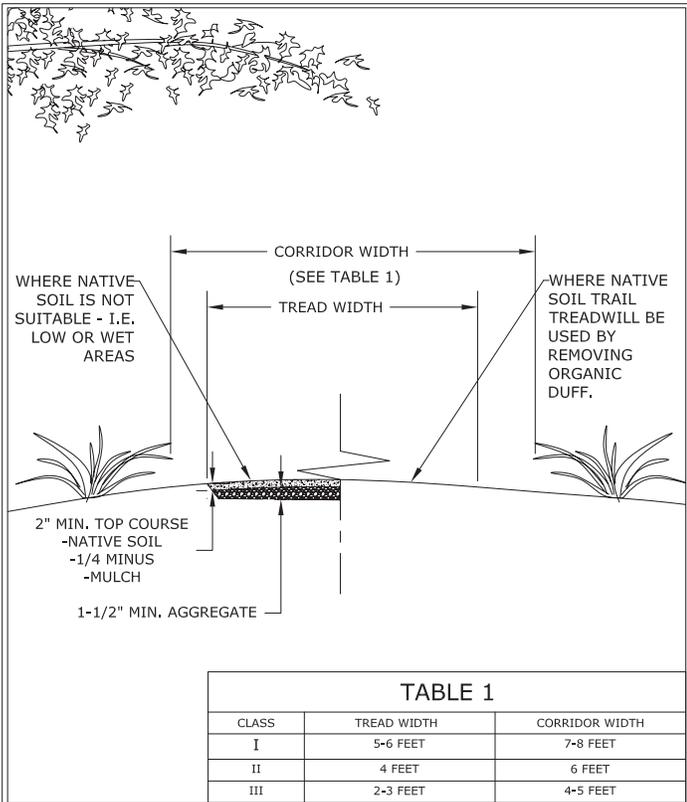


# Trail Standards

## Trail Classification System

Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District  
August 2019 dhamlin

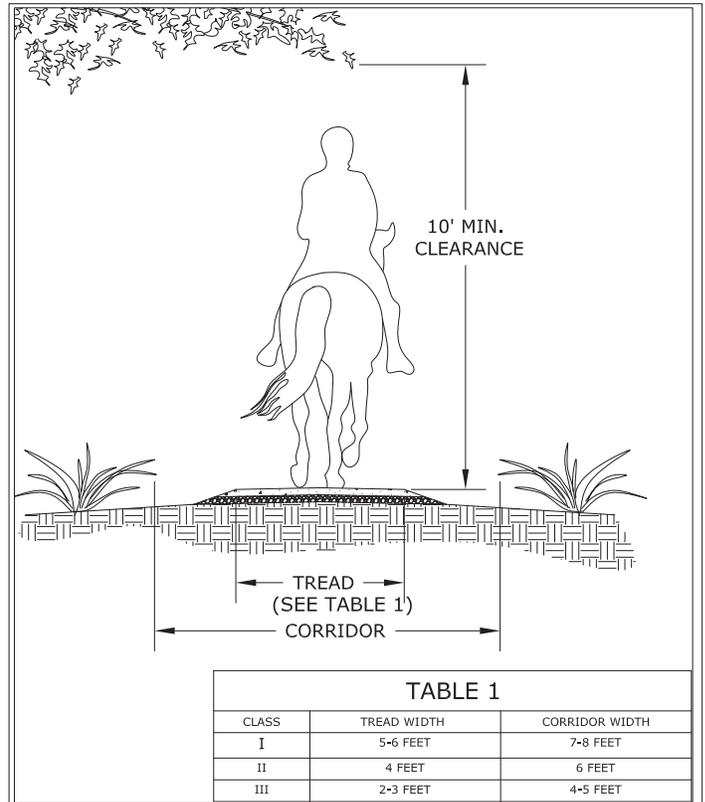
	Trail Class 1 Main Trails or Loops, Multi-Modal connections	Trail Class 2 Secondary Loops, Long Distance connections	Trail Class 3 Periphery loops, Nature trails, and difficult terrain trails
Trail Attributes			
Recreational Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-use unless specifically signed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



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 District**

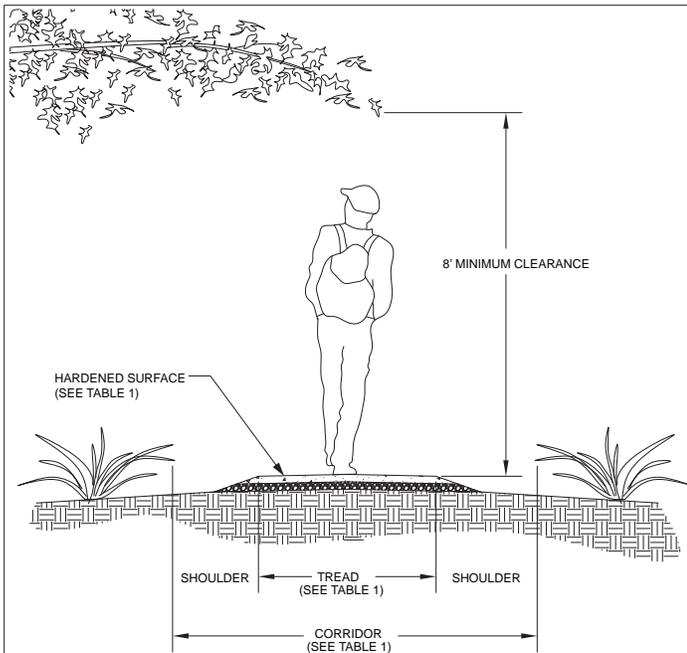
**Standard Trail CLASS I-II-III**



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 District**

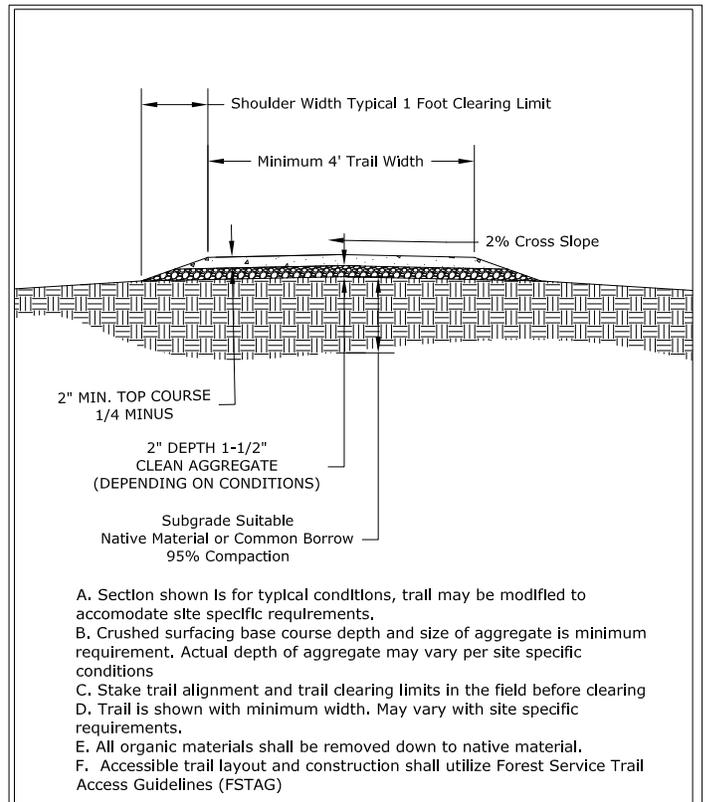
**Multipurpose Trail CLASS I-II-III**



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**

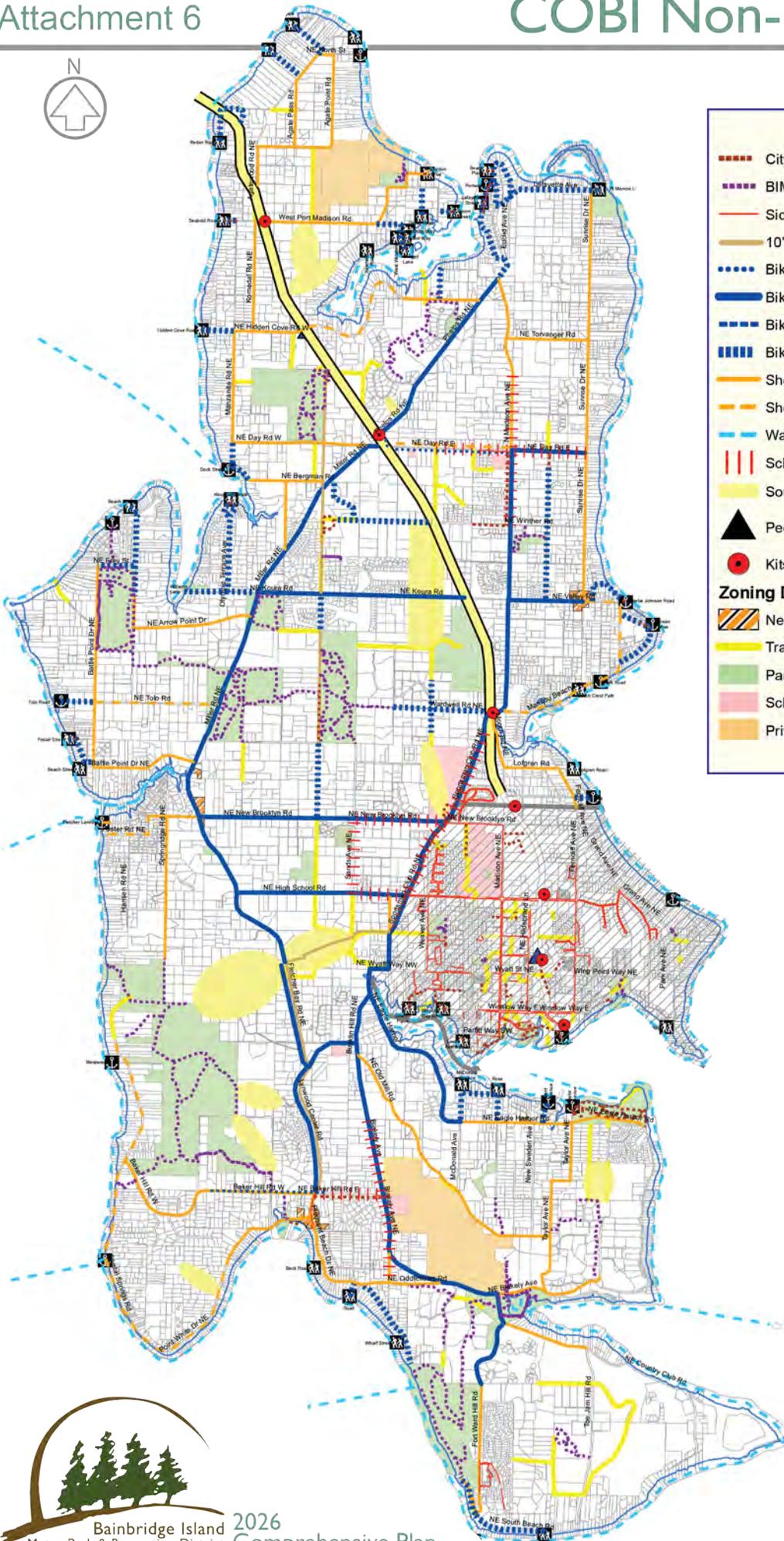
**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL CORRIDOR TRAIL CONNECTION**  
(ONLY WHERE APPROVED BY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS)



- A. Section shown is for typical conditions, trail may be modified to accommodate 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**



### Legend

- City Maintained Trails/Sidewalks
- BIMPRD Trails
- Sidewalks
- 10' Two Way Path (Design Std. A)
- Bike path single side
- Bike Facility: Both Sides (Design Std. B)
- - - Bike Facility: Single Side (Design Std. B)
- ||||| Bike/Pedestrian Way
- Shoulder Facility: Both Sides (Design Std. C)
- - - Shoulder Facility: Single Side (Design Std. C)
- Water Trail
- ||| School Access Overlay
- Sound to Olympics Trail & Bike Facilities
- ▲ Pedestrian Crossing
- Kitsap Transit Stops

### Zoning Designation

- Neighborhood Centers (Sidewalks both Side of Street)
- Trail Connection Zone
- Park Land
- Schools
- Private Reserves



**B. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY REPORT**



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

*Comprehensive Plan Survey Report*



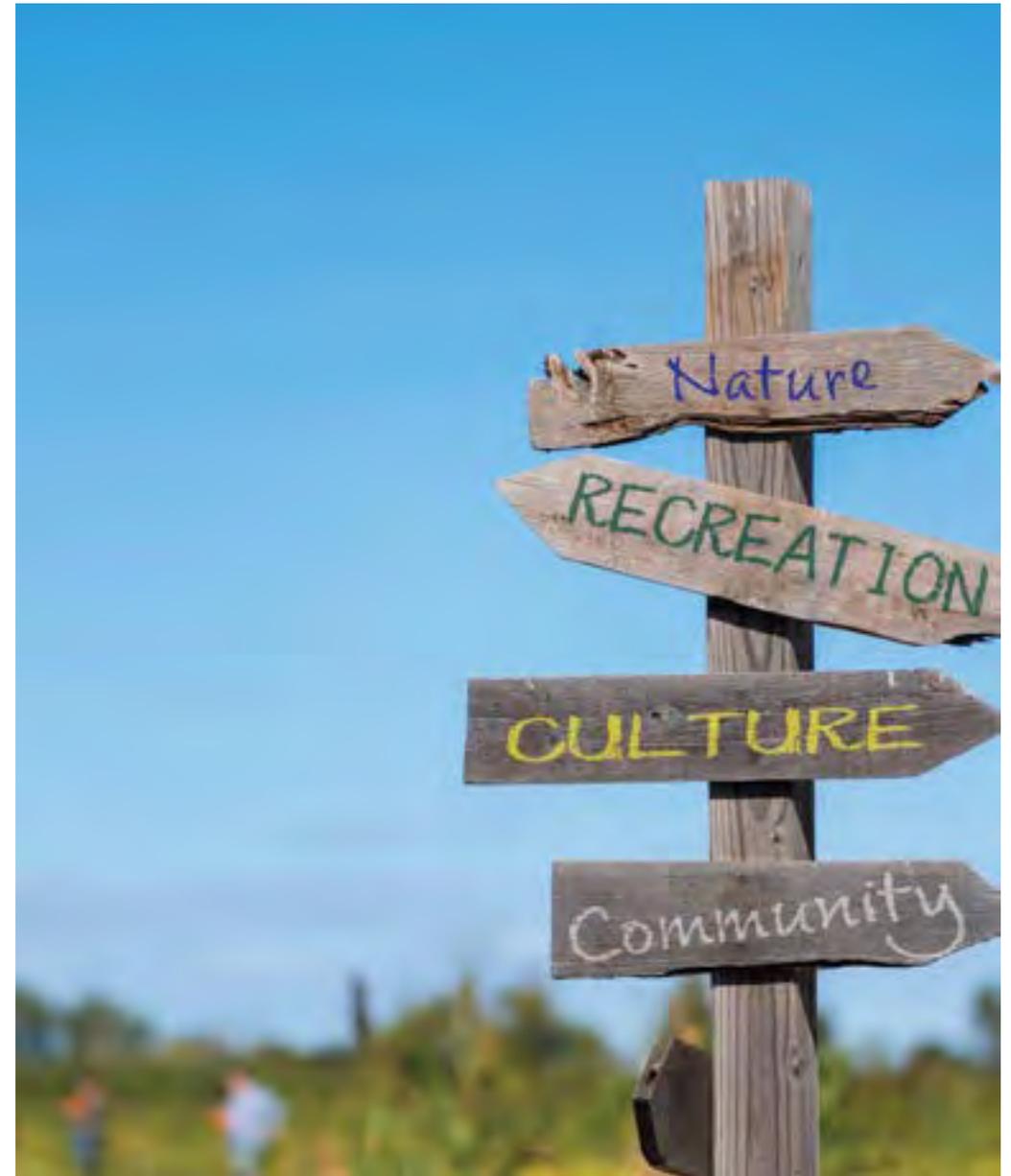


# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Research Methods
- Key Findings
- Living on Bainbridge Island
- Current Use and Satisfaction
- Programs and Activities
- Values and Vision
- Financial Choices
- Communication
- Demographics

# INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of this study was to gather community feedback on the Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District parks, recreation facilities, amenities, future planning, communication, and more.
- This survey research effort and subsequent analysis were designed to assist the Park District in developing a plan to reflect the community's needs and desires.



# RESEARCH METHODS

1

## Statistically Valid (Invitation Survey)

Postcards were mailed to a systematic sample of residential addresses on Bainbridge Island, with instructions to complete online through password protected website (1 response per household). Reminder text messages with a link to the online survey were also sent to help boost response rates.



389

Invitation surveys completed  
+/- 4.9% Margin of Error

2

## Open Link Survey

Later, the online survey was made available to all Bainbridge Island stakeholders, including non-residents (e.g., commuters, residents of nearby communities)



878

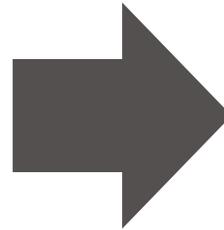
Open Link surveys completed

1,267  
Total Surveys  
Completed

5,000 Postcards Mailed  
(4,898 delivered)

# WEIGHTING THE DATA

The demographic profile of the Invite sample is compared to known statistics of Bainbridge Island residents using 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates provided by the US Census Department.



Underlying data from the invitation survey is weighted by the age, gender, housing tenure (own/rent), and household makeup (presence of children) of Bainbridge Island residents to ensure appropriate representation.

**The weighting process changes the results only slightly but ultimately makes the results more accurate and representative of the population.**



# | KEY FINDINGS

# KEY FINDINGS



**Two samples were collected in the survey effort—the statistically valid Invite sample and the Open link sample—both of which had strong response rates.** The Invite is representative of the whole population of Bainbridge Island, including parks and recreation users and non-users; therefore, the Invite sample is considered more reliable. Respondents from the Open link survey are more represented by families and frequent users. Together, both samples provide an excellent source of input on topics addressed throughout the survey.



**Satisfaction with services, facilities, and natural areas is consistently high.** Satisfaction is strong across all categories, with Invite respondents generally rating higher. “Opportunities for recreation and exercise” and “accessible natural areas and shoreline” top the list, while “resources for community needs and programming” ranks lowest, especially in the Open link sample.



**Natural areas, trails, and shoreline access are the community’s highest priorities.** These amenities are rated as the most important, with most needs being met. Shoreline access, however, rated higher in importance than meeting the needs of the community, indicating some room for improvement.

# KEY FINDINGS



**Nature-based and fitness activities are the most common uses of parks.** Access to natural areas and personal fitness are the top reasons for visiting parks. Other common activities include dog walking, walking/running, and shoreline access—highlighting the importance of nature preservation and active recreation.



**Expanding trails and improving amenities are the top ways to encourage park use.** More trail miles and improved trail amenities are the top ways to encourage park use, followed by shade, restrooms, and maintenance.



**There is strong engagement in Park District programs.** Participation rates are notably higher in the Open link sample (67%) compared to the Invite sample (43%). Respondents most frequently cited cost, program convenience, and the quality of instructors as key factors influencing their decision to participate.



**The community's goals center on health, environmental stewardship, and equity.** Both samples share the same top goals: active lifestyles, environmental protection, affordability, sustainability, and accessibility.

# KEY FINDINGS



**Residents show strong support for sustainability and environmental stewardship efforts.** Across both samples, there is clear prioritization of sustainability initiatives, with proactive forest management and wildfire mitigation ranking as the highest environmental priorities. Other widely supported actions include waste reduction, resource conservation, and shoreline protection—demonstrating the community’s commitment to long-term ecological health.



**Trails are the top funding priority for residents.** Both samples direct the most hypothetical funding to trails, followed by parkland acquisition and shoreline access. Open link respondents allocate more to sports courts, splash pads, gym space, and athletic fields. Bond referendums are the most supported funding method.



**Email is the preferred method for Park District communication.** Most respondents rate Park District communication positively. The recreation guide is the most used source, but email/newsletters are the most preferred, showing strong alignment with current outreach methods.

