

# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

## Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan



Bainbridge Island  
Metro Park & Recreation District

framework



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*for the public good*

PARK DISTRICT 2026  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## DISTRICT BOARD

Dawn Janow, Leadership Committee

Jay C. Kinney, Leadership Committee

Kenneth R. DeWitt

Tom Goodlin

Rachel Pritchett (Term Began in 2026)

John Thomas Swolgaard

## PARK DISTRICT STAFF

Dan Hamlin, Executive Director, Leadership Committee

Amy Swenson, Assistant Executive Director, Leadership Committee

Madison Collins, Recreation Division Director, Leadership Committee

Lydia Roush, Park Services Division Director, Leadership Committee

Doug Slingerland, Creative Services Manager, Leadership Committee

Matthew Keough, Senior Planner, Leadership Committee

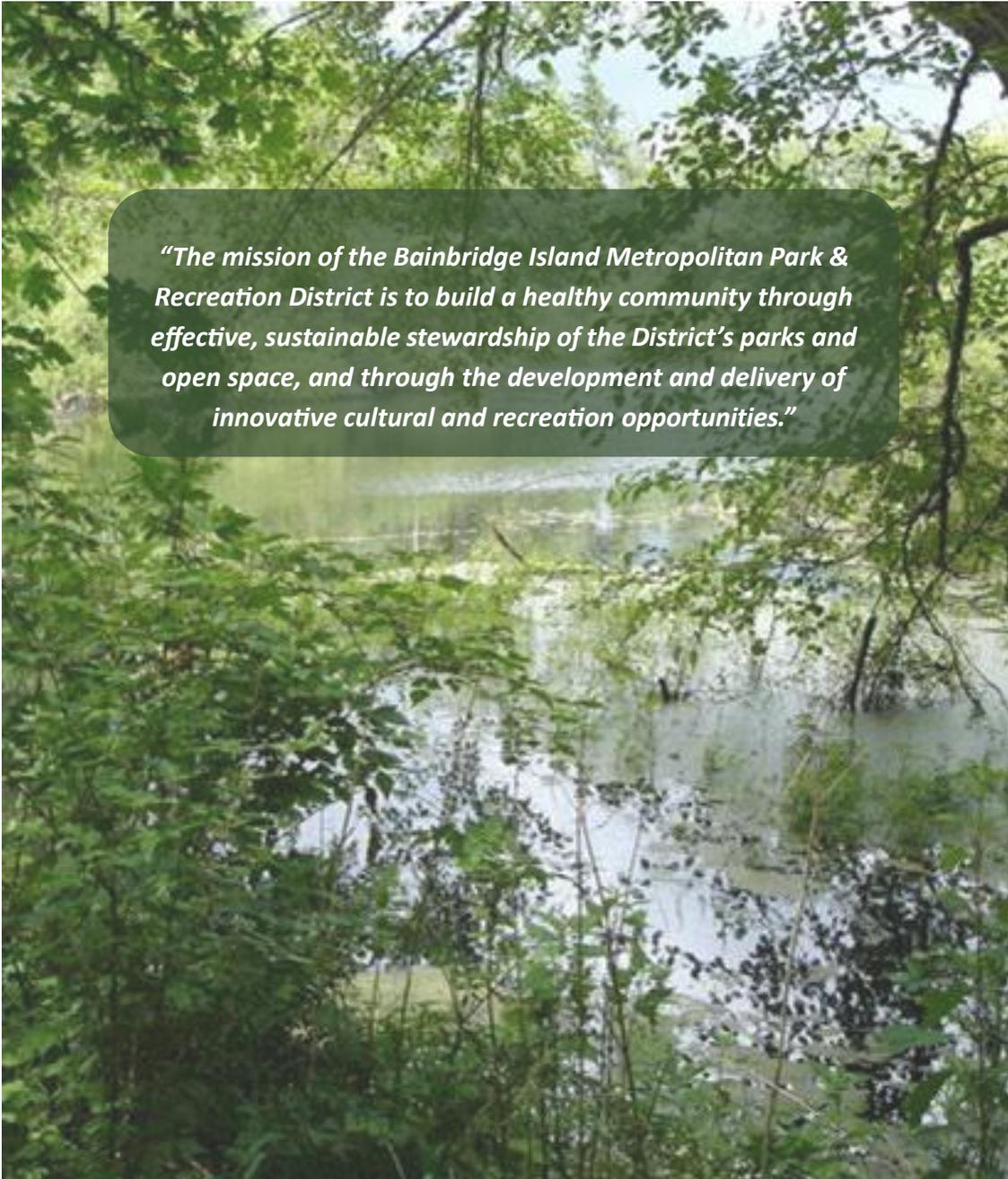
## CONSULTANT TEAM

Framework Cultural Placemaking

RRC & Associates

Sieger Consulting

## PARK DISTRICT 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.”*

Figure 1: Park District Mission

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION 2026-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT, KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE 2026 UPDATE OF THE DISTRICT'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Comprehensive Plan of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, also referred to as the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan for Bainbridge Island, is due for its 2026 update, as required every six years by the Washington State Growth Management Act and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office; and

**WHEREAS**, this update has included extensive public involvement conducted through public meetings, surveys, an online forum, and opportunities for public comment throughout the draft review process; and

**WHEREAS**, from this public input, the 2026 plan has been updated and includes: community-wide, as well as District, goals and objectives; an inventory of current park lands and recreation facilities; a review of recreation and park programs; and, current demand and needs analysis incorporating Levels of Service measures for the Bainbridge Island parks, recreation, and open space system; and

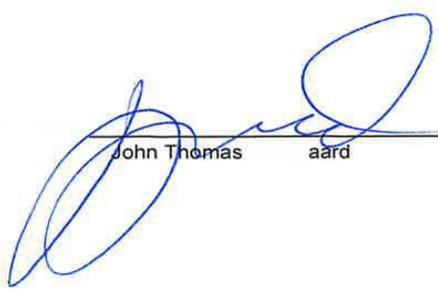
**WHEREAS**, the 2026 plan outlines implementation objectives and initiatives for the District over a 20-year planning horizon, most specifically the enumerated projects in the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, this update anticipates additional coordination and planning initiatives with community organizations and public agencies inclusive of the City of Bainbridge Island Comprehensive Plan,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, Kitsap County, Washington, that the 2026 update of the District's Comprehensive Plan be adopted.

**PASSED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, Kitsap County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, held this 19th day of February, 2026, the undersigned commissioners being present.

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Thomas      aard

  
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Kenneth DeWitt

  
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Jay C. Kinney

  
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Rachel ett

BY:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Goodlin

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bainbridge Island is a unique community both geographically and demographically. Situated a ferry ride from the Seattle metropolis, it offers an abundance of park, recreation, and open space resources that exceed those of peer communities, despite its less urban property tax base. The Island's median age of 50.7 also distinguishes it from other Washington communities, with the 65+ population expected to continue growing - a trend of note for long-range community planning.

Parks, recreation, and open space are key to Bainbridge Island's quality of life. Park lands provide public access to the Puget Sound shoreline, forested areas, and athletic facilities. The recreational trail network links residents and visitors to recreation facilities, historic sites, public art, and scenic viewpoints. Together, the larger system provides the community with opportunities to gather, exercise, learn, enjoy special places and events, and conserve nature.

Since 1965, the Bainbridge Island Park District – voted on in 2004 to become a metropolitan park district - has served its mission to steward park lands and services dedicated to recreation, culture, and access to nature. The Bainbridge Island Park & Recreation District has the same boundaries as the City of Bainbridge Island, but is an independent jurisdiction, funded by a dedicated portion of local tax property taxes.

Over the years, the Park District has partnered with community organizations to acquire land, develop parks, and manage facilities, extending offerings, beyond the limits of public financing. These efforts have created a diverse range of assets and programming, from playgrounds and aquatic facilities to art classes and outdoor excursions.

Throughout this update of the Bainbridge Island Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan - also known as the Park District's 2026 Comprehensive Plan - the community provided essential direction for the PROS system. We asked how parks, trails, open space, and recreation services add to people's lives and can serve them better. We looked at maps to identify favorite places and experiences, along with areas needing improvement. We also discussed fiscal realities, scale of operations, and maintenance needs - acknowledging evolving strategies to achieve community goals and desired service levels.

This plan is a summary of that effort. It presents a snapshot of publicly accessible park, recreation, and open space assets. Then it conveys the community input gathered through a statistically valid survey and public participation. Finally, it outlines strategies to focus future efforts on community goals, providing an updated Level of Service (LOS) and a list of actions to guide the Park District in delivering this plan.



## SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE 2020 PLAN:

- **2020:** Expanded Youth Sailing Recreation program and access to Recreational Shoreline Facilities — including a restroom, connection to 2-mile trail network, and a 220-foot-long dock that was paid for with community donations and state grant funding.
- **2021:** Completion of the KidsUp! Playground, a one-of-a-kind, inclusive playground at Battle Point Park, with a community fundraising through the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.
- **2022:** Recreation participation at the Park District more than doubled, despite COVID-19 pandemic, largely due to the opening of the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center (BIRC), with over 50,000 Indoor Facility square feet for recreation and community programming.
- **2023:** Formation of the Natural Resources department, encompassing trail maintenance and development, community stewardship programs, and the management of the Natural Areas, including conservation areas with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust.
- **2024:** Opening of new synthetic turf field at Woodward Middle School, with field lighting, completed by the School District with donations from user groups.
- **2025:** Completion of the Island's first dedicated bike facility, Strawberry Hill Bike Park, in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.

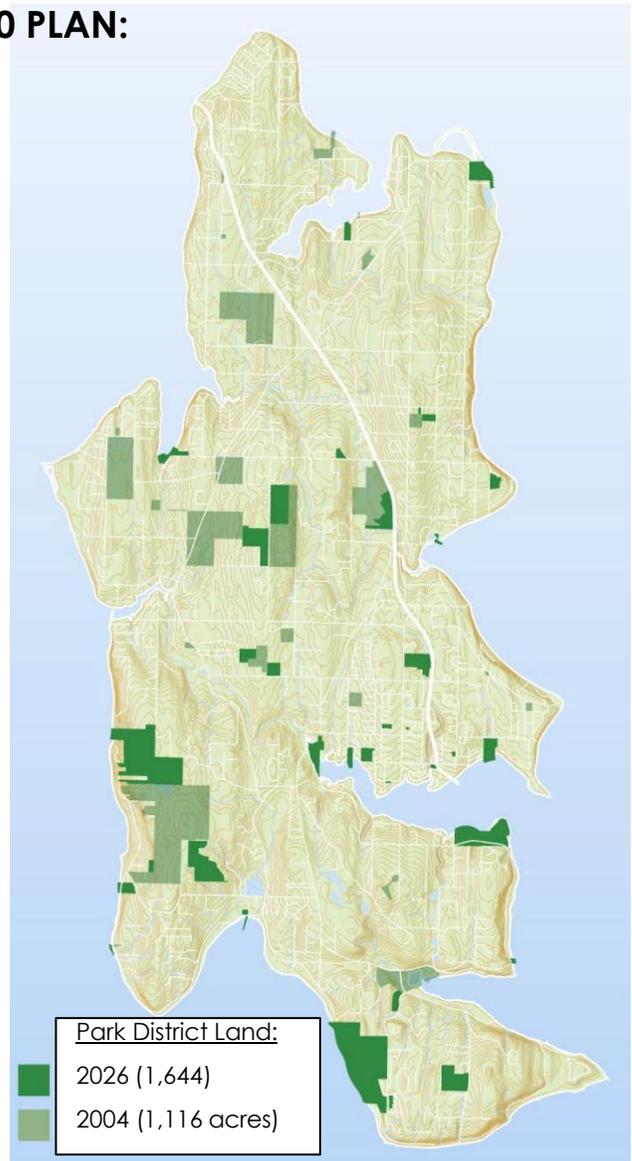


Figure 2: Park system growth since 2004 inventory

### Noteworthy park system expansions:

*In 2001, Island residents approved an \$8 million open space bond authorizing the City of Bainbridge Island to collect tax funds to purchase open space, forested areas, wildlife habitat, and properties for trails and passive parks. The City transferred numerous properties purchased with these funds to the Park District, as noted in Park Exhibits, Appendix E.*

*In 2011, Fay Bainbridge and Fort Ward parks were transferred from the State of Washington to the Park District.*

## SYSTEM AREAS & LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

A key task of this planning effort was to create a structure for the community to evaluate and guide its parks, recreation, and open space system. A structural approach is needed to understand purpose, functions, and relationships of a complex system with a vast array of public and private assets. This resulted in the five system areas introduced in this plan: **Active Use Park Land**, **Natural Areas**, **Recreational Shoreline**, **Recreational Trails**, and **Recreation** (often housed within **Indoor Facilities**). [See pages 23-24 for more detail.]

These categorize the system in a comprehensive manner that offers pragmatic approaches to understanding, developing, utilizing, and maintaining park lands, facilities, and recreational services.

Another initiative of this update to the plan was to translate community feedback into measurements that reflect community values and interests. [See page 69, regarding LOS.] For example, the previous plan accounted for 59.23 acres of park land per 1,000 residents as the metric to maintain amidst population growth. This method focuses only on the quantity of park lands, and it did not account for the quality or distribution of system-wide assets across the Island.

## Quantity, Quality, and Distribution

[See Figure 3 ]

Following guidance from the Washington State Conservation and Recreation Office (RCO), this plan now outlines a LOS metric that measures the quantity, quality, and distribution of park land and facilities that serve the community.

**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 significantly more park land, trail miles, and indoor facilities, earning it a score of 5 out of 5 for each System Area.

**Quality:** The Park District evaluated how each of its own assets meet their purpose and function within System Areas. On a 1-to-5 rubric, a score of 3 indicates that an asset or System Area is meeting its intent. The average score of 2.82 indicates that there is room for improvement here through the addition of facilities, maintenance and renovation, environmental stewardship, or other initiatives aimed at improving the condition of park lands and services.

**Distribution:** Distribution was evaluated by calculating the percentage of the population within certain distances from recreation access points. Scores were assigned based on RCO guidelines for service ranges, with an overall score of 4.6. There are access deficiencies to address but this indicates that the majority of Bainbridge Island residents are within the service ranges of park lands and facilities.

**Bainbridge Island PROS System Level of Service Scores**

	Quantity	Quality	Distribution
<i>Average Scores</i>	5	2.82	4.6

Figure 3: Overall LOS Scores (on a scale of 1 of 5)

## LEVEL OF SERVICE: TAKEAWAYS

The LOS 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 need to upgrade existing assets and maintenance levels.

Improving park land quality does not exclusively entail large capital funding projects. Quality can improve strategically by re-investing in existing assets, extending the application of limited funding. The Natural Areas average score of 2.5, for example, indicates a need for long-term land management strategies.

As the Park District updates capital projects and long-range initiatives, the LOS metrics help steer towards community goals and the desired impactful outcomes. An evaluation process is delineated in "Sticking the Landing," which then outlines implementation measures reflective of system needs and objectives.

## ROLES, GOALS, & OBJECTIVES

The roles, goals, and objectives of the plan translate what we heard during public engagement around core community values. For each system area, this plan outlines long-range Community Goals that pertain to the entire PROS system, as well as Implementation Objectives to be carried out by the Park District in the next six years.

## The list below outlines the overarching Community Goals 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 Areas:

Enhance safety and public access along the shorelines of Bainbridge Island,

Preserve and enhance opportunities for shoreline access and protection,

Expand water recreation within 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 GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION

The ability of the Park District to facilitate Island-wide service levels – both maintenance and improvements – depends on the availability of funding and the capacity of partner organizations. New investments must be carefully vetted to ensure that resources are allocated in a way that best address community values. A key addition to this plan is the establishment of key value considerations to guide Park District decisions.

### Implementation: Key Values

The following values guide implementation initiatives:

**Safety:** Properly maintaining facilities is crucial for safe usership. The management of park lands to reduce the risk of wildfire on the Island exemplifies this priority value.

**Access:** This term and value encompass many meanings: accessibility, affordability, distribution, and proximity being a few. Valuing access means striving to ensure that people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, and income levels can enjoy park and recreation assets.

**Experience:** Valuing experience means providing comfort, offering 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 AHEAD

This plan comes at a time when the Park District is determining how to move forward amidst budget limitations. The immense system of park land, facilities, and programs utilizes 94% of the current budget, leaving a small amount for capital improvements, requiring savings for necessary renovations and major repairs. To add new park land or facilities to the system means not only drawing from a relatively small capital improvement budget, but to committing to the additional associated operation cost to maintain the park system.

The collection of property taxes, the Park District's primary source of revenue, is controlled by state law and has not kept up with inflation costs. To ensure that the Park District can maintain what it currently owns and manages, this plan recommends a levy lid lift to secure necessary funding. This voter-approved measure will need to be considered during each six-year planning cycle of the PROS plan.

In the next six years and beyond, the Park District will continue to work with its partners to serve the community. It is through these partnerships that the Island's PROS system has grown to what it is today, a comprehensive system that critically contributes to the quality of life for residents and visitors of all ages.

# PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (BIMPRD or the Park District) has been undergoing the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, also known as the “Bainbridge Island PROS Plan” in line with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) expectation to do every six years. This not only allows the Park District to maintain eligibility for grant funding, it is also an opportunity to connect with the public, check in about experiences, and set a vision for the system of park lands, 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 gatherings. These include assets owned and operated by the Park District, as well as those provided by partner organizations. While the plan focuses on priorities for the coming 6–10 years, the missions and plans already established among partners serve as the foundation of on-going efforts.

This plan is meant to be both a resource for residents to understand the assets they have access to, and the guide towards implementing the shared vision of a shared system into the future. This document is organized into six sections:

## **Who we are:**

What are the demographics of Bainbridge Island residents? How are they 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 the Park District, 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?

## **Sticking the Landing \*:**

Implementation items to direct future decision-making.

## **How We Pay for It:**

Funding Strategies and the approved Capital Improvement Plan

*\* Title Inspired by gymnastic youth whom attended Stakeholder Meetings to advocate for new equipment and an updated venue beyond the school gym. In the budgeting game, they invested nearly all capital funds available over the next 6 years (6 cents on each dollar collected) into a new gymnastics facility.*

## PLANNING CONTEXT

The Park District Comprehensive Plan evaluates how the parks, 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 system should evolve to meet the needs of a changing and growing population. The table below outlines Bainbridge Island's past and projected population growth, to be consistent and concurrent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

	2020	2025	2044
<b>Population</b>	24,825	25,530	29,349

Figure 4: Bainbridge Island Population Growth

The graphic below shows the lifecycle of this PROS Plan; adopting the plan is just one small part of the Plan's full lifecycle which includes implementation, monitoring, and periodic refinement.

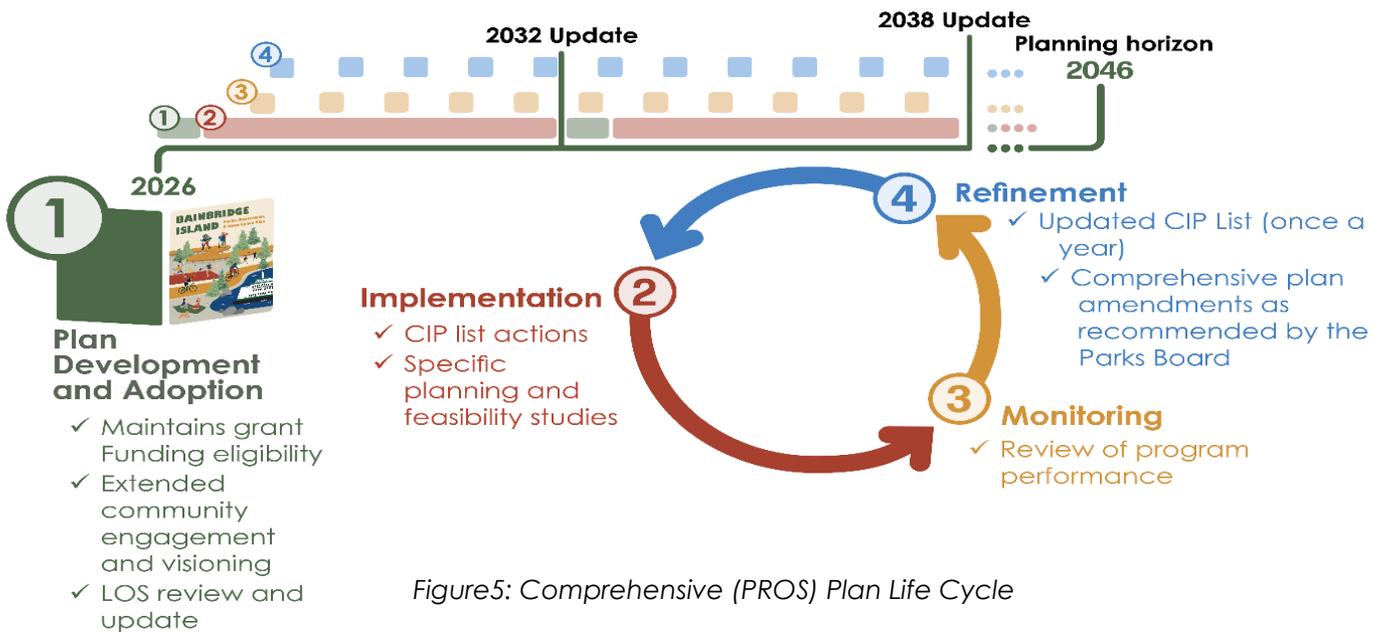


Figure 5: Comprehensive (PROS) Plan Life Cycle

PROS Plan documents must be updated every six years for communities to be eligible for grant 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
- Notice of Adoption

### Our District

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Bainbridge Island residents voted that the local Park District become a metropolitan park district. Per State code, metropolitan park districts are distinct from municipal jurisdictions in which they operate, with an independent property tax structure and elected body.

### Park Board

The Park Board, comprised of 5 elected commissioners, for 6-year terms, is the Park District's decision-making elected body.

## Who Provides Park Lands, Trails, & Facilities on Bainbridge Island?

The following diagram shows the partner organizations involved in providing and caring for Bainbridge Island's many park lands, open spaces, trails, and recreational facilities. These partnerships work towards supporting the community and maintaining accessible green spaces for residents and visitors alike.



Figure 6: System providers and their principal roles

## 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 Park, Recreation and Open Space (PRO) System

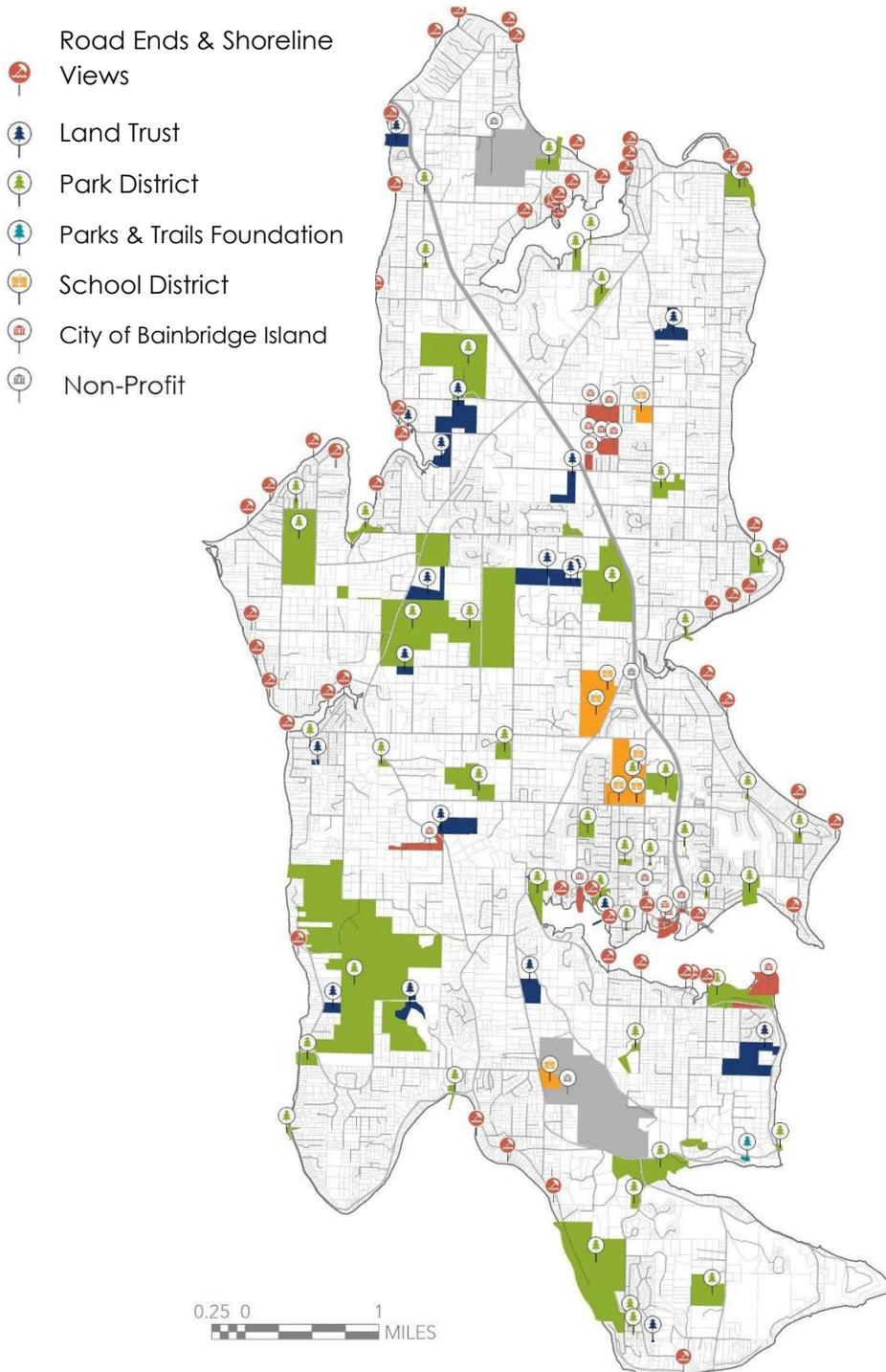


Figure 7: Park lands map by ownership

# WHO WE ARE

## Population Distribution, Income, and Property Values

Bainbridge Island's population, depicted on the map below, is heavily concentrated in the Winslow area. Parks, recreation, and open space investments around population hubs are part of a community strategy to increase service levels through accessibility and convenience of the most residents. Sakai Park, for example, located in urbanizing Winslow and adjacent to concentrated populations such as the School District's central campus, was a compelling acquisition, achieved by way of a voter-approved levy as well as state grant funding.

