

2026 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

APPENDIX A. TRAIL VISION PLAN

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

The following Trails Vision Plan outlines the future direction for expansion of the recreational trail inventory and shows how recreational trails will connect to other jurisdictional trail systems. The maps are components of the plan, listed as attachments, and are under ongoing evaluation and updates as necessary.

The Trail Vision Plan is adopted with the PROS plan as an Appendix due to its dynamic purpose to continuously respond to public feedback, through coordination with the Trails Advisory Committee and in consultation with the City of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island Parks and Trails Foundation, and other community stewardship groups and efforts.

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

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

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

Purpose

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

Vision Statement

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

Goals of the Trails Vision Plan

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

Acknowledgements

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

Community Benefits of an Interconnected Trail System

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

Example benefits of a well-developed trail system:

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

Trail Development

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

The following principles should guide trail development decisions:

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

- Implement trail design standards that ensure efficient maintenance access for personnel, equipment, and vehicles.
- Improve trail infrastructure and wayfinding to enhance emergency access.
- Provide trail amenities that allow safe, comfortable use of trails.
- Develop and maintain water trails, shoreline recreational amenities and infrastructure.
- Continue to work with partners to increase trail connectivity.
- Create connections that connect to the City's Island-Wide Mobility Plan.
- Seek input from the Trails Advisor Committee regarding trail design and development that encourages community use and enhances user group experience.

Trail Development Priorities

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

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

- Trails between parks.
- Trails within parks.
- Trails with high use.
- Trails that lead to points of interest or viewpoints.
- Trails that connect neighborhoods to parks and provide shorter walking routes than roads.
- Trails that promote cross-island access.
- Trail projects that increase accessible trail options.
- Trails linking parks to the planned trail network within the City's Island-Wide Mobility Plan.
- Trail signage that provides wayfinding and interpretive exhibits.
- Trail amenities that offer safe comfortable access for recreational trail users.