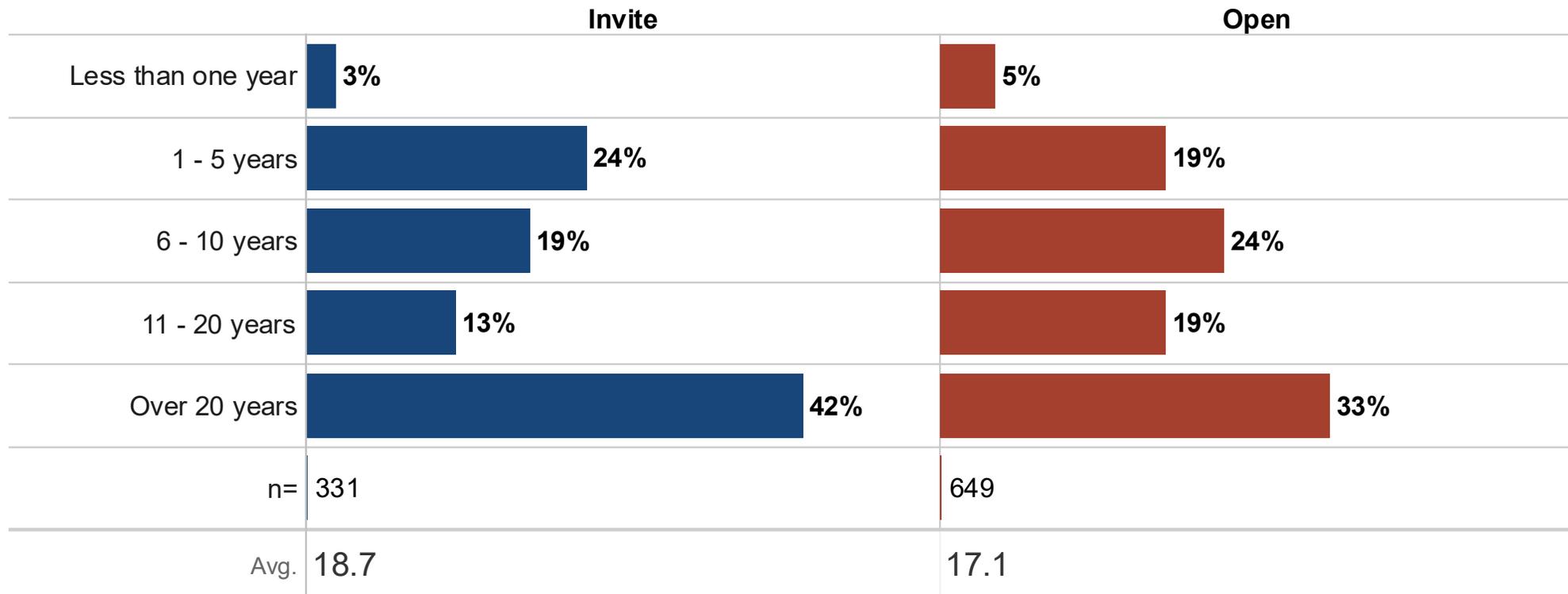


LIVING ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

# LENGTH OF TIME ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

In the statistically valid Invite sample, most respondents (42%) have lived on Bainbridge Island for over 20 years, followed by 27% who have lived there less than five years. The Open link sample, also had a large share of long-term residents (33%), and about a quarter are newer residents, including 5% who have lived there less than one year compared to 3% in the Invite sample. On average, Invite respondents reported living on the island longer (18.7 years) than Open respondents (17.1 years).

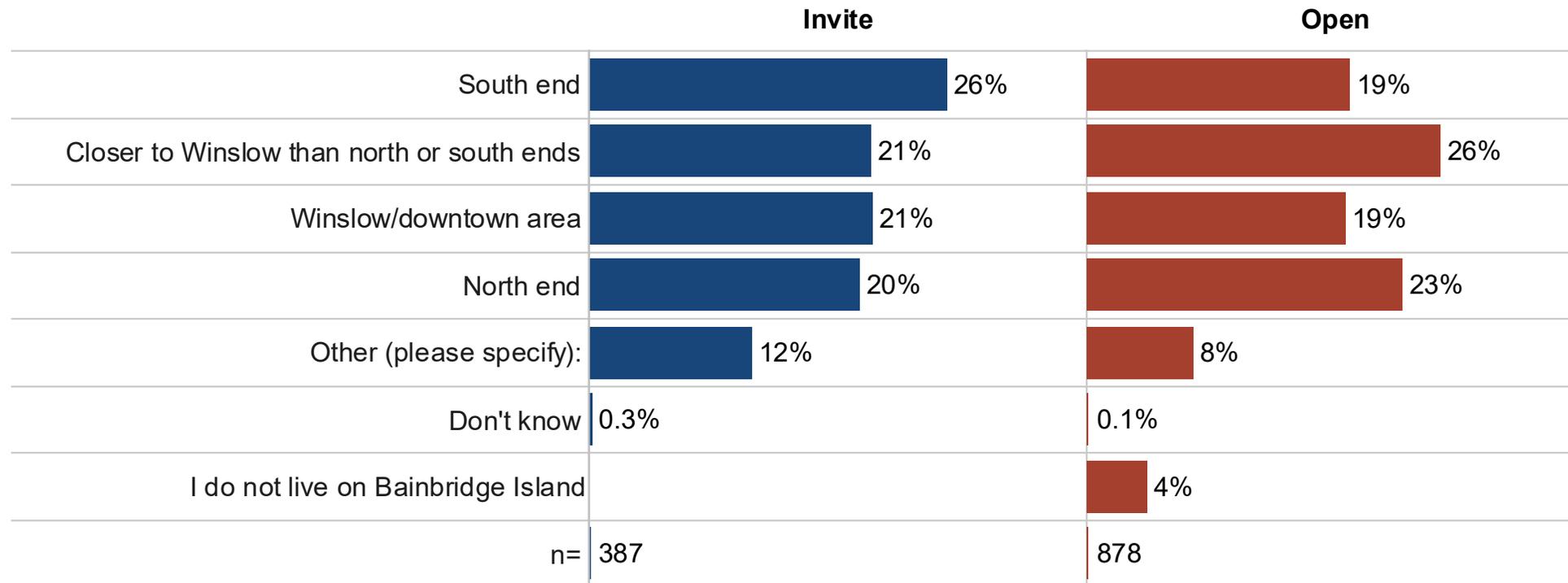
## How long have you lived on Bainbridge Island?



# LOCATION ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Responses were collected from all areas of the island. The Invite sample is made up of a slightly higher share of south end residents compared to the Open link which is comprised of a greater share of residents closer to Winslow.

## Where do you reside on the island?

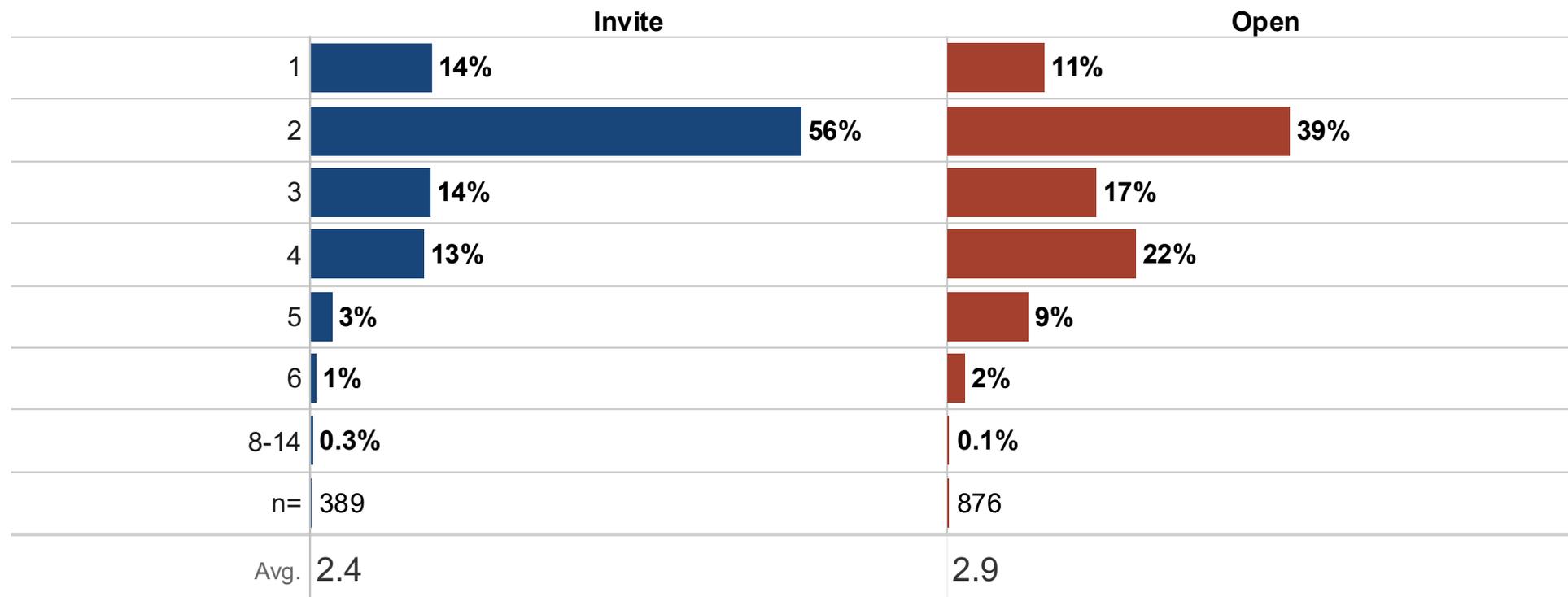


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD

The majority of Invite respondents come from a two-person household (56%), with an average household size of 2.4 people. The Open link sample recorded slightly higher shares of households with three or more people, with a higher average household size of 2.9.

## How many people reside in your household?





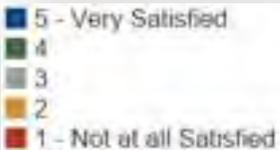
# CURRENT USE & SATISFACTION

# SATISFACTION

Satisfaction levels are generally high across all categories, with the Invite sample consistently rating services slightly higher than the Open link sample. In both samples, “Opportunities for recreation and exercise” received the highest satisfaction (84% Invite, 79% Open link rating 4 or 5), followed closely by “Accessible or useable natural areas and recreational shoreline” (80% Invite, 81% Open link). The lowest-rated category was “Resources for community needs, programming, and gathering,” particularly in the Open link sample (71% rating 4 or 5 compared to 76% Invite).

**Overall, how satisfied are you with the following on Bainbridge Island?**

Rating Category	Crosstab by:	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding		
				1 & 2	3	4 & 5
Opportunities for recreation and exercise.	Invite	4.3	386	3%	12%	31% 53% 84%
	Open	4.1	864	7%	15%	35% 44% 79%
Accessible or useable natural areas and recreational shoreline.	Invite	4.2	387	6%	13%	31% 50% 80%
	Open	4.2	866	5%	14%	39% 42% 81%
Events, facilities, spaces, and programs that provide opportunities for learning, creativity, cultural experiences, and other enrichment.	Invite	4.1	380	3%	21%	36% 39% 76%
	Open	4.1	862	5%	19%	42% 35% 76%
Resources for community needs, programming, and gathering.	Invite	4.1	379	4%	20%	39% 37% 76%
	Open	3.9	853	7%	23%	41% 30% 71%

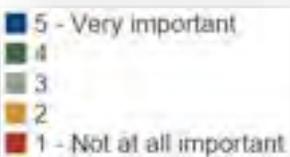


# FACILITIES & AMENITIES – IMPORTANCE

Facilities and amenities that serve the greatest share of residents (recreation areas, trails, shoreline) are the most important to both samples with average ratings of at least 4.5 out of 5. Facilities and amenities with more specific users (athletic facilities, playgrounds, aquatic centers, etc.) saw more divergent ratings, with a more equal distribution between low, moderate, and high importance to residents.

Please rate how important the following facilities and amenities are to your household.

Rating Category	Crosstab by:	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding					
				1 & 2	3	4 & 5			
Natural areas in parks	Invite	4.8	383	1%	3%	81%	97%		
	Open	4.6	869	1%	7%	19%	73%	92%	
Recreational trails	Invite	4.7	381	1%	2%	19%	78%	97%	
	Open	4.6	869	3%	8%	19%	71%	89%	
Shoreline access	Invite	4.6	386	2%	5%	19%	73%	93%	
	Open	4.5	865	5%	9%	20%	67%	87%	
Athletic facilities	Invite	3.4	380	22%	29%	24%	25%	49%	
	Open	3.7	858	20%	19%	19%	42%	61%	
Bainbridge Island Recreation Center	Invite	3.3	388	29%	23%	21%	27%	48%	
	Open	3.4	864	25%	23%	21%	31%	52%	
Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center	Invite	3.3	384	29%	20%	24%	27%	51%	
	Open	3.4	865	28%	21%	34%	51%		
Playgrounds	Invite	3.1	385	21%	35%	24%	21%	20%	42%
	Open	3.2	858	18%	34%	23%	19%	24%	44%
Community buildings and rental facilities	Invite	3.0	384	30%	30%	32%	40%		
	Open	3.0	864	18%	31%	23%	34%		
Other (specify:)	Invite	4.7	62	4%	2%	81%	93%		
	Open	4.6	142	6%	4%	84%	89%		



# FACILITIES & AMENITIES – NEEDS MET

Overall, most facilities and amenities are effectively meeting community needs, with particularly high satisfaction for natural areas in parks and recreational trails, both of which also ranked among the most important amenities. Shoreline access, while also rated as highly important, shows a more moderate level of needs being met, suggesting room for improvement. The Invite and Open samples are generally consistent in their ratings, though the Open sample expresses slightly lower satisfaction with the Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center compared to the Invite sample.

Please rate how well these facilities and amenities are currently meeting the needs of the community.

Rating Category	Crosstab by:	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding					
				1 & 2	3	4 & 5			
Natural areas in parks	Invite	4.3	359	5%	9%	35%	52%	86%	
	Open	4.2	788	3%	10%	46%	41%	86%	
Recreational trails	Invite	4.3	355	6%	9%	35%	50%	85%	
	Open	4.3	781	3%	11%	44%	42%	86%	
Playgrounds	Invite	4.2	246	5%	17%	36%	43%	79%	
	Open	4.1	580	2%	17%	44%	36%	80%	
Bainbridge Island Recreation Center	Invite	3.9	244	7%	23%	43%	26%	69%	
	Open	3.8	599	10%	23%	42%	24%	66%	
Community buildings and rental facilities	Invite	3.9	205	6%	22%	52%	21%	72%	
	Open	3.8	521	7%	31%	40%	22%	62%	
Athletic facilities	Invite	3.8	226	6%	27%	44%	23%	67%	
	Open	3.6	600	16%	23%	40%	21%	61%	
Bainbridge Island Aquatic Center	Invite	3.8	251	11%	23%	43%	23%	66%	
	Open	3.4	617	17%	21%	30%	33%	16%	49%
Shoreline access	Invite	3.5	346	16%	22%	20%	37%	21%	58%
	Open	3.5	753	17%	28%	34%	21%	54%	
Other (previously specified)	Invite	2.0	33	34%	46%	80%	9%	10%	
	Open	2.3	100	39%	25%	64%	15%	21%	



# AVERAGE IMPORTANCE- PERFORMANCE MATRIX

## Understanding the Importance-Performance Matrix:

The following pages provide a graphical importance/satisfaction matrix comparing the average rating for importance, and the average rating for meeting the needs of the community, for each of the facilities and services rated by respondents. This matrix provides four quadrants in relation to the average ratings from all rated categories. These quadrants help to highlight the level of interest and performance of each, while identifying areas of focus.

### High Importance / Low Needs Met

These are key areas for improvement. Enhancing these facilities/programs could significantly improve overall community satisfaction.

### High Importance / High Needs Met

Important amenities that currently meet community needs. Maintenance should continue, but major improvements are a lower priority.

### Low Importance / Low Needs Met

Niche facilities/programs with a small but dedicated audience. Tracking participation can guide future planning.

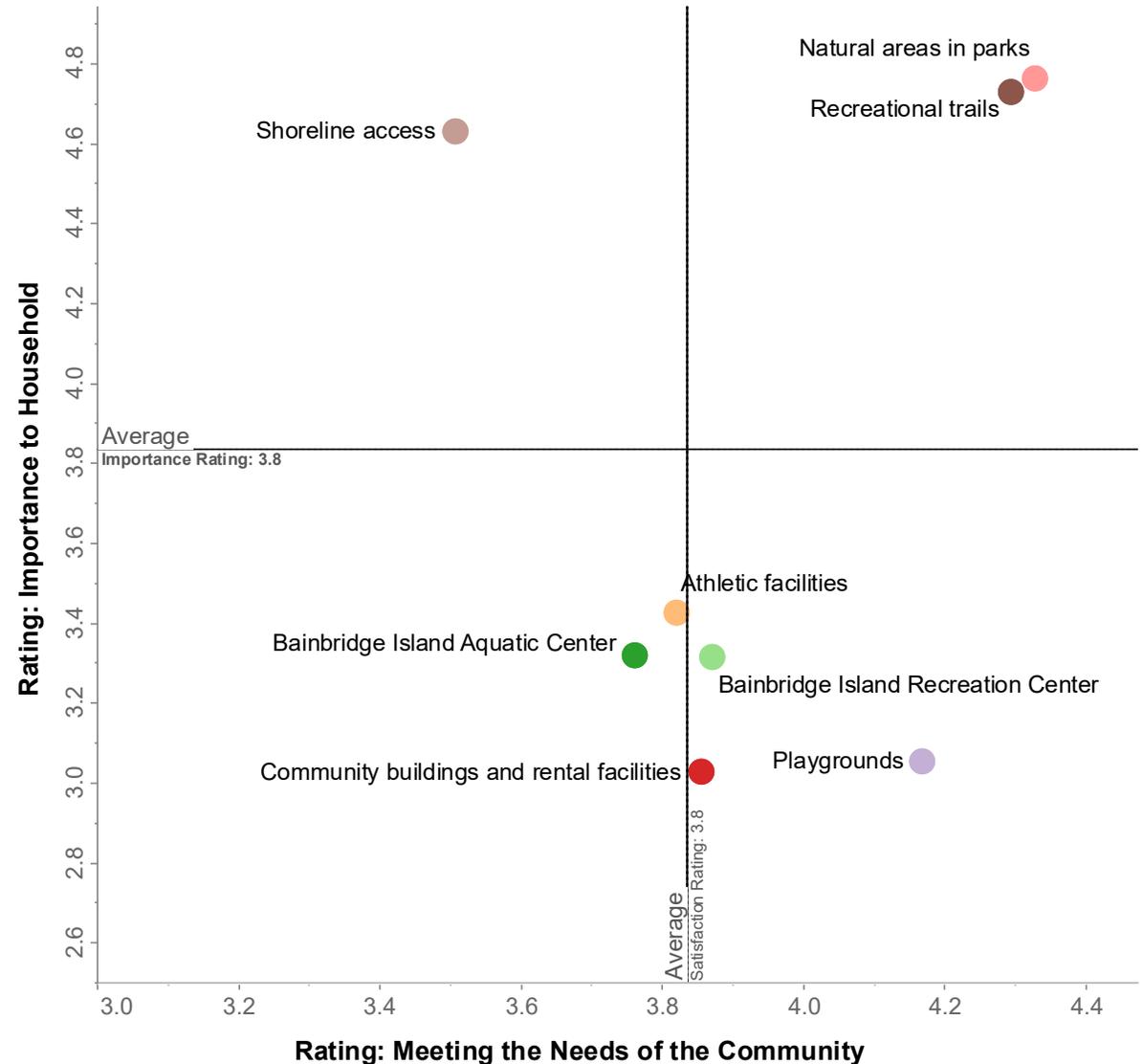
### Low Importance / High Needs Met

Adequately supported amenities. Future discussions may consider whether current resource allocation aligns with long-term benefits.

