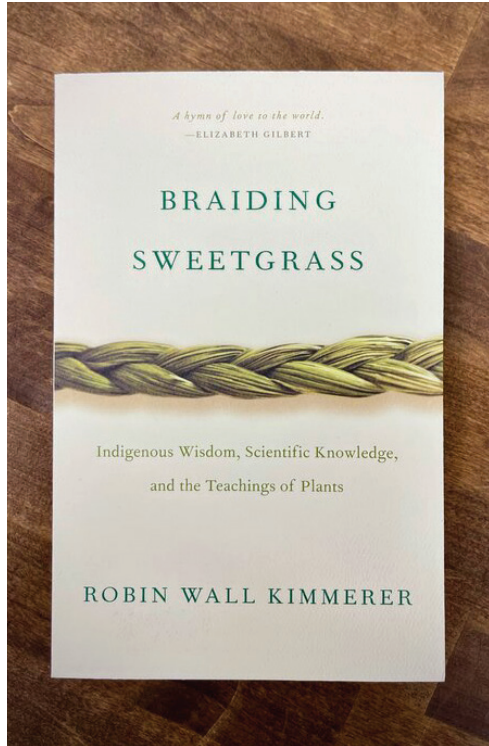


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# B.I. READS EVENTS

In July, the City announced this year's second selection for BI Reads, the community shared-reading experience. The book selected through community vote is Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Braiding Sweetgrass examines ecological understandings taught by native plants. The community shared-reading experience is supported by a range of events through the fall.

**Senior Center events:** Each event takes a deeper look at one of the main themes of the book.

**Where:** on Zoom and at the Senior Center

**When:** Mondays, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

OCT 30 *Braiding Sweetgrass*

NOV 13 *Burning Sweetgrass*

NOV 27 *Takeaways*

## STAY INFORMED

Web: [bainbridgewa.gov](http://bainbridgewa.gov)



Get weekly updates on City topics: [bainbridgewa.gov/500](http://bainbridgewa.gov/500)

Fall 2023

# COBI CONNECTS



## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE BEGINS AND WINSLOW SUBAREA PLAN CONTINUES



### Bookmark the Comp Plan update

← Visit the Comp Plan **Engage Bainbridge** page to watch for opportunities listed there.

The City's **Comprehensive Plan** (Comp Plan), establishes the long-range vision for the Island, identifying the characteristics the community wants to retain and foster and generating related goals, policies, maps, actions, and capital improvements. Under the WA Growth Management Act, the Comp Plan must be updated regularly.

### Also be sure to



Read the documents released throughout the project.



Attend public meetings.



Share your thoughts during the public comment period.



Testify during the public hearing.

Overlapping with the Comp Plan update is the update to the **Winslow Subarea Plan** (WSP), which sets land use and transportation policy within the area around Winslow Way and nearby residential neighborhoods. The WSP includes sections on housing, open space and trails, public facilities, transportation, utilities and capital facilities. The WSP update process launched in the winter of 2022–23.



### Bookmark the Winslow Subarea Plan update

← Visit the WSP **Engage Bainbridge** page to keep informed.

### Accommodating growth

Both the Comp Plan and WSP updates address how Bainbridge will accommodate assigned growth. Growth allocations for the different parts of Kitsap County are determined through a regional process coordinated through the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC).

Projections are that Bainbridge will expand from a population of about 25,000 to 29,300 by 2044.

The Comp Plan and WSP updates will include analysis of the following elements related to the projected growth:

- » Land capacity including zoning and development regulations
- » Public facilities/services
- » Financial capacity for maintaining and upgrading public facilities/services
- » Open space, parks and environmental quality

### Related City projects

The following projects will be integrated into the Comp Plan during the update process:

Climate Action Plan (completed) ✓

Sustainable Transportation Plan (completed) ✓

Housing Action Plan (completed) ✓

Groundwater Management Plan (in progress)

# CITY RESPONDS TO BUSINESS FEEDBACK WITH UPDATES TO WASTE ORDINANCE

On September 12, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2023–24, which amended BIMC 8.24, Disposable Food Service Ware and Waste Reduction. The updates were made based on feedback from local businesses and City staff about their experiences implementing disposable food service ware and waste reduction requirements in 2022 and 2023. The feedback was that businesses (a) experienced performance issues with some of the home compostable products, (b) some home compostable products were much more expensive than their non-compostable counterparts and (c) supply chain issues made it difficult to get some products.