While working with the City in planning for growth, such as the Greening of Winslow plan and an emerging focus to establish other urban areas in comprehensive planning, the Park District maintains a diversity of park lands, historically provided by way of land transfers, donations, and open space initiatives such as open space bond program led by the City. As a result, the Island's park lands are widely distributed and more proportionately among less populous parts of the Island. Thus, accessibility levels, examined below at .25-mile walking distance from public parks, remain a critical community challenge among the realities related to the Island's population distribution, density, income, age, mobility, disability, and socioeconomics.

### Bainbridge Island



### Within .25-mile radius of Park District property



Figure 8: Bainbridge Island home values

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 cities like Mercer Island, Sammamish, and Edmonds are home to 4,025, 3,343, and 4,893 residents per square mile, respectively, providing a much larger tax base to afford the cost of public land acquisition or facility development. Despite the expectations associated with high property values and taxes on Bainbridge Island, the cumulative property tax revenue – the Park District's main revenue source – is stretched far and severely limits the Park District's ability to grow beyond the existing system.

The map on the following page shows population concentrations and density compared to Seattle and Bremerton.

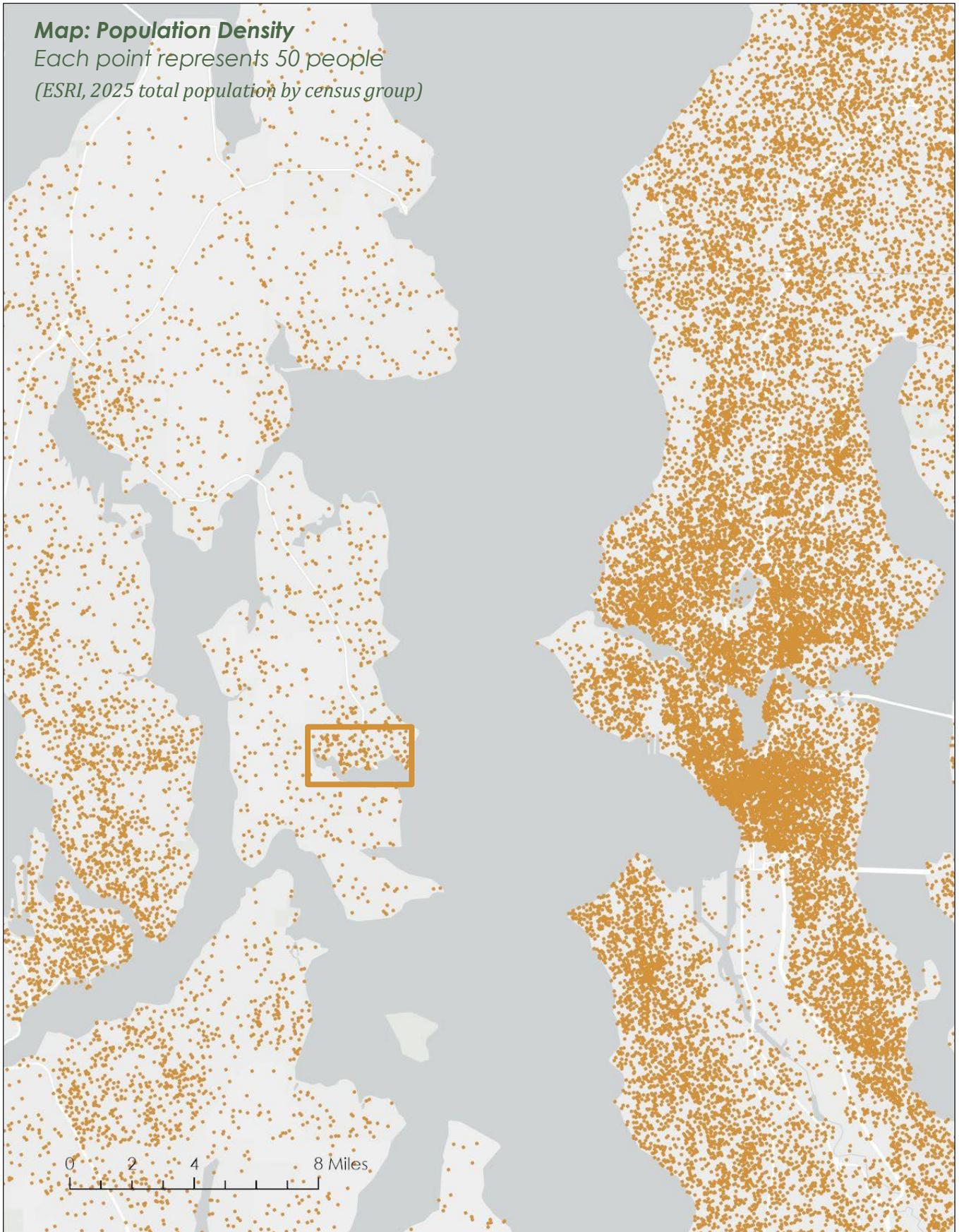


Figure 9: Population distribution

The table below lists income brackets and, in the “Value” column, identifies the percentage of local households per income-ranges. The relatively high median income on Bainbridge Island of approximately \$150,000 can obscure the presence of lower income community members and the importance of accessible public parks, recreation, and open space. As reflected in the “Diff” column, a higher percentage of low to moderate low-income households are within a quarter mile of public park properties (as the crow flies). This raises attention about economic needs in the immediate service area of existing parks as well as the importance they serve for providing accessible public spaces and services. Also of note, a larger proportion of renter households — shown to have lower incomes, fewer transportation choices, and less private open space — live within a quarter mile of a park property (25% as opposed to 20% for the Island at large, ACS 5-Yr, 2019-2023).

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%	

Figure 10: Population within .25 miles of a park vs Island-at-large by household income (ESRI)

As shown in the figures above, households living within ¼ mile of park properties over represent lower income brackets and have a slightly lower median home value than the Island at large, indicating that the Park District is not disproportionately serving more affluent households.

## Age, Mobility, and Disability

Park service priorities take into account population age, disability rates, and types of mobility. The pyramid diagram on the following page compares Bainbridge Island and Washington State by 5-year age distribution.

The map that follows the diagram 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, 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 accessible and inclusive 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

2,279

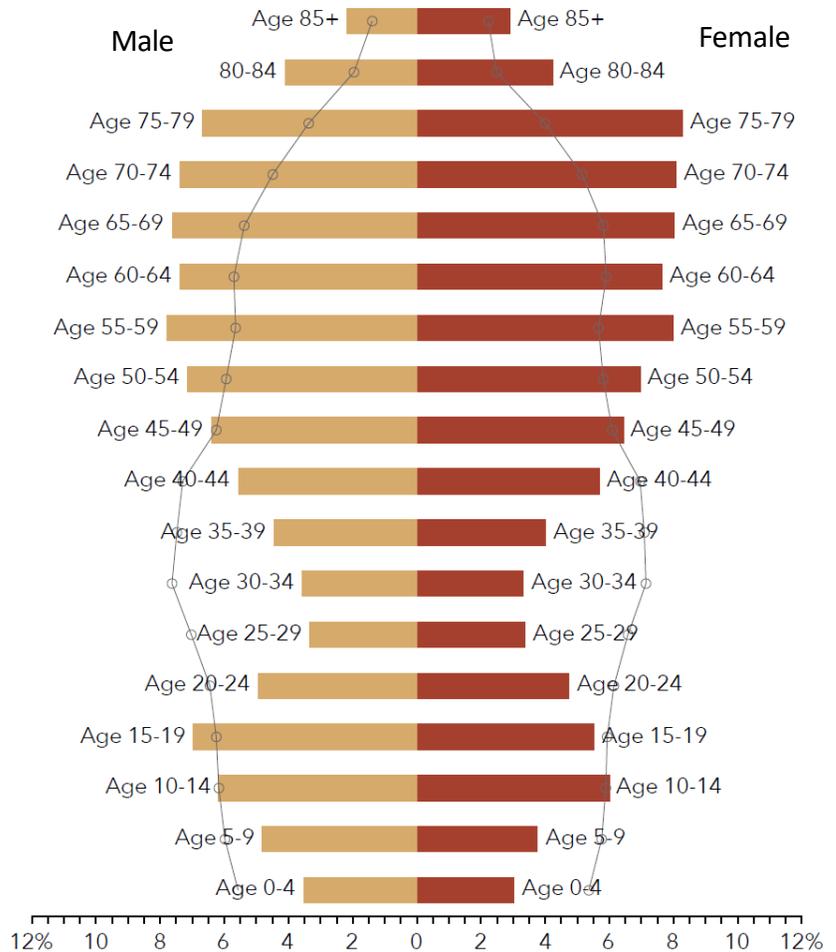
58% of Bainbridge's school age kids live within a quarter mile of a public park

3,999

Total Population Ages 5 to 19, 15% of the Island population of 25,530, among approximately **10,200 Households, Total**

In this diagram, the rows show the percent of male (orange) and female (red) residents on Bainbridge Island, by age-cohort (age span such as "0-4").

The gray outline represents the comparable age co-cohort composition of Washington State residents.



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

The smallest group:  
2025 Males Age 85+: Percent

Note: The statewide population is comprised by significantly less of age co-cohorts 45+, and more of each I age co-cohorts otherwise (range of age 15 through age 44).

Figure 11: Age and disability statistics for Bainbridge Island

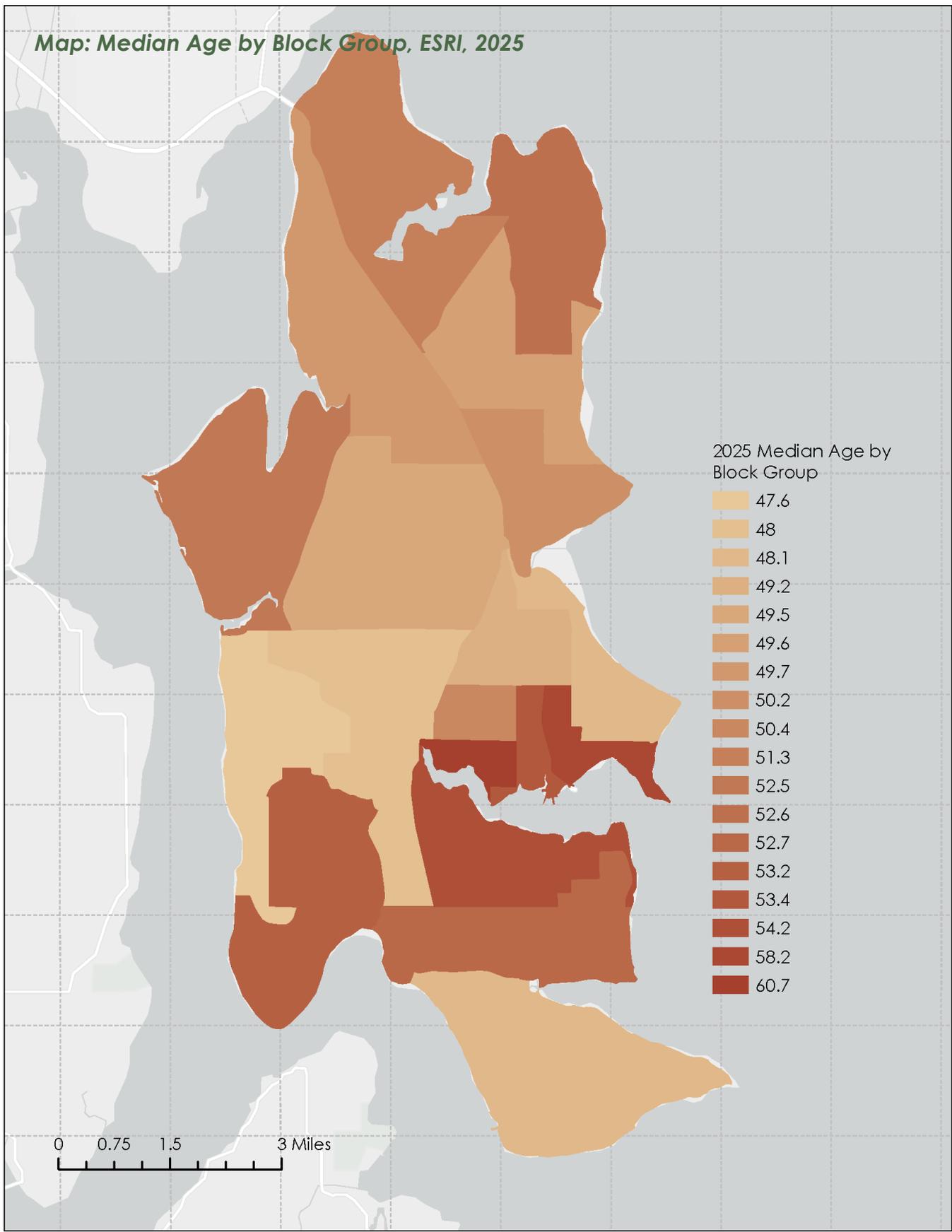


Figure 12: Median age by census block group for Bainbridge Island (ESRI)

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.

Trend lines of local age-cohorts between 2010-2030, below, show the decline in all cohorts, except for the population aged 65 and above (orange line.) This includes a decline in the "working age" segment of the population (blue line). While this cohort appears large on this chart, it encompasses a critical 40-year age span of the adult population, and, is proportionally low when compared to the state-at-large.

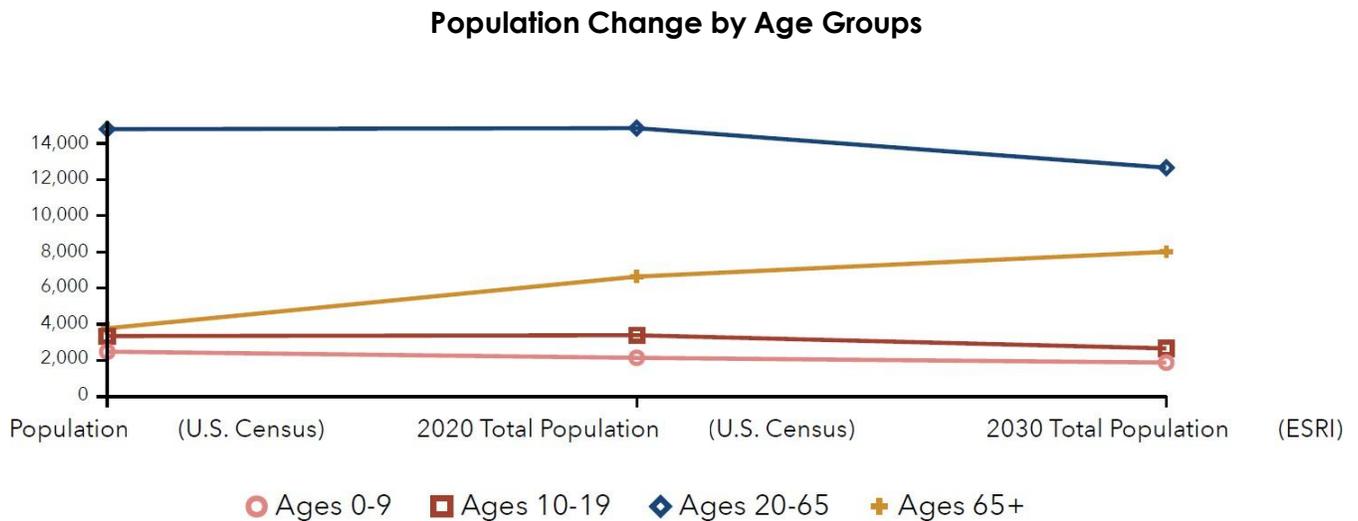


Figure 13: Anticipated population change by age cohort for Bainbridge Island

The declining share of school-age children on Bainbridge Island is a growing community concern, shaped partly by increasing housing costs and limited employment opportunities for the adult population. Parks, recreation, and open spaces help retain and attract multigenerational households, especially families with children. Associated recreation services, including affordability levels, can help address quality of life factors and community health.

### Race/Ethnicity/Cultural Awareness

A stated aim of the Park District is to provide cultural experiences and to equitably provide park and recreation services. Around 84% of Bainbridge residents are White, and not of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Population composition is accounted for in the table below, with the column titled "Value" indicating various racial and ethnic components of the Island's population. The table also indicates, in the column titled "Diff", the difference in representation of population components when we look at the households that are located within a ¼ mile of public parks. Of note, the population composition within a quarter mile of park properties is more diverse when compared to the rest of the Island.

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	

Figure 14: Population within .25 miles of a park vs Island-at-large by race/ethnicity (ESRI)

The Park District presently works closely with numerous non-profit cultural organizations, including the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association, co-hosting a significant facility within the Minidoka National Historic Site at Pritchard Park; the Filipino American Community Association, coordinating community-gathering facilities at Strawberry Hill Park; the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, cultivating of art and public art experience; and the Bainbridge Island History Museum, assisting with historic site interpretation efforts.

Programming efforts by the Park District reflect an ongoing awareness of community needs and a commitment to serving the public. These efforts include a continual evaluation of fees when charged, an ongoing scholarship program administered by Helpline House, and the incorporation of senior fitness insurance programs. Community outreach, evaluated during this planning process, effectively taps vast stakeholder and user group networks, from private pre-schools and senior living providers to community service organizations such as Rotary. One example of the Park District's pro-active outreach is the engagement with the Suquamish Tribe, recognizing the proximity of shared service areas while acknowledging the Tribe's ancestral homelands and ordinary and customary use areas on Bainbridge Island. Please see Appendix D for a listing of historically and culturally significant sites, including a map identifying geographic references in the native language that supports community awareness and acknowledgement efforts.

# 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 prepare for and grow into 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. It focuses on park lands owned by the Park District, the City of Bainbridge Island, Land Trust, and School District. Park Lands tend to be outdoor spaces open to public use 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 various levels and types of site development, facilities, and programming. Within the physical inventory, we identify Active Use Park Land, Natural Areas, Recreational Shoreline Areas, Recreational Trails, and Indoor Facilities. Recreation is an additional System Area which correlates in this plan with Facilities, particularly the implementation items related to Indoor Facilities which are available, programmed and planned for Recreation use.

##### **Facilities:**

Facilities are indoor and outdoor assets that provide opportunities for exercise, play, gathering, and learning. This includes facilities used for recreation and community uses.

This plan quantifies facilities across Bainbridge Island, beyond those provided by the Park District, shown in Appendix D, under the categories of: Playgrounds; Athletic Fields and Courts; Shelters and Campsites; Cultural Use; Special Use; Aquatic; Fitness and Wellness; and Indoor Community Facilities.

##### **Amenities:**

Amenities are additional features within recreation sites that provide comfort and/or facilitate use. While accessory to the system function or recreational activity, they can be central to the quality of the human experience. This includes restrooms, benches, picnic tables, water fountains, parking areas, lighting, trailheads and interpretative signage, inventoried in Appendix D and then described within individual Park Exhibits provided in Appendix E.

Amenities are considered in the Level of Service Quality scoring for each park but are evaluated in detail through related planning processes at the Park District, such as regular Condition Assessment Plans, and on-going maintenance plans that classify service levels.

## SYSTEM AREA INVENTORY

This plan uses five categories to inventory Park Land, accounting for function and uses.

### 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 Areas

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.

### Recreational 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 based on map attributes (from a living digital inventory kept by Park District) or on data from community organizations, when available.*

*[See Appendix D. for total acres known of agencies, non-profits, and private providers.]*

Provider	Active Use Park Land	Natural Areas	Recreational Shoreline Areas	Recreational Trails	Indoor Facilities
<b>BI Parks</b>	<b>165 acres</b>	<b>1353 acres</b>	<b>57 acres</b>	<b>52 miles</b>	<b>≈ 146,000 ft<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>COBI</b>	<b>6 acres</b>	<b>115 acres</b>	<b>4 acres</b>	<b>≈ 8 miles</b>	<b>* NI</b>
<b>BISD</b>	<b>35 acres</b>	<b>NI *</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>≈ 4 miles</b>	<b>* NI</b>
<b>BILT</b>	<b>NI **</b>	<b>536 acres</b>	<b>* NI</b>	<b>≈ 3 miles</b>	<b>* NI</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>6 acres</b>	<b>404 acres</b>	<b>* NI</b>	<b>* NI</b>	<b>* NI</b>

\* NI = Not inventoried in this plan

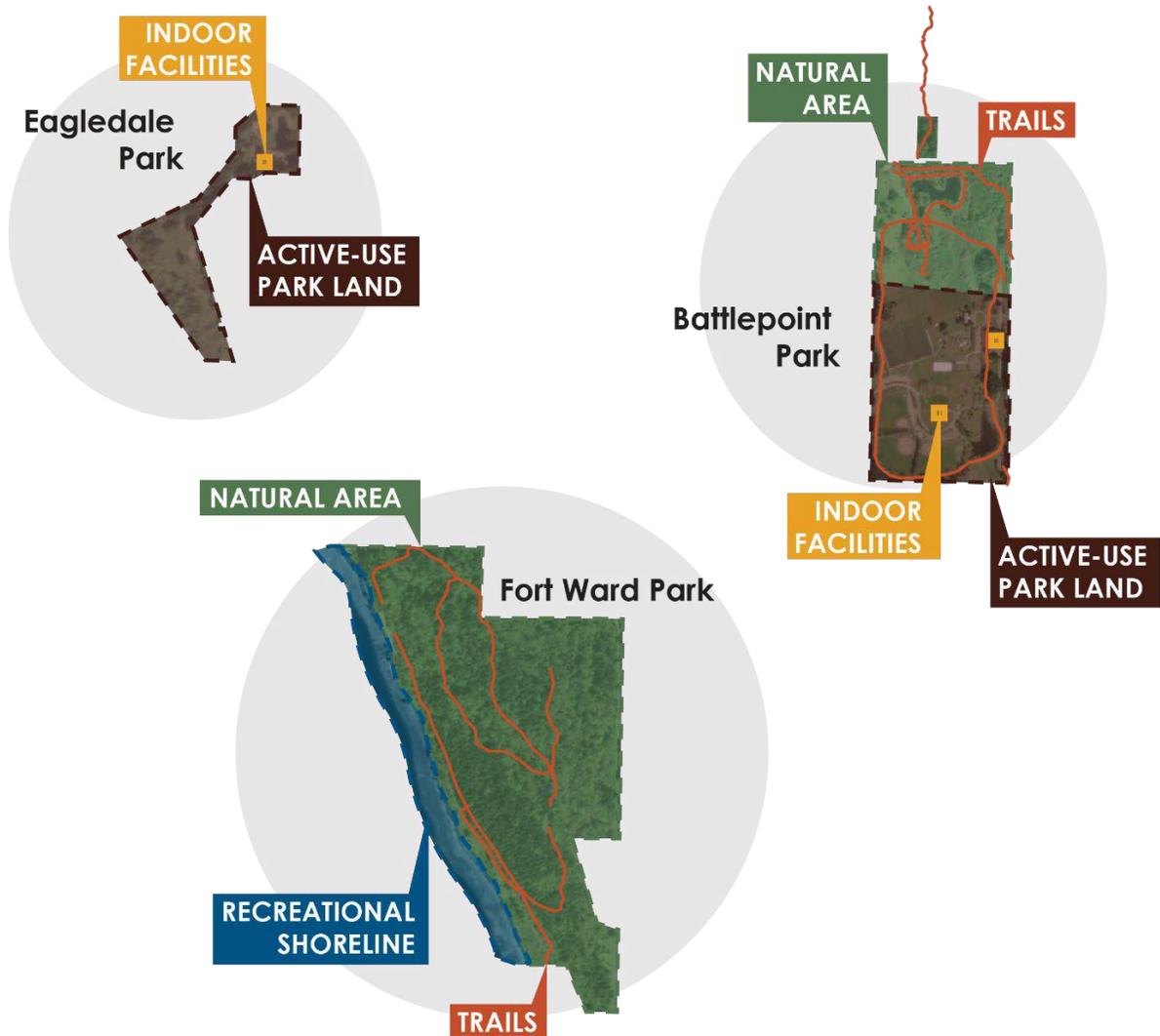
Figure 15: Park land and facility inventory summary table by provider

### Graphic: Parks and System Areas

Park Lands may contain one or more system areas.