Implementation

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

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

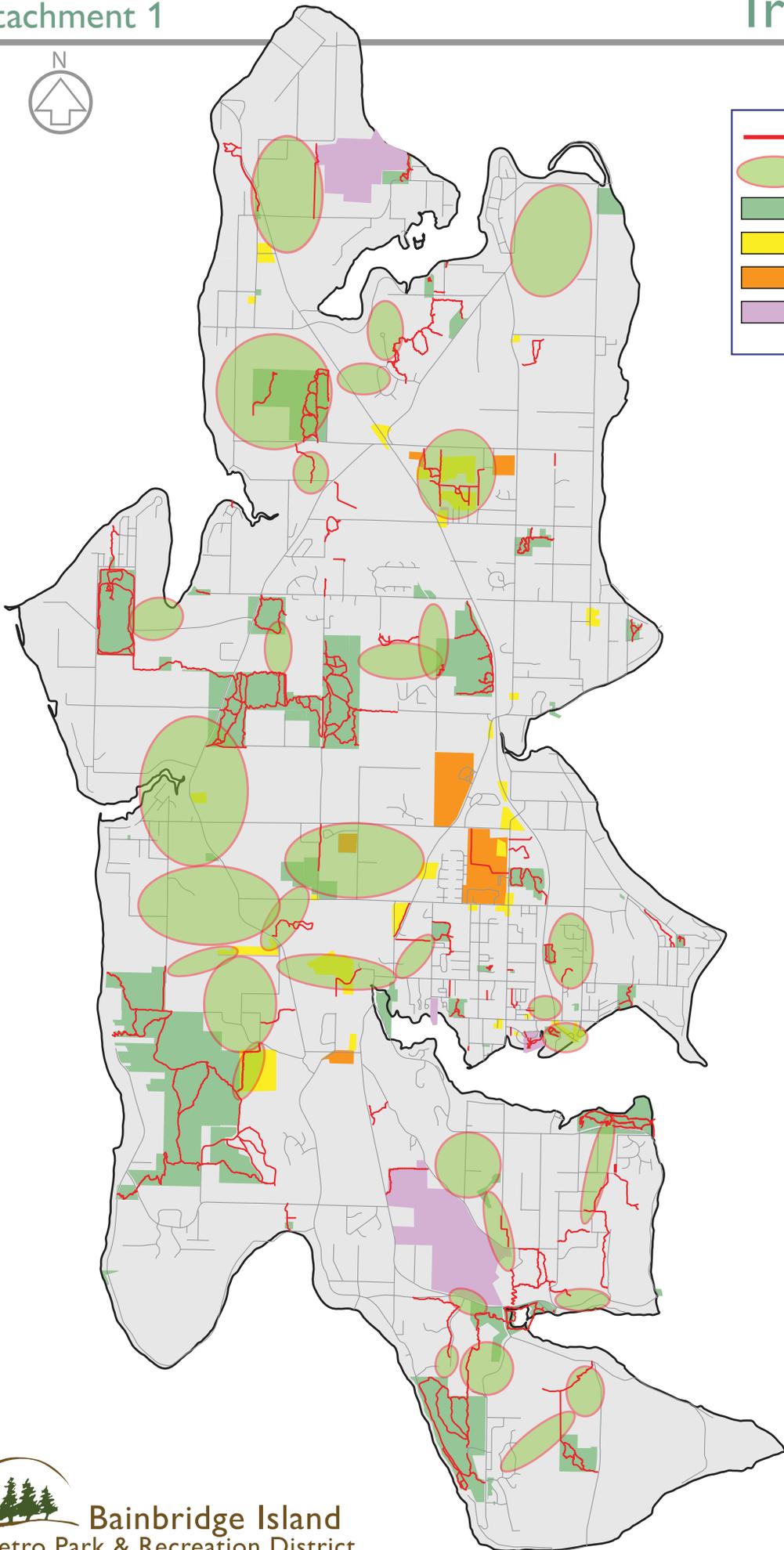
Inventory

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

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

Attachments