# IMPORTANCE/NEEDS MET MATRIX

## INVITE SAMPLE

- The only listed item that falls in the high importance/low needs met category for the Invite sample is shoreline access, indicating some room for improvement.
- Natural areas and recreational trails at Bainbridge's parks are highly important to respondent households and meet the needs of the community well. Continued investment in maintenance will be important to preserve satisfaction.
- All other facilities and amenities are slightly lower priorities on average; however, none of the facilities or amenities are failing to meet the needs of the community, as none received average ratings lower than 3.5 in needs met.

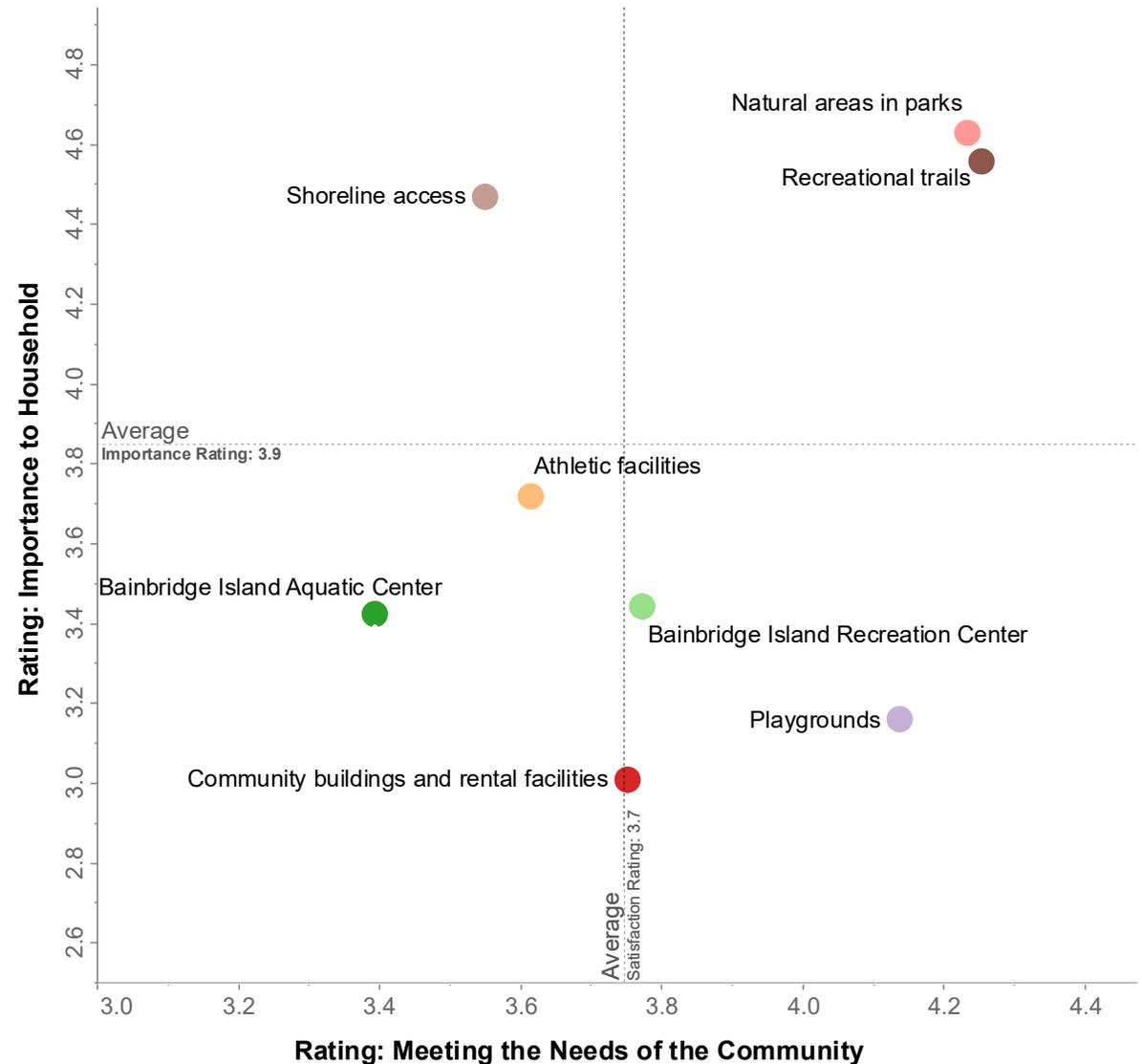


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# IMPORTANCE/NEEDS MET MATRIX

## OPEN LINK SAMPLE

- Similar to the Invite sample, shoreline access was the only category that falls in the high importance/low needs met quadrant.
- Other facilities and amenities perform similarly to the Invite sample as well, with average ratings ranging from 3.4 to 4.2.



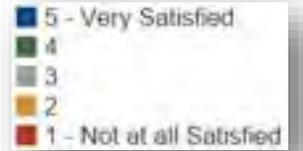
Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# SATISFACTION OF TRAILS

## INVITE SAMPLE

- Overall, satisfaction with trails is very high for the Invite sample, with 87–89% of Invite respondents rating nature access, maintenance and cleanliness, walking/hiking opportunities, and safety along trails positively.
- Accessibility features, such as parking and surface conditions, also receive strong ratings (78% satisfied), while diverse exercise/skill opportunities and amenities along trails score slightly lower (73% and 69%, respectively).
- Opportunities with narrower user appeal, such as equestrian (64%) and mountain biking (61%), receive lower satisfaction ratings, along with wayfinding and connections between destinations (69–71%).

How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of trails on Bainbridge Island?  
Invite only



Rating Category	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding				
			1 & 2	3	4 & 5		
Nature access	4.5	371	4%	9%	25%	63%	87%
Maintenance and cleanliness of trails	4.4	372	2%	9%	31%	58%	89%
Walking and hiking opportunities	4.4	371	3%	11%	24%	62%	86%
Safety along trails	4.4	353	3%	11%	29%	58%	86%
Accessibility qualities (parking, surfaces, slopes/grades)	4.1	357	6%	16%	37%	40%	78%
Diverse exercise and skill level opportunities	4.0	319	8%	18%	35%	38%	73%
Equestrian opportunities	3.9	72	16%	18%	16%	48%	64%
Amenities along trails (benches, trash cans, lighting)	3.9	358	8%	23%	36%	33%	69%
Connections to parks, neighborhoods, and other destinations	3.9	360	8%	20%	42%	30%	71%
Trail way-finding (information, signage, route-understanding)	3.9	372	12%	19%	37%	32%	69%
Mountain bike opportunities	3.8	141	13%	26%	21%	40%	61%
Other (specify:)	2.3	28	34%	32%	67%	17%	17%

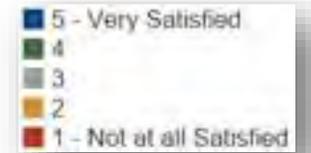
# SATISFACTION OF TRAILS

## OPEN LINK SAMPLE

- Open link respondents also report high satisfaction with trails, with 84–88% rating walking/hiking opportunities, nature access, trail maintenance, and safety positively.
- Accessibility qualities and wayfinding earn moderate satisfaction (70–74%), while diverse exercise options and amenities along trails score slightly lower (67%).
- Satisfaction is lower for mountain biking (61%) and equestrian opportunities (53%), similar to the Invite sample.

How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of trails on Bainbridge Island?

*Open only*



Rating Category	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding					
			1 & 2	3	4 & 5			
Walking and hiking opportunities	4.4	823	3%	9%	31%	57%	88%	
Nature access	4.4	821	3%	9%	34%	54%	88%	
Maintenance and cleanliness of trails	4.3	812	3%	12%	35%	50%	85%	
Safety along trails	4.3	784	3%	13%	35%	50%	84%	
Accessibility qualities (parking, surfaces, slopes/grades)	4.0	798	6%	20%	36%	38%	74%	
Trail way-finding (information, signage, route-understanding)	3.9	807	9%	21%	38%	32%	70%	
Diverse exercise and skill level opportunities	3.9	737	8%	25%	33%	34%	67%	
Amenities along trails (benches, trash cans, lighting)	3.9	806	8%	26%	36%	30%	67%	
Connections to parks, neighborhoods, and other destinations	3.8	802	10%	26%	34%	30%	64%	
Mountain bike opportunities	3.7	345	17%	23%	30%	30%	61%	
Equestrian opportunities	3.6	179	20%	27%	19%	34%	53%	
Other (specify:)	2.6	73	41%	16%	58%	8%	27%	34%

# FAVORITE PARKS, TRAILS AND/OR FACILITIES

## OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

Respondents were given an opportunity to list their most favorite park, trail, and/or facility and describe why. Some of the commonly listed locations are listed below as well as verbatim comments that highlight respondent sentiments.

- Battle Point Park

“Large, diverse area with many different activities possible.”

- Grand Forest

“Diversity of trails, beautiful wild areas, ease of access.”

- Fort Ward Park

- Bainbridge Island Recreation Center (BIRC)

“It has hills for exercise, flat trails for easy walking, water views, natural areas, historic features, and paved trails for friends using walkers/wheelchairs. And the trails connect to other parks for long walks. Oh, and it has restrooms and a boat launch.”

- Fay Bainbridge Park

- Aquatic Center

Our children participate in BISC and it is an invaluable program to youth in our community.

- Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve

- Blakely Harbor Park

It's the right amount of walking for my family, my dog is allowed, and the beach is so nice on a summer afternoon. We regularly see herons, bald eagles, seals, and snakes!

- Rotary Park

- Hawley Cove

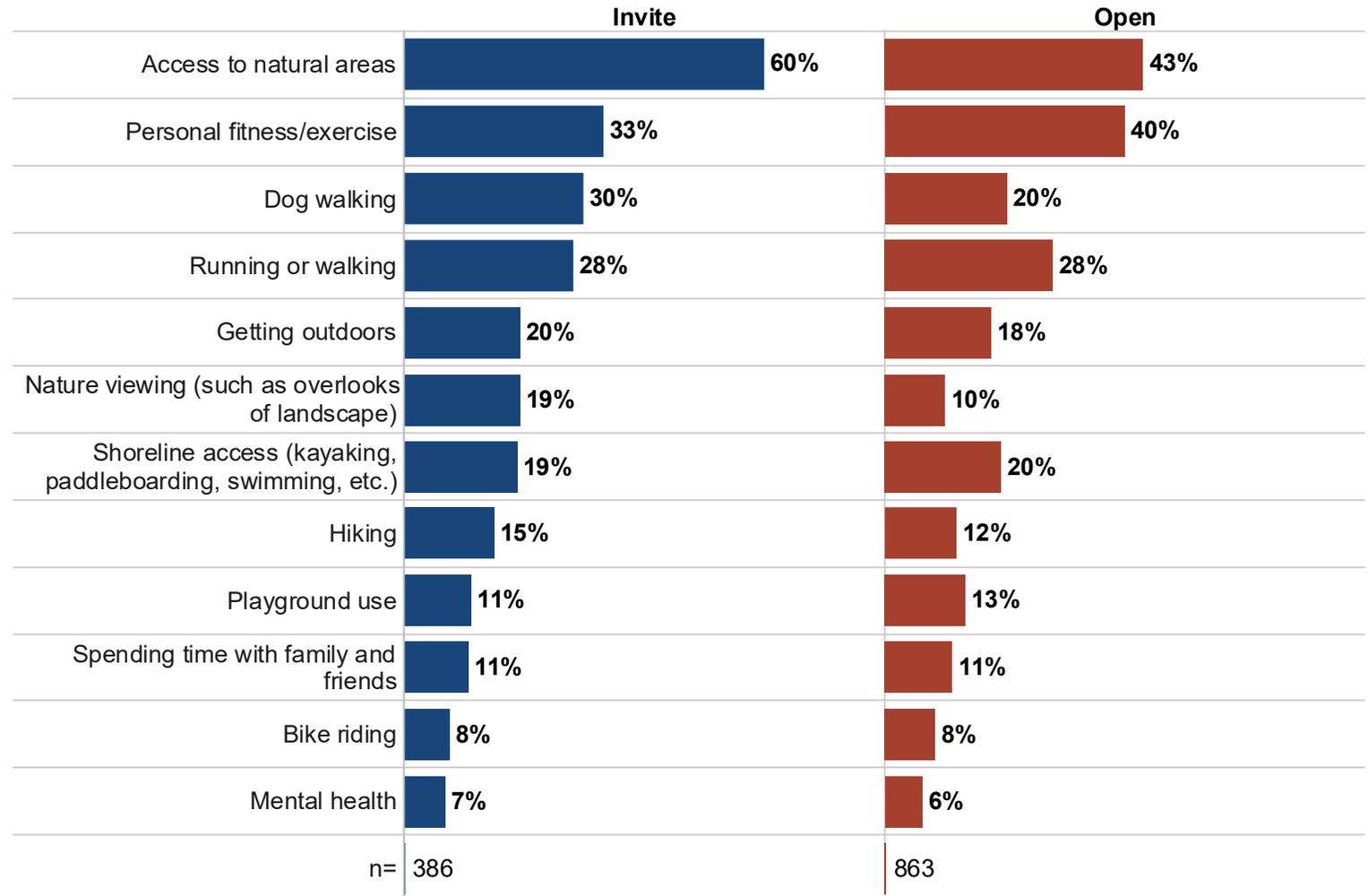
Close to my house and close to town. I like that the facility is able to host city day visitors while also providing me with access to the special shoreline and nature. The boardwalk is special I enjoy how I can easily feel immersed in nature

# PURPOSE OF VISIT

SLIDE 1 OF 2

- Access to natural areas is the leading reason for park and facility visits, noted by 60% of Invite respondents and 43% of Open link respondents.
- Personal fitness and exercise ranks second, with higher participation among the Open link sample (40%) compared to the Invite sample (33%), followed by dog walking, running/walking, and getting outdoors.
- Nature-based and fitness-related activities are the primary drivers for park use, indicating that preserving natural areas and supporting exercise opportunities should remain central priorities for the Park District.

What are the main reasons you visit Park District parks or facilities?



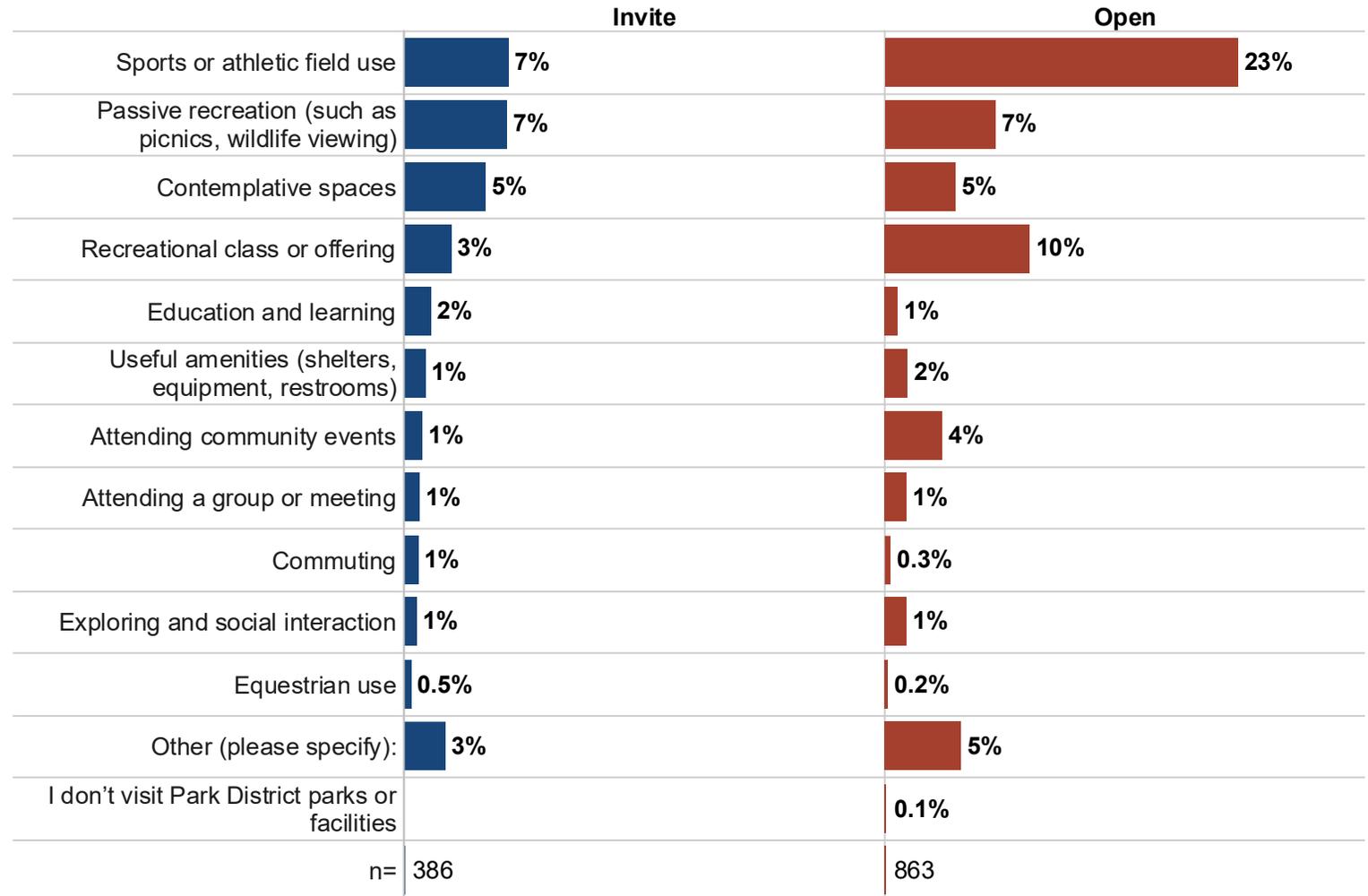
Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# PURPOSE OF VISIT

SLIDE 2 OF 2

- Organized social events, specific classes or offerings from the Park District, and commuting were among those cited smaller shares of both the Invite and Open link samples.
- However, the Open link sample is much more likely to participate in sports or athletic fields use than the Invite sample (23% compared to 7%).
- No respondents from the Invite sample said they do not visit Park District parks or facilities.

What are the main reasons you visit Park District parks or facilities?