Examples below:

- Eagledale Park's acreage is entirely **Active-Use**, and it hosts one **Indoor Facility**, the Pottery Studio.
- Battle Point Park has **Recreational Trails** and **Indoor Facilities** situated in **Natural Areas** and **Active-Use** acreage.
- Fort Ward Park is largely **Natural Area** acreage with **Recreational Trails** throughout, as well as **Recreational Shoreline Areas** 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. This plan includes an inventory of key public and Park District facilities. Below, facilities are grouped into types. This is not an exhaustive list, but outlines the Facility classification for this plan and quantified in Appendix D, PROS System Inventory.



### 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
- Tennis 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

- Gymsiums
- Tennis courts
- Exercise & strength building



### INDOOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Meeting halls
- Classrooms & studios
- Support facilities



### SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

- Garden plots
- Disc golf facilities
- Horse corrals
- Observatories
- Bike facilities
- Off-leash dog areas
- Skateparks



## SNAPSHOT: ACTIVE USE PARK LAND

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

- Provides opportunities for competitive sports.
- Provides opportunities for informal recreation.
- Provides space 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?

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

### Related Plans and Studies

- Sakai Park Concept Plan and Feasibility Study
- Strawberry Hill Concept Plan
- Prichard Park Concept Plan
- Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Development and Stewardship Plans with US National Park Service
- Blakely Harbor Park Conceptional Studies
- Bainbridge Island School District Long Range Strategic Facilities Plan
- Bainbridge Island School District Central Campus Development Plan
- Bainbridge Island School District Woodward Intermediate School Development Plan



## Active Park Land

### EVOLVING SYSTEM STRATEGIES & Highlights since the 2020 Plan

- Use of the Sakai Park Concept Plan and Feasibility Study to identify desired facilities and where and how to best pursue implementation.
- Property donations facilitated by the 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 facilities.
- Community-wide funding campaign, including neighborhood fundraising, for renovation of the KidsUp! Playground and the installation of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds play space in partnership with Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation
- Park planning for Strawberry Hill Park, resulting in community-based plan for desired facilities with coordinated infrastructure, development guidelines, and environmental impacts for permit facilitation.
- Coordination with the City of Bainbridge Island in the area of programmatic permitting that recognizes best practices in the park planning and development, to include development standards for recreational trails and planting in public parks. This coordination has led to proposals to incorporate Park Zone in the City's municipal code, developed through staff collaboration, for consideration in the City's Comprehensive Plan Update, with implementation regulations.



# Active-Use Park Land Acreage

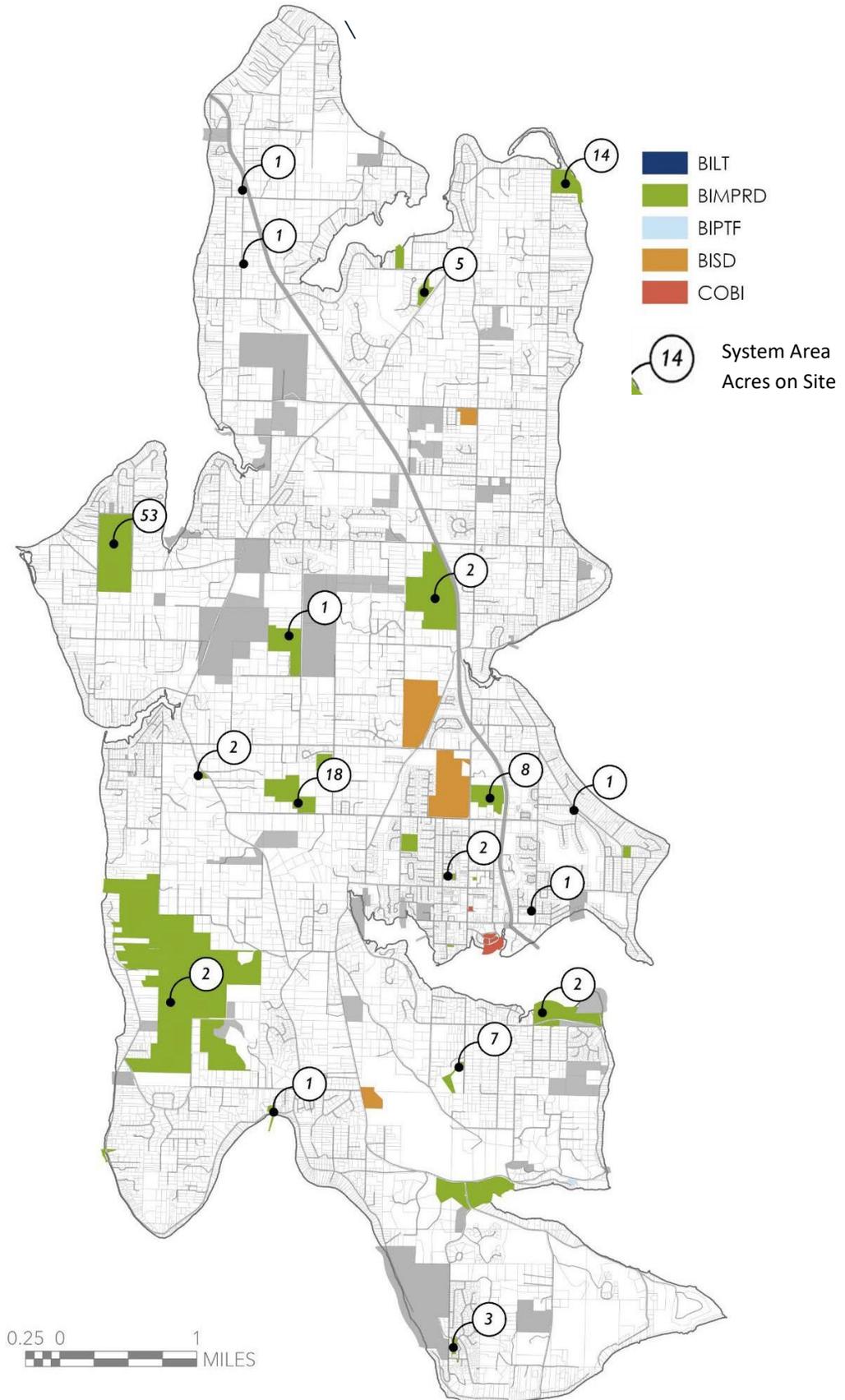


Figure 16: Active-Use Park Lands acreage by owner

**Graphic: Sports facility distribution (all public providers)**

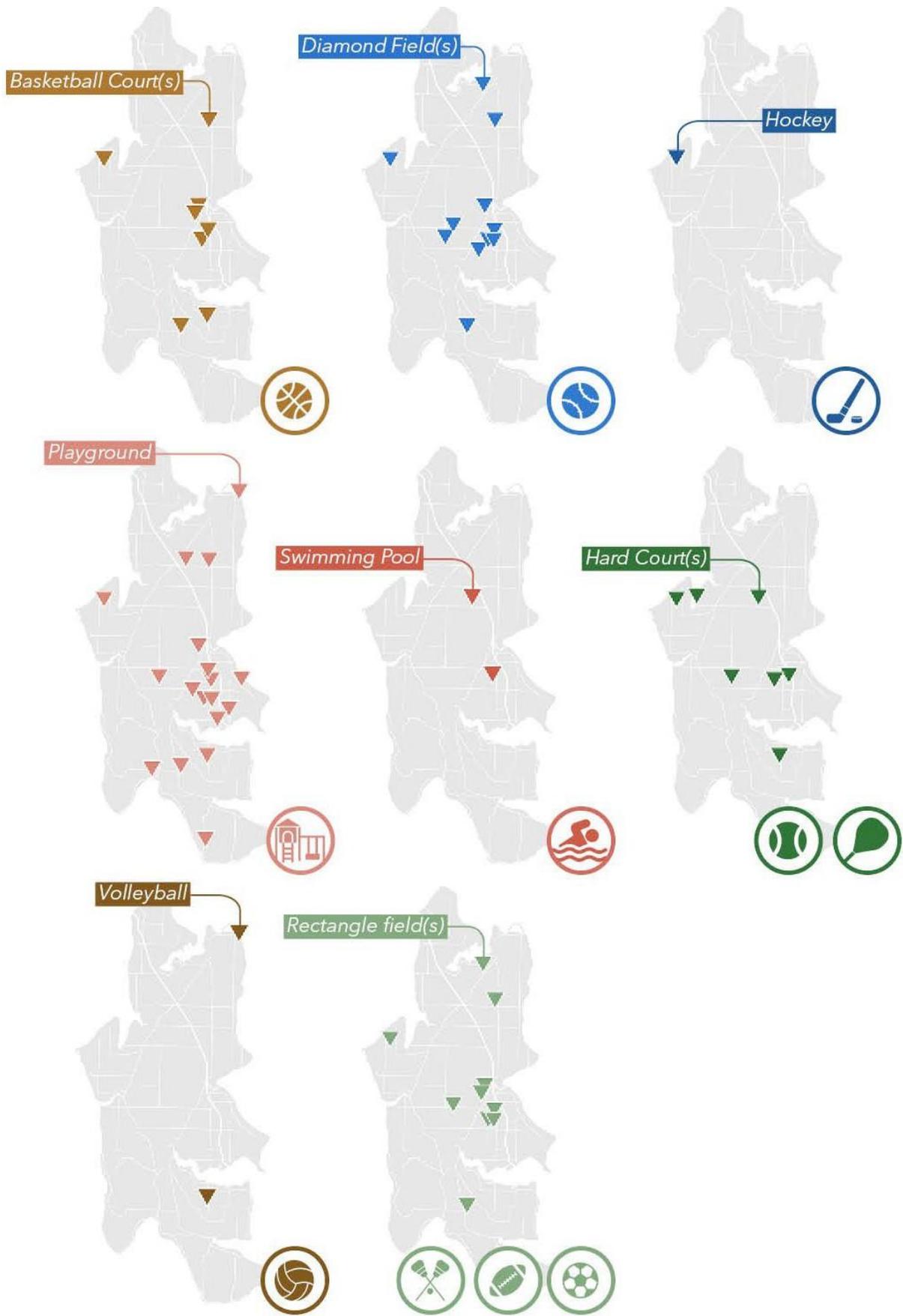


Figure 17: Sports facility distribution (all public providers)

**Table: Active-Use Park Land Acreage**

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Acres on Site</b>	<b>Land Acres that are Active-Use Park Land</b>
BIMPRD	Aaron Avenue Tot Lot	0.7	<b>0.7</b>
BIMPRD	Aquatic Center (* BISD)	1.5	<b>1.5</b>
BIMPRD	Bainbridge Island Recreation Center	5.7	<b>1.5</b>
BIMPRD	Battle Point Park	88.2	<b>52.5</b>
BIMPRD	Blakely Harbor Park	48	<b>0.2</b>
BIMPRD	Camp Yeomalt	2.9	<b>0.3</b>
BIMPRD	Cave Family Heritage Park	0.9	<b>0.9</b>
BIMPRD	Egledale Park	6.5	<b>6.5</b>
BIMPRD	Fay Bainbridge Park	19.2	<b>14.4</b>
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Hall	0.2	<b>0.2</b>
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Parade Grounds	2.5	<b>2.5</b>
BIMPRD	Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve	471	<b>1.7</b>
BIMPRD	Gideon Park	2.4	<b>2.4</b>
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Park	5.6	<b>3.9</b>
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Ballfields	7.8	<b>4.8</b>
BIMPRD	Hilltop	34.8	<b>1.4</b>
BIMPRD	Island Center Hall	2.3	<b>2.3</b>
BIMPRD	Madison Avenue Tot Lot	0.4	<b>0.4</b>
BIMPRD	Meigs Parks	97.1	<b>2</b>
BIMPRD	Point White Pier	0.7	<b>.3</b>
BIMPRD	Pritchard Park	36.4	<b>1.9</b>
BIMPRD	Red Pine Park	0.5	<b>0.5</b>
BIMPRD	Rotary Centennial Park (* WSDOT)	0.8	<b>0.8</b>
BIMPRD	Rotary Park	9.6	<b>7.2</b>
BIMPRD	Sakai Park	22.9	<b>8.2</b>
BIMPRD	Sands Avenue Ballfield (* BISD)	10.0	<b>7.5</b>
BIMPRD	Seabold Hall	1.1	<b>1.1</b>
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Park	17.8	<b>17.8</b>
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Bike Park	10.7	<b>7.9</b>
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Park Addition	9.2	<b>9.2</b>
BIMPRD	Waypoint (* COBI)	1.1	<b>1.1</b>
COBI	Civic Center Plaza	2.4	<b>2.4</b>
COBI	City Hall	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
COBI	Waterfront Park	5.8	<b>3.1</b>

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Acres on Site</b>	<b>Land Acres that are Active-Use Park Land</b>
COBI	Waterfront Park Senior/Community Center	0.3	<b>0.3</b>
BISD	Bainbridge High School	45	<b>20</b>
BISD	Blakely Elementary School	8.9	<b>1</b>
BISD	Commodore Options School	2.6	<b>2.3</b>
BISD	Ordway Elementary School	1.2	<b>1</b>
BISD	Sonoji Sakai Intermediate School	2.3	<b>2</b>
BISD	xalilc (Halilts) Elementary School	3.8	<b>3</b>
BISD	Woodward Middle School	40.6	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Active-Use Park Land</b>			<b>204 acres</b>

\* = Property under other ownership

Figure 18: Active-use Park Lands inventory by property

## 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 the Park District and Bainbridge Island Land Trust (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.

### Related Plans and Studies

- Bainbridge Island Land Trust Strategic Plan
- Critical Area, Wildlife Habitat, Soil Report, Cultural Resource Studies for various Park Lands and for established Conservation Areas/easements, such as Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve, Meigs Park, Grand Forest, Sakai Park, and Hidden Cove Park.



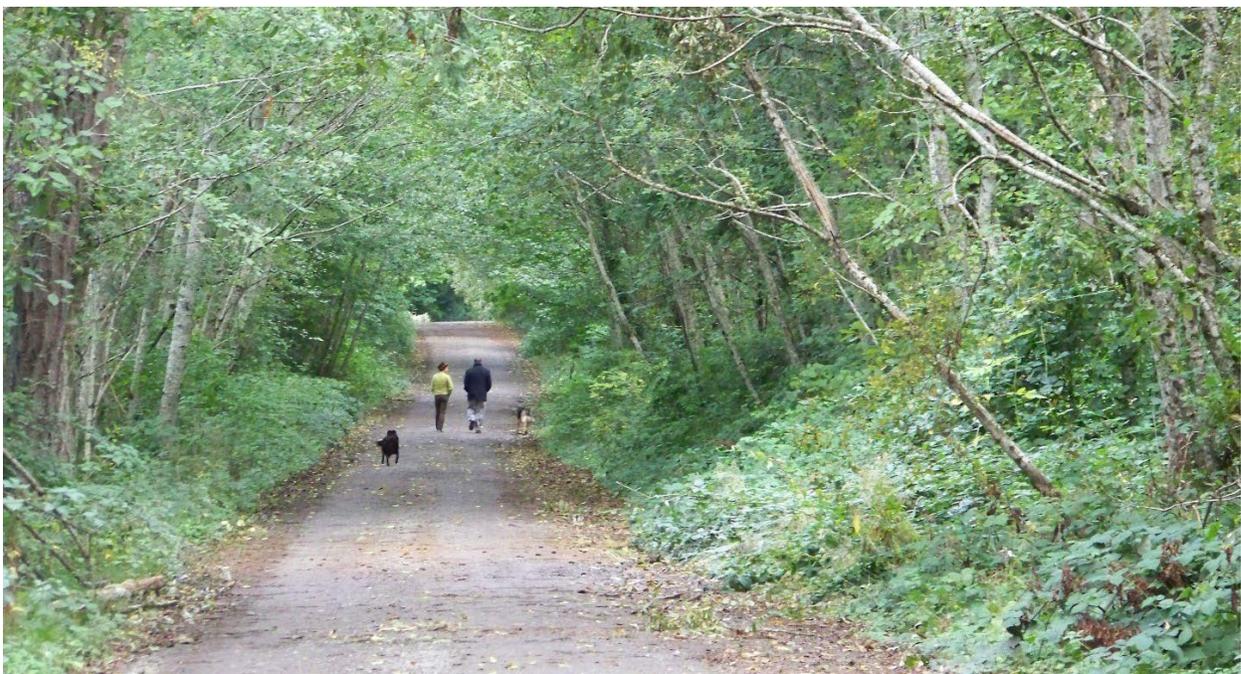
## Natural Areas

### EVOLVING SYSTEM STRATEGIES & Highlights since the 2020 Plan

- Acquisition Strategies and protection of the Grand Forest East, a 40-acre addition to the Grand Forest, through partnerships, highlighting the community facilitation role of the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation and the community ecological stewardship role of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust.
- Creation of a Natural Resource Department with full time staff positions for managing volunteer programs, 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 the Cooperative Weed Management Area program, 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 Olympics regional trail, and enhance the Conservation Easement area and associated wildlife corridors in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust.



# Map: Natural Areas Acreage

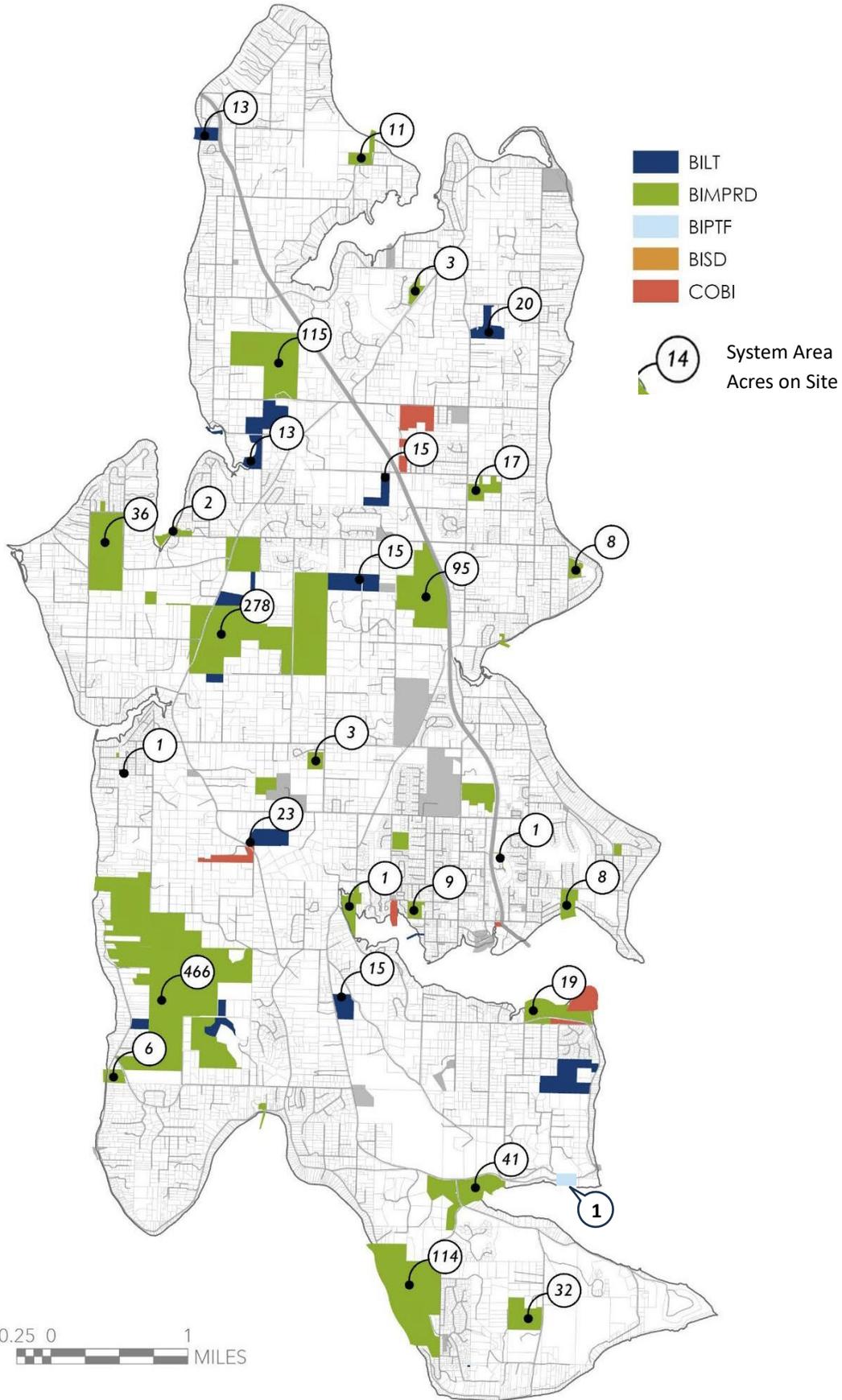


Figure 19: Natural Areas acreage and ownership

**Table: Natural Areas Park Land Acreage**

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Acres on Site</b>	<b>Land Acres that are Natural Areas</b>
BIMPRD	Bainbridge Island Recreation Center	5.7	3.1
BIMPRD	Battle Point Park	88.2	35.7
BIMPRD	Blakely Harbor Park	51.7	40.8
BIMPRD	Bristle Ridge	6.7	6.7
BIMPRD	Camp Yeomalt	2.9	2.6
BIMPRD	Fairy Dell	1.8	1.8
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Park	133.8	113.7
BIMPRD	Gazzam Lake Properties	470.5	466.2
BIMPRD	Grand Forest	278	278
BIMPRD	Hawley Cove Park	11.1	8.2
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Ballfields	7.8	3.0
BIMPRD	Hilltop (incl Prue's House)	34.8	33.5
BIMPRD	John Nelson Linear Park	0.8	0.8
BIMPRD	Lumpkin	4.4	1.4
BIMPRD	Manitou Beach Uplands	1	0.5
BIMPRD	Manzanita Park	114.9	114.9
BIMPRD	Meigs Park (1st & 2nd acquisitions)	97.1	95.1
BIMPRD	Moritani Preserve	8.6	8.6
BIMPRD	Nute's Pond	31.8	31.8
BIMPRD	Pritchard Park ( * partial COBI, BILT )	28.8	18.7
BIMPRD	Rotary Park	9.6	2.4
BIMPRD	Sakai Park	22.9	14.7
BIMPRD	Sands Avenue Ballfields (* BISD)	10	2.5
BIMPRD	Schel Chelb Park	1.7	.5
BIMPRD	Strawberry Hill Bike Park	10.7	2.8
BIMPRD	T'Chookwap Park	0.6	0.3
BIMPRD	Ted Olson Nature Preserve	17.3	17.3
BIMPRD	Veterane Open Space Preserve	8.1	5.7
BIMPRD	West Port Madison Nature Preserve	12.1	11.1
BIMPRD	Waypoint Woods (* WSF)	3.7	3.7
BIMPRD	Williams-Olson Park	4	2.4
BIMPRD	Yama Property at Blakely Harbor Park	7.4	7.4
BIMPRD	8-Acre Woods Park	7.6	7.6
BIMPRD	Foster Property	0.4	0.4
BIMPRD	Soutter Property	10	10

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Acres on Site</b>	<b>Land Acres that are Natural Areas</b>
BIMPRD	Conservation Easements	67.9	67.9
COBI	Bentryn Farm Property	11.5	11.5
COBI	Crawford Farm Property	2.3	2.3
COBI	John Neslon Park at Strawberry Cannery Cove	3.9	2.5
COBI	Johnson Farm	14	14
COBI	Lost Valley	33.8	33.8
COBI	Lovgreen Pit	14.4	14.4
COBI	M&E Tree Farm	13.0	13
COBI	Morales Farm Property	4.7	4.7
COBI	Pritchard Park uplands	4.2	4.2
COBI	Suyematsu Farm Property	14.8	14.8
BILTI	Cougar Creek	15.4	15.6
BILTI	Croker	5.04	5
BILT	Fletcher Bay lots	1	1
BILT	Fort Ward lot	0.2	0.2
BILT	Heart of the Forest	19	19
BILT	Jablonko	14.2	14.2
BILT	Lindbergh Robbins Tidelands	1.8	1.8
BILT	Miller-Kirkman Preserve	13.3	13.3
BILT	Quitslund Family Farm	19.6	19.6
BILT	Springbrook Creek Preserve	23	23
BILT	Winslow Rookery	0.4	0.4
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	Wildlife Corridor A	9.7	9.7
BILT	Wildlife Corridor B	9.9	9.9
BILT	Wildlife Corridor Expansion	15	15
BILT	Private Conservation Easements	275	275
BIPTF	Halls Hill Lookout and Labyrinth	1.3	1.3
	<b>Total Natural Area Park Land</b>		<b>2074</b>

Figure 20: Natural Areas acreage inventory by property

\* = Property under other ownership

## SNAPSHOT: RECREATIONAL SHORELINE AREAS

### How do Recreational Shoreline Areas 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 kinds 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.