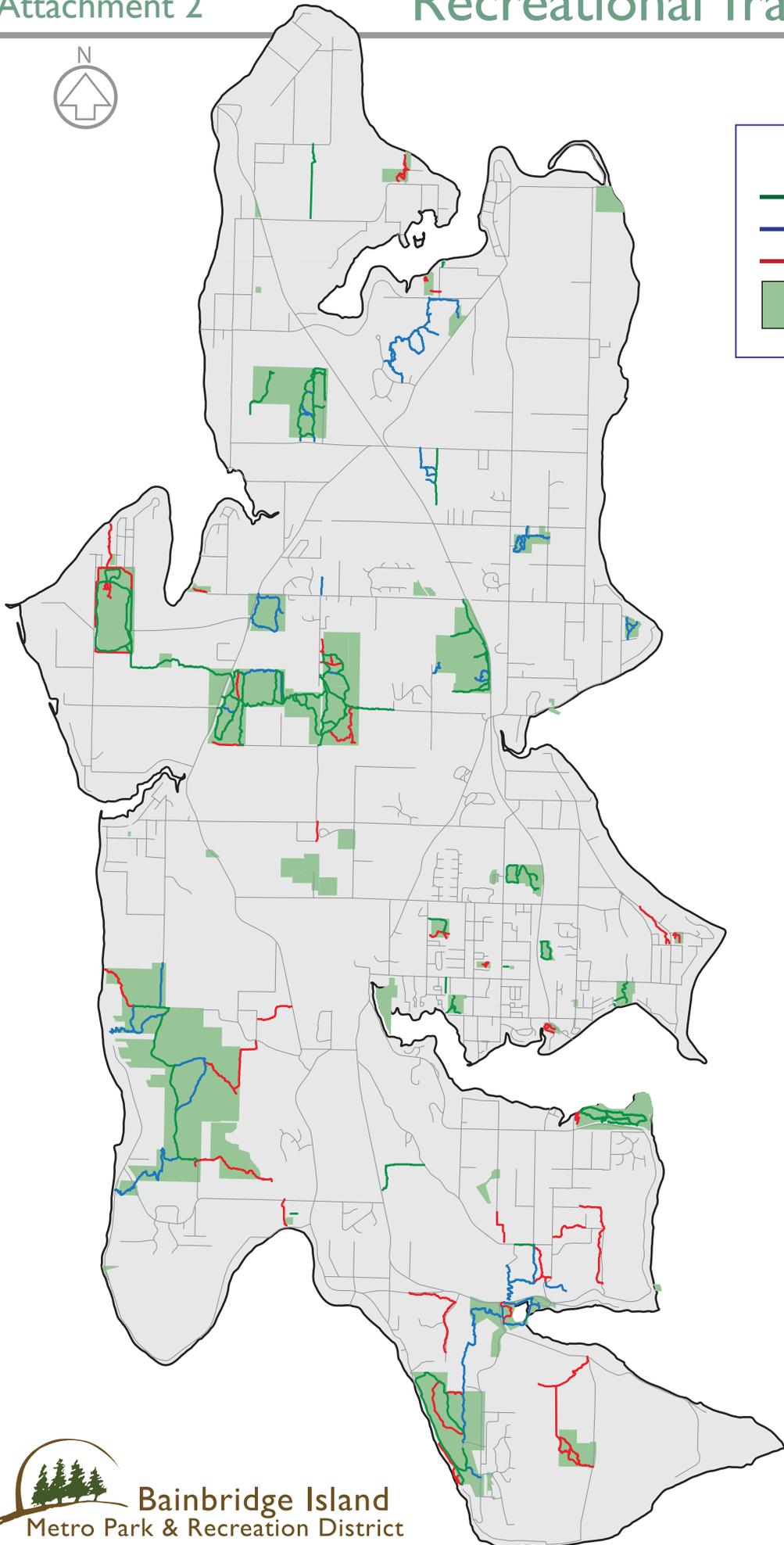
1. Attachment 1: Trail Vision Plan
2. Attachment 2: Recreational Trail Classifications
3. Attachment 3: Water Access
4. Attachment 4: Recreational Trail Standards
5. Attachment 5: Recreational Trail Design Details
6. Attachment 6: Island-Wide Mobility Plan by City of Bainbridge Island