Ongoing communication among businesses, City staff, Councilmembers, the Chamber of Commerce, the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association and BI Zero Waste resulted in amendments to the ordinance, which advances waste reduction goals on the island while also finding ways to resolve the challenges. One of the solutions is that the City will maintain a list of a limited number of home compostable items evaluated for availability, cost and performance that are required for disposable food service ware. This list was available for comment on the City's website.

A revised list will be presented for Council review and adoption this fall with implementation in 2024. Businesses should continue to use home compostable products for all disposable food service ware (unless an item has received a temporary exemption) through the end of 2023.

For more information about the ordinance, visit [bainbridgewa.gov/ZeroWaste](http://bainbridgewa.gov/ZeroWaste).

## Updates to ordinance

A 25-cent fee for disposable cups is no longer required by the City, but customers are still encouraged to use reusable drink containers.

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, businesses will likely be required to provide only a limited number of to-go items in a home compostable format. The list of items is currently in development; products are being evaluated based on availability, cost and performance.

Metal foil, metal foil-faced papers and engineered composite papers are now permitted for wrapping hot foods such as hamburgers and burritos.

Some food service ware items—utensils, straws, condiments in packaging and beverage cup lids—can once again be provided on a self-serve basis to customers. Businesses must still ask people if they want these items in their to-go orders if the customers do not request them.

## What remains the same



Reusable food service ware is still required for on-premises dining.



Home compostable products are still required (albeit now for a limited number of disposable food service ware items).



Retail food establishments must still ask customers if they want single-use food service ware (such as utensils and straws) for to-go orders.



Home compostable products are still required to be free of intentionally added PFAS, also known as forever chemicals, which are linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

## Next steps

### OCTOBER

Public reviews a list of a limited number of home compostable food service ware items evaluated for availability, cost and performance that are required for disposable food service. Public comment is encouraged and accepted.

### NOVEMBER

Council reviews/ approves list.

### JANUARY

List takes effect.

# ROADWORK UPDATES

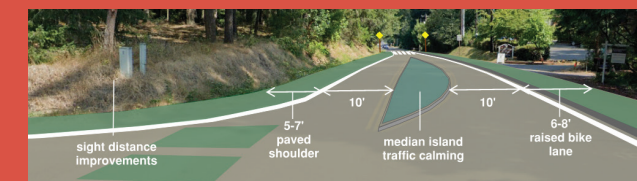
## BUNDLED MADISON AVENUE PROJECT GETS POSTPONED

Proposed nonmotorized, street and utility improvements to Madison Avenue between Winslow Way and State Route 305 have been delayed based on advice from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). WSDOT, the agency overseeing compliance with the \$1.4 million grant awarded for the project, urged the City to postpone construction bid advertising from August until this fall so as to take advantage of an expected improved bidding environment. If a bid is eventually accepted this fall, construction will likely begin after the rainy season in spring of 2024.



## EAGLE HARBOR DRIVE / WYATT WAY NONMOTORIZED IMPROVEMENTS

In July, the City Council provided direction on the preliminary design for nonmotorized safety improvements to Eagle Harbor Drive/Wyatt Way starting near the intersection of Wyatt Way and Nicholson Place and continuing west around the Head of the Bay, past Green Light Garage and south up Bucklin Hill to Blakely Avenue. The Council opted for what was called "Design Alternative D," which features buffered bike lanes on both sides of the road, improvements that include replacing the existing culvert on Cooper Creek with a box culvert suitable for fish passage and intersection safety enhancements along the route.



East facing view of Design Alternative D on Wyatt Way NW at the intersection of Wyatt and Finch Road NE.

Preliminary plans are expected to be available in late fall. The project is supported by two federal grants as well as local transportation funds and storm and surface water management utility funds.

## GRAND OPENING

### TED SPEARMAN JUSTICE CENTER, 8804 MADISON AVE.



Bainbridge Island's new police and municipal court building honoring the legacy of the late Judge Ted Spearman opens to the public for an inaugural celebration on **Nov. 15**.



**12 p.m.:** Mayor Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, City staff, members of the Spearman family and other speakers will talk about the new building and about Judge Spearman's legacy.

**1-3 p.m.:** Tours of the building will be given.

*Light refreshments will be provided.*



## FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT HELPS CITY MAKE PROGRESS ON SOUND TO OLYMPICS TRAIL

In June, the City was awarded \$1.7M in grant funding to support ongoing work on the Bainbridge portion of the Sound to Olympics (STO) trail through the RAISE program. RAISE, which stands for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, is a federal grant program established in 2009. The City's award is part of the total RAISE package of \$133M in grant funding for Washington State.