### Related Plans and Studies

- City of Bainbridge Island Shoreline Management Plan
- City of Bainbridge Island Eagle Harbor Management Plan
- Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers Remediation Plans at Bill Point (Pritchard Park)
- WA Department of Ecology Remediation Plan with previous private property owners at Blakely Harbor
- Kitsap County Water Trail Plan
- Suquamish Tribe Ordinary and Customary Area Use



## Recreational Shoreline Areas

### EVOLVING SYSTEM STRATEGIES & 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 the Fay Bainbridge Park Cabins #4 and #5, re-using building materials and improving accessibility.
- Community-based design and permitting of Sail Float Replacement in coordination with City of Bainbridge Island and State of Washington Department of Natural Resources, pertaining to Aquatic Land lease program. Capital Project Agreement in place with Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation
- Installation of accessible Recreational Shoreline Amenities and a memorial at Pritchard Park, working with private donors for costs and extending of memorial to wider community.
- Installation of Hawley Cove Park Boardwalk and re-route to protect natural resources and improve access using grant funding and an innovative low-impact installation technique per best management practices.
- Collaboration with the City of Bainbridge Island and the State of Washington to provide additional shoreline access and safety improvements at the Schel Chelb Park site.
- Planning road ends on shorelines as well as shore-to-shore access between parks with partner organizations, consistent with the Bainbridge Island Shoreline Management Plan.



## Recreational Shoreline Areas Acreage

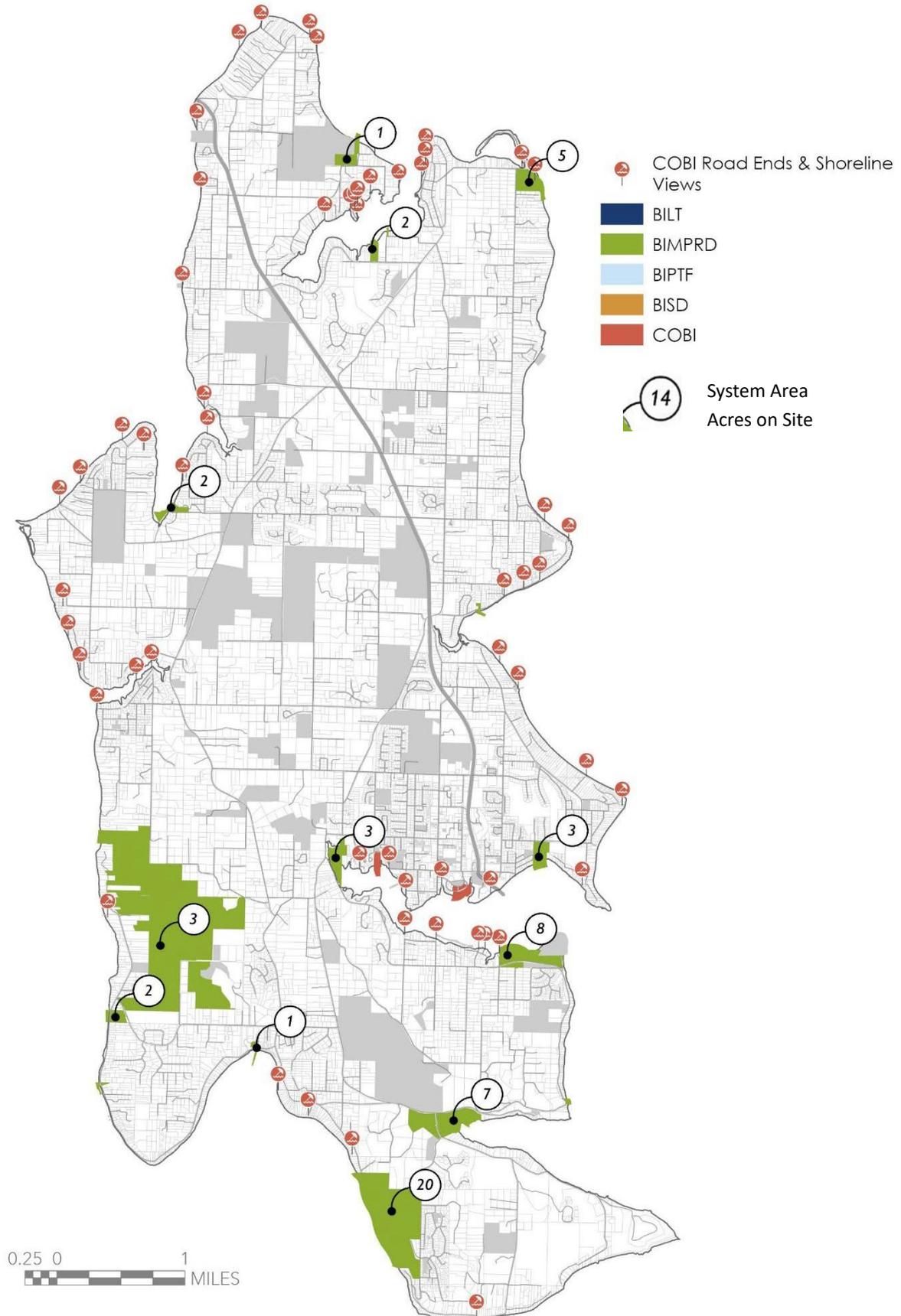


Figure 21: Recreational Shoreline areas acreage by owner

**Table: Recreational Shoreline Areas Acreage**

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Acres on Site</b>	<b>Land Acres that are Recreational Shoreline Areas</b>
BIMPRD	Blakely Harbor Park	48	<b>7.0</b>
BIMPRD	Fay Bainbridge Park	19.2	<b>4.8</b>
BIMPRD	Fort Ward Park	133.8	<b>20.1</b>
BIMPRD	Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve	470.5	<b>2.6</b>
BIMPRD	Hawley Cove Park	11.1	<b>2.9</b>
BIMPRD	Hidden Cove Park	5.6	<b>1.7</b>
BIMPRD	Lumpkin	4.4	<b>3</b>
BIMPRD	Manitou Beach Uplands	1	<b>.5</b>
BIMPRD	Point White Pier	0.7	<b>.4</b>
BIMPRD	Pritchard Park	28.8	<b>8.2</b>
BIMPRD	Rockaway Beach	0.5	<b>0.5</b>
BIMPRD	Schel Chelb Park	1.7	<b>0.6</b>
BIMPRD	T'Chookwap Park	0.6	<b>0.3</b>
BIMPRD	Veterane Open Space Preserve	8.1	<b>2.4</b>
BIMPRD	West Port Madison Nature Preserve	12.1	<b>1</b>
BIMPRD	Williams-Olson Park	4	<b>1.6</b>
COBI	John Nelson Park at Strawberry Cannery Cove	3.9	<b>1.4</b>
COBI	Waterfront Park	5.8	<b>2.7</b>
COBI	Lytle Beach ("Road Ends" with developed shoreline rec. amenities)	.2	<b>.2</b>
<b>Total Recreational Shoreline Areas</b>			<b>61.9</b>

Figure 22: Recreational Shoreline Areas acreage inventory by property

\* = Property under other ownership

## SNAPSHOT: RECREATIONAL 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?

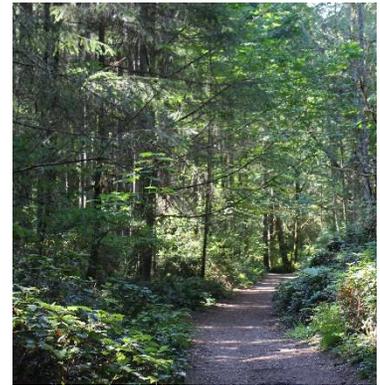
- Soft-surface trails through Natural Areas or Active-Use Park Land.
- Trails outside of parks.

### What kind of amenities are found on Recreational Trails?

- Access amenities such as signage and benches.

### Related Plans and Studies

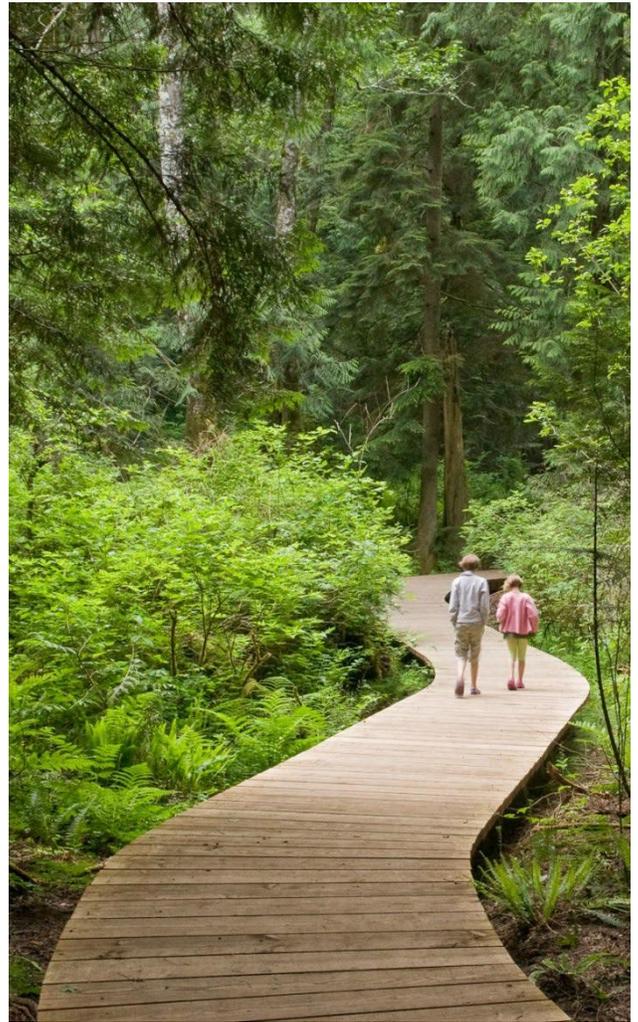
- The Park District's Trails Vision Plan, a "living" implementation plan first adopted in 2020, outlines key recreational trail types, and goals for expanding and maintaining the trail system. The Trails Vision Plan, adopted with this plan, is in Appendix A.
- City-wide Mobility Plan, replacing the Non-Motorized Plan, to be adopted by the City of Bainbridge Island, as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation Strategic Plan



## Recreational Trails

### EVOLVING SYSTEM STRATEGIES & Highlights Since the 2020 plan

- Collaboration with the Trails Advisory Committee and partnership organizations to update the Trails 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 Foundation 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 Lake Nature Preserve, 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 Olympics 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: Public Trail Distribution and Providers**

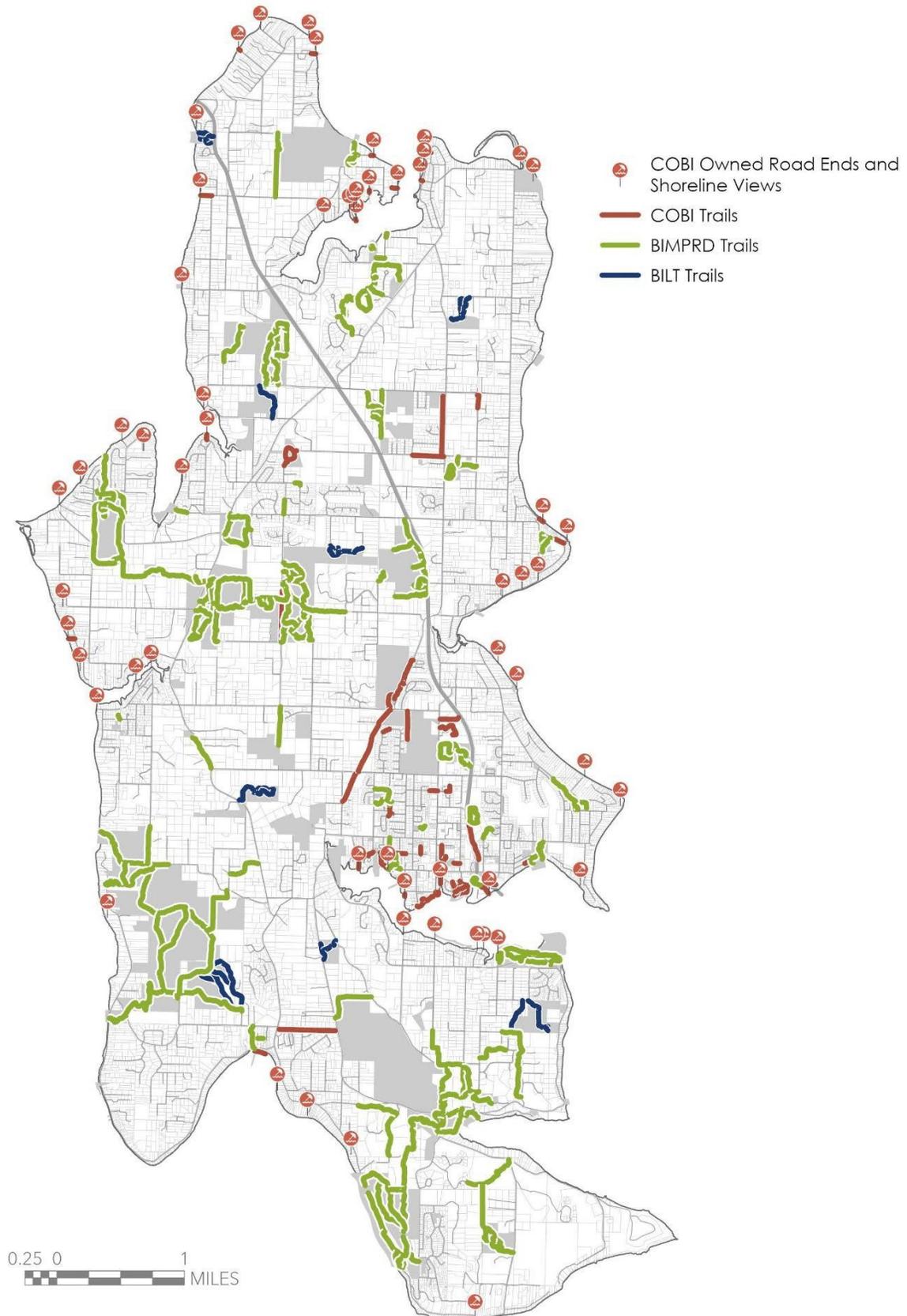


Figure 23: Public access trails by provider

## 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 spaces for rent for gatherings.
- Support facilities such as office space for Park District staff.

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

- Aquatic Facilities.
- Health and Wellness Facilities.
- Cultural Facilities.
- Community Facilities.
- Special-Use Facilities.

### Related Plans and Studies

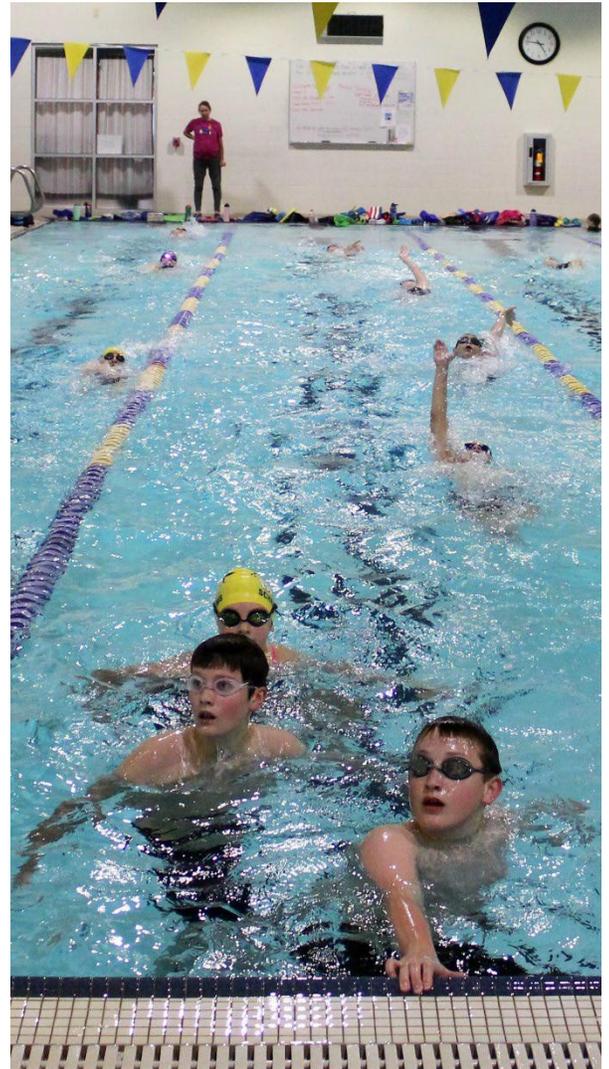
- Bainbridge Island School District 2023 Study and Survey
- Bainbridge Island School District Long-range Strategic Facilities Plan
- Bainbridge Island School District Central Campus Development Plan
- City of Bainbridge Island Senior Center Development Plan



## 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, four 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 Don Nakata Pool Aquatic Facility as well as other scheduled maintenance needs such as the installation of efficient building improvements and refurbishment of the water slide 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 ongoing building condition assessment studies.



**Map: Indoor Facilities by Provider**

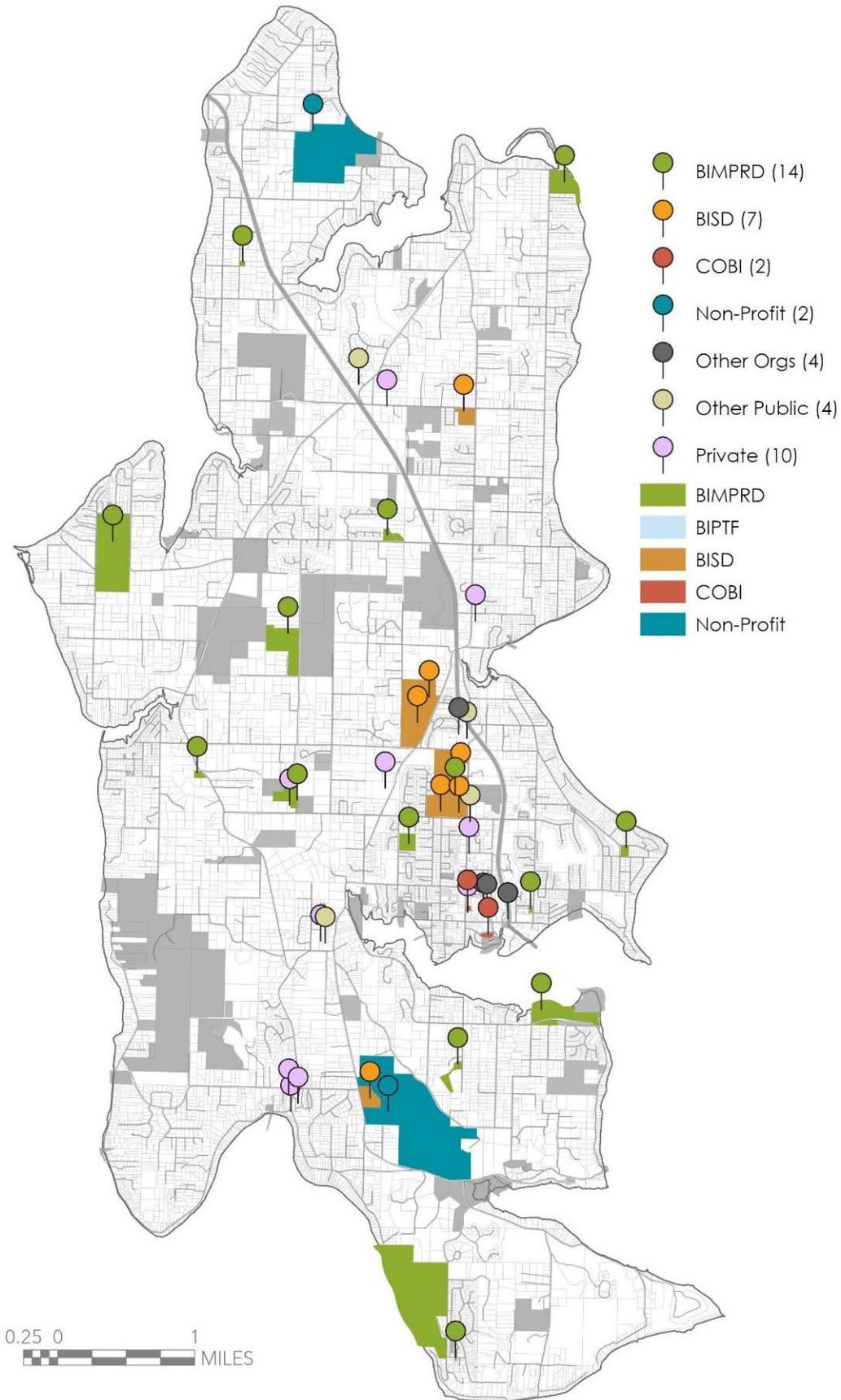


Figure 24: Indoor Facilities Distribution by provider

**Table: Indoor Facilities (Park District)**

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Sq. ft. of Community Facilities</b>	<b>Sq. ft. of Support Facilities</b>
BIMPRD	Aquatic Center ( * BISD )	24,000	6500
BIMPRD	Bainbridge Island Recreation Center (BIRC)	51,000	2,000
BIMPR	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	800	110
BIMPRD	Gideon Park	0	730
BIMPRD	Hilltop	1000	700
BIMPRD	Island Center Hall	1700	0
	Strawberry Hill Addition	0	2814
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	2814
BIMPRD	<b>Total Indoor Facilities</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>40,564</b>

Figure 25: Indoor Facilities inventory by facility (Park District)

\* = Property under other ownership

**Table: Indoor Facilities (Other Providers)**

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Name</b>
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	xdlilc (Halilts) Elementary School

**Table: Indoor Facilities (Other Providers)**

<b>Properties</b>	<b>Name</b>
COBI	City Hall
COBI	Waterfront Park Senior Center
COBI	Bainbridge Island Rowing Center ( * COBI)
Non-Profit	Bloedel Reserve Visitor Center, Museum, Exhibit, Stage, and Gathering areas
Non-Profit	IslandWood School and learning facilities
Non-Profit	Bainbridge Performing Arts Theater
Non-Profit	BARN Community Center, offering artisan classes and workspaces
Non-Profit	BI Museum of Art, offering community gathering and art exhibit space to the public
Non-Profit	BI Historical Museum, visitor center and community-wide interpretative services
Other Public	Fire Station 21
Other Public	Fire Station 22
Other Public	Fire Station 23
Other Public	Bainbridge Public Library, run by Kitsap Regional Library
Non-Profit	American Legion Hall
Non-Profit	Filipino American Community Hall, adjacent to Strawberry Hill Park with joint-use coordination for easement and parking areas
Non-Profit	The Grange Hall, offering rental space similar to Island Center Hall
Non-Profit	Bainbridge Island Sportsman Club, offering target practice and fishing
Private	Island School
Private	Hyla School
Private	Island Fitness
Private	Bainbridge Dance Center
Private	Lynnwood Theater
Private	Lynwood Commons
Private	Pleasant Beach Village Pool & Fitness
Private	Port Madison church
Private	Bainbridge Bible church
Private	Bainbridge First Bap. church
Private	Bethany church
Private	Dayaalu center
Private	Grace church
Private	Island church
Private	Saint Barnabas church
Private	Rolling Bay church
Private	Saint Cecilia church

Figure 26: Indoor Facilities inventory by facility of other providers, non-exhaustive listing

## SNAPSHOT: RECREATION

The Park District offers a myriad of unique recreational programs, from mermaid-themed swim lessons to glass fusing and sewing circles, from snowshoeing trips 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
- Eagledale Park
- Fort Ward Park
- Grand Forest
- Hidden Cove Park
- Island Center Park
- Prue's House
- Sands Avenue Ballfield
- Seabold Park
- Strawberry Hill Park

### Schools:

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

### COBI Park Lands

- Waterfront Park

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

The data in this section comes from 2023-2024. In 2024, the Park District offered over 2,000 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.