Legend

	Recreational Trails
	Potential Corridors
	Park Property
	City Property
	School Property
	Other Open Space

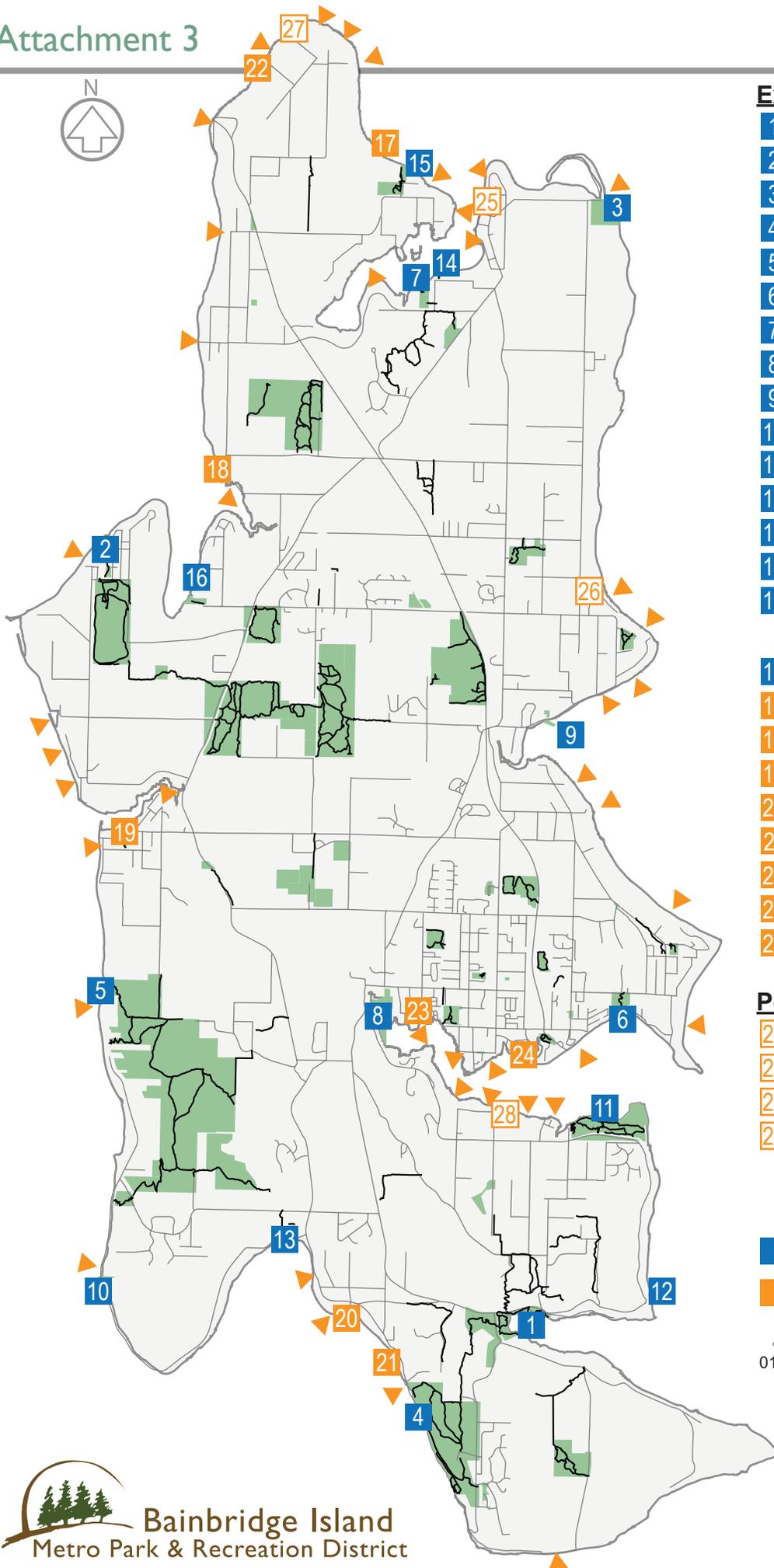
02/19/2026



Legend

- Class I Trails
- Class II Trails
- Class III Trails
- Park Boundaries

02/19/2026



Existing Waterfront Access

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

Potential Waterfront Access

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

- District Owned
- Other

01/28/2026

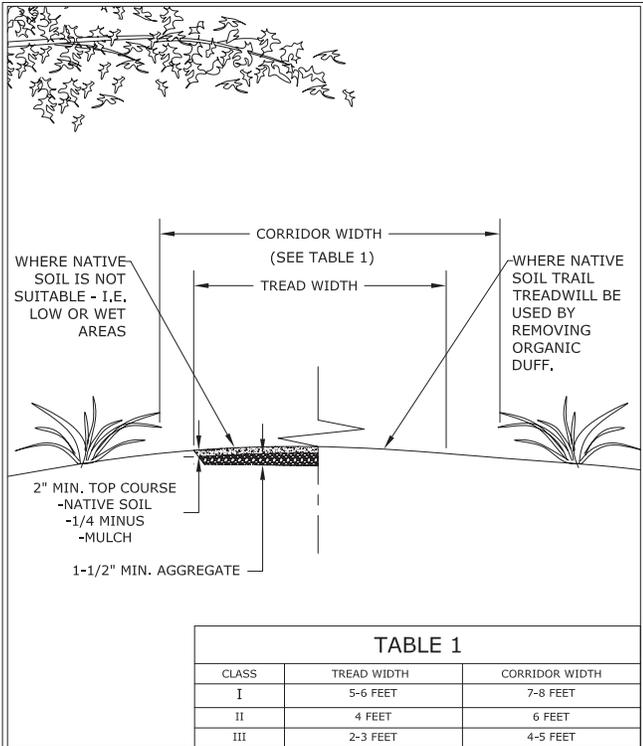
Trail Standards

Trail Classification System

Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District
August 2019 dhamlin