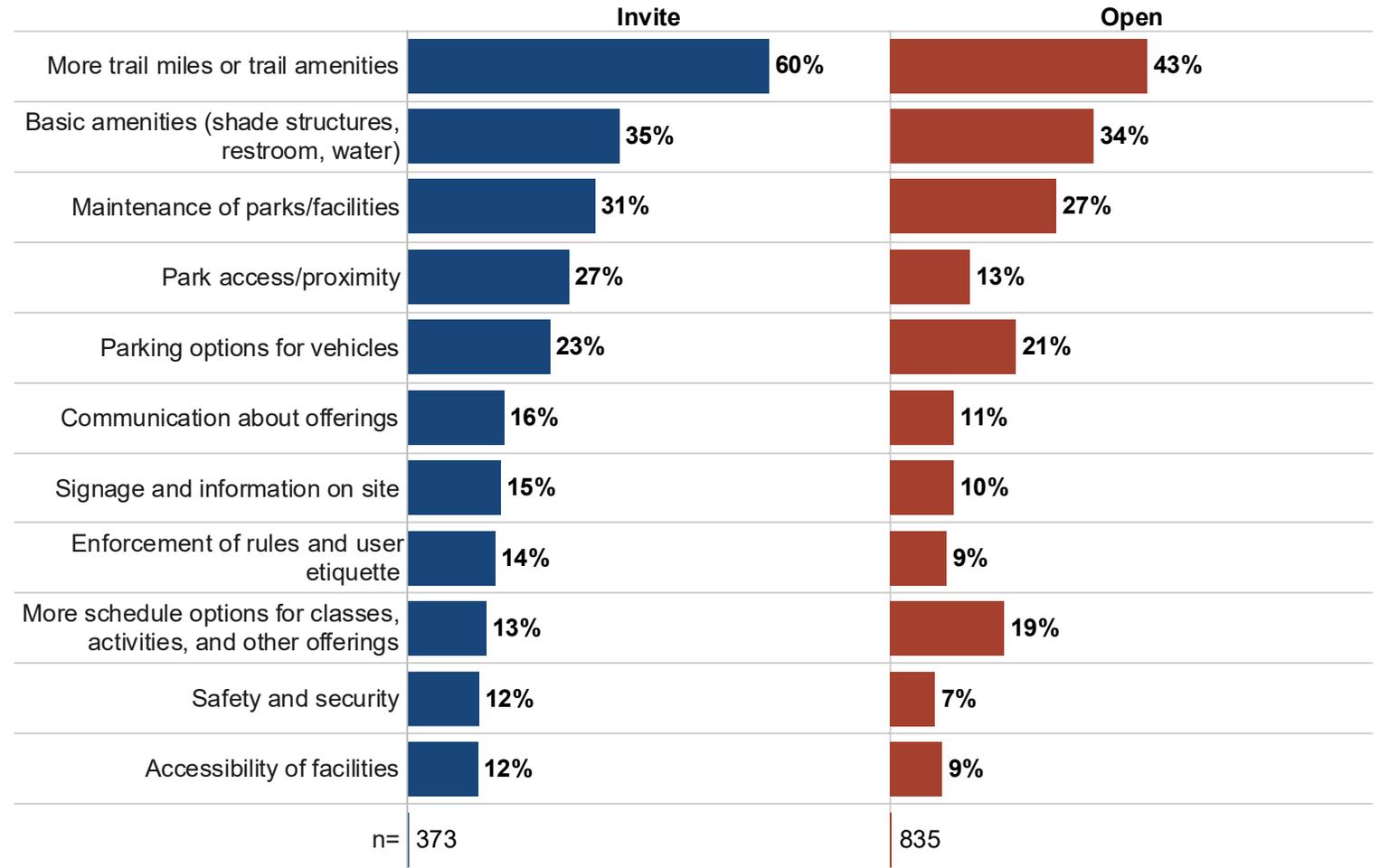
Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# INCREASING USE

SLIDE 1 OF 2

- More trail miles or trail amenities is the top improvement that would increase park use, selected by 60% of Invite respondents and 43% of Open link respondents.
- Basic amenities such as shade structures, restrooms, and water, along with maintenance of parks and facilities, were also highly ranked, with similar importance in both samples.

Knowing resources are limited, what are the most important items that, if addressed by the Park District, would increase your use of parks and recreation facilities?



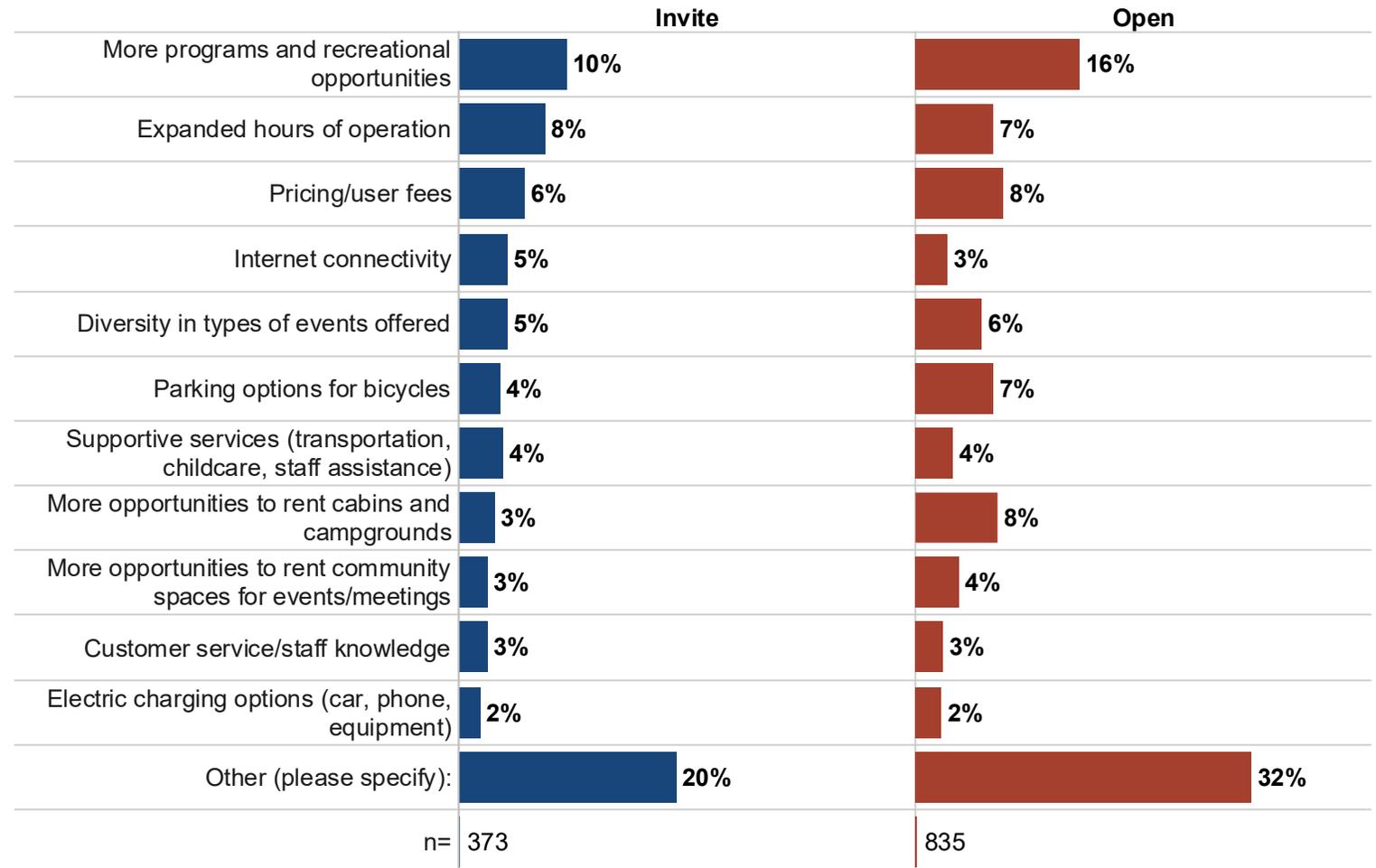
Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# INCREASING USE

SLIDE 2 OF 2

- The least important items cited by both samples were electric charging options, customer service, and rental spaces.
- Items mentioned in the “other” category include:
  - Lighting for athletic fields and courts
  - Additional and covered pickleball facilities
  - Improved shoreline access
  - Expanded trail networks and connectivity
  - Upgrades to pools and aquatic facilities
  - Enhanced gymnastics spaces
  - More off-leash dog areas
  - Turf field development, and
  - Splash pads.

**Knowing resources are limited, what are the most important items that, if addressed by the Park District, would increase your use of parks and recreation facilities?**



Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

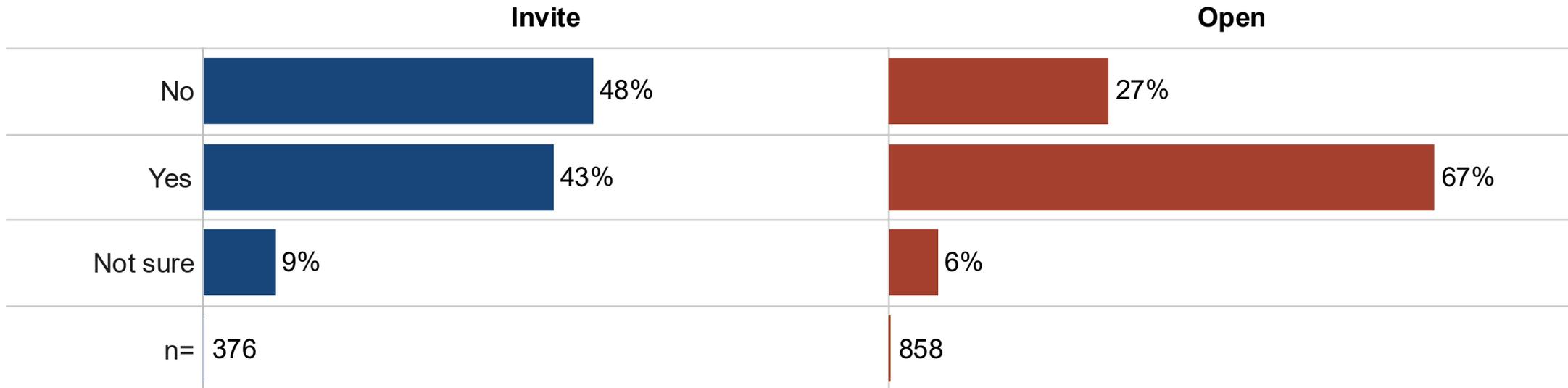


# PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

# PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Slightly less than half (43%) of the Invite sample households had at least one member who participated in a Park District program during the past 12 months. The Open link sample had a much higher share, at around two-thirds (67%) participating.

**Have you or other members of your household participated in any Park District led programs during the past 12 months?**

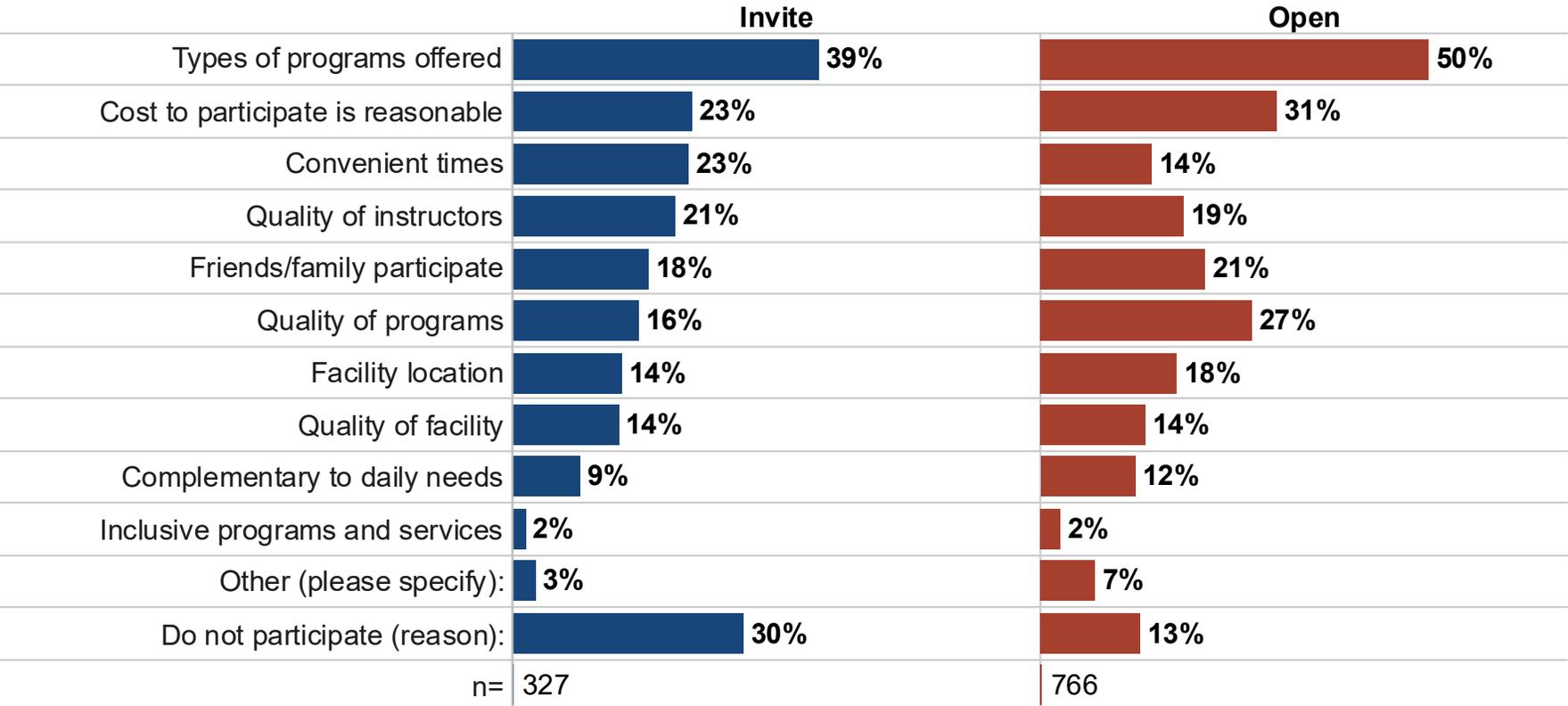


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# TOP REASONS FOR PROGRAM USE

The types of programs offered is the most important reason for participating in Park District programs for both the Invite (39%) and Open link (50%) samples. Cost, convenience, and quality of instructors were also cited by at least one-fifth of Invite respondents.

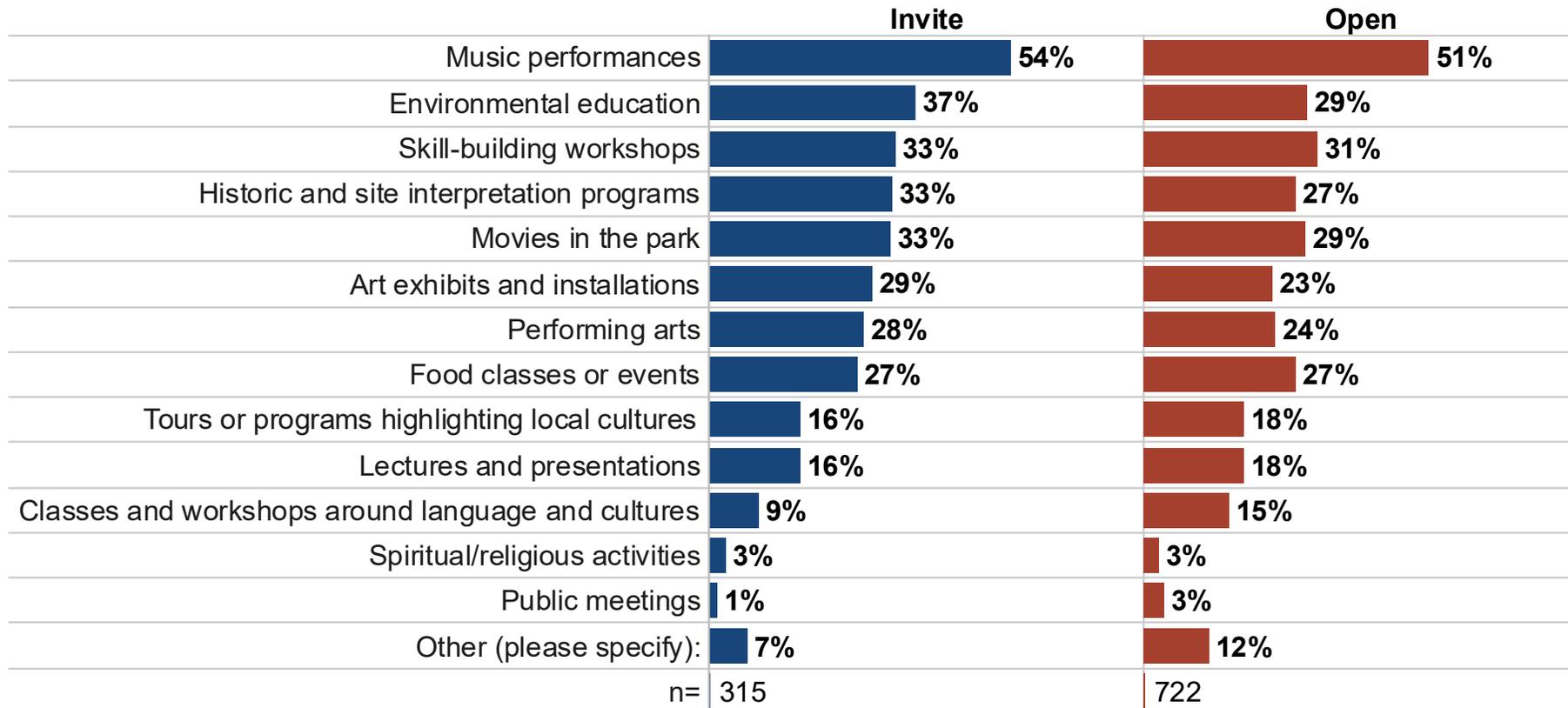
**Please check the TOP 3 primary reasons your household participates in the Park District’s programs.**



# FUTURE PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Music performances are the most requested cultural offering in both the Invite (54%) and Open link (51%) samples, followed by environmental education, skill-building workshops, and movies in the park. Historic and site interpretation programs also rank highly, particularly among Invite respondents. Overall, interest spans a variety of cultural and educational experiences, indicating strong demand for diverse program options that combine entertainment, learning, and community engagement.

## What types of cultural programs or events would you like to see more of?





# VALUES & VISION

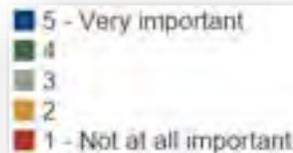
# VALUES & VISION

## INVITE SAMPLE

- The highest priorities for Invite respondents are protecting environmental resources and preserving land within parks (92% rating 4 or 5) and encouraging active lifestyles that promote health, wellness, and fitness (91%).
- Other top goals include environmental sustainability in park design and maintenance (84%) and ensuring affordability of facilities and programs (82%), indicating strong value placed on environmental stewardship and equitable access.

Parks, recreation, and open space opportunities are offered in the Park District for a variety of purposes and to serve the needs of a diverse population. Please mark the box for how important each of the following goals are to you and your household.  
*Invite Only*

Rating Category	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding		
			1 & 2	3	4 & 5
Protect environmental resources and preserve land within parks	4.6	351	3%	6%	76% 92%
Encourage active lifestyles and promote health, wellness, and fitness	4.6	346	3%	6%	76% 91%
Encourage environmental sustainability in park design and maintenance practices	4.4	345	5%	11%	22% 62% 84%
Ensure facilities and programs are affordable to all residents	4.3	344	7%	11%	64% 82%
Ensure parks and recreation opportunities are accessible to all residents (including safe walkable routes, lack of physical barriers, accommodations for needs, support services)	4.2	344	7%	18%	25% 51% 76%
Provide a high level of safety and security	4.0	347	9%	20%	31% 40% 71%
Reflect community interests as expressed and requested, particularly from evaluation and public feedback	4.0	335	8%	22%	35% 35% 70%
Strengthen community connections and sense of place	3.8	335	13%	20%	35% 32% 67%
Offer activities for residents to meet, socialize, and interact	3.5	338	21%	31%	22% 26% 48%
Offer cultural events, festivals, and activities that are inclusive and provide diversity of offerings	3.4	340	24%	28%	23% 26% 49%
Focus on providing family-oriented activities	3.2	336	27%	35%	21% 38%
Other (please specify):	4.5	23	10%	9%	77% 81%



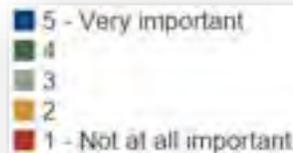
# VALUES & VISION

## OPEN LINK SAMPLE

- Although the order of priorities differs slightly, Open link respondents identified the same top five goals as the Invite sample: emphasizing active lifestyles, environmental protection, affordability, sustainability, and accessibility.