*In 2024, the Park District offered over 2,000 classes, camps, camps, meetups, and expeditions.*

### 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
- Glass staining
- Painting
- Writing
- Pottery
- Language
- Music
- STEM
- Canine classes
- After-school programs

**Camps:**

Throughout the summer and non-school periods, the Recreation Division 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:**

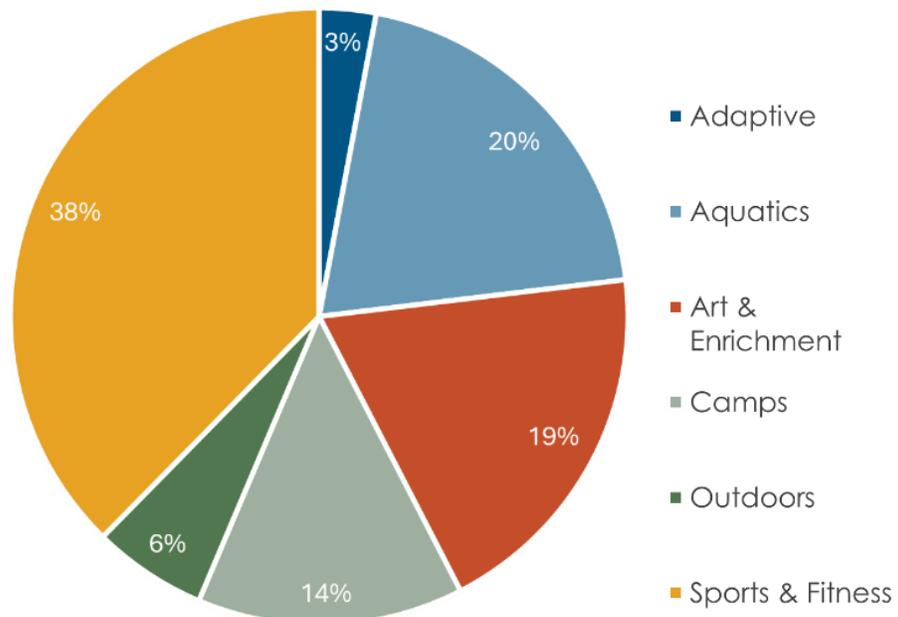
People of all ages can enjoy the outdoors through Recreation Division activities such as hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, snowshoeing, fly fishing, climbing, nature, and environmental education. In 2024, the Park District offered 290 classes, rides, paddles, and other adventures, increasing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

Figure 27: Recreation program distribution 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 Division offered 1826 Sports & Fitness programs, 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.

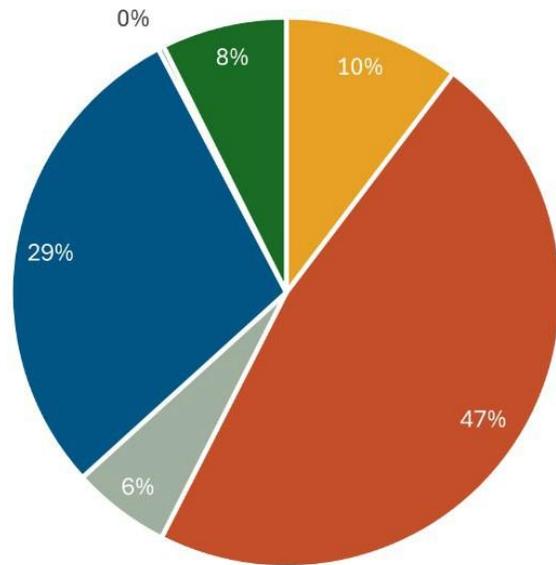


## Recreation Age Groups

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 to the right shows the breakdown of recreation programming by age group, with programs for youth representing 47% of offerings. The Park District offers few programs that 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.



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

Figure 28: Recreation program offerings by Age Group

## 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:** Tuesday-Thursday in October prior to Halloween
- **Average Attendance:** 2,000
- **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:** 2,000-2,500
- **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 five large special events annually, totaling 49.5 hours of programming.*



## Recreation

### EVOLVING SYSTEM STRATEGIES & Highlights since the 2020 plan

- Public management of the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center, through programmed *Indoor Fitness & Wellness Facilities* including a Gymnasium and four 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 Association 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.



## WHAT WE HEARD

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

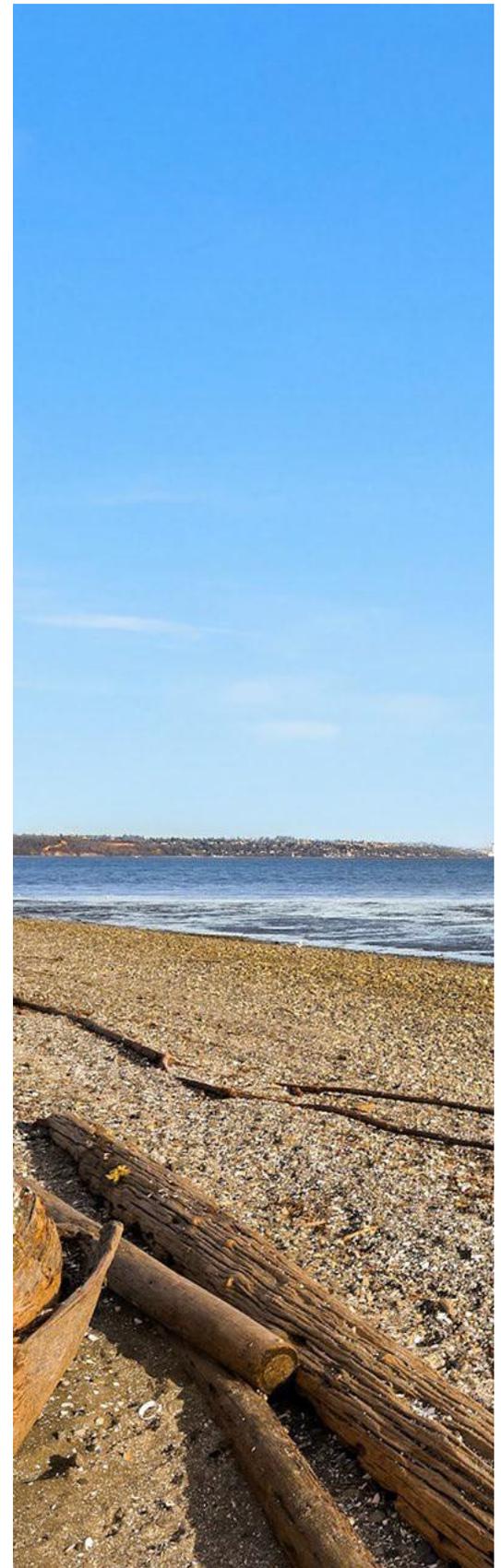
This plan document is intended to answer the question: what do Bainbridge Island community members want from their parks, trails, and recreation programs, and what will it take to get there?

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

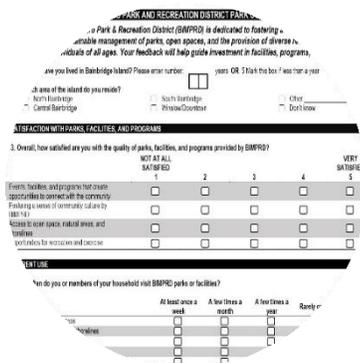
This public engagement process sought to answer the above questions, to deepen relationships with the community, and to provide education on the roles of the Park District and its partners. The engagement methods and results are summarized on the following pages.

Interactive activities were incorporated into the project webpage, including maps for community members to suggest assets and opportunities, which were used to identify 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, 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 database, 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 through the formal public comment process followed by the adoption of the plan on February 19, 2026. A record of public input received during this process is found in Appendix C.



# ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



**Aug – Nov 2025 +  
Jan – Feb 2026**

**May – July 2025**

**May 13 & 22, 2025**

**June 21, 2025**

**Summer 2025**

A survey was mailed to 5,000 households in May 2025, by third-party consultant RRC Associates. 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 were held to discuss challenges, opportunities, and play a budgeting game. Invitations, educational information, summary materials, and follow-up messages were sent to over 200 community stakeholder groups.

At an open house, held at the Bainbridge High School on a Saturday morning, the project team shared findings from stakeholder meetings and worked with attendees to refine the map of challenges and opportunities.

The project team attended community events and met with organizations to build participation on community goals and objectives. This included the Farmer’s Market, Good Olde Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and the summer concert series.

Presentations to the Park District Board occurred on:

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

Figure 29: Public engagement timeline

## 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 Nature 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.



## UNDERSTANDING THE BUDGET

The graphic below shows the breakdown of how the Park District spends its budget, represented as a portion of \$1. The definitions below provide additional information on funding mechanisms.

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

**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.

**Property Tax Levy:** Annual taxes levied on all property on Bainbridge Island based on the property values.

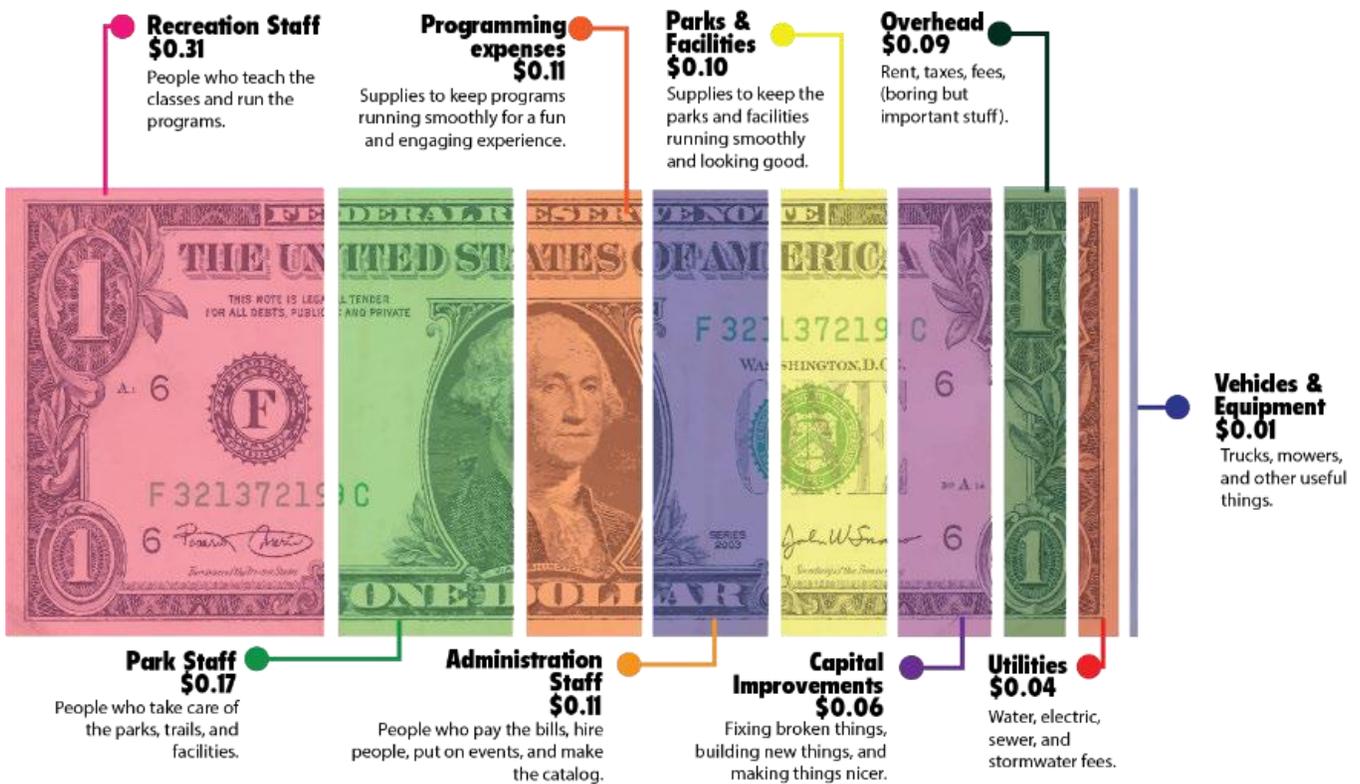


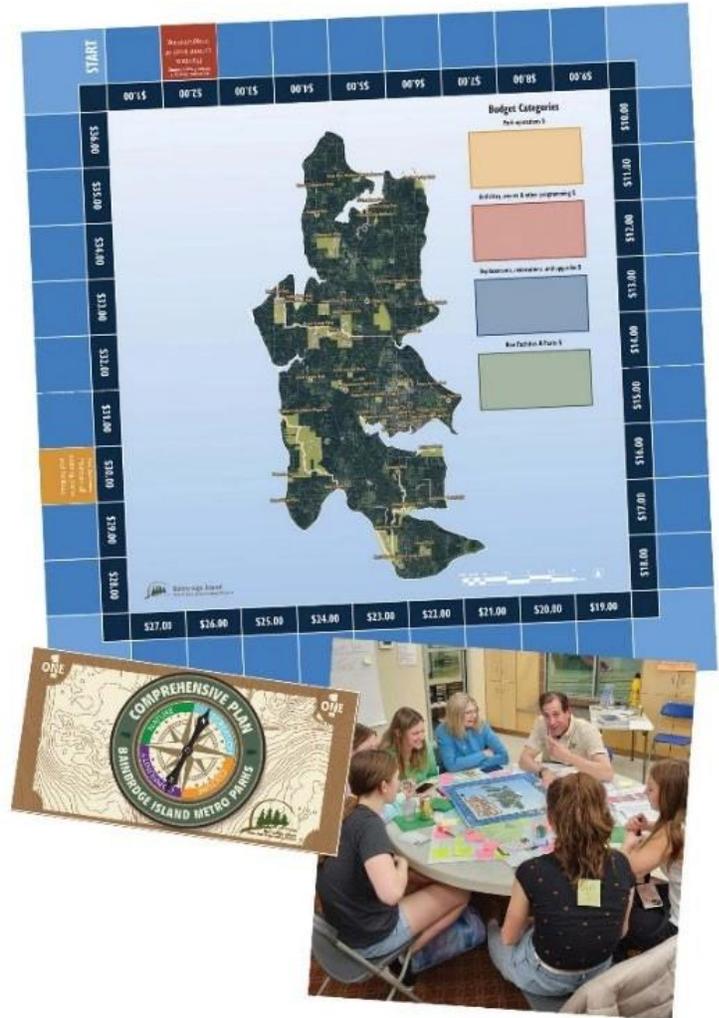
Figure 31: Park budget by example dollar graphic

## BALANCING 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 maintenance levels using the limited money they were allocated. To get additional funds for Capital Projects, players rolled a die 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 mostly offset the cost of running them, but don't quite cover all 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 Park District will need additional funds. These funds could come from bond initiatives, additional property taxes, grants, private donations, or fundraising by partner organizations.



## PARKS, TRAILS, & RECREATION COMMUNITY 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 5,000 households. These households, chosen at random, were invited to use the QR code on their postcard to access a password-protected survey or to connect with the Park District for alternative access. The methodology and results of this survey are found in Appendix B.

### Open link survey

To give all residents a chance to provide their feedback in the survey, an open survey link was made available as well as hard copies at events such as the Farmer's Market and Summer Concert series. The open survey results were kept separate to preserve the results of the statistically valid survey. Comparing differing results from these two survey pools provides insight into user demographics and needs.

### Analysis

Survey results were analyzed and summarized by third-party 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.
- Responses from the invitation survey is weighted by 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 Park District's constituency.
- Met target of a 95% confidence level, meaning that 95 times out of 100 the results from the survey would fall within with the margin of error for this survey of +/-4.94%

The key findings from the survey are summarized on the following pages.

[See Appendix B for the full report and methodology by RRC Consultants.]

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

Figure 32: Public survey completed responses

## KEY FINDINGS OF ENGAGEMENT

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 is strong across all system areas and facilities, with Invite Sample respondents generally issuing higher ratings. Satisfaction with natural areas is consistently high, with “opportunities for recreation and exercise” and “accessible natural areas and shoreline” topping 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 pro-active 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 Sample 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 the Park District's communication positively. The Recreation Guide is the most used source, while 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 the 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 park system to serve the needs of residents in a community in an equitable and accountable manner.

WAC 365-196-210(21) describes LOS 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 LOS.

In accordance with GMA requirements, LOS needs to be related to the Capital Facility Improvement Programs, meaning that the projects the Park District plans for the future should relate to the needs outlined by the LOS.



## HOW TO MEASURE LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

There are many ways of measuring the LOS 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 1,000 residents. Using this system, a jurisdiction would need to add park land to maintain the LOS as their population grew.
- **1983:** National Recreation and Park Association 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:** National Recreation and Park Association 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.

Many jurisdictions continue to use “acres per 1,000 residents,” a simple calculation that encourages decision makers to set aside public land as their population grows. 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 LEVEL OF SERVICE ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

The following criteria guide the discussion of how best to measure parks and recreation Level of Service (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**

The Park District 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 the Park District 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 Park District staff can update the LOS during future planning cycles without the assistance of a consultant.

### **Create a metric that reflects the assets of Park District and partner organizations**

The Park District 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 can access.

This plan uses a three-pronged approach to measure LOS. 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 that uses a 5-point scale.

Below, we outline our methods for measuring Quantity, Quality, and Access Levels of Service.

## QUANTITY (LOS MEASURE)

The typical metric to measure quantity is number of acres of park land or facility, per 1,000 residents. It tells us how much of a system's park 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 will decrease without proactive efforts to acquire new land to at least maintain per capita standards. With a finite amount of land available, an adopted acres/1,000 LOS standard, reactive to an anticipated growth levels, often becomes illogical and infeasible to maintain.

Rather than just omitting such a metric to assess quantity, this plan uses a peer comparison to benchmark the quantities of park, trail, and facilities on Bainbridge Island. Instead of choosing a target number of park land acres that should be maintained for every 1,000 residents, we look at communities with similar demographics to Bainbridge Island to compare system quantities. Choosing four peer communities, we calculate score of 1-5 based on how Bainbridge Island compares across **Natural Areas**, **Active-Use parklands** (called "**Developed Parks**" when comparing to peer park jurisdictions), **Indoor Facilities**, and **Trails**. Because **Recreational Shoreline** is a unique aspect of our island condition, this is omitted from peer comparison.

## Identifying Bainbridge Island's Peer Communities

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 Park District's assets. Informed by our review of peer communities, the Park District has several key challenges and strengths:

### **Age distribution:**

The Island has two stand out age cohorts at this time: those over 50 and those under 18 (the former is significantly larger, the latter is significantly lower in peer comparisons). These two groups have substantially different recreation preferences and needs to address.

### **Geographic isolation:**

Unlike the communities clustered around Seattle and Bellevue, island communities must be more recreationally self-sufficient. This is particularly challenging for access to large-scale facilities that are typically supported by nearby communities, such as an Olympic-sized pool or indoor track. An Eastside community for instance, might provide a regional facility desired by resident but rely on its neighbors to fill other facility gaps.

**Relatively low density and cumulative land value differences:**

Compared to its peers near Seattle, Bainbridge Island has relatively low land value per-acre. Normalizing land value by acreage helps us to see beyond the high cost of individual mostly residential properties on the Island. 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 Island towards urban service levels, further supported by municipal taxes and fees.

Through benchmarking, we realize the Park District's limitations regarding tax revenue sources compared to municipalities on one hand, and, on the other hand, lower developable land costs which enable donation and acquisition of relatively larger tracts of land.

The Bainbridge Island park system has evolved among a combination of lower land values, transfers of property such as Fort Ward Park and Fay Bainbridge Park from Washington State Parks, and active

fundraising of private funds. This combination has helped the Island hit far above its weight both in terms of open space acquisition, special use, and regional-level recreation facilities.

Additionally, compared to peer communities close to Seattle, Island households are significantly more spread-out. This means that providing park facilities and park land within walkable distance of residents is more challenging, necessitating attention on Access and coordination among mobility-related initiatives.

**Peer selection:**

No community is demographically or geographically identical to Bainbridge Island. Peers were selected based on a combination of factors. Median household income and total population provided the initial selection. Population density, demographics like age distribution, governmental structure and taxing authorities, and geographic issues influenced final selection. Median household income and total population were prioritized because they strongly influence quantity and types of parks and facilities afforded.

**Table: Peer communities evaluated for benchmarking Quantify Level of Service**

From this list, we selected **Mercer Island, Issaquah, Kenmore, and PenMet** (the metropolitan park district outside the City of Gig Harbor), based on similarities in population size, density, socioeconomics and age distribution,.