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



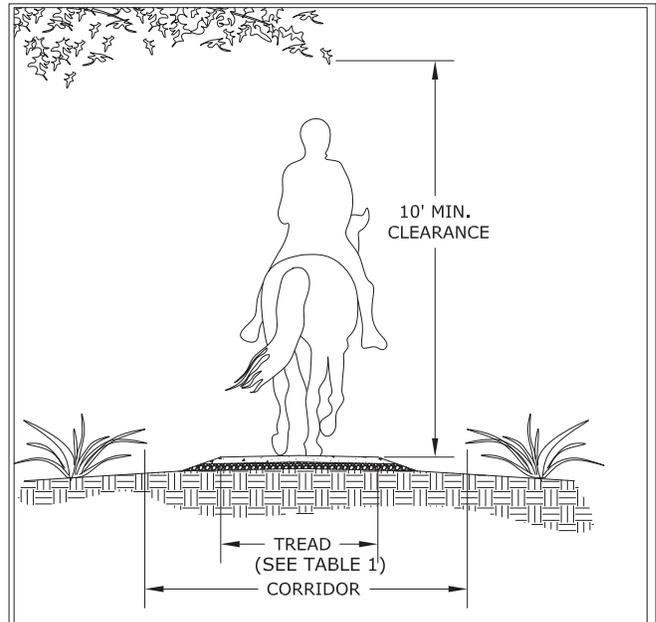


CLASS	TREAD WIDTH	CORRIDOR WIDTH
I	5-6 FEET	7-8 FEET
II	4 FEET	6 FEET
III	2-3 FEET	4-5 FEET



Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District

Standard Trail CLASS I-II-III

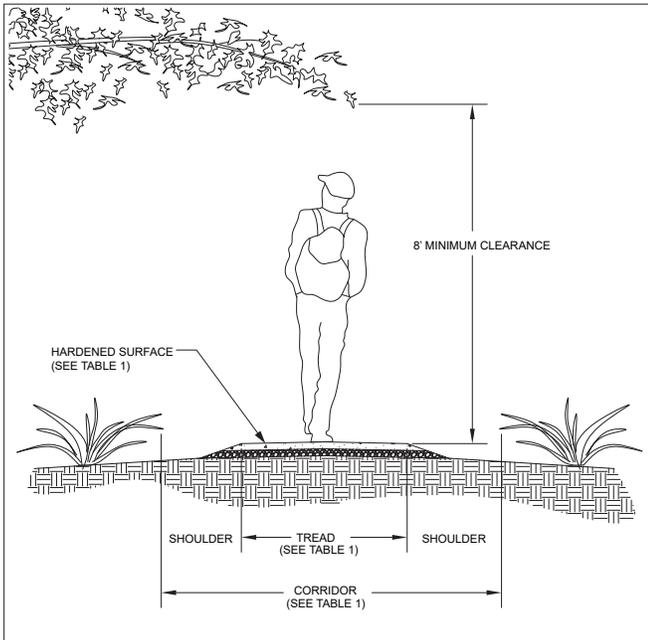


CLASS	TREAD WIDTH	CORRIDOR WIDTH
I	5-6 FEET	7-8 FEET
II	4 FEET	6 FEET
III	2-3 FEET	4-5 FEET



Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District

Multipurpose Trail CLASS I-II-III

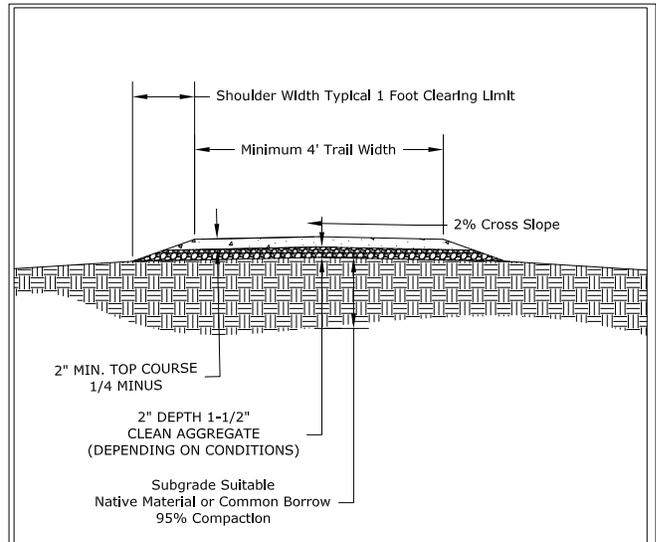


CLASS	TREAD WIDTH	CORRIDOR WIDTH	HARDENED SURFACE
1A	6-8 FEET	8-10 FEET (2 FOOT SHOULDERS)	OTHER THAN ASPHALT OR CONCRETE
STO	10-12 FEET	14-16 FEET (2 FOOT SHOULDERS)	ASPHALT OR CONCRETE



Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District

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

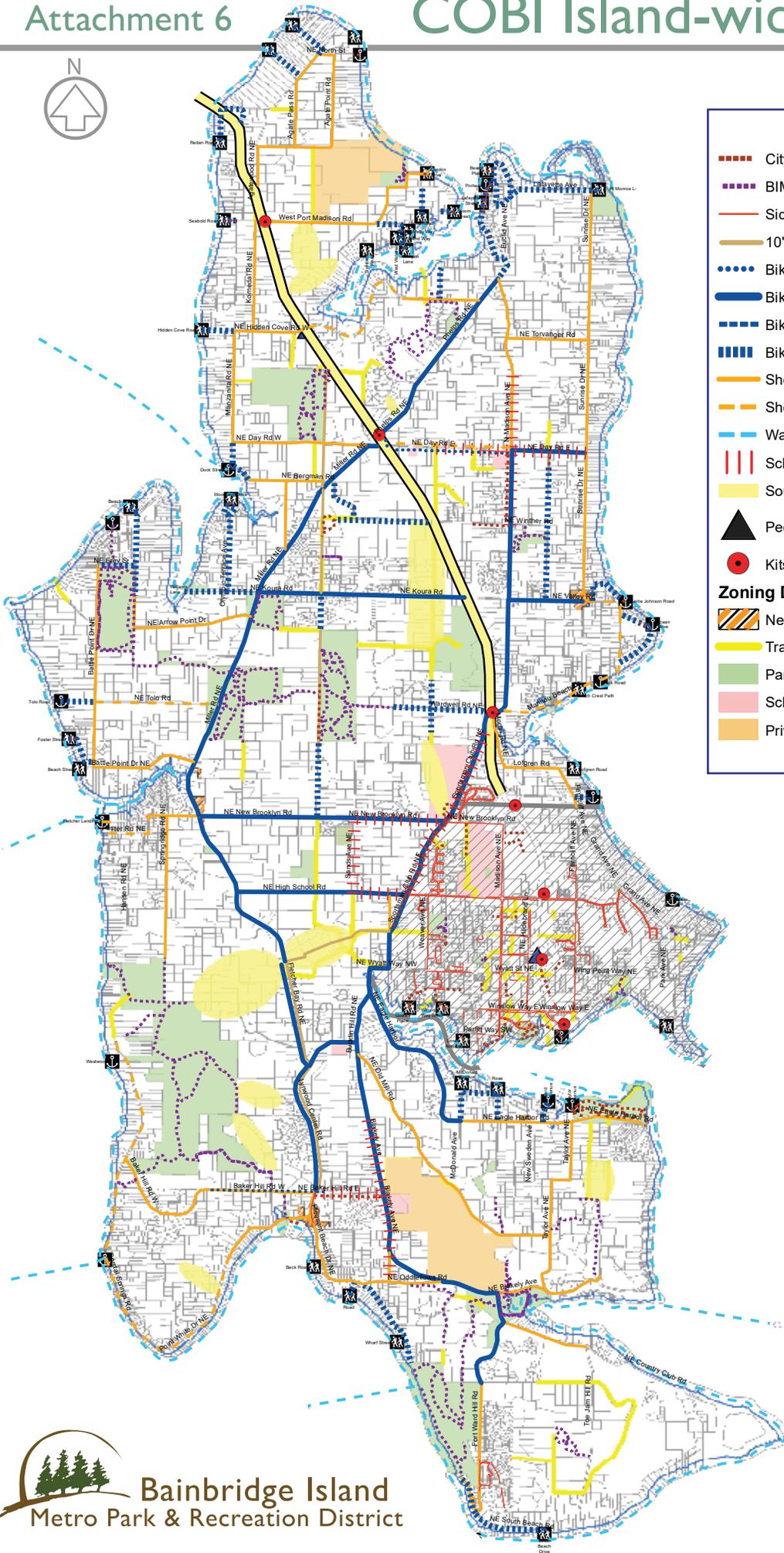


- A. Section shown is for typical conditions, trail may be modified to accommodate site specific requirements.
- B. Crushed surfacing base course depth and size of aggregate is minimum requirement, Actual depth of aggregate may vary per site specific conditions
- C. Stake trail alignment and trail clearing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



Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District

Accessible Trail



Legend

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

Zoning Designation

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

Unofficial map