Parks, recreation, and open space opportunities are offered in the Park District for a variety of purposes and to serve the needs of a diverse population. Please mark the box for how important each of the following goals are to you and your household.  
*Open Only*

Rating Category	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding				
			1 & 2	3	4 & 5		
Encourage active lifestyles and promote health, wellness, and fitness	4.7	778	2%	5%	79%	93%	
Protect environmental resources and preserve land within parks	4.5	771	4%	10%	68%	86%	
Ensure facilities and programs are affordable to all residents	4.4	775	5%	11%	64%	84%	
Encourage environmental sustainability in park design and maintenance practices	4.3	774	6%	11%	25%	58%	83%
Ensure parks and recreation opportunities are accessible to all residents (including safe walkable routes, lack of physical barriers, accommodations for needs, support services)	4.1	770	8%	17%	29%	47%	75%
Provide a high level of safety and security	4.0	765	9%	20%	32%	39%	71%
Reflect community interests as expressed and requested, particularly from evaluation and public feedback	4.0	736	7%	22%	33%	38%	71%
Strengthen community connections and sense of place	4.0	755	10%	19%	33%	38%	71%
Focus on providing family-oriented activities	3.7	762	17%	24%	28%	31%	59%
Offer activities for residents to meet, socialize, and interact	3.6	759	15%	28%	30%	26%	57%
Offer cultural events, festivals, and activities that are inclusive and provide diversity of offerings	3.5	757	20%	23%	33%	25%	57%
Other (please specify):	4.6	63	6%	8%	79%	86%	



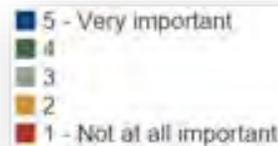
# ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

## INVITE SAMPLE

- There is strong support for environmental stewardship on Bainbridge Island, with proactive forest management (89%) and wildfire mitigation (82%) receiving the highest importance ratings among Invite respondents.
- Other highly valued initiatives include management plans for natural resources (80%), removal of invasive plant species (79%), and low-waste practices and designs on parklands (79%).
- Waste reduction efforts such as recycling practices (78%) and addressing pollution and emissions (77%) are also widely supported.
- While still important to a majority, initiatives like climate change-related plans (70%) and use of renewable energy (64%) received relatively lower priority compared to other stewardship actions.

**There are lots of ways the Park District can help environmental stewardship on Bainbridge Island. How important are the following initiatives to you?**  
*Invite Only*

Rating Category	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding				
			1 & 2	3	4 & 5	Total	
Proactive forest management	4.5	343	2%	8%	27%	62%	89%
Wildfire mitigation	4.4	340	3%	15%	24%	58%	82%
Management plans for natural resources on parklands	4.3	341	5%	15%	28%	52%	80%
Removal of non-native invasive plants that inhibit local ecosystems	4.2	348	7%	14%	26%	53%	79%
Low-waste practices and designs on parklands	4.2	342	7%	15%	29%	50%	79%
Reduction, reuse, and recycling practices	4.2	347	8%	13%	28%	50%	78%
Reduction of pollution, including emissions	4.1	341	9%	14%	28%	49%	77%
Low-impact development practices	4.1	338	7%	19%	26%	47%	74%
Encouraging use of local services and resources	4.1	342	5%	19%	36%	39%	76%
Encouraging walking, and other alternatives to gas-engine vehicles	4.1	348	12%	12%	26%	50%	76%
Climate change related plans	3.9	344	14%	16%	23%	47%	70%
Use of and hosting of renewable energy	3.9	340	12%	24%	26%	38%	64%



# ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

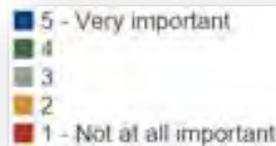
## OPEN LINK SAMPLE

- Overall, priorities are closely aligned, but Invite respondents tend to give slightly stronger support across most environmental initiatives, with the highest priorities being proactive forest management and wildfire mitigation.
- In the Open link sample, support is also high for reduction, reuse, and recycling practices (78%), and management plans for natural resources (77%) indicating broad interest in both conservation and sustainable management practices.
- Similar to the Invite sample, the Open link also placed the lowest priority on climate change related plans and use of and hosting of renewable energy.

There are lots of ways the Park District can help environmental stewardship on Bainbridge Island. How important are the following initiatives to you?

Open Only

Rating Category	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding				
			1 & 2	3	4 & 5		
Proactive forest management	4.3	749	4%	15%	27%	54%	81%
Wildfire mitigation	4.3	736	5%	16%	24%	54%	79%
Reduction, reuse, and recycling practices	4.2	759	6%	16%	27%	51%	78%
Management plans for natural resources on parklands	4.2	732	6%	16%	28%	49%	77%
Encouraging walking, and other alternatives to gas-engine vehicles	4.2	764	9%	13%	27%	51%	78%
Removal of non-native invasive plants that inhibit local ecosystems	4.1	760	7%	15%	33%	45%	79%
Encouraging use of local services and resources	4.1	745	8%	15%	32%	45%	77%
Low-waste practices and designs on parklands	4.1	752	8%	15%	32%	45%	77%
Reduction of pollution, including emissions	4.1	757	10%	17%	25%	48%	74%
Low-impact development practices	4.0	737	9%	18%	29%	44%	72%
Climate change related plans	4.0	753	14%	14%	25%	47%	72%
Use of and hosting of renewable energy	3.8	742	12%	22%	31%	34%	65%



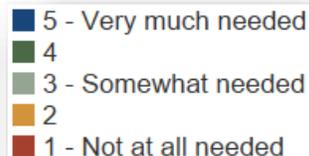
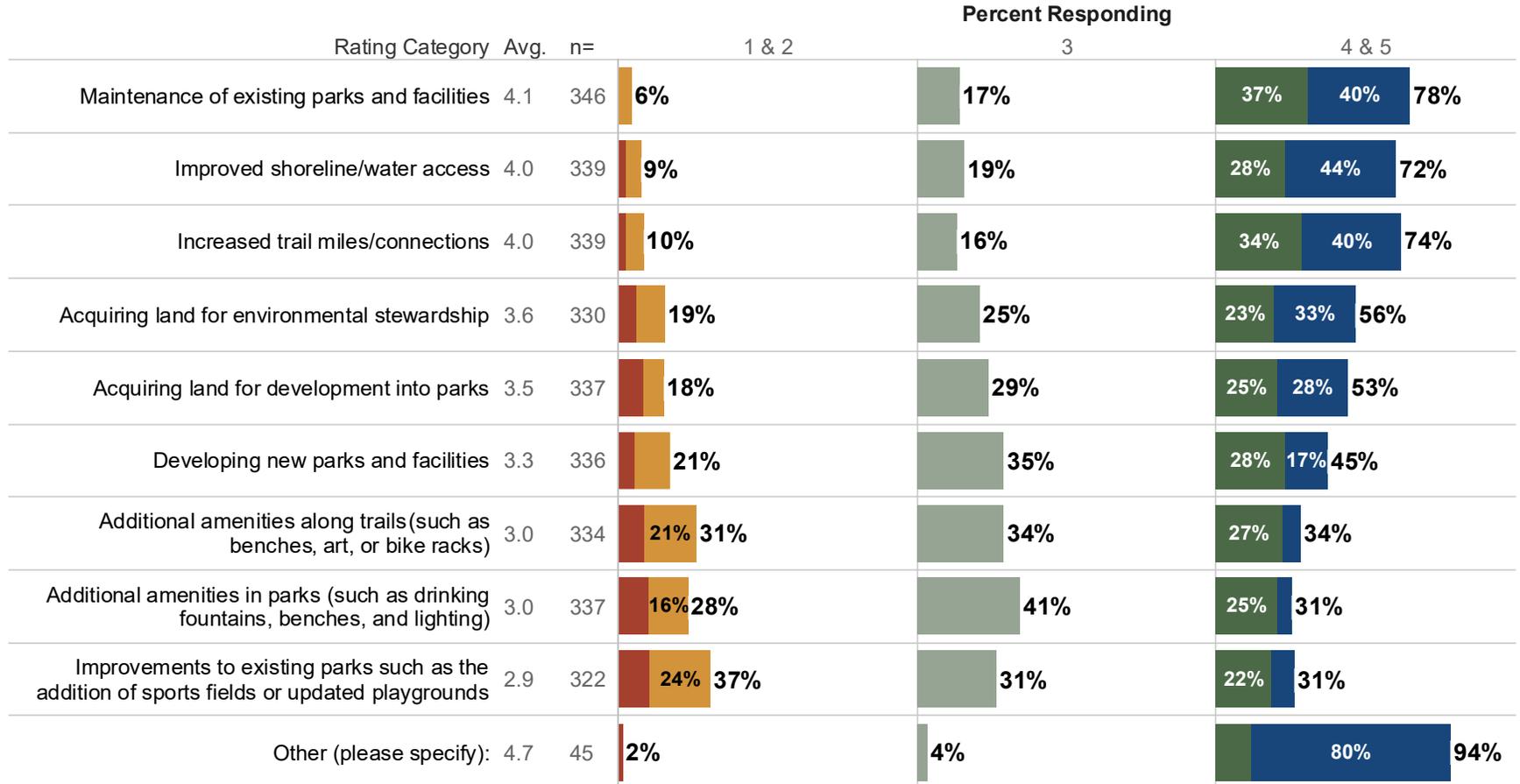
# FUTURE NEEDS

## INVITE SAMPLE

- Maintenance of existing parks and facilities (78% rating it a 4/5), improving shoreline/water access (72%), and increased trail miles/connections (74%) were among the highest rated on average by the Invite sample.
- Conversely, adding sports fields or updated playgrounds was the least important future need cited by the Invite sample.

### What are the greatest needs in the list below for the next 6 to 12 years?

Invite Only



# FUTURE NEEDS

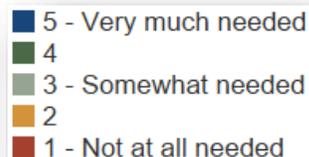
## OPEN LINK SAMPLE

- Compared to the Invite sample, the Open link sample shows similar overall priorities, with maintenance of existing parks and facilities ranked highest (77% vs. 78%).
- However, the Open link sample places slightly less emphasis on improved shoreline/water access (66% vs. 72%) and increased trail miles/connections (65% vs. 74%).

What are the greatest needs in the list below for the next 6 to 12 years?

Open Only

Rating Category	Avg.	n=	Percent Responding				
			1 & 2	3	4 & 5		
Maintenance of existing parks and facilities	4.2	757	6%	17%	30%	46%	77%
Improved shoreline/water access	3.9	736	13%	21%	25%	42%	66%
Increased trail miles/connections	3.9	736	12%	23%	28%	37%	65%
Acquiring land for environmental stewardship	3.5	731	22%	25%	21%	31%	52%
Acquiring land for development into parks	3.5	732	21%	27%	23%	29%	52%
Developing new parks and facilities	3.4	741	21%	31%	26%	22%	47%
Improvements to existing parks such as the addition of sports fields or updated playgrounds	3.3	728	16%	29%	18%	28%	46%
Additional amenities in parks (such as drinking fountains, benches, and lighting)	3.1	738	19%	31%	19%	35%	
Additional amenities along trails (such as benches, art, or bike racks)	2.9	748	23%	34%	18%	28%	
Other (please specify):	4.8	97	4%			90%	96%

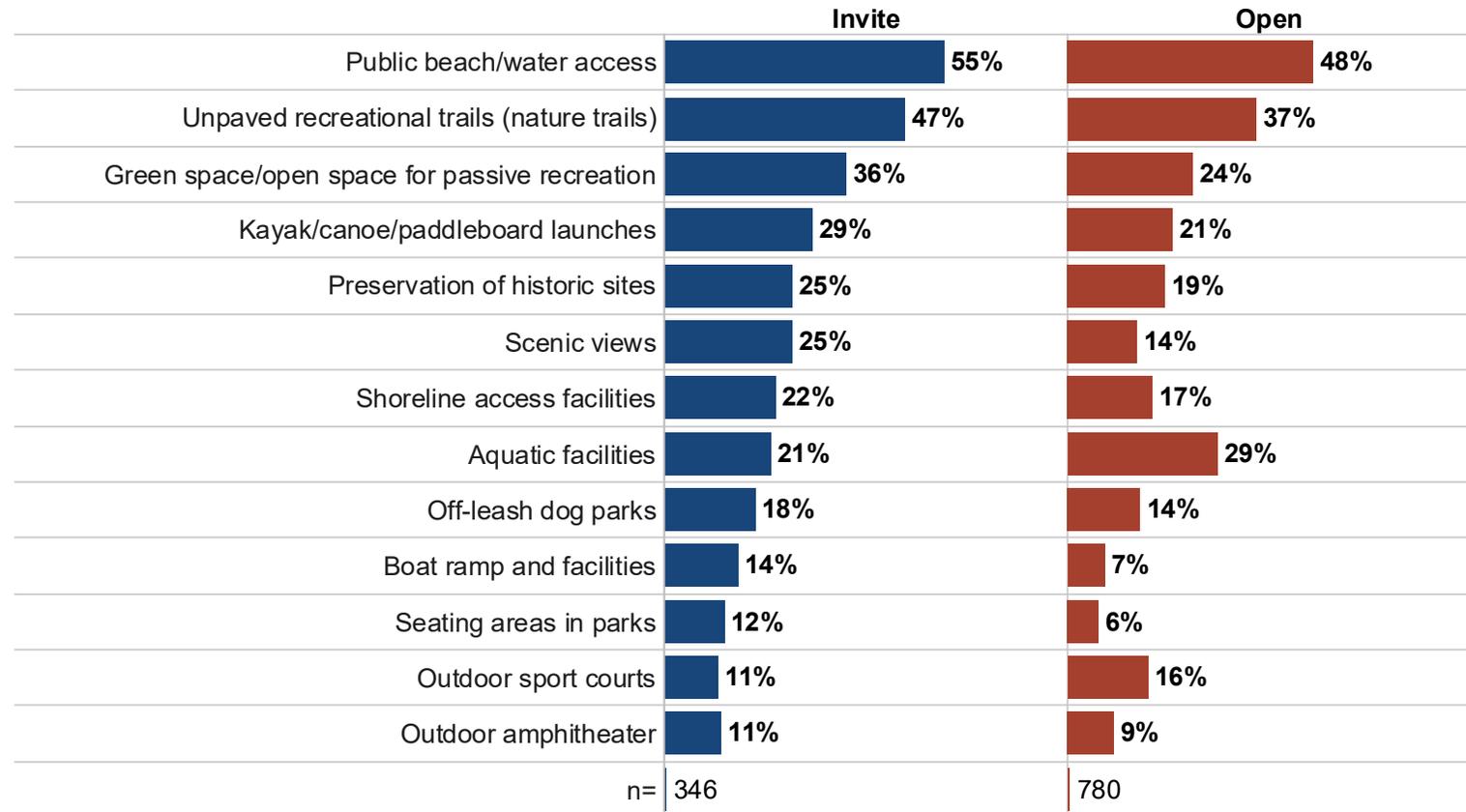


# ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

SLIDE 1 OF 2

- Consistent with the desire for more shoreline/water access, the most common desire for additional amenities was public beach/water access (55% Invite, 48% Open link).
- Unpaved recreation trails followed among both samples, with just under half of the Invite sample (47%) and over one-third of the Open link sample (37%).
- The Open link sample places a highly higher priority on aquatic facilities and courts.

What additional recreational amenities are most needed for you or your household?



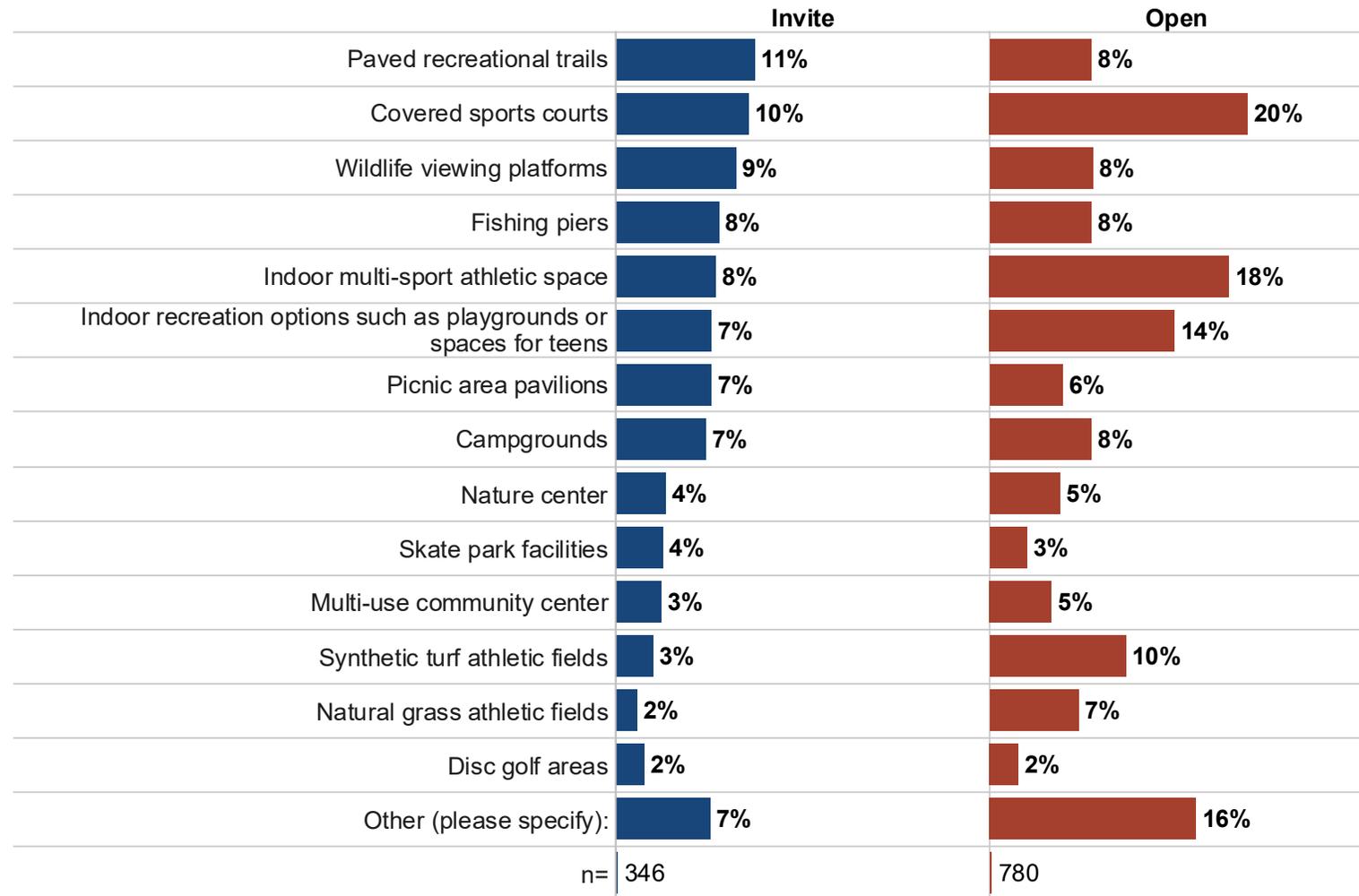
Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

## SLIDE 2 OF 2

- The lowest needed recreation amenities were activity-specific facilities that cater to a smaller group of residents.
- The Open link sample has a stronger preference overall for sports-based amenities such as courts and fields.

What additional recreational amenities are most needed for you or your household?



Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

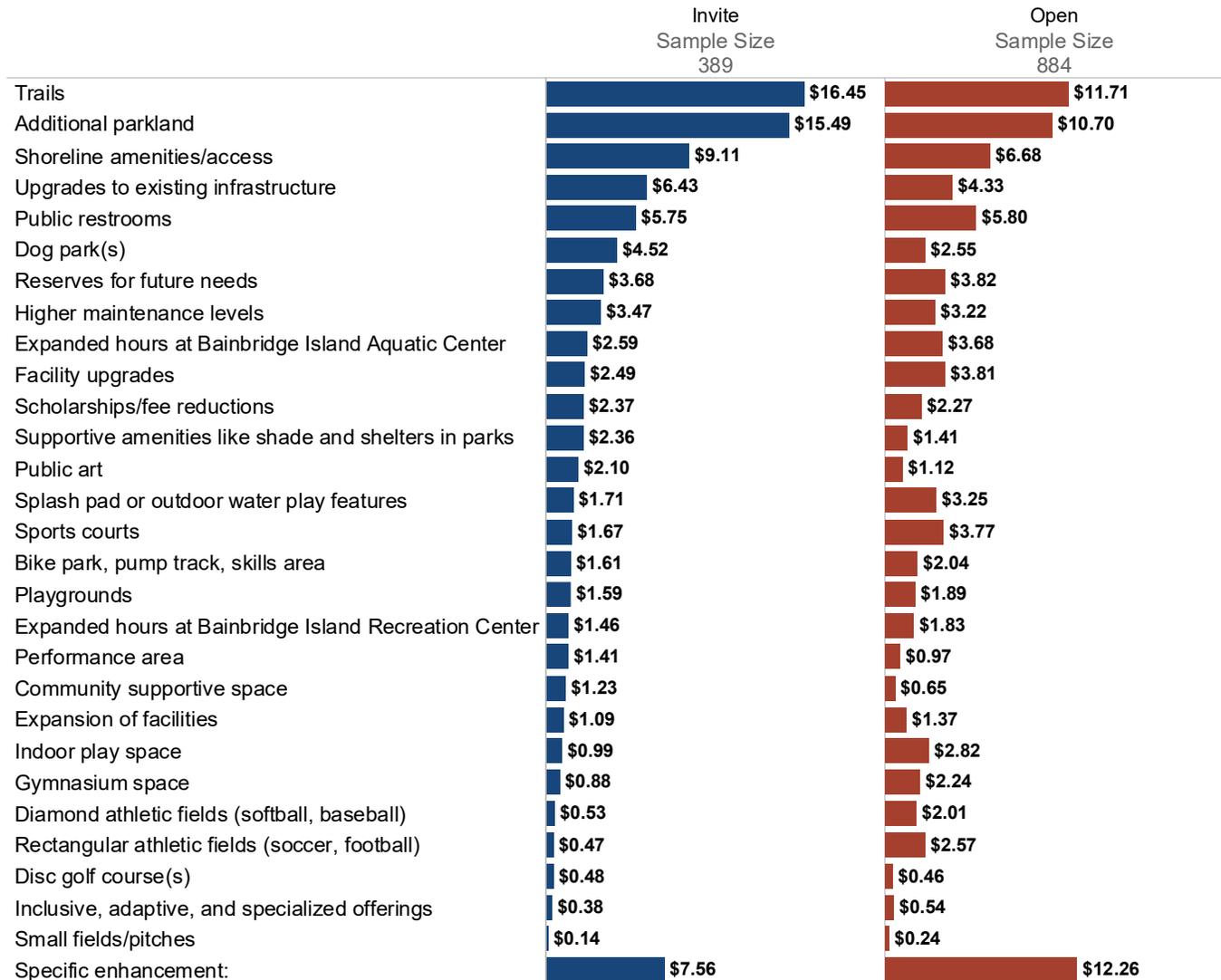


# FINANCIAL CHOICES

# \$100 BUDGET ALLOCATION

- Trails received the highest funding allocation in both samples, though Invite respondents allocated significantly more (\$16.45) than Open link respondents (\$11.71).
- Additional parkland ranked second for both groups, with Invite respondents again allocating more (\$15.49 vs. \$10.70).
- Shoreline amenities/access was a top-three priority for both samples, though Invite respondents allocated more funding than the Open group.
- The Open sample directed more funding than the Invite sample toward sports courts, splash pads or outdoor water play features, gymnasium space, and fields.
- Categories receiving lower allocations overall include inclusive/adaptive offerings, disc golf, and small fields/pitches in both samples.
- Common “other” responses include covered pickleball courts, pool or aquatic upgrades, lighting for fields, more trails and bike paths, gymnastics facility improvements, roller hockey rink cover, shoreline access, and more restrooms.

Imagine you have \$100 to spend on improving recreation facilities, services and/or programs for the Park District, how would you allocate that \$100 across the following categories?



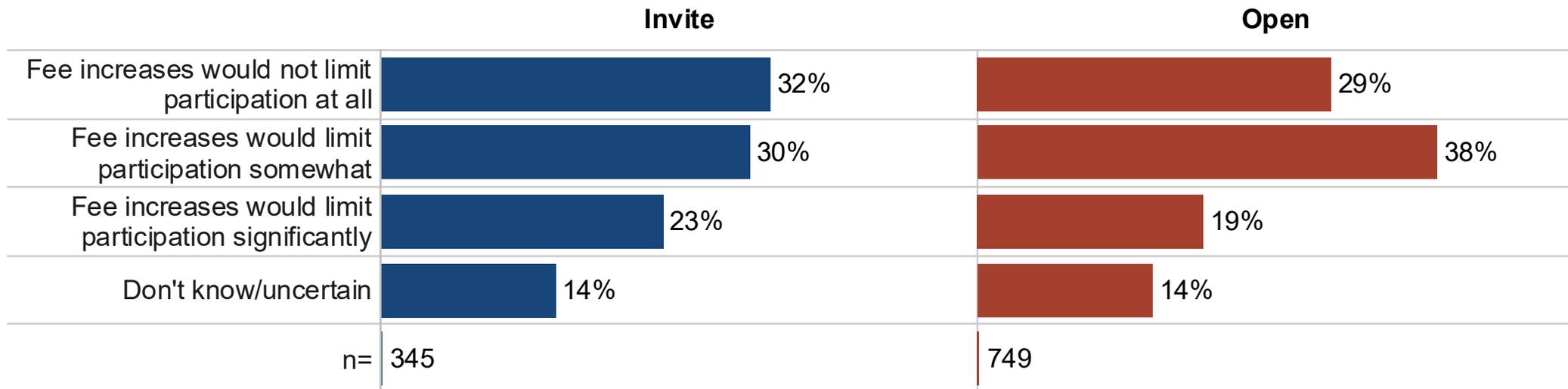
Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey



# FEEES AND PARTICIPATION

About one-third of respondents in both samples indicated that fee increases would not limit their participation in Park District programs and facilities (32% Invite, 29% Open). However, a larger share of Open respondents (38%) than Invite respondents (30%) said fee increases would somewhat limit their participation, while significant limitations were more often cited by Invite respondents (23% vs. 19%).

**If fee adjustments were made for Park District programs and facilities, which of the following best describes the potential impact, if any, that fee increases would have on your current level of participation?**

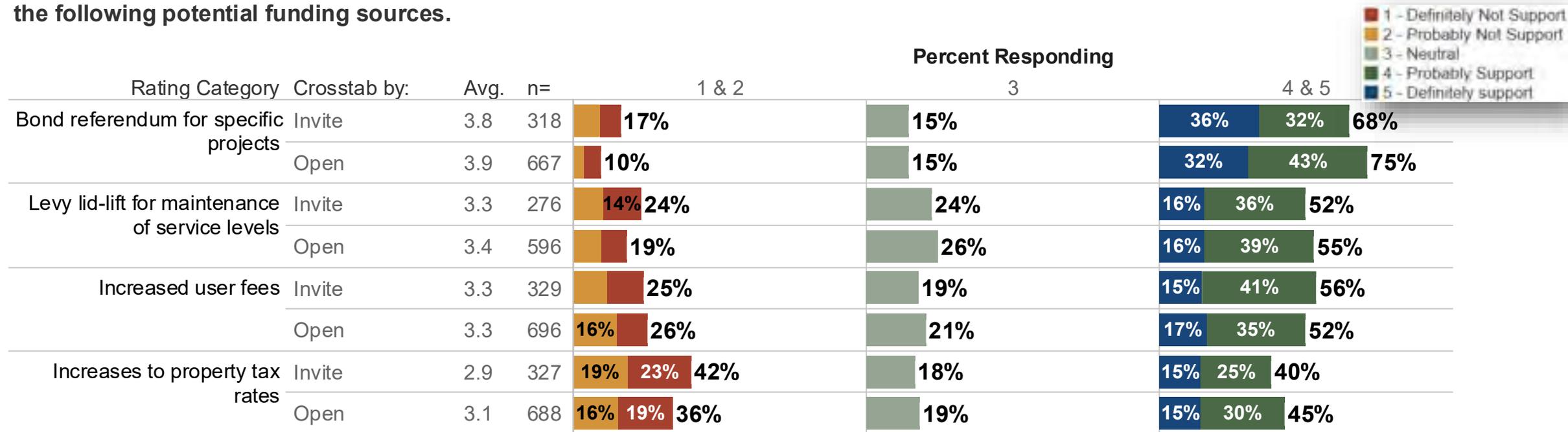


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# TYPES OF FUNDING SUPPORT

Bond referendums for specific projects receive the strongest support among all potential funding sources, with higher backing from the Open link sample (75%) than the Invite sample (68%). Support for a levy lid-lift to maintain service levels is moderate in both groups, as is support for increased user fees. Increases to property tax rates receive the lowest support overall, though Open link respondents are slightly more favorable than Invite respondents.

The recommendations from this survey could possibly require financial support. Please indicate how strongly you support each of the following potential funding sources.



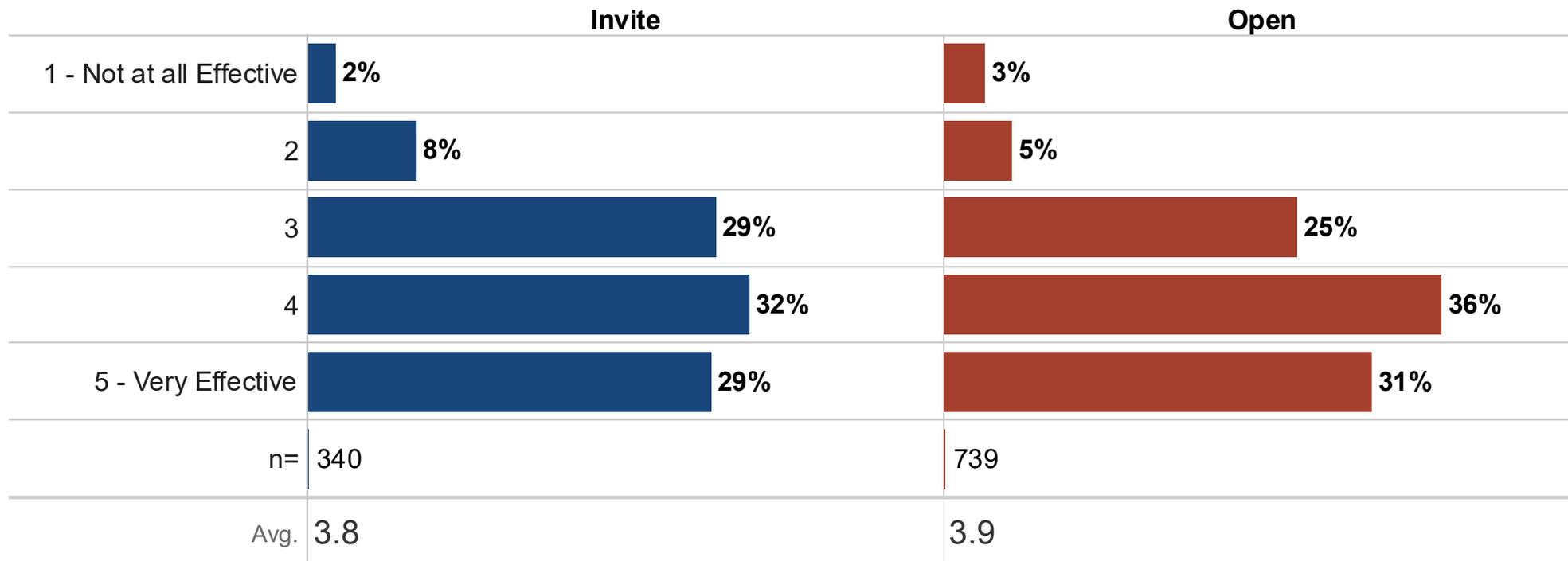


| COMMUNICATION

# EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNICATION

Most respondents view the Park District's communication efforts positively, with 61% of Invite respondents and 67% of Open link respondents rating effectiveness a 4 or 5. Negative ratings are low in both groups, at 10% for Invite and 8% for Open link.

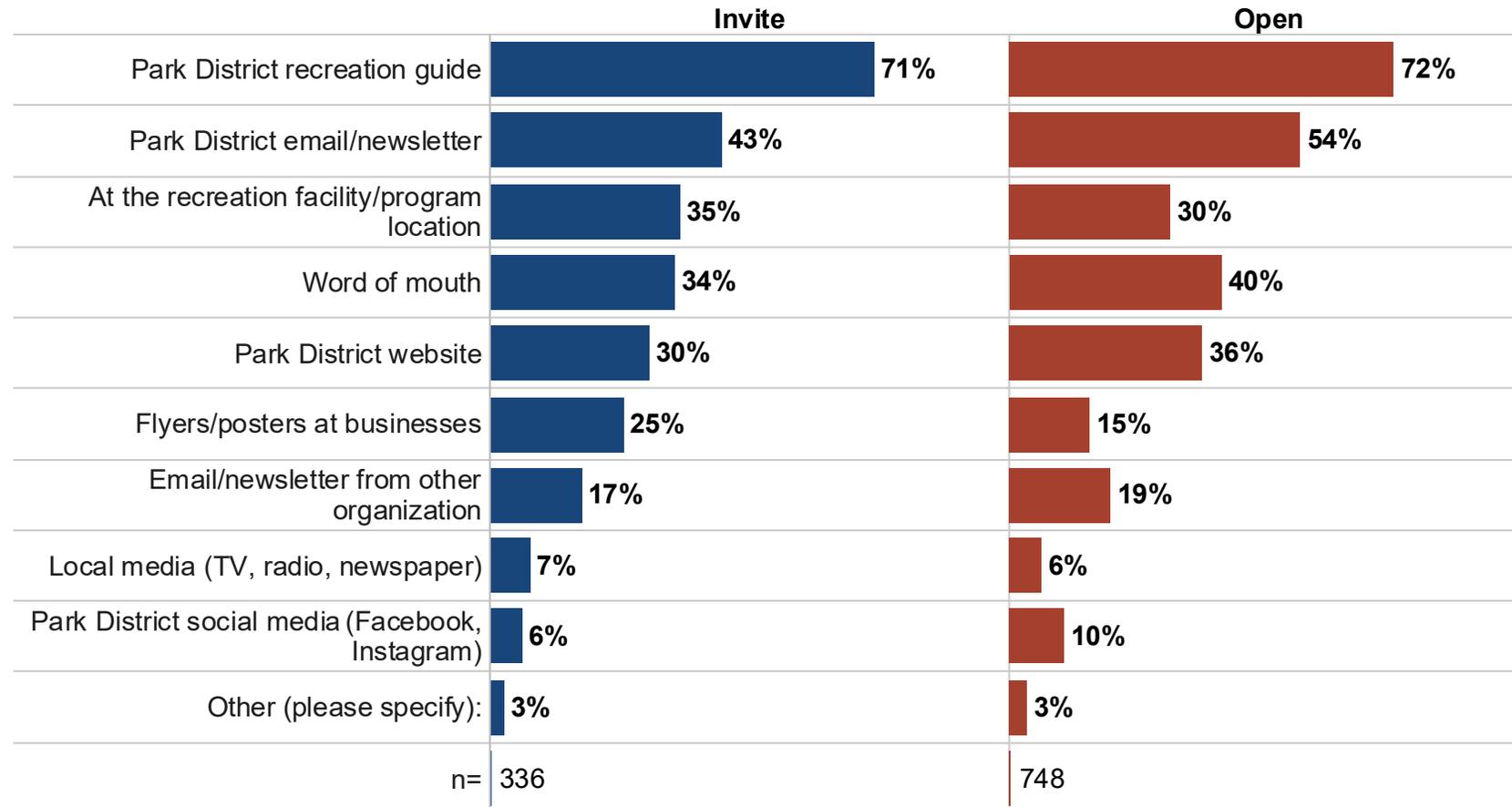
**How effective is the Park District at reaching you with information on parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services?**



# CURRENT COMMUNICATION METHODS

- The Park District recreation guide is the most common information source for both Invite (71%) and Open link (72%) respondents.
- The Park District email/newsletter is also widely used, with higher usage among Open link respondents (54%) than Invite respondents (43%).
- Other common sources include word of mouth and the Park District website, while social media and local media are the least used channels.

**How do you currently receive information on parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services offered by the Park District?**

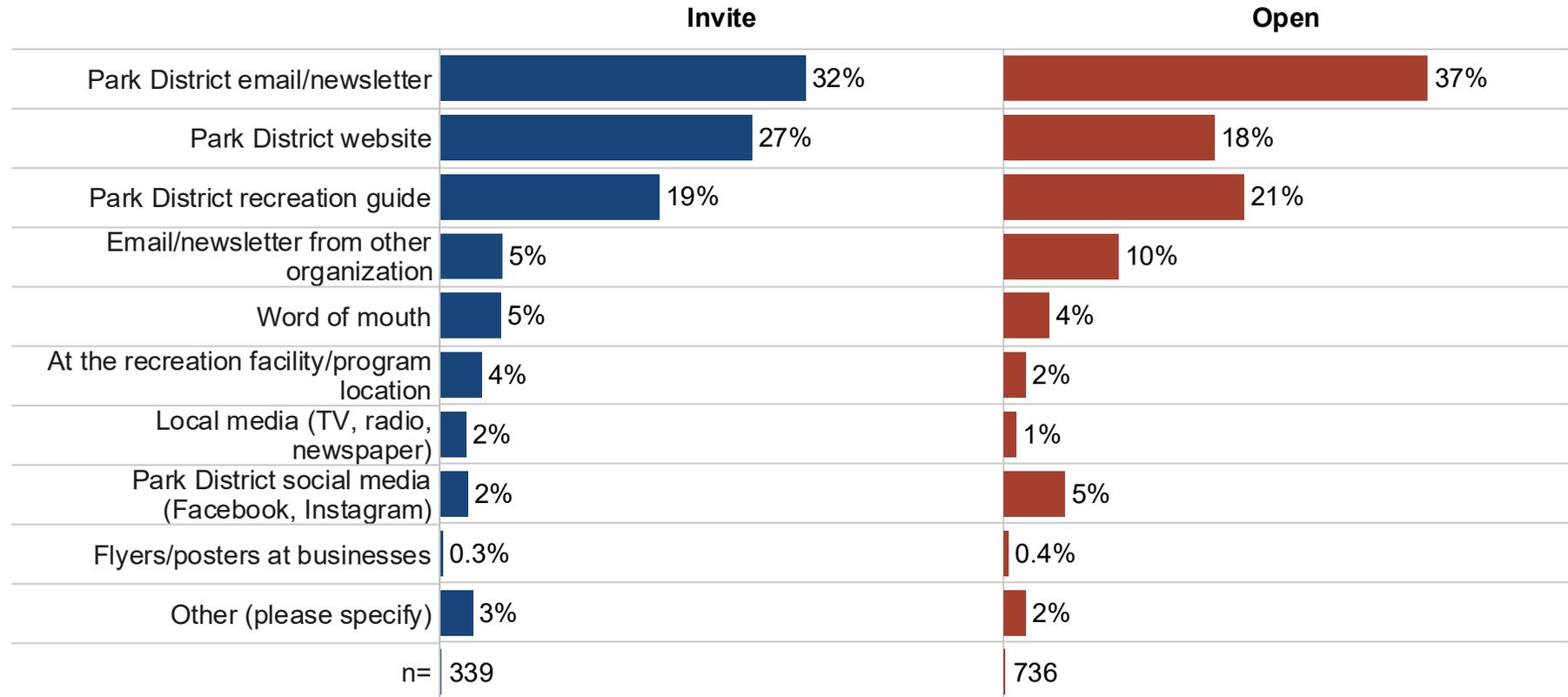


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# PREFERRED COMMUNICATIONS

- In both samples, the Park District recreation guide is currently the most used information source, yet it ranks lower as a preferred method (19% Invite, 21% Open link), suggesting it is effective for reach but not the top choice for how residents want to receive information.
- The Park District email/newsletter is both a widely used current method and the top preferred method (32% Invite, 37% Open link), indicating strong alignment between current use and resident preference.
- The Park District website is the second most preferred method for Invite respondents (27%), showing an opportunity to further strengthen its role as a go-to communication tool.

## What is the preferred way for you to receive information on parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services?



Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

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At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide any additional comments or suggestions for the Park District. A total of 560 comments were collected from both samples and common themes are highlighted below.

## Facility and Amenity Improvements



- Calls for better lighting at indoor and outdoor courts and fields.
- Requests for more public restrooms and enhanced shoreline access.
- Desire for parity in quality between softball and baseball facilities.