**How to read the table: The brightest-colored cells show numbers most similar to Bainbridge Island demographics. Orange to red indicate lower numbers while green indicates higher.**

	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 District	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

Figure 33: Choosing peer communities: comparative statistics

## Peer Community 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, presented with Bainbridge Island data.

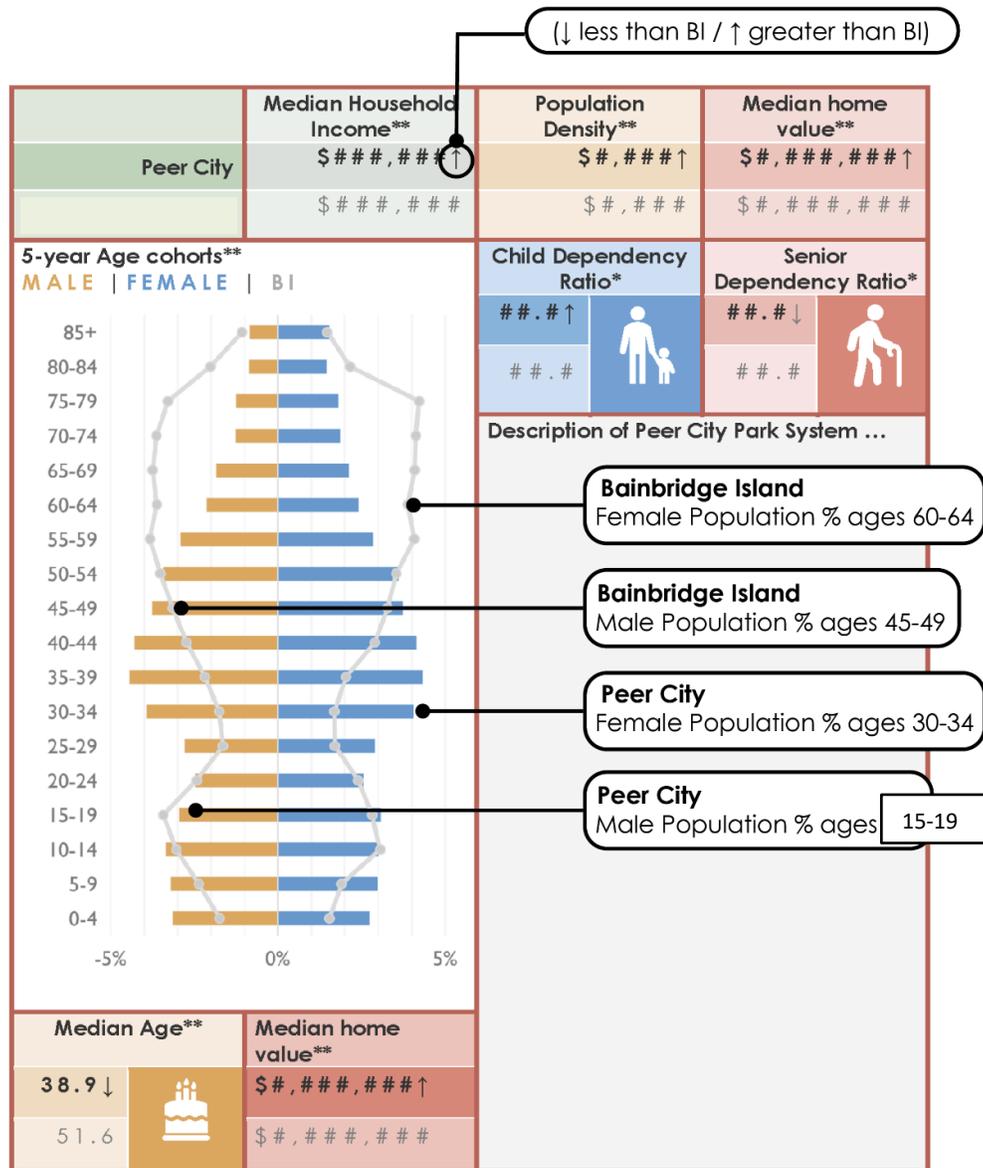


Figure 34: Peer community demographic profile components example

\* **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 Community Comparison: Issaquah

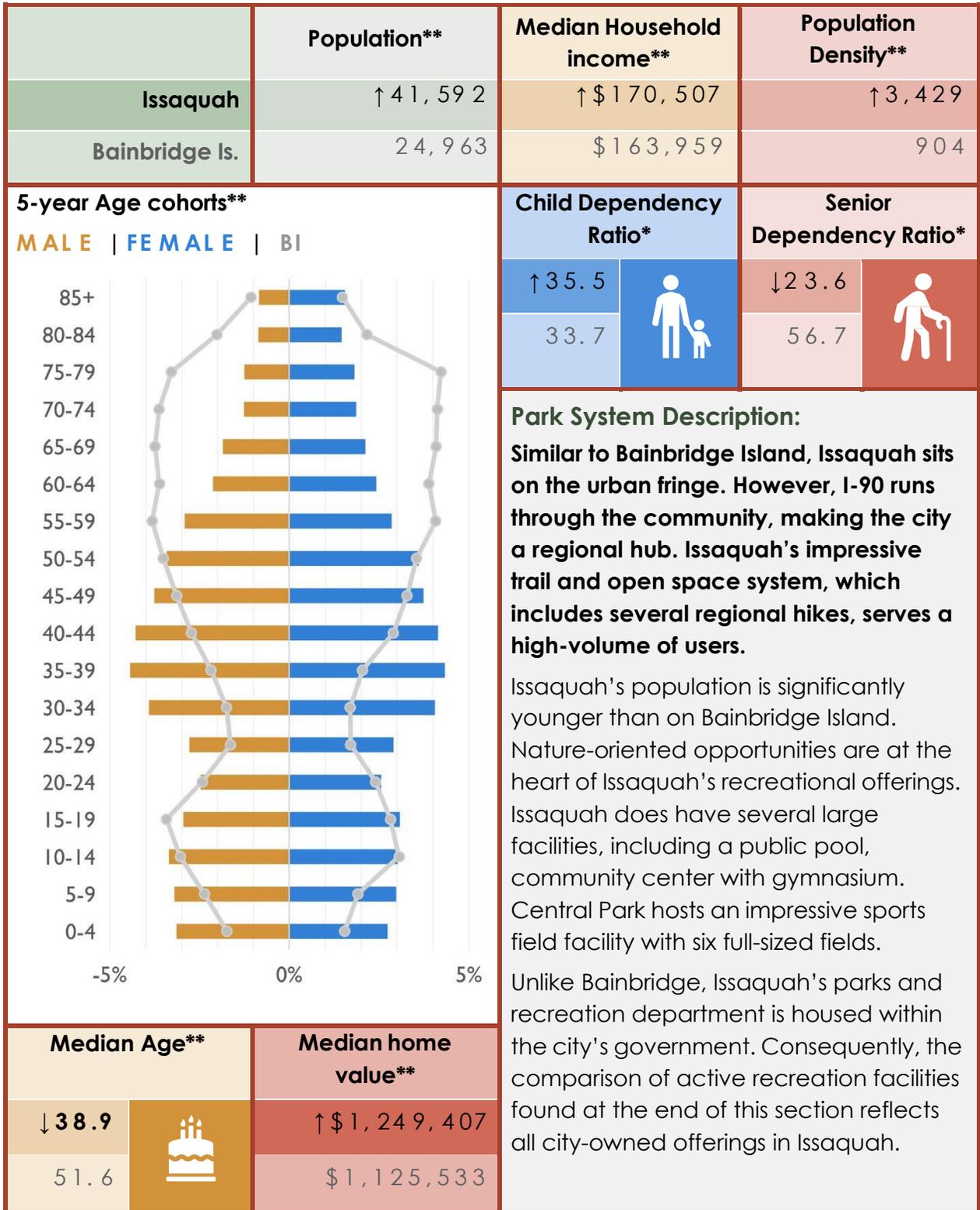


Figure 35: Issaquah demographic profile

## Peer Community Comparison: Mercer Island

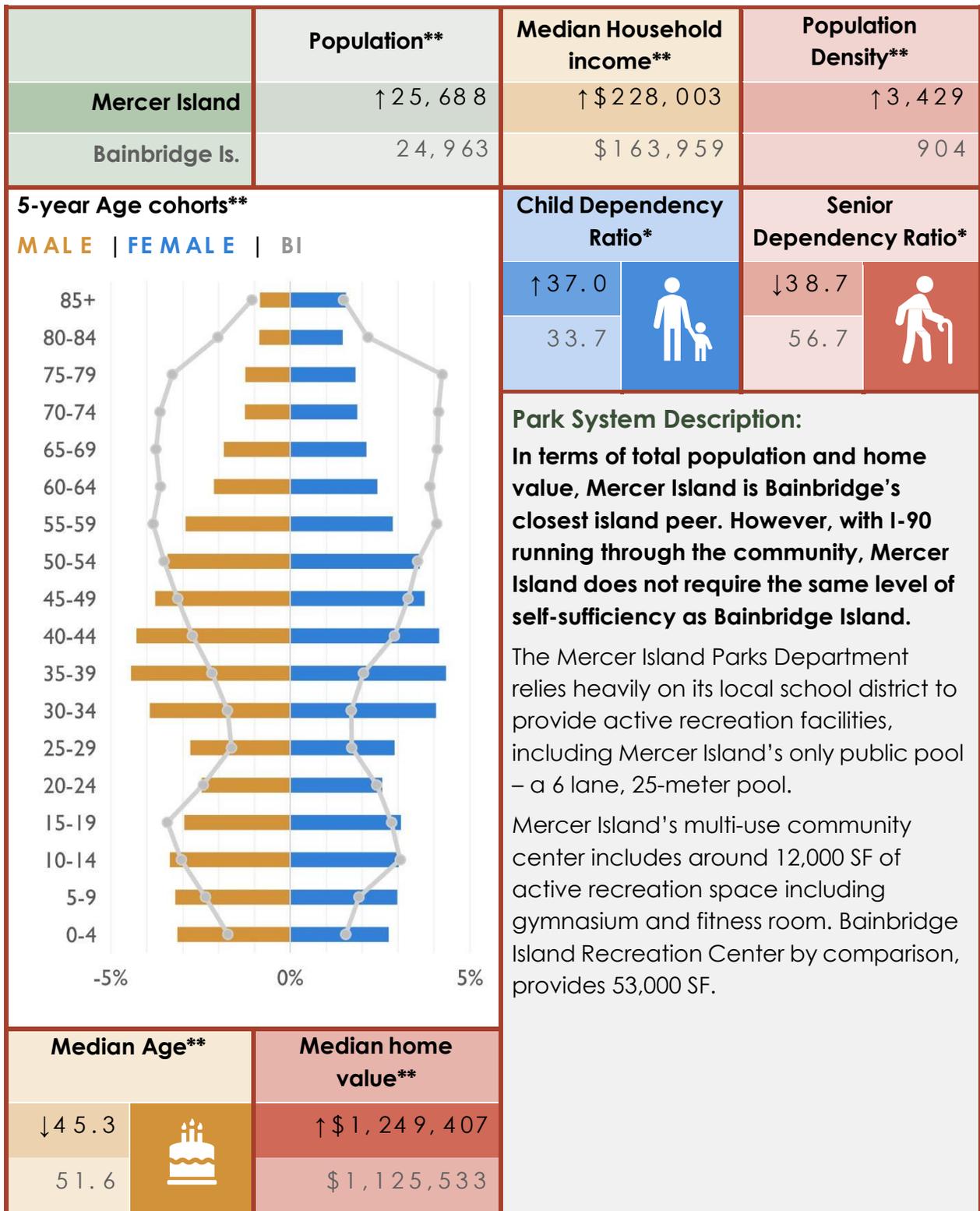


Figure 36: Mercer Island demographic profile

### Peer Community Comparison: Kenmore

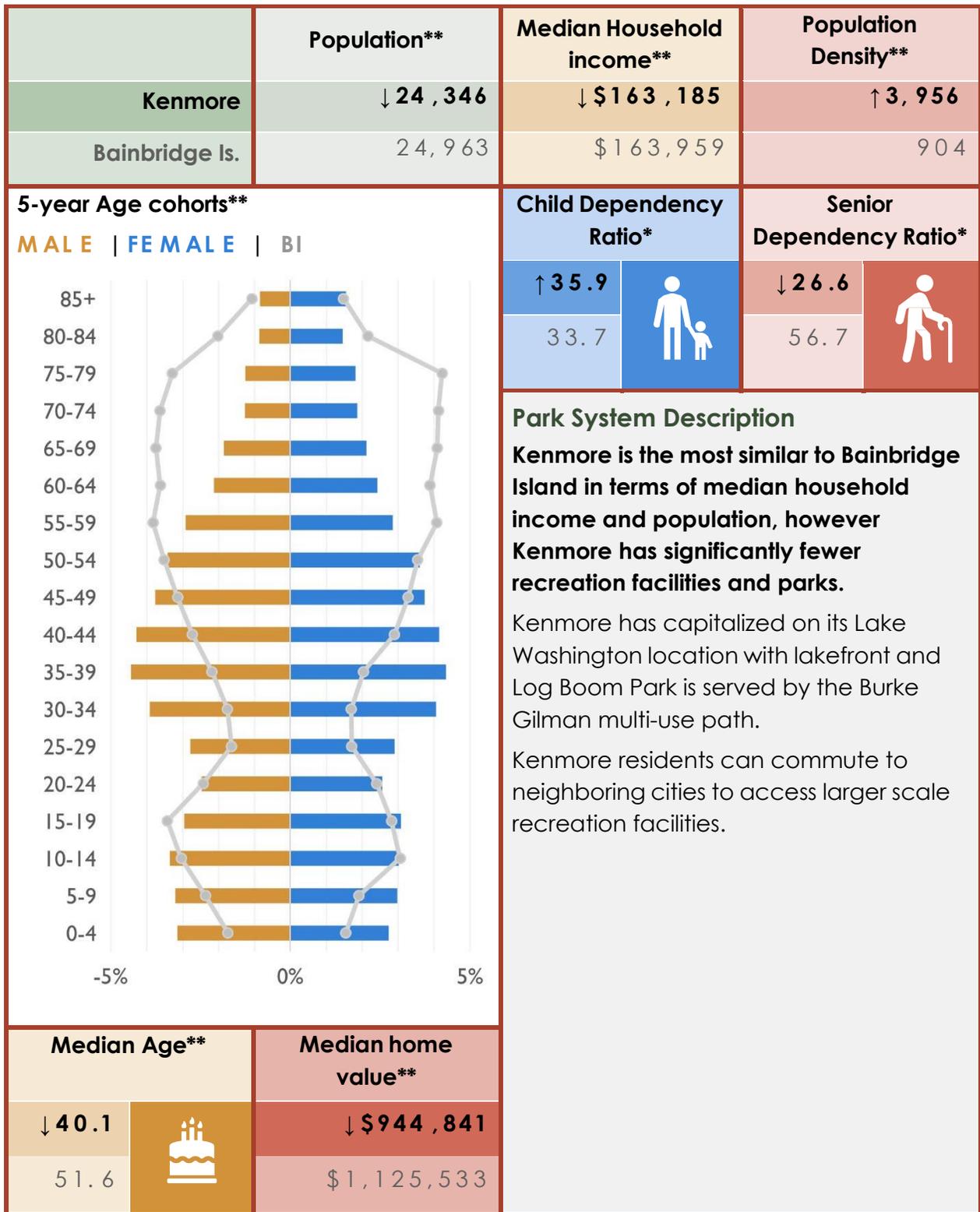


Figure 37: Kenmore demographic profile

### Peer Community Comparison: PenMet Metropolitan Park District



Figure 38: PenMet demographic profile

## Assessing Park Quantity on Bainbridge Island

To determine quantities of natural areas, developed park land, indoor facilities, and recreational trails, we referenced the most recent PROS plan document for each peer community. 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 public park system, hence, “Developed Parks”, instead of the broader System Area definition associated with “Active-Use Park Lands.”

This also means excluding state parks, private recreation facilities, and conservation easements held by partner organizations. Below, per capita measurements for the jurisdiction as measured in this benchmarking assessment.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Developed Parks (Active-Use) (acres/1000)</b>	<b>Natural Areas (acres/ 1000)</b>	<b>Indoor Public Facilities (ft<sup>2</sup>/1000)</b>	<b>Recreational Trails (miles/1000)</b>
<b>BIMPRD</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>1620</b>	<b>2.68</b>
<b>Kenmore<sup>1</sup></b>	1.11	5.13	0	0.16
<b>Mercer Island<sup>2</sup></b>	7.88	11.6	469	1.13
<b>Issaquah<sup>3</sup></b>	6.58	38.8	807	1.08
<b>PenMet<sup>4</sup></b>	9.66	4.55	1430	0.50

Figure 39: Peer community park asset comparison for benchmarking (Quantity per 1,000 residents)

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 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 1,537 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

Developed (Active-Use) Parks (acres/1000)	Natural Areas (acres/1000)	Indoor Facilities (ft <sup>2</sup> /1000)	Recreational Trails (miles/1000)
5	5	5	5

Figure 40: Quantity LOS scores by System Area

Comparing the data, we awarded a 1-5 score for each system area, with 5 being the highest ranking and 1 being the lowest ranking. As the table in Figure 39 on the preceding page, 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 Parks (Active-Use), Indoor Facilities, and Recreational Trails per capita.

### What Does This Tell Us about Quantity?

The way other communities 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 communities were chosen based on comparable population sizes and median incomes, the context of each park district or 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 PROS system provides.

Consider Natural Areas: currently the Park District owns and manages 53.1 acres of land for every 1,000 residents, essentially 2,300 square feet per person. Lowest on the list, Kenmore and PenMet both provide around 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The next highest peer community is Issaquah, providing 38.8. (It's worth noting here that Issaquah residents have access to many acres of local State park land that are not reflected in their in their Quantity per 1,000 people.) In a similar fashion, the Park District's figure omits the 535 acres of Natural Areas owned by the Bainbridge Island Land Trust.

Issaquah is the second highest for Developed Park acreage among these peer communities, at 6.58 acres per 1,000 residents, compared to the 16.2 acres per 1,000 residents made available to the public by the Park District. Though survey results generally indicated satisfaction with the quantify of park facilities (developed uses) on Bainbridge Island, it is important to note that developed acreage, especially in more urban areas, often offers more facilities on acreage basis, making acreage not the deciding factor regarding facility service levels. It follows that the peer community with the closest quantity of developed park land to the Bainbridge Island is PenMet, the metropolitan park district outside the incorporated areas of Gig Harbor. Also located on the Kitsap Peninsula, as opposed to the urban areas in King County, PenMet currently offers 7.88 acres of developed park land, approximately half the quantify level provided by the Park District.

Mercer Island is the next highest peer when it comes to trails, providing 1.08 miles compared to Bainbridge Island's 1.65 miles per 1,000 residents. Something to consider is how the difference

in size (at 27 square miles, Bainbridge is nearly twice the size of Mercer Island) impacts how much of each community the trail systems provide access to. Survey feedback shows that trails are very important to Bainbridge Island residents, and that while 85% report that trails meet their needs, 60% report that additional trail miles – particularly connected trail segments - or amenities would increase their park usage.

The wealth of Natural Areas acreage on Bainbridge Island aligns with the survey feedback: Natural Areas are very important to residents. More detailed review of public input, including identification of needs and opportunities, is included in Appendix B.

*As populations and park, recreation, and open space assets change, the way Bainbridge Island compares to its peers may change. These numbers can be updated, with consideration for new factors and system analysis. For this point-in-time assessment, we deduce that park, trail, and indoor facility quantity on Bainbridge Island is excellent.*

### How Can LOS Quantity Be Increased?

- **Active-Use Park Land:**
  - Partner with agencies to broaden uses in Active-Use Park Lands.
  - Develop existing park land with facilities.
- **Natural Areas:** Acquire lands and conservation rights that offer environmental features.
- **Recreational Shoreline Areas:** Develop public road ends and other public lands with accessible recreational opportunities along the shoreline, including views.
- **Recreational Trails:**
  - Build new trails in existing parks.
  - Build new recreational trails outside of parks.
- **Indoor Facilities:**
  - Build or expand recreational facilities.
  - Co-locate recreational and community uses, such as shared gymnasium spaces with the School District.

## 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 LOS 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, Park District staff provide a 1-5 rating for the natural areas, recreational shoreline, developed park acres, indoor facilities, and trails within the Park District 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

Figure 41: Quality LOS scoring rubric

Using the above rubric, Park District staff evaluated existing parks and facilities, using this Quality scoring rubric. Averages for each System Area provide the Quality LOS scores below.

## LOS Score for Quality

Active-Use Park Land	Natural Areas	Recreational Shoreline	Recreational Trails	Indoor Facilities
3.07	2.47	2.84	2.77	2.92

Figure 42: Quality LOS scores by System Area

### What Does This Tell Us about Quality?

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

Natural Areas show the lowest Quality 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 considered in this assessment, as were 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 access to and use of the shoreline. It could also mean adding parking lots, bathrooms, or campsites. Accessibility is the most prominent area for improvement per public input as well as Park District initiatives underway.

*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.*

## How Can LOS Quality Be Increased?

- **Active-Use Park Lands**
  - 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.
- **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.
- **Recreational Trails:**
  - Perform maintenance on existing trails.
  - Add trail amenities such as benches, bathrooms, or signage.
- **Indoor Facilities:**
  - Performing maintenance and updates to existing aquatic facilities, indoor fitness and wellness facilities, cultural facilities, or amenities.
  - Adding new gym equipment or other facilities.
  - Enhance existing buildings for amenities and support service.

## 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile buffers. For each park, trail, and indoor facility owned by the Park District, City of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island School District, or Bainbridge Island Land Trust, the access points are given a buffer of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

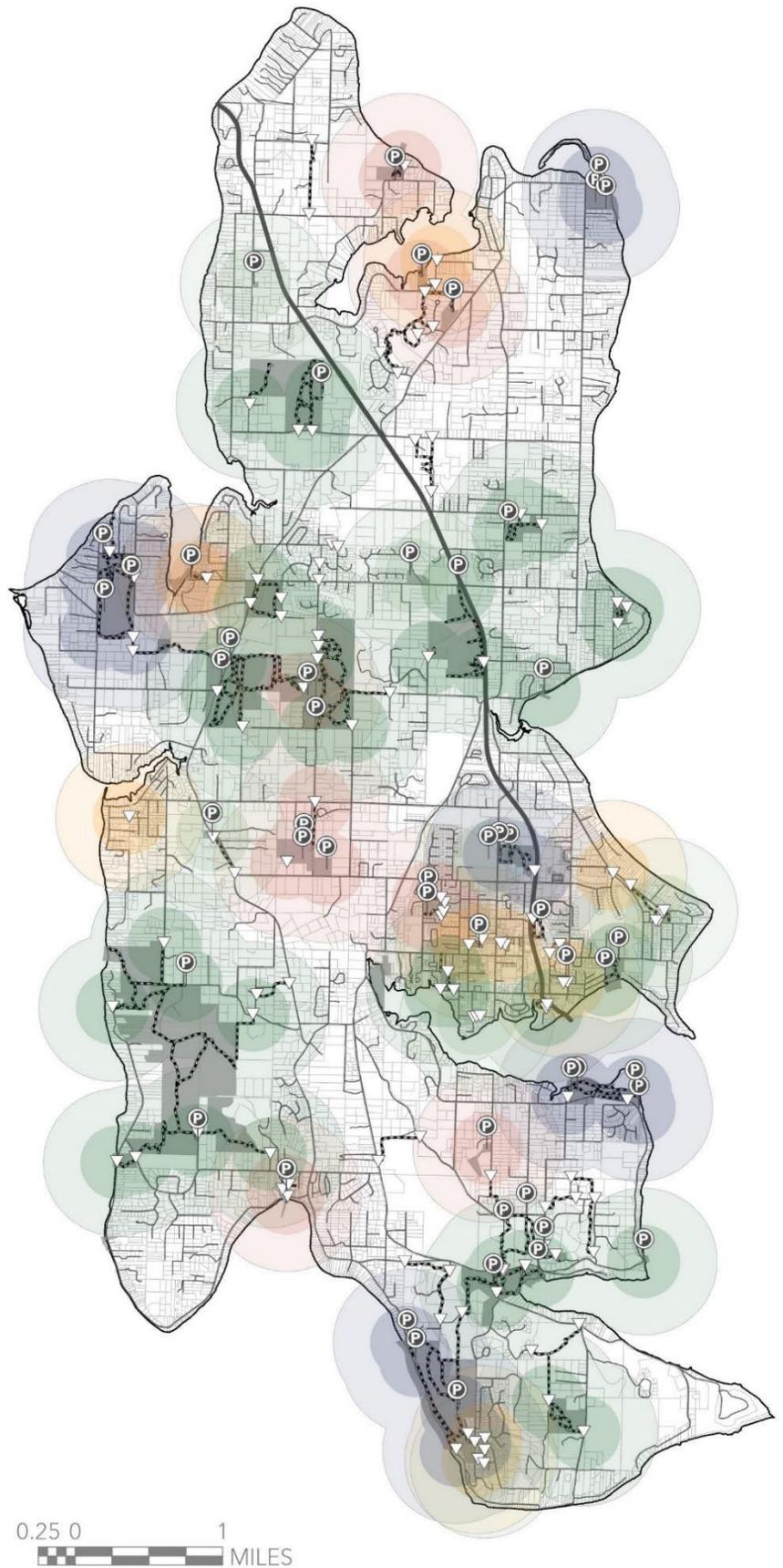


Figure 43: Park District walkshed map (0.25 and 0.5 miles)

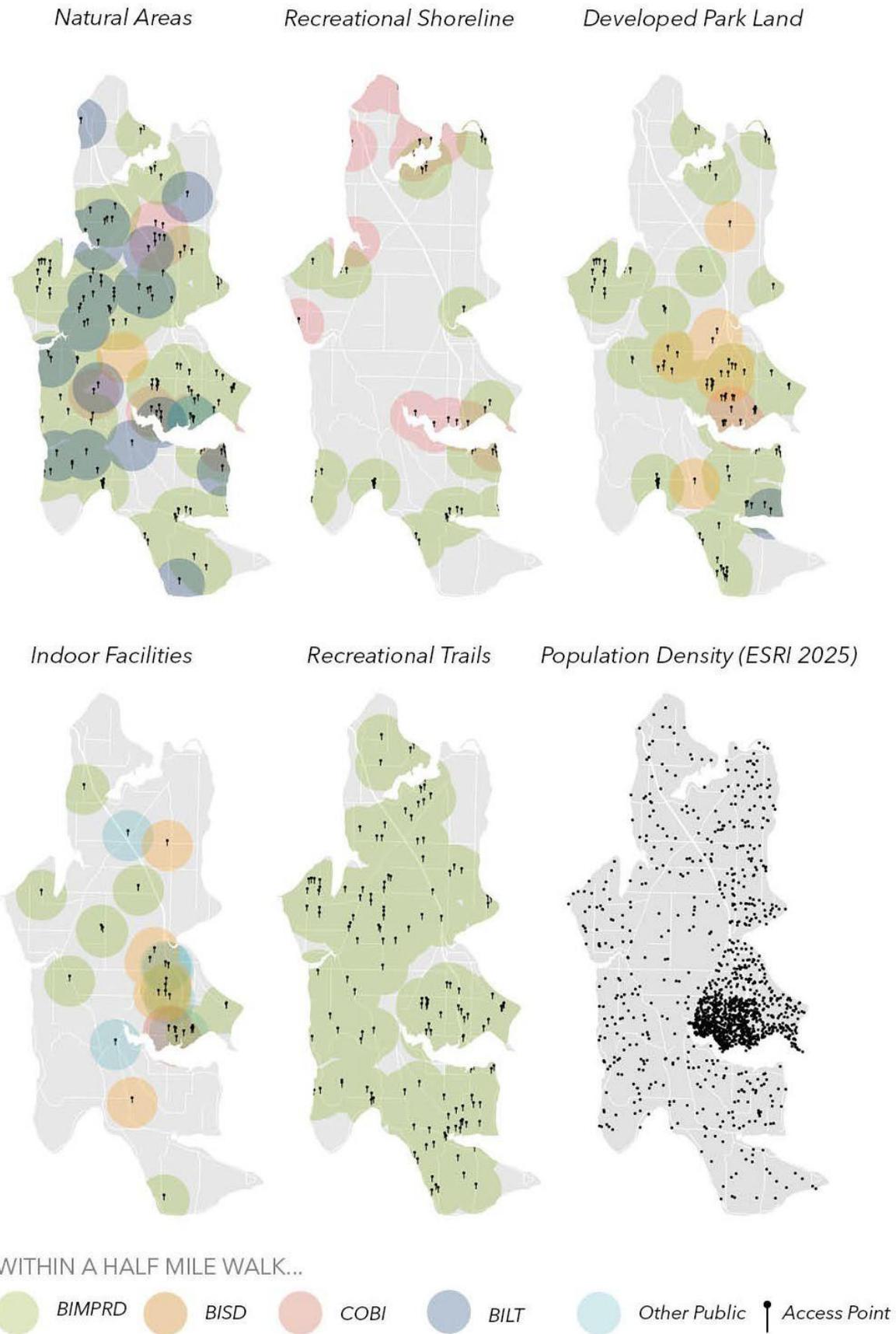


Figure 44: Half-mile walkshed from System Area assets by provider (as the crow flies)

## Population Percentages that are Within Half-Mile of System Area Assets

<b>Active-Use Park Land</b>	<b>74%</b>	To translate the 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).
<b>Natural Area Park Land</b>	<b>86%</b>	
<b>Recreational Shoreline</b>	<b>48%</b>	
<b>Recreational Trails</b>	<b>87%</b>	
<b>Indoor Facilities</b>	<b>53%</b>	

Figure 45: % of population within half-mile radius of a System Area asset

### LOS Score for Distribution

Active-Use Park Land	Natural Areas	Recreational Shoreline	Recreational Trails	Indoor Facilities
5	5	4	5	4

Figure 46: Distribution LOS scores by System Area assets

### What Does This Tell Us about Distribution?

This assessment uses a half-mile buffer, which is often used to represent a distance that someone could feasibly walk to a Neighborhood Park. We have applied a half-mile buffer on the access points (trailheads for example) for all park lands and facilities. This acknowledges the consistent public input for walkable access and makes it a priority when assessing distribution. Different scaled buffers are also taken into account the populations meant to be served (i.e. neighborhood, community, or regional parks). Indoor facilities and recreational shoreline, are both viewed as community assets and, thus, are evaluated generally by way of five-mile proximity to households, based on RCO Manual guidelines for Community Parks.