## Strategic Growth that Enhances Community Character

- Support for improvements that integrate with the environment and preserve scenic views.
- Desire for nature-focused facilities, such as a nature center, and enhancements that promote safety and resilience (e.g., wildfire mitigation).
- Preference for designs and materials that feel authentic to the Island rather than suburban or overly commercial.

## Equity and Accessibility in Park Planning



- Calls for ADA-compliant trails, shoreline access, and play areas.
- Interest in facilities and programming for a wide range of ages, from young children to seniors.
- Suggestions for equitable distribution of amenities across the Island so all neighborhoods benefit.



## Expanded Indoor and All-Weather Recreation Options

- Requests for indoor play areas for young children and covered sports complexes.
- Interest in multi-use covered courts with lighting for extended hours.
- Suggestions for specialized facilities like a fly casting pond tied to local heritage.

## Support for Niche or Underrepresented Sports



- Requests for an ice hockey rink or covered roller hockey space.
- Suggestions for indoor sport courts that can serve multiple activities.
- Recognition of community interest in figure skating and hockey due to regional trends.



## Connectivity, Trails, and Safety

- Support for north–south trail connections and links to schools, ferry, and businesses.
- Concerns about lack of safe walking/biking routes on roads without shoulders or sidewalks.
- Desire for open spaces along trails for passive recreation, not just continuous walking.

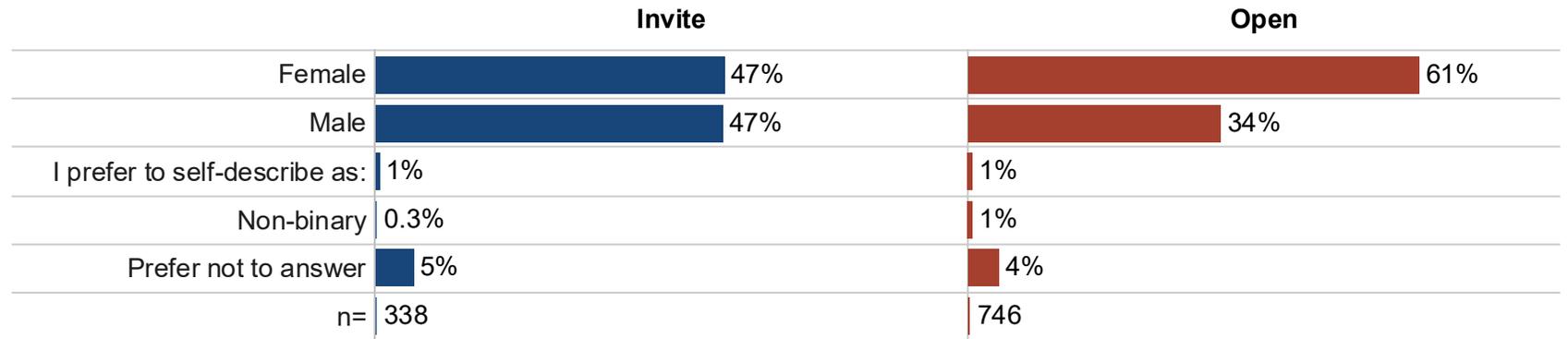


# DEMOGRAPHICS

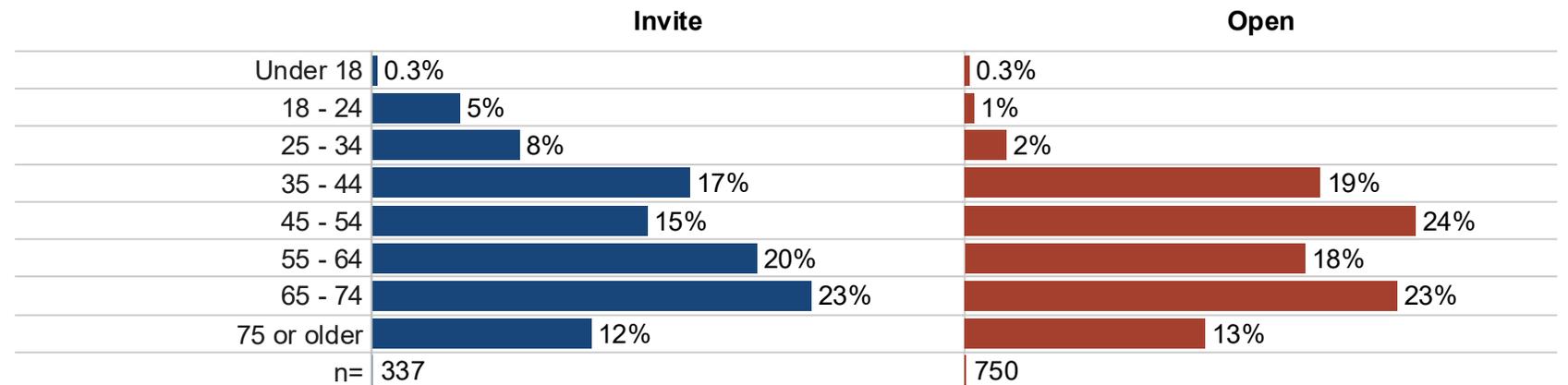
# GENDER & AGE

- The Invite sample was weighted by gender and age using US Census data to better represent Bainbridge Island.
- More than half of the Open link sample were female.

Please indicate the gender with which you identify:



What is your age?

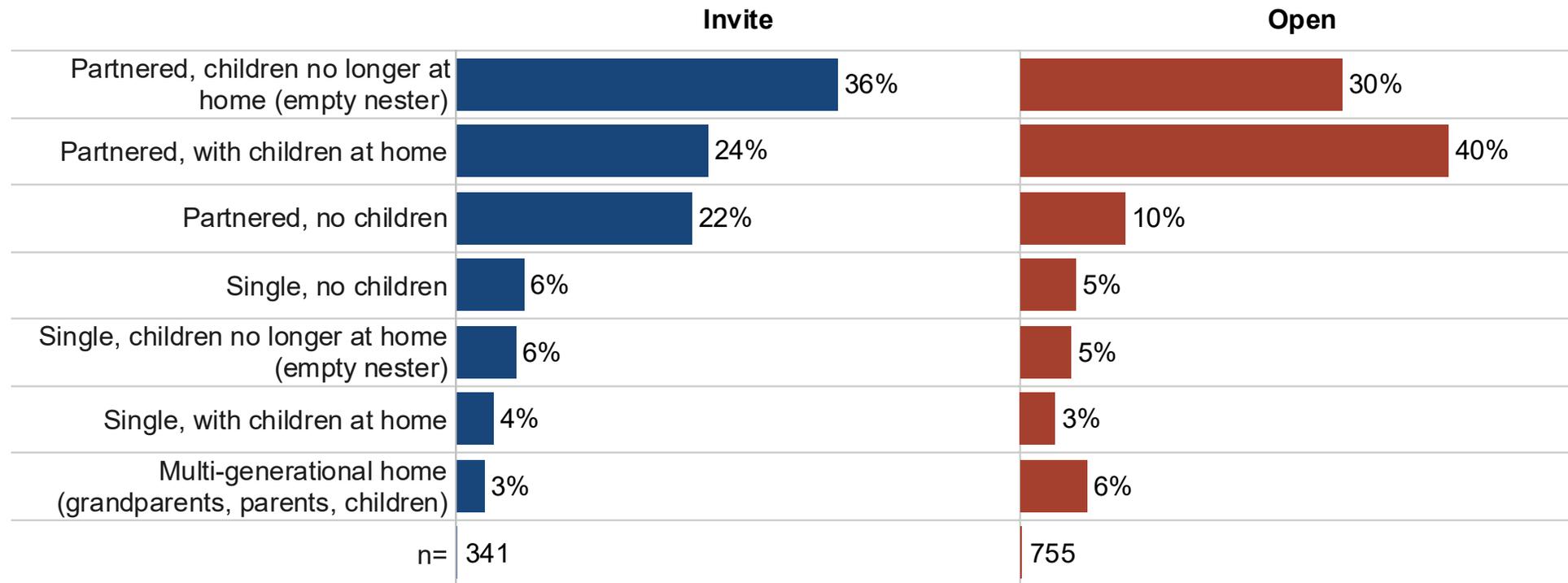


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# HOUSEHOLD MAKEUP

- A total of 36% of the Invite sample, and 30% of the Open link sample, are partners with children no longer at home, followed by partners with children at home, and partners without children.
- The Invite sample was weighted by the presence of children in household to better represent the community; including children in any category (partnered, single, or multi-generational).

## Which of these categories best applies to your household?

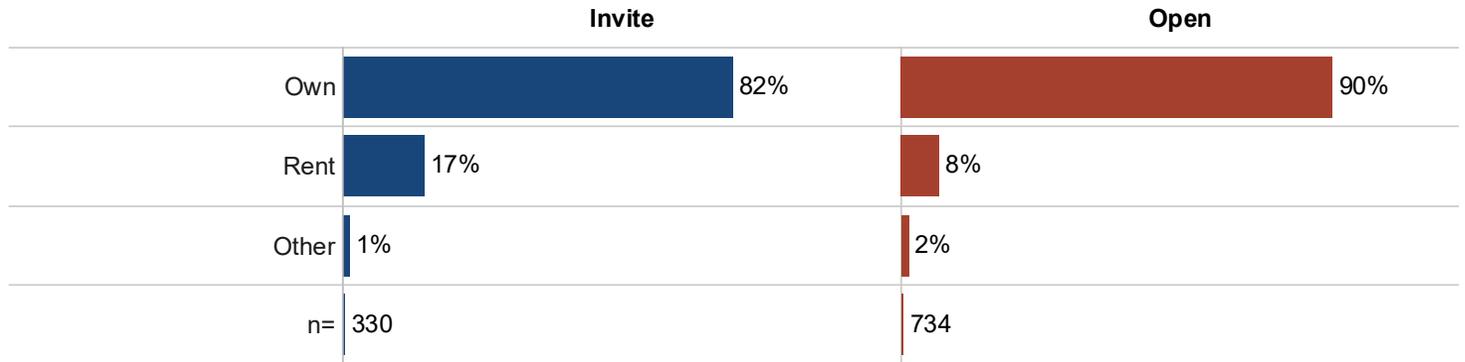


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

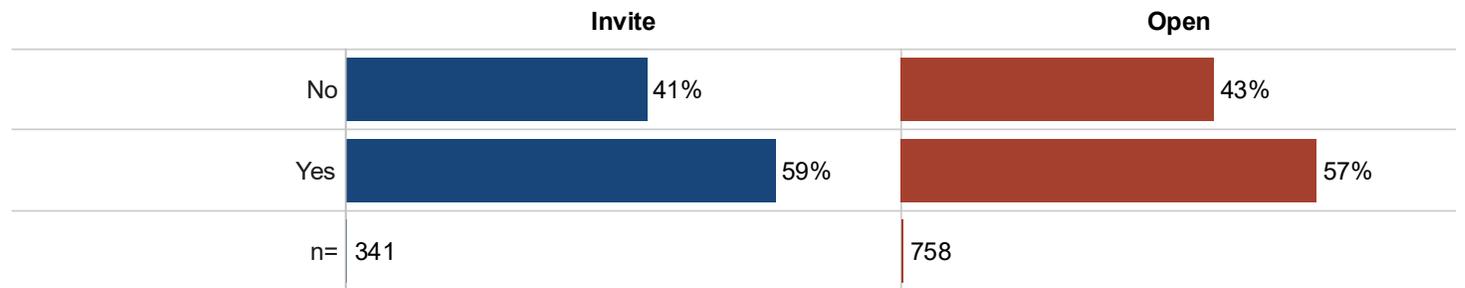
# RESIDENCE OWNERSHIP & USE OF GAS-ENGINE VEHICLE

- The Invite sample was weighted by home ownership status to better represent the distribution of housing tenure on Bainbridge Island.
- A majority of respondents use alternative transportation to gas-engine vehicles to access parks and park facilities.

Do you own or rent your residence in the community?



Do members of your household use alternative transportation to gas-engine vehicles to access parks and park facilities?

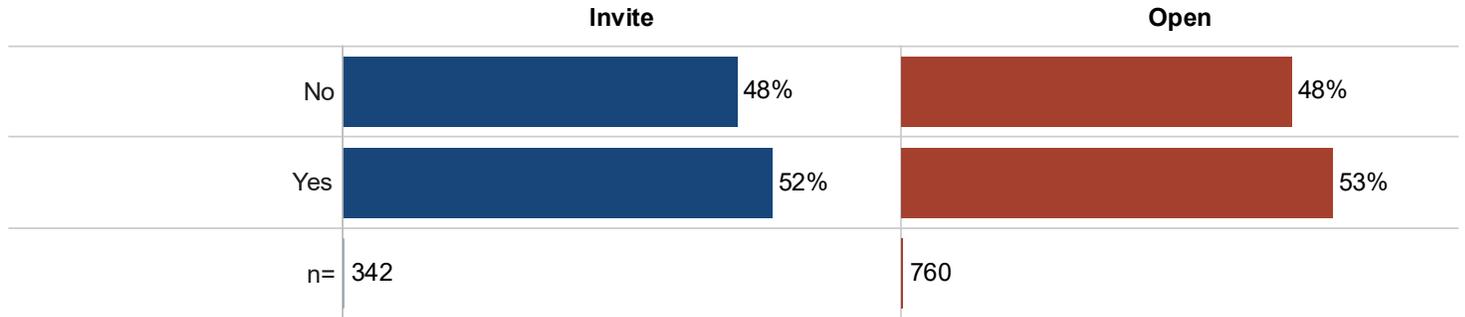


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

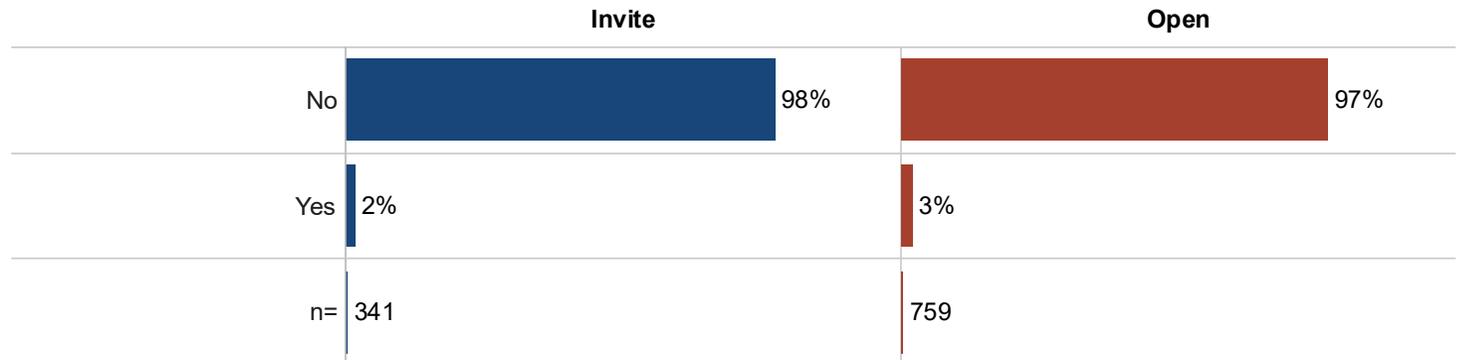
# DOG & HORSE OWNERSHIP

- The majority of respondents own a dog on Bainbridge Island.
- Only a small share (2%-3%) of either sample cited owning a horse.

Do you or a member of your household own a dog?



Do you or a member of your household own a horse?

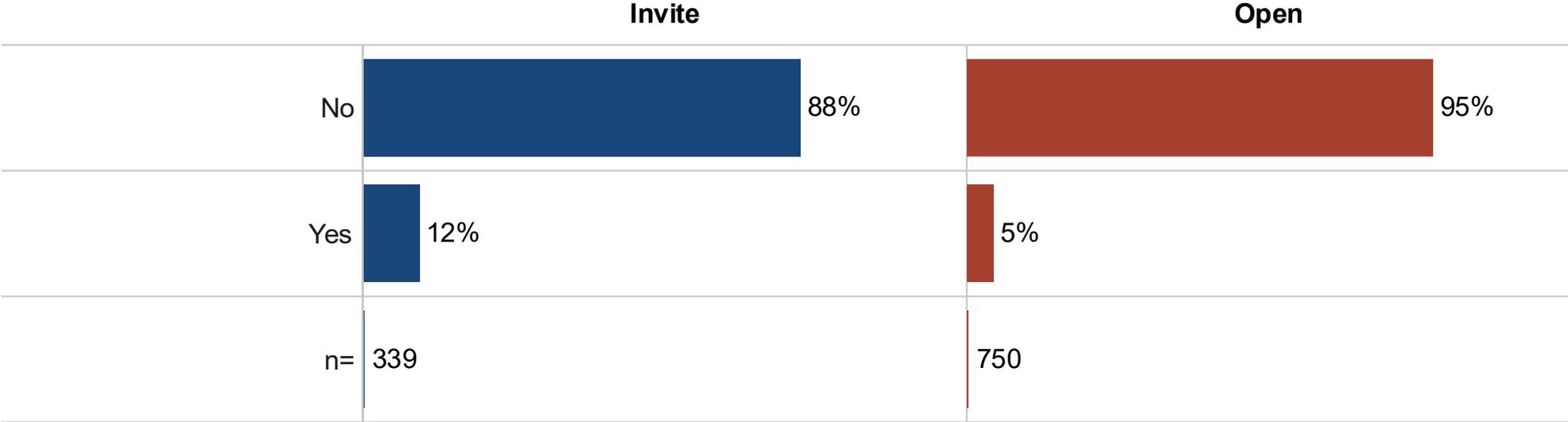


Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# ADA ACCESSIBLE NEEDS

Resident with a need for ADA-accessible facilities and services are better represented among the Invite sample compared to the Open link (12% vs. 5%).

Does your household have a need for ADA-accessible (Americans with Disabilities) facilities and services?



Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey

# ETHNICITY & RACE

Across both samples, the majority of respondents identified as white, but some representation was obtained across various ethnicities and races.

## What race do you consider yourself to be?

	Invite	Open
White	84%	85%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	1%
Some other race	1%	1%
Asian	1%	4%
Hispanic or Latino	1%	1%
Middle Eastern or North African	1%	1%
Black or African American	0.3%	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0.1%
Prefer not to answer	13%	10%
n=	335	741

Source: RRC Associates, 2025 Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District Comprehensive Plan Survey



Hawley Cove  
Park

 Bainbridge Island  
Metco Park & Recreation District



**RRC**

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## C. PUBLIC COMMENT LOG

A list of specific public comments will be included here.

# D. Glossary

<b>Term</b>	<b>See, also:</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Accessible</b>	Accessibility; ADA;	
<b>Accessibility</b>	Access, Accessible, ADA	Accessibility refers to the design and provision of park facilities and programs that are usable by individuals of all abilities. This includes physical accessibility (e.g., ramps, accessible bathrooms) as well as programmatic accessibility (e.g., adaptive recreation programs). The term is often associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
<b>ADA</b>	See: American with Disability Act	
<b>Amenities</b>		Amenities are the additional features or conveniences within parks and recreation facilities, such as benches, restrooms, picnic tables, and water fountains. They are not the focus of a space or fundamental to the planned use. Parking areas and safety items can even be considered amenities. Amenities are “elements” that enhance the user experience by providing comfort, accessibility, and convenience.

<b>American with Disability Act</b>	ADA	<p>Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), state and local governments that construct new buildings and facilities, or make specific alterations to existing buildings, facilities and programs, must make them accessible. Title II requires a public entity to ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from services, programs, and activities because existing buildings and facilities are inaccessible. Title I and Title III are also applicable to the <i>Park District</i> which concern policy and procedures expected to be in place or under development, such as communication and complaint process. Public agencies, including the Park District, typically devise “Transition Plans” to document their approach to compliance. Violations can be reported to the US Department of Justice or to a designated agency, often at the state level.</p> <p>(ADA guidelines, endorsed by the US Department of Justice and the State of Washington, can be viewed on-line including at <a href="http://adata.org/learn-about-ada">http://adata.org/learn-about-ada</a>.)</p>
<b>Bainbridge Island Land Trust</b>	BILT	See: Pg. 5-6
<b>Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation</b>	BIPTF	See: Pg. 5-6
<b>Bainbridge Island Recreation Center</b>	BIRC	
<b>Bainbridge Island School District</b>	BISD	See: Pg. 5, 7
<b>Best Practices</b>		<p>Best Management Practice (BMP) means a practice, or combination of practices, that is determined to be an effective and practical (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of park and recreation management and trails development.</p>
<b>BILT</b>	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	See: pg.5-6
<b>BIMPRD</b>	Park District, The District	See: pg. 5,7

<b>Biodiversity</b>		The variety of life forms and their processes at several levels of organization. Biological diversity or ‘Biodiversity’ means the full range of variety and variability within and among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur, and encompasses ecosystem or community diversity, species diversity, and genetic diversity.
<b>BIPFT</b>	Parks and Trails Foundation	See: pg. 5-6
<b>BIRC</b>	Bainbridge Island Recreation Center	
<b>Bond</b>	Levy Levy-Lid Lift	Bond is a long-term debt instrument issued by a government or public authority to raise money for public purposes. Bond funding refers to financing public projects through the issuance of bonds, which are paid back over time using tax revenue or other public funds. Bond funding is often used for large-scale capital projects like new park developments or facility upgrades.
<b>Capital Facility</b>	Capital Facility Improvement Program; Capital Improvement Program; Public Work Project	A capital facility is a permanent infrastructure asset or physical space, such as buildings, athletic facilities, or land. These facilities are typically deemed essential to the delivery of parks and recreation services. They generally require substantial investment upfront (capital funding that has been set-aside in anticipation). They generally rely on other funding (non-capital) for maintenance and operation.  Substantial improvements or renovations to a capital facility are often classified as a capital project.

<b>Capital (Facility) Improvement Plan</b>	Capital Improvement Program: CIP	A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a short-term (typically six-year) planning and financing plan that identifies specific capital projects, their anticipated costs, schedules, and funding sources to implement the capital facility needs identified in a comprehensive plan under the <i>Growth Management Act</i> . It is the financial implementation portion of the long-range capital facilities planning.
<b>Capital Improvement Program</b>	Capital Improvement Program	Similar to the <i>Capital Improvement Plan for a six-year term</i> , the <i>Capital Improvement Program</i> outlines specific projects for developing or upgrading facilities, typically over a 10 or 20-year horizon. It is typically less specific than the CIP regarding how projects will be financed and implemented. The program helps to schedule and manage the timing of facility development. The program should be consistent/conformant/comprehensive with other related jurisdictions, showing a shared approach to addressing community need and use of public funds. The Park District is considered a part of the <i>City's Capital Improvement Program</i> , embedded in the City of Bainbridge Island 20-year <i>Comprehensive Plan</i> for the entire island, coordinated with public agencies.
<b>City of Bainbridge Island</b>	COBI	
<b>CIP</b>	See: "Capital Improvement Program"	
<b>Climate Resilience</b>		Climate resilience is the ability of people, communities, systems, and infrastructure to anticipate, prepare for, withstand, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, flooding, drought, sea-level rise, and wildfires. It is often approached by adapting ecosystems, buildings, infrastructure and operating policies to climate preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
<b>COBI</b>	City of Bainbridge Island; See: pg. 5, 7	

<p><b>Community Trail Vision Plan</b></p>		<p>The Community Trails Vision Plan outlines the future direction for expansion of recreational trail inventory, showing how 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 is drafted by Park District Staff in coordination with its Trails Advisory Committee, as well as in consultation with the City of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation, and citizen input. Part of the Trails Vision Plan is the map identifying areas on the island that are targeted for trail easement acquisitions.</p>
<p><b>Comprehensive Plan</b></p>	<p>Park, Recreational and Open Space Plan; PROS</p>	<p>A 20-year plan that articulates a community vision through a series of goals, objectives, policies, and actions that guide the day-to-day decisions of elected officials and local government staff. The planning process must include robust community input through a variety of means (e.g. open houses, online engagement activities, tabling at events, surveys, etc.) The City of Bainbridge Island adopts a Comprehensive Plan with varied Elements, both required and options, to include the Transportation Element that must have Levels of Service. Instead of a Park and Recreation Element, the City's Comprehensive Plan has incorporated the <i>PROS Plan</i> adopted by the Park District in compliance with both State law and the requirements of the State <i>Recreation and Conservation Office</i>.</p>
<p><b>Connectivity</b></p>		<p>Connectivity is the extent to which a trail system provides continuous, direct, and accessible routes that link neighborhoods, parks, schools, transit, employment centers, and other trails into an integrated network. A lack of trail connectivity is caused by a barrier or a gap between trails or community destinations.</p>

<b>Conservation</b>		<p>The management of cultural and natural resources to prevent deterioration, loss or waste; management actions may include preservation, restoration and enhancement. Webster’s Dictionary defines conservation as “careful preservation and protection of something, planned management of a national resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.” Conservation of a cultural resource includes the preservation of significant historic features, properties, information, or knowledge.</p>
<b>Conservation easements</b>		<p>A conservation easement is a legal agreement that restricts development on a piece of land to protect its natural resources, wildlife habitat, or agricultural use. It’s a tool for preserving open space and sensitive environmental areas, balancing recreational access with land conservation goals. It is typically thought of as an on-going ownership right granted to another party than the land owner, often in perpetuity.</p>
<b>Cost Recovery</b>		<p>Cost recovery refers to the process of determining how much of the total cost of providing a service or program (such as maintenance, staffing, or infrastructure) should be covered through user fees, taxes, or other funding mechanisms. Considerations include balancing affordability with sustainability and the role of public funding versus private payments. Often, the more individualized services that cater to specific interest or advanced skill levels, are expected to have a higher cost recovery rate, more reliant on user fees.</p> <p>The goal may be to achieve a specific recovery rate (e.g., 50-80%) overall, but this is done with strategy around service areas that require full or partial public funding to be accessible to the population.</p>

<p><b>Critical Areas/Lands</b></p>		<p>Critical areas/lands are lands that have special environmental significance, including wetlands, floodplains, and habitats for endangered species. These areas are protected by zoning regulations to prevent degradation and ensure sustainable management.</p> <p>The City code identifies critical areas, largely per State guidelines, particularly around wetlands, streams, and geo-hazardous areas like steep slopes. They are regulated with prescribed actions – even mitigation costs – whenever permits are required. A slightly specific critical area regulation on Bainbridge concerns Aquifer protection, related to being an island without a water supply influx, reliant on aquifers.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Identity</b></p>		<p>Cultural identity is the collective sense of belonging formed by shared heritage, traditions, values, and cultural expressions that shape how individuals and communities understand themselves and their place in the world. There is often a role for cultural identity in the shaping public spaces, policies, and social connections.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Preservation</b></p>		<p>Cultural preservation is the practice of protecting, maintaining, and passing on the cultural heritage, traditions, knowledge, and expressions of a community or group for present and future generations.</p>
<p><b>DD</b></p>	<p>See: Design and Development</p>	
<p><b>Design and Development</b></p>	<p>DD</p>	<p>Design and Development is the phase or combined set of phases in which planning goals, design concepts, technical requirements, and regulatory standards are translated into coordinated drawings, specifications, and strategies that define the form, function, and feasibility of a project. During this phase, conceptual and schematic designs address programming interests, site conditions, and development requirements. These are then advanced into preliminary plans, sometimes considered 90% Construction Plans, prepare for cost estimates, permitting, and commissioning final construction documentation.</p>

<b>Development Guidelines</b>	Development Standards: Park Zone	<p>Design Guidelines are advisory principles that describe desired design outcomes and qualities, providing flexibility and professional judgment in how those outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>Different from Development Standards, they are non-prescriptive and interpretive, allowing multiple design solutions based on intent and performance. They are associated with Design Review which is provided for in the GMA, particularly as an alternative to enforcement of development standards that could negatively impact state mandates.</p>
<b>Development Standards</b>	Development Guidelines; Park Zone	<p>Design Standards are mandatory, enforceable requirements that establish specific, measurable criteria a project must meet to receive approval. They are prescriptive and objective legally enforceable through codes or regulations, such as development standards associated with residential and commercial Zoning.</p>
<b>Easement</b>	See also Conservation Easement	<p>An easement is a legal right to use another person’s land for a specific purpose while the ownership of the land remains with the original owner. Common purposes include utilities, access (right-of-way), drainage, or recreational trails. Some easements are permanent; others expire after a set period. Easements are typically recorded documents in public records that “run with the land”, meaning they remain in effect even if the property is sold.</p>
<b>Ecological monitoring</b>		<p>Ecological monitoring is the continuous observation and measurement of ecosystems or species to assess environmental conditions and guide conservation or management decisions. It often involves surveys, sampling, and citizen science to support conservation, restoration, land management, policy decisions, regulation compliance. The scope therefore varies but can include vegetation, water, soil, and habitat quality.</p>
<b>Ecosystem</b>		<p>An ecosystem is a functional unit where living organisms interact with each other and with their physical environment, distinctive based on the components present, varying in size from a pond to a contiguous forest.</p>

<b>Environment footprint</b>		An environmental footprint is the impact of human activities on natural resources and ecosystems, including consumption, waste, and emissions. The impacts may on the land, water, air, biodiversity, quantified in measures such as pollution, energy-efficiency, and climate resilience.
<b>Facilities</b>		Facilities in Parks and Recreation are all physical components—built structures, site improvements, equipment, and amenities—that enable and enhance public access, use, and enjoyment of recreational spaces. They also include site improvements such as parking lots, signage, and lighting. Facilities can permanent or temporary.
<b>Fire Mitigation</b>	Forest Health; Forest Management;	Fire mitigation is the practice of reducing the likelihood, severity, and impacts of fires through preventive, protective, and planning measures. It is proactive in the areas of prevention, preparedness, planning, and protection of both forests and non-forested lands.
<b>Forest Health</b>	Forest Management	Forest health is the overall condition of a forest ecosystem, reflecting its vitality, resilience, and ability to sustain ecological functions and benefits over time.
<b>Forest Management</b>		<p>Forest management refers to the planning, conservation, and stewardship of forested park areas to maintain ecological health, biodiversity, and sustainability. It involves managing trees, wildlife, and undergrowth to ensure long-term forest health.</p> <p>The Park District, particularly its Natural Resources staff, is working on general goals and management practices. A strategy is underway to speak to forest management that reflects the studied practices already used here, even if the term or island-wide goal is not explicitly state.</p>

<p><b>Growth Management Act</b></p>	<p>GMA</p>	<p>The GMA or RCW 36.70A.160 stipulates that every county and city that is required or chooses to prepare a comprehensive land use plan under GMA may optionally include a park, recreation, and open space element plan. The GMA park plan element, however, is a requirement to be considered by the Washington State Resource Conservation Office (RCO) for state and federal parks, wildlife habitat, and trail grants. GMA requires every jurisdiction (which includes BIMPRD as part of COBI) to update their plans on a comprehensive basis every 6 years, and on an annual basis for housekeeping updates and revisions.</p>
<p><b>Habitat</b></p>		<p>The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs, often characterized by a dominant plant form or physical characteristic. Within parks, recreation, and open space efforts, habitat is both quantified and qualified particularly for environmental stewardship, particularly towards the goal of enhancing habitat characteristics such as health, contiguity, particularly for wildlife protection.</p>

<b>Impact Fees</b>	<p>Impact fees are charges levied on developers or property owners to fund the construction or expansion of public facilities, including parks, roads, and utilities, required to serve new development. Impacts fees must be tied to an assessment of service levels and service costs to be extended, typically per new household developed in the community. They are set by the local municipality, not the Park District.</p> <p>An impact fee is a one-time fee levied against new development to cover the development’s proportionate share of the cost of providing the infrastructure (capital projects only, not services) needed to fill the demand created by anticipated residents of the development, sometimes by way of an individual permit for new housing, and sometimes as an “exaction” on a new residential or commercial development/plat.</p> <p>Park Impact fees, when adopted and implemented by governments, are meant to mitigate the strain on park systems due to population growth and ensure that the costs of new required development are borne by those whom represent the new demand.</p>
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<b>Levels of Service</b>	LOS, Growth Management, Impact Fee	<p>Level of Service (LOS) refers to the standard or measure of the quality and quantity of park and recreation services provided to a community. It often considers factors like accessibility, amenities, and the ratio of park space to population. Determining an appropriate LOS is key for acknowledging the capacity of a community to serve the needs of residents in a community in an equitable and accountable manner. distribution and community satisfaction.</p> <p>Various level of services may exist. This can include national, state and local standards. Examples include: NRPA (National Recreation &amp; Park Association), WA State RCO, and local community standards.</p> <p>In accordance with GMA requirements, levels of service need to be related to the Capital Facility Improvement Programs in a communities that conduct a growth impact fee assessment.</p>
<b>LOS</b>	See: Level of Service	
<b>Levy</b>		<p>A levy is a property tax, “levied” on the value of individual homes, collected annually from homeowners, as authorized by state law. Local jurisdictions which are considered “taxing districts”, such the Park District a metropolitan park district, have limits on their levy rate...</p> <p>A Park levy allows the acquisition, development and operation of parks, recreation, and open space facilities.</p>
<b>Multi-Purpose Courts</b>		<p>Multi-purpose courts are versatile recreational spaces designed to accommodate a variety of sports, such as basketball, tennis, or volleyball. These courts are typically designed with adjustable markings and features to allow for flexible use by different groups or sports teams. They are typically made of a hard surface, such as asphalt, but vary greatly to include temporary installations within grassy areas or fields.</p>

<b>Multi-purpose trails</b>		Multi-purpose trails are designed to accommodate a variety of activities, such as walking, cycling, equestrian and jogging, making them highly versatile and accessible to a wide range of users. These trails promote inclusive access to outdoor experiences and contribute to healthy, active lifestyles. To that end, they also can exclude users – or apply rules – where there is incompatibility. An area under discussion at the Park District is the potential of designating some trails as “single use trails” which would discourage incompatibility of uses. There is also discussion about accessible routes and e-bike considerations.
<b>Natural Area</b>		A classification for open space lands that protects, preserves, and conserves lands that may have environmental features of critical area significance (wildlife corridors), or of ecological importance (shorelines, wetlands and watersheds). Natural Areas include public and private lands impacted by use but now intended to yield natural benefits such as farmland, mitigation use and protection of critical habitat, and forestland (wooded canopy or second growth stands for carbon capture).
<b>OM</b>	See: Operations and Maintenance	
<b>Open Space</b>		Land that has been acquired to be maintained in its natural state for its intrinsic value and function, often for habitat preservation, heritage tree stands, conservation of natural resources, community health.
<b>Operations and Maintenance</b>	OM	Operations and Maintenance (O&M) refers to the ongoing activities required to keep parks, facilities, and recreational resources safe, functional, attractive, and accessible to the public. It includes mowing, trail upkeep, playground inspections, restroom cleaning and day-to-day management of infrastructure, new capital projects, and site improvements from lighting to installation of athletic and recreation facilities.
<b>PA</b>	See: Planning and Acquisition	
<b>Park District</b>	The District: BIMPRD	See: pg. 5, 7

<b>Park District Mission</b>		See: pg. 7
<b>Park Master Plans</b>		Park Master Plans are the most detailed of plans for a park, encompassing the processes and documents used in the documents used in the development and design of a park, such as program plans, concept plans, site plans, cost estimates and design plans, typically up to a 60% level of construction-ready plans. Park Master Plans also provide strategic direction for the process of development, such as phasing and funding. Particularly relevant to the Park District’s work with the City of Bainbridge Island regarding a Park Zone, a park master plan can be a tool to establish development standards like set-backs and parking requirements on a site by site basis. Master plans typically have such detail and buy-in from agencies, leading to pre-approved developments or programmatic permits.
<b>Park Zone</b>		“Park Zone” refers to a Zoning designation used in public land regulations and development review process. The use and application of this zoning designation is being considered by the City of Bainbridge Island during the update to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. The designation, along with implementation measures, could provide for development standards or development guidelines that recognize best practices and could defer to the Park District’s jurisdictional expertise.
<b>Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan</b>	PROS; Plan Update	The Growth Management Act requires that cities ensure adequate park space for growing populations tied to a Capital Facilities Improvement Program. A City’s Park and Recreation Element or a PROS Plan must include Level of Service (LOS) standards, which determine the amount of park space needed relative to the community's size and demographic needs ( <a href="#">RCW 36.70A.070(3)</a> ).
<b>Parklands</b>		(To be further refined in the Inventory component of the Plan) -Includes private and public lands that provide public access for park and recreation purposes.
<b>Partner organizations</b>	See Pg. 5-7	

<b>Plan Update</b>	Comprehensive Plan; PROS,	Plan Update refers the Update to the Park District’s Comprehensive Plan, a.k.a. the PROS Plan. The Park District updates this plan in six-year cycles to be eligible for funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). It was updated in 2020, certified by the RCO, and valid for the purpose of grant funding until the start of the 2026 grant programs.
<b>Planning and Acquisition</b>	PA	Planning and Acquisition refers to the process of identifying, evaluating, and securing land, facilities, or resources needed to develop, expand, or improve parks and recreational opportunities. Key aspects of Planning include assessment of community needs, future growth, and recreational trends in order to suggest long-range strategies, master plans, or capital improvement plans. Acquisition is ultimately the securing of land or property through purchase, donation, lease, or easements, typically through negotiations with private owners or public agencies, with an appraisal determination of fair market value when purchased by the Park District.
<b>PROS</b>	See: Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan	
<b>Programming</b>		Programming refers to the creation and implementation of structured recreational activities and events. This includes sports leagues, fitness classes, arts workshops, or educational outings designed to engage specific demographics or interests.

<b>Project Agreement</b>		<p>A project agreement is a formal arrangement between organizations to fund, develop, and maintain specific projects. Often, the agreement defines the terms regarding project scope, responsibilities, funding, and maintenance. This can be part of a grant program agreement that reflects program requirements and expectations, such as regular reporting and accounting of costs for reimbursement.</p> <p>The Park District has numerous types of agreements that related to projects, often related to formal board resolutions and master agreements/understandings. An example of this is the various project agreements with the Parks Foundation, pertaining to easement acquisition and development of park facilities.</p>
<b>Public Work</b>		<p>Public Work, a.k.a. public work projects, are defined by that State of Washington <a href="#">RCW 39.04.010(5)</a>: All work, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement other than ordinary maintenance, executed at the cost of the state or of any municipality, or which is by law a lien or charge on any property therein. There are few exceptions to the requirements for public work projects, which include competitive bidding, procurement and close-out standards, prevailing wages, liability, and public bonding.</p>
<b>The Resource Conservation Office (RCO)</b>		<p>The Resource Conservation Office (RCO) is the central coordinating agency for the State of Washington that reviews and certifies Comprehensive Park, Recreation &amp; Open Space Plans. The office also administers state and federal grants in areas such as outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and trail development.</p>
<b>Specialized Recreation</b>		<p>Specialized Recreation is programming offered to individuals or groups that require specific accommodations or facilities to engage in recreational activities. This can include individuals with developmental differences or groups of people requiring unique environments or provisions within general recreation programming.</p>

<p><b>Statistically-valid</b></p>		<p>Statistically-valid refers to a result, survey, study, or sample that is designed and analyzed in a way that accurately represents the population, allowing reliable conclusions to be drawn. It is based on a representative sample of a population that accurately reflects the larger population. Documented efforts are made to avoid skewed or misleading results with a confidence level that another properly designed study would produce similar results.</p>
<p><b>Water-dependent use (or activity)</b></p>		<p>Per the Washington State Shoreline Management Program, as required by the Shoreline Management Act and the Department of Ecology’s rules, a water-dependent use is a use (or portion of a use) that <b>cannot occur</b> in any location <b>that is not adjacent to the water</b> and that is dependent on the water by reason of the intrinsic nature of its operations. For the Park District, uses associated with Shoreline Recreation are very often water-dependent, such as boat launches. Some Shoreline Recreation areas, however, are neither water-dependent such as public road ends nor fall within the 200-foot jurisdiction of shoreline management programs of State or the City.</p>

# E. PARK EXHIBITS