Another consideration is how people are getting to the parks, and what barriers may make even a half-mile journey difficult. Missing bike lanes, incomplete sidewalks, large road crossings, or lack of parking 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 and community coordination around distribution and access levels.

Recreational Shoreline produces the lowest percentage of residents within a half-mile, even when including the City of Bainbridge Island's Road Ends at shorelines. At 48%, this means nearly half of Island households are not within walking distance of shoreline access. We draw the following conclusions regarding this finding:

- A 5-mile buffer, in line with RCO's recommendation for community assets, covers most of the island, indicating the current coverage meets RCO standards. As such, this metric does not address where new shoreline access points are needed to meet high demand.

- Given the shape of the island, it is impossible to evaluate and achieve proximity by the desired half-mile measure. However, applying this measure around truly accessible public shoreline recreation areas, can reveal useful information when evaluating opportunities. It is valuable to see the proximity of access points to one another, especially towards the desire for shore-to-shore connections
- Shoreline access is in high demand in part due to the Island's unique geography and character. The reality, however, is of limited public access at the shoreline, as well as limited public shoreline facilities. Taking into account varying levels of accessibility and types of recreation in areas also helps address community goals. Beyond new shoreline acquisition, improved access and recreation levels can be via recreational shoreline areas already managed by the Park District, or through the development of Road Ends shoreline access areas with the City of Bainbridge Island. Public tidelands are also an area to further examine to realize desired shore to shore connections.
- These conditions, exacerbated among mostly, unavailable, and high-value shoreline properties, suggests that the rare opportunity to increase recreational shoreline be highly considered and evaluated.
- While current coverage rates are graded as "A" in RCO's manual based on 5-mile coverage, we assign a "B" or a "4" to reflect that shoreline access is a unique community value and a high priority based on unmet service level goals.

The other park land use not rated at 5 is Indoor Facilities. The 53% coverage rate at the half-mile scale may far exceed industry expectations for indoor recreational facilities. However, our review of access revealed additional demand and proximity factors. We draw the following conclusions regarding Distribution levels of Indoor Facilities:

- Indoor Facilities typically serve the entire community or region, i.e. people travel from neighboring cities to visit the Aquatic Center while local residents travel off-Island for competitive gymnastics. Immediate proximity is less critical a factor. The high demand for indoor recreation, in fact, often results in heavy use of under-scaled buildings transferred to the Park District and beyond the means of the Park District to fully meet maintenance expectations of users.
- This draws more attention to geographic isolation and accessibility challenges locally, such as safe and effective means of travel. An indoor facility that appears a few miles away is often much further due to characteristics of the local road network that include a single bridge at the north end of the Island.
- We are rating it a 4 based on demand among opportunities to benefit from partnerships that make additional indoor recreation possible, to include in areas with lower access levels than indicated by proximity buffers.

*Overall, almost every Bainbridge Island resident is within half-mile of a park, trail, or indoor facility. Natural Areas and Trails have even more exceptional coverage. Opportunities should be pursued to provide better access to Recreational Shoreline and to Indoor Facilities, per community-wide interest in localized facilities.*

## 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. Determining what actions to take to pursue the following strategies is addressed in greater depth in the final chapter of this plan, "Sticking the Landing."

- **Active-Use Park Land:**
  - Acquire or develop Active Use Park Land uses in key locations.
  - Add trailheads/access points to existing park lands.
- **Natural Areas:**
  - Acquire land that contains forested areas.
  - Add trailheads/access points.
- **Recreational Shoreline:**
  - Acquire land that contains shoreline.
  - Partner with City of Bainbridge Island to provide access to Road Ends.
  - Add trails/access points.
- **Recreational Trails:**
  - Build new trails in existing parks.
  - Build new recreational trails outside of parks.
  - Add trailheads and connections.
- **Indoor Facilities:**
  - Establish facilities in key locations, increasing access.
  - Locate existing buildings for recreational/community use.
  - Partner with other organizations to provide recreation programs.

## BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SYSTEM AREA SCORES

**Table: LOS Quantity, Quality, & Distribution**

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

Figure 47: LOS summary table by System Area

## KEY TAKEAWAYS ON SERVICE LEVELS

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, and both 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

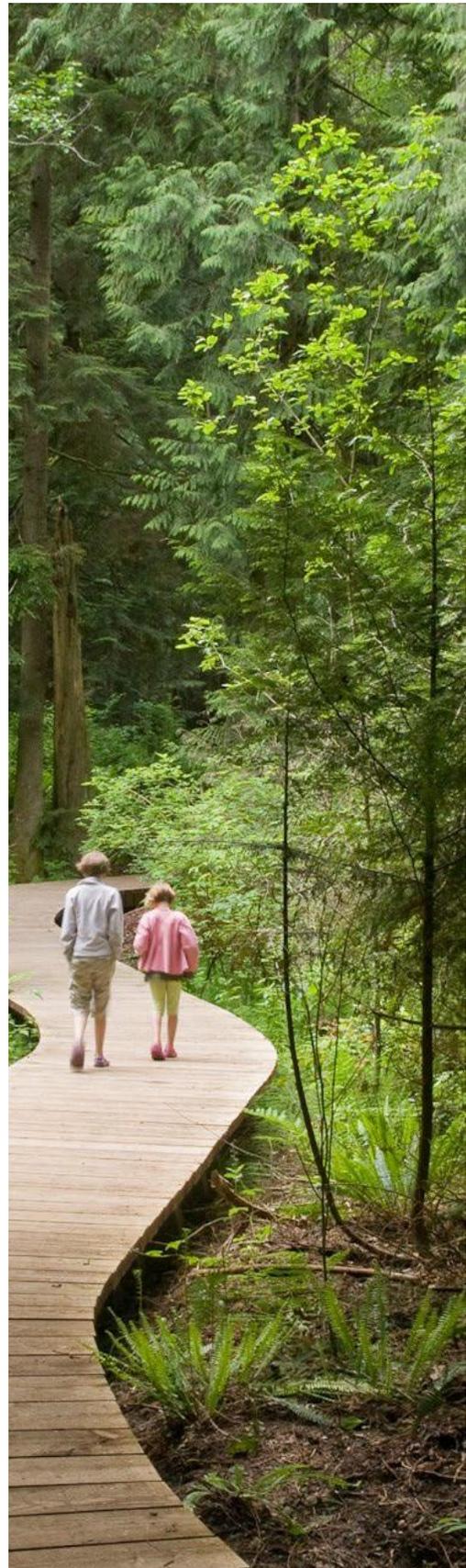
### BACKGROUND

The community sets long-range direction for the Island-wide parks, recreation, and open space system (PROS). Every six years, the Park District conducts a comprehensive plan 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 INTRO

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (Park District) is charged to guide a systematic comprehensive approach to the community's parks, 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?
  - “Envision,” 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 to 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 (PROS) 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** (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 how individuals steward their own property 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 within 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 **Recreational Shoreline 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 — is 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 in 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 & 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 (BIPTF or the Foundation) is the nonprofit leader in supporting parks, trails and stewardship across the Island.

The Foundation serves as the 501(c)3 community facilitator, instrumental in the facilitating the donation of park lands, such as 8 Acre Woods, Strawberry Hill additions, and Grand Forest East expansion. The Foundation’s stewardship made significant park and trail development initiatives possible, including the new bike park, miles of trails, and playgrounds such as Owen’s Playground, the District’s first barrier-free play space.

The Foundation’s work spans private fundraising, trail planning and construction, volunteer and youth stewardship programs, strategic land acquisition, and major capital projects. The Foundation provides significant grant funding to the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District as well as the City of Bainbridge Island for community-inspired projects, trails and stewardship - far beyond public tax funding.

The Foundation advances shared objectives - right down to logistical support for the stakeholder meetings where community goals were developed for this plan!

# **BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST**

**EST. 1989**

## **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 in their Long-Range Facility Plan and the State-mandated Study and Survey, identify needs. This work is to ensure that the School District's assets - including their main community hall that hosted the Plan Update Open House event - effectively serve both students and the larger community.



## **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.

## PARTNER ORGANIZATION 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.
- Park, Recreation, and Open Space 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 reinvestment 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; Trails 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 parks and trails.
- Secure grants and donations from organizations, often with the Park District.
- Plan, acquire, and develop easements for priority trail connections.
- Support community groups in their project development.

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

BIPTF Strategic Plan; Public and Private Board level Resolutions; Master Agreements with BIMPRD 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, Recreational Shoreline, 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 indirect 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 Avenue Ballfield.

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

Long-Range Facility Plan (2024–2039); Study and Survey of needs (required by WAC, every six 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, Recreational Shoreline, 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 Trails 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.

# **GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF THE PROS PLAN**

## **SYSTEM AREA PLAN FRAMEWORK TERMINOLOGY AND ORGANIZATION**

### ***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.

### ***Community 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 six 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 goals already established as part of implementing the Park District Mission.
- Often the basis for focused efforts and the setting of priorities for next six years.

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

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

***Implementation Objectives are*** further identified with associated project work areas:

[PA] = Planning and Acquisition

[DD] = Design and Development

[OM] = Operations and Maintenance

## **And, From There?**

***Implementation Focus Area and Initiatives*** are presented within the Implementation Section, beginning on page 119, as the Park District's commitment to advancing 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.

### **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.

Goals and Objectives for Active-Use Park Land are continued on the following pages.

There are sub-components presented below in order to bring attention to how specific types of facilities relate to the broad 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

## **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 related to Playgrounds & Play Spaces:**

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 related to Outdoor Athletic Fields & Courts:**

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 BISD 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 related to Indoor Athletic & Recreation Facilities:**

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 for Indoor Athletic & Recreation Facilities:**

[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 their 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 related to 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 Objective for Cultural Facilities:**

[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.

### **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. However, Implementation Objectives apply to all.

***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, & Gathering Spaces**

***Description:***

Event, meeting, and gathering spaces include 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 function.

### ***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 (Park District):***

Ensure that facilities used for Park 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 Park District operations.

## NATURAL AREAS 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 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, such as the programs related to climate resilience, reflect the role of park lands, and the expertise of the Park District, particularly in environmental stewardship and forest health.

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

[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 the planning and management of Natural Area park lands that support Island-wide ecosystem health, watershed management, and water resource objectives.

[OM] Continue to engage the community in stewardship and education efforts with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation in order to implement Park District land management priorities and natural resource strategies for the Island's Natural Area system.

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

## RECREATIONAL SHORELINE AREAS

### *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 of Bainbridge Island'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 typically soft surface within park lands, natural areas, shorelines, and easements on private properties.

### *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, across the Island, 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 the City of Bainbridge Island, including its Comprehensive Plan's Transportation Element that has multi-modal Level of Service measures.

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

[PA] Prioritize completing trail connections with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation, particularly between existing trails and along routes between neighborhoods, schools and parks.

[DD] Develop trails using best practices to reduce ecological harm, expanding opportunities to engage with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust trail initiatives.

[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

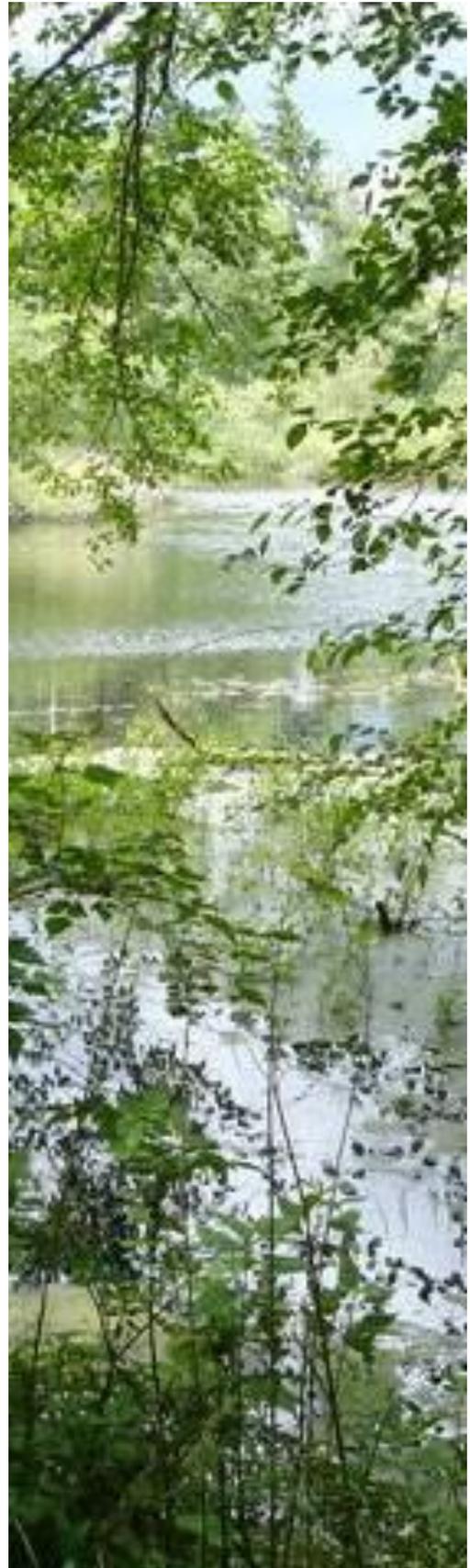
### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

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, parks, recreation, and open space service levels will be tracked by the Park District and used to reflect upon the implementation of community values.

Outlined in this section, 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 can the Park District make decisions that positively impact the community in alignment with this plan?*



The guidance in this section does not obligate the Park District to take specific actions. Ultimately, the Park District reviews projects and initiatives on a case-by-case basis, acknowledging 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 emerging priorities, also 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 capital projects, acquisitions, and strategic partnerships that align with the goals and objectives for each system area.
- 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 Park District.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

This implementation framework below outlines seven steps for alignment with the Comprehensive Plan which augment the decision-making policy and procedures already in place at the Park District.

The next section provides considerations, decision-making measures, and questions associated with each step.

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

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

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

[See Figure 47 (page 88) for the LOS scores per System Area, averaged below]

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

	Quantity	Quality	Distribution
Average Score	5	2.82	4.6

Figure 3 (Repeated): Overall LOS Scores (on a scale of 1 of 5)

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.

## 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

Figure 48: Safety criteria questions for evaluating potential implementation actions

## 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 interlocal 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 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

Measure	Evaluation Questions	LOS Measure Impacted
Oversubscription	Is the asset over-capacity during majority of operating hours? Is the waitlist for a program over 20% of the spots available?	Quality

Figure 49: Access criteria questions for evaluating potential implementation actions

### 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 uniquely Bainbridge? Would it instill pride?	Quality

Figure 50: Experience criteria questions for evaluating potential implementation actions

## Measures of Ecological Stewardship

Measure	Evaluation Questions	LOS Measure Impacted
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

Figure 51: Ecological stewardship criteria questions for evaluating potential implementation actions

### 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:

- A. Which of the aspects listed above are already system strengths or weaknesses? For instance, spatial distribution is a strength across all system areas (see “Distribution” LOS scoring).
- B. How many estimated users will benefit from the project? At what level of benefit in terms of quantity and quality of participation?
- C. Which of the aspects above does the project support/strengthen?
- D. Does the project help alleviate one or more system weakness?
- E. 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.
- F. 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**

- A. Is there a feasibility study that takes into account market demand and user base that demonstrates the potential for cost recovery?
- B. 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?
- C. Is there a business plan that demonstrates program revenue or funding streams to cover long-term operations and maintenance?
- D. 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 Park District.
- For several system areas, further study is needed to evaluate opportunities — for instance an Updated and regular Condition Assessment Study of all Facilities, taking into account recommended reserve funding levels.

#### **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 \$50K 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.

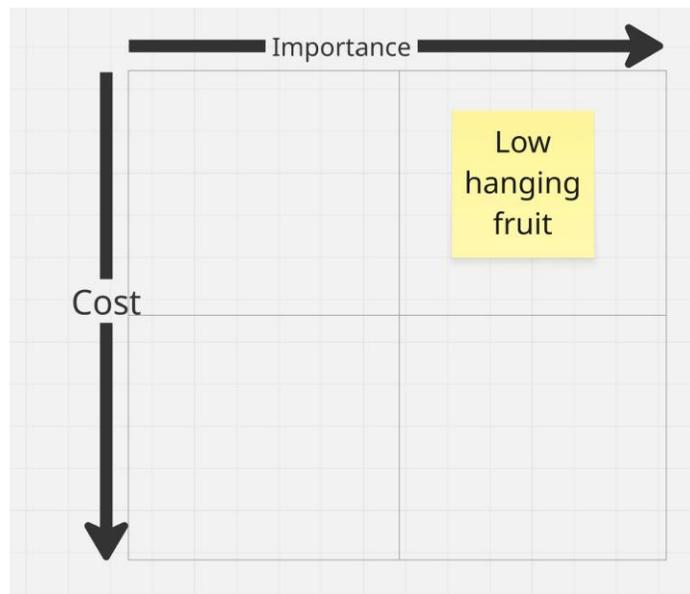


Figure 52: Cost vs importance illustration

### 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 considerations such as:

- A. Park District Mission (The Ultimate Test): Does the idea align with the Mission and the purpose of the Park District?
- B. Policy Compliance: Does it adhere to all current Park District and legal policies?
- C. Community Interest & Commitment: Is there a demonstrated, sustained demand?
- D. Partnership & Grant Opportunity: Does it leverage unique external resources or collaborative roles?
- E. Asset Protection: Does it ensure protection of public assets and investments, particularly efficient and effective stewardship of public funds?
- F. 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 prioritizes accessibility and commits to "Adopting an American with Disabilities Accessibility (ADA) Transition Plan" as an Implementation Focus item for the next six

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.

## 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.

### Implementation Actions from the Plan Update, for 2026-2032 (6-year PROS Cycle)

System Area	Initiative	LOS Area impacted	Criteria	Cost	Impact
<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>• Depth</li> <li>• Broad use</li> <li>• Maximizing assets</li> </ul>	Low	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>• Efficiencies</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

Figure 53: Implementation Actions from the Plan Update, for 2026-2032

## IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES FROM THE PLAN UPDATE, FOR 2026-2046

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 ongoing 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 lists do 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.

### Active-Use Park Land Implementation Initiatives

Number	Site or Program	Initiative	LOS Area impacted	Highest Criteria per Item	Cost	Impact
1	Program	Set aside capital funds annually for ADA improvements, per Transition Plan priorities.	Qual	Accessibility	M-H	H
2	Program	Install or improve picnic shelters. <i>Possible locations:</i> Aaron Tot Lot, Hidden Cove, Fay, Fort Ward, West Port Madison, Strawberry Hill	Dist	Maximize Use	L	M
3	Program	Remove and improve site asphalt areas. <i>Possible locations:</i> Battle Point, Eagledale, Fay, Fort Ward, Strawberry Hill	Qual	Asset Protection	H	H

<b>Number</b>	<b>Site or Program</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>LOS Area impacted</b>	<b>Highest Criteria per Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Impact</b>
4	Program	Enhance field and irrigation systems.	Qual	Maximization of assets	M	M
5	Program	Install park safety lighting.	Qual	Safety	M	H
6	Program	Improve playgrounds and play spaces, taking into account lifecycles.  <i>Possible locations:</i> Battle Point, Eagledale, Fort Ward Parade Grounds, Gideon, Schel Chelb, Strawberry Hill	Dist	Experience	M	H
7	Program	Improve parking facilities.  <i>Possible locations:</i> Hawley Cove, Manzanita, Meigs, Nute's Pond, Schel Chelb, Strawberry Hill	Dist	Usability	H	M
8	Program	Improve utilities and infrastructure.  <i>Possible locations:</i> Battle Point – Storm, Eagledale – Septic, Pump, HVAC, Fay – Storm, Septic, Island Center – HVAC, Septic, Transmitter – HVAC, Cave House – HVAC.	Qual	Safety	H	H
9	Program	Provide transportation amenities such as bike racks, drop-off areas, loading areas/ramps, EV charging options.	Qual	Useability	M	H
10	Program	Upgrade restrooms and, where feasible, install vault toilets per standard.	Qual	Comfort	M	H
11	Program	Provide amenities where they can serve the most users and program needs, including benches, shade structures, water fountains, electricity and water supply.	Qual	Comfort	L	H

<b>Number</b>	<b>Site or Program</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>LOS Area impacted</b>	<b>Highest Criteria per Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Impact</b>
12	Program	Improve District-wide energy and efficiency, including solar installations.	Qual	Efficiency	M	M
13	Program	Court renovation and installation of new court facilities.	Qual	Depth	H	M
14	Program	Plan and coordinate signage programs for: a) Wayfinding and accessible routes on all properties, and b) Interpretative signage related to environmental features, historic sites, and cultural facilities.  <i>Possible locations:</i> Fort Ward, Gazzam, Point White, West Port Madison, Sakai, Schel Chelb, Seabold, Strawberry Hill	Qual	Access	L	M
15	Program	Work with the community to incorporate public art into park design and site planning for temporary, permanent, or rotating art installations.	Qual	Depth	L	M
16	Blakely Harbor Park	Implement Park Plan for Blakely Harbor Park: re-use of generator building space, shoreline recreation amenities, trail network, meadow restoration, cultural facilities.	Qual	Depth	H	H
17	Meigs Park	Implement Park Plan for Meigs Park: Boardwalks, including east-west park connection, wildlife and view platforms, trail network improvement, Sound to Olympics Trail development, parking areas, and environmental stewardship.	Qual	Access	H	H

<b>Number</b>	<b>Site or Program</b>	<b>Initiative</b>	<b>LOS Area impacted</b>	<b>Highest Criteria per Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Impact</b>
18	Pritchard Park	Implement Park Plan for Pritchard Park: Shoreline recreation amenities, trail network, cultural facilities, visitor center, restroom installation, boardwalks, interpretative signage, etc.	Qual	Depth	H	H
19	Strawberry 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.	Qual	Depth	H	H

Figure 54: Active-use initiative List

## Natural Areas Implementation Initiatives

Number	Site or Program	Initiative	LOS Area impacted	Highest Criteria per Item	Cost	Impact
1	Program	Protect and enhance Conservation Easement Areas owned by the Park District and located on Park District property.	Qual	Broadest Use	L	M
2	Program	Facilitate open space planning with partners, including land donation and land dedication efforts.	Quant	Stewardship	L	H
3	Program	Expand self-sustaining community stewardship programs.	Qual	Stewardship	L	M
4	Program	Forest thinning and site restoration in strategic locations per impact analysis.	Qual	Stewardship	M	H
5	Blakely	Remediation of Blakely Harbor (by others).	Qual	Stewardship	H	H
6	Grand Forest	Parking expansion at Grand Forest West.	Qual	Maximize	L	H
		Forest Thinning at Grand Forest East	Qual	Stewardship	L	H
7	Pritchard	Remediation of COBI-owned point and adjacent shorelines (by others).	Qual	Stewardship	H	H

Figure 55: Natural Areas initiatives list

## Recreational Shoreline Implementation Initiatives

Number	Site or Program	Initiative	LOS Area impacted	Highest Criteria per Item	Cost	Impact
1	Program	Enhance access to shoreline. <i>Possible Locations:</i> Fairy Dell, Fay, Fort Ward, Gazzam, Pritchard, Rockaway	Dist	Experience	M	H
2	Program	Improve shoreline amenities. <i>For Example:</i> Boat launch, Storage, Emergency Supplies, Route Guidance pertaining to tidelands, Pathways, Boardwalks, View platforms, Benches, Shade structures, Water/Electricity supply	Qual	Experience	M	H
3	Fay Bainbridge	Improve accessibility routes beyond ADA compliance.	Qual	Accessibility	L	H
4	Fort Ward	Plan and implement barracks area re-use, maintaining structural footprint.	Dist	Stewardship	M	M
5	Point White	Preserve and repair pier; conduct site improvements.	Dist	Safety	H	M

Figure 56: Recreational Shoreline Areas initiatives List

## Recreational Trails Implementation Initiatives

Number	Site or Program	Initiative	LOS Area impacted	Highest Criteria per Item	Cost	Impact
1	Program	Pursue priority connections on an annual basis per the Trail Vision Plan.	Quant	Experience	M	M
2	Program	Provide wayfinding signage, kiosks, trail marking, and map publication.	Dist	Useability	L	H
3	Program	Trail renovation and upgrades per Trail Vision Plan and Map.	Qual	Maximization of assets	L	M
4	Program	Provide accessible trail experiences.	Dist	Accessibility	H	H
5	Program	Improve trail experiences with supportive amenities, including shelter, benches, water fountains, etc.	Qual	Experience	M	H
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.	Qual	Depth	L	L
7	Program	Work with partners and the WSDOT to plan and accommodate the Sound to Olympics regional trail where it can complement Park District properties and plans.	Dist	Accessibility	H	H
8	Program	Pursue priority connections on an annual basis per the Trail Vision Plan.	Quant	Experience	H	M
9	Program	Provide wayfinding signage, kiosks, trail marking, and map publication.	Dist	Useability	L	H

Figure 57: Recreational trails initiatives list

## Recreation Implementation Initiatives

Number	Site or Program	Initiative	LOS Area impacted	Highest Criteria per Item	Cost	Impact
1	Program	Regularly survey for recreational interests outside of current users.	Access	Maximizing of assets	L	M
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.	Qual	Asset Protection	H	H
3	Program	Maintain updated program spaces. <i>Possible locations:</i> Eagledale, Strawberry Hill Center and Mini-gym, Transmitter, Yeomalt, and, also general studio, exercise spaces, classrooms, recreation-related kitchens.	Qual	Maximization of assets	M	H

Figure 58: Recreation initiatives list

# HOW WE PAY FOR IT

## CAPITAL PROJECTS + FUNDING

Bainbridge Island has been served by a park district since 1965, when Island residents approved its formation via special election to support provision of public park facilities and, in particular, a swimming pool. For the first forty years after its formation, the Park District was funded through maintenance and operations excess property tax levies that had to be approved by voters every two years. The uncertainty over the every-two-year passage of these property tax levies, and effectively whether the Park District would be funded, curtailed the Park District's ability to look ahead and plan for the Island's future. In an effort to stabilize funding for the Park District, Island residents voted on September 14, 2004, to approve the formation of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District (BIMPRD).

In Washington State, Metropolitan Park Districts (MPDs) are governmental units and taxing authorities that may be created for the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities. A MPD may include territory located in portions or in all of one or more cities or counties. MPDs can also be established to provide only a specific subset of park and recreation services (for example, aquatics, regional sports complexes, or other facilities and their related services).

As taxing authorities, MPDs are statutorily authorized to levy two property tax levies, one at \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value and one at \$0.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For the purposes of calculating annual levy rates, these levies are considered a single levy (up to a total rate of \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value), however they are subject to separate rankings in terms of pro-rationing, discussed below.



MPDs are junior taxing districts meaning that their property tax levy rates can be subject to pro-rationing, whereby, if and when the total property tax levy rates imposed on residents in a given tax code area exceed constitutional and statutory limits, their property tax levy rates may be reduced to bring total tax rates to the limit. The Washington State Constitution limits the annual rate of property taxes that may be imposed on an individual parcel of property to 1% of its assessed value (i.e., \$10 per \$1,000 of assessed value). Taxes imposed under this limit are termed "regular" levies, however, with voter approval some taxes can be imposed outside the limit; these taxes are known as "excess" or "special" levies. Within this \$10 per \$1,000 of assessed value limit, cities, counties, and most special districts are further limited to a total tax rate of \$5.90 per \$1,000 assessed value. Exhibit 1 shows how the \$10 limit is allocated.

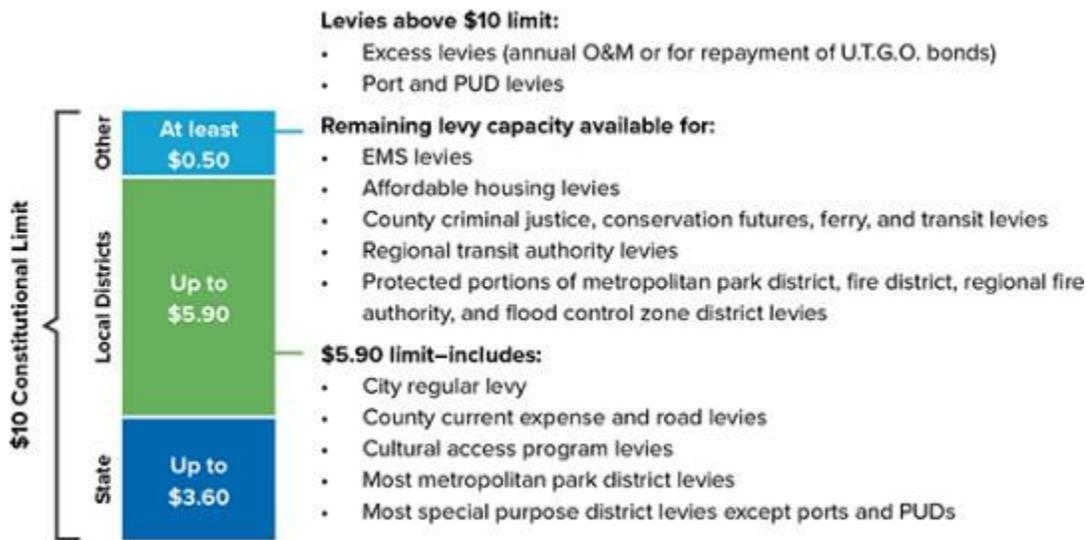


Figure 59: Distribution of constitutionally and statutorily limited property tax levies by taxing authorities; Source: Municipal Research and Services Center (MSRC), 2025

BIMPRD's service area is coterminous with the City of Bainbridge Island. This service area is approximately 28 square miles or 17,778 acres and serves a population of approximately 24,825 as of the 2020 Decennial Census, with a total assessed value of \$13,605,348,220 in 2025. The existence of various public or nonprofit providers of park land and open space is relevant to BIMPRD's funding context. They largely serve and are funded by the same population, especially the Park District, School District and the City, taxing the exact same population due to their coterminous jurisdictional boundaries. This impacts the tax burden on the population, which necessitates comprehensive planning and coordination, particularly in the approach to strategic levy lifts and bond proposals.

## 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; they are regularly facilitated by the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.
4. **Grants:** Funds that come from private foundations and government agencies such as the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). These may require a "community match" by the Park District, often coordinated by the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.
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 Park 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:** This is debt that does not require a vote of the public. Sometimes taking the form of "councilmanic general obligations bonds," this debt is not paid by a special levy but rather paid for out of operational funds from other revenue such as the regular tax levy.
8. **Reserves:** Funds accumulated by the Park District may be utilized when the Board of Commissioners vote on their use. 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.

## HISTORICAL FINANCIAL CONTEXT

### Organization of Funds

The Park District organizes its dollars into five funds:

- **Fund 001** General Fund
- **Fund 200** Bond Redemption Fund
- **Fund 300** Capital Improvement Fund
- **Fund 310** Land Acquisition Fund
- **Fund 320** Turf Field Replacement Fund

The Park 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

Looking back on 42 projects over the past two comprehensive planning cycles highlights capital project financial constraints and opportunities at the Park District. In the first 6-year span, capital projects expenses total around \$4 million. This was in keeping with the annual revenue available for capital improvements, after budgeting for operations, regular maintenance, and contributions to reserve funds. During the more recent planning cycle, 2020-2025, \$6.3 million was spent on capital projects, exceeding available annual revenues. This level of spending required the planned use of reserve funding for large capital outlays such as the Ray Williamson Pool Renovation, Phase 1, and use of outside funding, particularly through community fundraising.

Projects included:

- Battle Point Park (BPP) Pickleball “Founders Courts”
- BPP Pond Restoration
- BPP Water System Improvements
- BPP Restroom Purchase
- BPP Picnic Shelter Restoration
- Blakely Harbor: Phase 1 and 2 Native Restoration
- Blakely Harbor Jetty Bridge Installation
- Cave Family Historic House Stabilization and outdoor Play Area
- Eagle Harbor Sail Float Design
- Eagledale Picnic Shelter Restoration
- Fay Playground
- Fay electricity for RV Sites
- Fort Ward Playground Install
- Gazzam Restroom Installation
- Gazzam Trails Expansion
- Grand Forest West Restroom Installation
- Hawley Cove Board walk
- Hidden Cove Bathroom
- Hidden Cove Dock
- Hilltop Bathroom Installation
- Hilltop House Improvements
- Hilltop Septic Re-build
- John Nelson Trail upgrade
- KidsUp! Playground Renovation
- Meigs Trail Corridor
- Moritani Preserve Forest Thinning
- Owen’s Playground Installation
- Pritchard Memorial Bench
- Pritchard Park Memorial additions

- Ray Pool Phase 1 Renovation
- Rotary Centennial Renovations
- Rotary Ballfield Upgrades and Facilities
- Sakai Tennis Courts installation
- Sakai Trail additions
- Schel Cheb playground install
- Strawberry Hill Bike Park, land donation and new park
- Strawberry Hill Park: (SHP) Dog Park Expansion on land donation
- SHP Batting Cage
- SHP Skate Bowl Maintenance
- SHP Addition with renovated Lande Administration Building
- Williams-Olson Park Renovation

Figure 60: Capital Improvement Projects completed in past 2 PROS Planning Cycles (2014-2025)

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) 2025–2030

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

The table below represents the CIP projects as adopted in the 2026 budget, including project listings 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.

	<b>Projects</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY 28</b>	<b>FY 29</b>	<b>FY 30</b>
1	Aquatic Center (AQ) Nakata Boiler	\$54,261			\$150,000		
2	ADA Improvements		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
3	AQ Nakata Pool Liner	\$16,396					
4	AQ Ray Renovation	\$2,349,633	\$3,000,000	\$400,000			
5	AQ Slide interior recoating	\$170,000					

	<b>Projects</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY 28</b>	<b>FY 29</b>	<b>FY 30</b>
6	AQ Nakata Lighting			\$80,000			
7	AQ Ray Pool Solar (water)				\$60,000		
8	AQ staircase	\$146,872					
9	AQ Ray Planning	\$280,956					
10	Asphalt Improvements				\$100,000		
11	AQ Nakata steel truss re-coating				\$200,000		
12	BPP Turf Field		\$1,200,000				
13	BPP Turf Field (TFRF)		\$130,000				
14	Ballfield Improvements	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
15	Maintenance Area Plan					\$500,000	
16	BPP Bathrooms Building and Septic	\$165,000	\$100,000				
17	BPP Transmitter roof				\$50,000		
18	Camp Yeomalt Improvements						\$250,000
19	Cave Property Improvements			\$100,000			
20	Eagledale Roof - Pottery Studio		\$75,000				
21	Eagledale Pottery Studio Renovation				\$150,000		
22	Eagledale Shelter Roof	\$8,052					
23	Eagle Harbor Sail Float Replacement		\$230,000	\$670,000			
24	Fay Bainbridge Bathroom/shower (building and Septic)					\$350,000	
25	Fort Ward Shelter						\$120,000
26	Grand Forest West Parking Expansion			\$50,000			
27	Hidden Cove Shelter						\$50,000

	<b>Projects</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY 28</b>	<b>FY 29</b>	<b>FY 30</b>
28	Island Center Hall Heat				\$30,000		
29	Island Center Hall Septic					\$50,000	
30	Meigs Trail Corridors construction				\$150,000		
31	Playground Improvements					\$50,000	
32	Rotary Improvements				\$10,000		
33	Sakai Improvements			\$50,000	\$50,000		
34	Seabold Playground						\$100,000
35	Seabold Roof Replacement				\$40,000		
36	Seabold Foundation				\$50,000		
37	Solar Projects			\$100,000			
38	Strawberry Hill Bike Park	\$37,476					
39	SHP Ballfield Bathroom						\$75,000
40	SHP Center Heat pump		\$30,000				-
41	SHP Rec Office				\$50,000		\$675,000
42	SHP Skate bowl Painting	\$32,641					\$35,000
43	SHP Snack Shack roof			\$25,000			
44	Court Resurface	\$60,400	\$75,000				\$75,000
45	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>
46	AQ/ BIRC Solar (hold for cost estimates)						
47	BPP Turf Field		\$170,000				
48	BPP Picnic Shelter (KidsUp!)			\$200,000			

	<b>Projects</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>FY 28</b>	<b>FY 29</b>	<b>FY 30</b>
49	BPP Tennis/Pickleball improvements	\$137,916					
50	BIJAEMA Visitor Center		\$620,000				
51	Controlled Burn (hold for cost estimates)						
52	Eagle Harbor Sail Float Replacement		\$500,000				
53	EV Stations		\$75,000				
54	Meigs Trail Improvements (Boardwalks)			\$100,000			
55	Moritani Preserve Habitat (hold for cost estimates)						
56	Point White Pier			\$750,000			
57	Strawberry Hill Bike Park	\$433,748					
58	SHP Snack Shack				\$50,000		
	SHP Skate Park Improvements	-		\$1,150,000			
59	Tennis courts	\$70,000					
60	Williams-Olson Park Renovation	\$10,000					
	<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDING</b>	<b>\$651,664</b>	<b>\$1,865,000</b>	<b>\$2,200,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</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>\$6,805,000</b>	<b>\$3,775,000</b>	<b>\$1,240,000</b>	<b>\$1,050,000</b>	<b>\$1,480,000</b>

Figure 61: 6-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) List, approved with 2026 budget

## 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 Island residents and park users want and need as well as 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 donations and user fees as the source of expansion
- 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 increases in level of services

### 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% 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 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"*

## KEY FUNDING TAKEAWAYS

The formation as a Metropolitan Park District in 2004 provided baseline revenue stability, with voter approval of an annual property tax rate of \$0.75 for every \$1,000 of private property value. However, in Washington State, property tax revenue growth is limited to 1% annually under the "101% Levy Limit" from Initiative 747. This levy growth limit has constrained levy revenues, resulting in collection rates below the authorized rate and, more critically, below annual inflation. Dependent on property tax revenue for operations, the Park District has to pursue ballot initiatives to restore the intended levy rate in order to maintain service levels.

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 considered during each 6-year planning cycle.

# GLOSSARY

## **Access**

One's ability to use a site, facility, or program. This can relate to proximity, cost, design, or other factors.

## **Accessibility**

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)*.

## **Active Use Park Land**

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 amenities that we associate with a classic park.

## **Adaptive Recreation**

Also called "Specialized Recreation," *Adaptive recreation* refers to specialized programs designed to allow individuals with disabilities (developmental differences?) to participate in *recreational activities*. These programs may involve modified equipment, staffing, or facilities to accommodate a wide range of physical and cognitive needs.

## **Amenities**

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

## **Benchmarking**

*Benchmarking* in parks and recreation involves comparing the performance, operations, and facilities of a park system to those of similar systems in other regions. This process helps identify best practices, areas of improvement, and trends in the field, providing a framework for decision-making and continuous improvement.

## **BILT**

Bainbridge Island Land Trust

## **BIMPRD**

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District

## **BIPTF**

Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation

## **BISCC**

Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center Non-Profit

## **BISD**

Bainbridge Island School District

## Capital Facility

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 are often classified as **a capital project**. In planning documents and references at the BIMPRD, "capital facilities" includes park planning, land acquisition, site improvements, buildings, and equipment but excludes maintenance, operation, repair, alteration, or replacement. (See related "Public Works Project" in WA Code)

## Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

The *Capital Improvement Plan* is a strategic document that outlines the public's long-term investments in infrastructure, including parks, facilities, and other public assets. The CIP also helps prioritize projects, typically based on documented need, policy direction, feasibility, and available funding. The CIP is a basic tool in WA state and per the Growth Management Act (GMA) to ensure systematic and accountable growth of park facilities.

## Capital Improvement Program

Similar to the *Capital Improvement Plan*, the *Capital Improvement Program* outlines specific projects for developing or upgrading facilities, typically over a 5-20 year horizon. The program is often tied to funding sources such as bonds, grants, or dedicated park funds and 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 City of Bainbridge Island's Capital Improvement Program, embedded in the City's 20-year Comprehensive Plan for the entire island, as coordinated with public agencies.

## COBI

City of Bainbridge Island, Washington

## Comprehensive Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan, ("PROS Plan")

The Park District's planning document that includes a park and recreation inventory, facility demand, policy and guidance on developing regional/island-wide and local park and recreation facilities.

## Community Park

Community Parks serve multiple neighborhoods by offering unique or large-scale amenities, for example a skate park not found elsewhere in the city, or multiple tennis courts that provides for a reliable destination for tennis players throughout the City. These parks should be easy to access by car, bicycle, or public transportation, and serve the public as places for events, recreation, and gathering. These might be parks that host concerts, markets, or other events that bring residents from multiple neighborhoods together.

Community Parks can act as Neighborhood Parks for residents that live nearby and should contain basic amenities for use by people of all ages. Playgrounds in Community Parks may be large, thematic, or contain unique elements such as splash pads or zip lines. Sports facilities in these parks may be larger than those found in Neighborhood Parks, allowing for competitive games. These parks can also contain other desired amenities such as skate parks, dog parks, public art, outdoor stages, or covered spaces and barbeques.

### **Conservation**

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 the significant historic material/fabric; properties or collection of properties, information, or knowledge.

### **Conservation Easement**

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 ongoing ownership right granted to another party than the land owner, often in perpetuity.

### **Cost Recovery**

*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.

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.

### **Facility/Facilities**

Indoor and outdoor spaces and structures that facilitate use for exercise, gathering, and other activity. In this plan, facilities are inclusive of site developments that relate to recreational uses. They are classified and inventoried based on use and function, from athletic fields to public art installation.

### **Feasible or "Where Practical"**

Terms used periodically in this PROS plan when a definitive statement cannot be made due to varying circumstances that cannot be fully anticipated. The terms feasible or where practical could apply to finance restrictions, land use requirements, ecological and topographical constraints, etc.

## **Growth Management Act (GMA)**

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.

## **Habitat**

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.

## **Historic & Interpretative Sites**

Significant archaeological, historical, and cultural sites and facilities throughout the island. Generally, these properties conserve and provide interpretive access to significant sites including Native American sites, original homesteads or prominent building sites, commercial or public buildings of unique architectural characteristics, locations of important industrial or resource-oriented activities, and other culturally important areas. Lands may also be protected or acquired that conserve significant man-made constructions on the land including bridges, dikes, dams, and other features.

## **Impact Fees**

*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.

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.

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.

## **In-fee Property**

A form of property ownership indicating complete ownership without any limitations or conditions.

## **Indoor Facilities**

Recreation, culture, and community spaces within buildings.

## **Level of Service (LOS)**

An expression of the minimum capacity for park lands, facilities, and recreation infrastructure required to satisfy the park and recreation needs of residents in a community. *Level of Service (LOS)* can measure and set a standard for 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 equitable distribution and community satisfaction.

## **Levy**

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.

A Park levy allows the acquisition, development and operation of parks, recreation, and open space facilities.

## **Metropolitan Park District (MPD)**

Please see page 125 for full explanation, with detail about the funding structure of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District (BIMPRD).

## **Natural Areas**

Natural Areas or "Open Space" are park land acres that are minimally developed, contain a high density of tree canopy, and/or are 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 Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (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 access.

## **Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood parks are meant to serve the residents who live in close proximity, and are often surrounded by residential land uses. Ideally, residents can walk to their nearest Neighborhood Park, which allows families with small kids, people with mobility challenges, and the general public to access these parks easily and frequently.

The facilities in a Neighborhood Park should be usable by people of different ages and abilities. Typical amenities include benches, shade trees, playgrounds, sports equipment such as a basketball hoop, and open lawn. The amenities in these parks are typically not at the scale that attracts visitors from throughout the city, and instead serve as daily use facilities for those who live close by.

## **NRPA**

National Recreation & Park Association

## **Open Space**

See Natural Area, open space is explained in the context of natural areas in and outside of public parks.

## **Park Lands**

This plan uses the term *Park Land* to describe sites and acreage that provide or intend to provide public recreation, typically through facilities such as trails and by way of programmed activities. Park Lands are inclusive of, but more comprehensive, than public parks. Park lands make up the Island-wide Park, Recreation and Open Space system.

“Park lands” are further classified for system purpose and evaluation, into: Active-Use Areas, Natural Areas, Recreational Shoreline Areas, Recreational Trails, and Recreation as associated with Indoor Facilities. This plan focuses on park lands provided by the Park District, City of Bainbridge Island (they too have parks), Bainbridge Island Land Trust, and the Bainbridge Island School District. Park Lands tend to be public, outdoor spaces, but may contain buildings with community, internal operations, or utility uses. Other providers, particularly other indoor facilities used for recreation and community gathering, are inventoried but their sites and acreage are not considered park lands.

## **Programming**

*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.

## **Public Facility**

*Public Facility* Includes the following capital facilities owned or operated by government entities:

- a) public streets and roads,
- b) publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities,
- c) school facilities, and
- d) fire protection facilities in jurisdictions that are not part of a fire district.

## **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**

A *public-private partnership* is a cooperative arrangement between government agencies and private entities to deliver public services or infrastructure. These partnerships can bring funding, innovation, and management expertise to parks and recreation projects, facilitating the development of amenities that may otherwise be financially unfeasible.

## **Recreational Shoreline Areas**

Park land acres along the shore that are 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.

## **Recreational Trail**

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

## **Regional Park**

Regional Parks are large expanses of land that draw visitors from throughout the wider community and usually from multiple jurisdictions. They support a variety of active and passive recreational activities and are often centered around a unique feature or resource, such as a lake, mountainous area, or river corridor. These parks may contain recreation complexes, a stage for events, and other facilities that serve a wide audience. These parks tend to be large in size and may contain hiking trails or paths that allow visitors to move through the space and enjoy nature. These parks should have parking lots to accommodate visitors as well as bike parking. Regional parks have been transferred to the Park District, not purchased, as they generally out-scale a metropolitan park district purpose and require development with partners such as the community user group and state funding that went into the turf fields at Battle Point Park.

## **Special Use Park**

Special Use Parks are concentrated around the use of one facility, such as a skate park or a historic cabin. They do not serve the broad needs of a neighborhood or community, but provide a specialized location for certain activities

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Additional Figures can be found in Appendices A – E (kept as separate “living” documents):

Appendix A: Trail Vision Plan:

- Trail Vision Plan Map
- Recreational Trails classifications
- Recreational Trail standards
- Recreational Trail design details
- Island-Wide Mobility Plan Map

Appendix B: Community Survey Report

Appendix C: Public Input Log

Appendix D: PROS System Inventory:

- Inventory of BIMPRD Park Lands
- Inventory of Park Lands of Other Providers
- Inventory of BIMPRD Facilities
- Inventory of COBI Facilities
- Inventory of BISD Facilities
- Inventory of Facilities of Other Providers
- Data Tables: Historic Sites, GIS Data Tables (available digitally)

Appendix E: Park Exhibits

## **2026 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

### **APPENDICES**

Maintained and updated separately from the PROS PLAN

(Available on-line at the Park District website and upon request)

- A. TRAIL VISION PLAN**
- B. COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT**
- C. PUBLIC INPUT LOG**
- D. PROS SYSTEM INVENTORY**
- E. PARK EXHIBITS**