The grant will help the City complete the design of the Sakai Pond Reach segment of the trail and will fully fund the design of the Meigs Park Reach from Sportsman Club Rd. to Koura Rd. and the design of bike and pedestrian crossing safety improvements at the intersection of High School Rd. and Highway 305. It will also fund a preliminary design for the remainder of the corridor as far north as the Agate Pass Bridge.

In the meantime, the City is continuing work on a planning study to cover feasibility of the trail along the west side of SR 305 from Madison Ave. to the Agate Pass Bridge.



Sound to Olympics Trail, Bainbridge Island

The STO makes up an important link in The Great American Rail Trail connecting the west and east coasts of the United States with more than 3,700 miles of trail across 12 states. The STO will provide easy commuting, hiking and cycling access from the ferry terminal, up through the island and across the greater Kitsap peninsula to connect with the Olympic Peninsula.

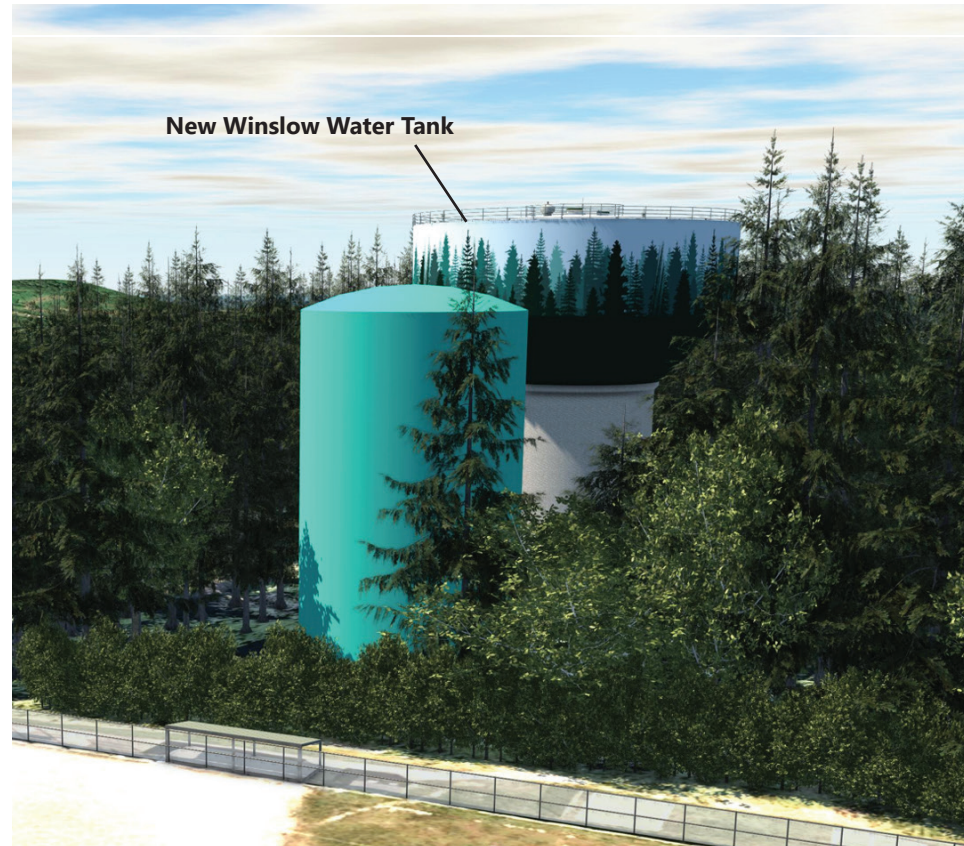
Throughout the project, the City is trying to balance two important but sometimes seemingly competing community goals: maintaining our lush forests and developing alternative transportation for all ages and abilities. Although the STO project requires vegetation removal and construction of hard surface for the trail, the City is looking for ways to continue to mitigate impacts by protecting existing forest and establishing additional canopy cover to shade the ground, thereby intercepting rainfall and reducing stormwater runoff.

## WINSLOW WATER TANK UPDATE

In June, the City invited Bainbridge residents to provide input on five potential designs for the new Winslow water tank, to be constructed near the high school. The five designs included a solid color, two different forest renderings, and the same forest renderings with text. Via the Engage Bainbridge website, participants were able to see the proposed designs as well as the costs associated with each design option. The public showed overwhelming support for the "Forest Rendering 1" design, which does not contain text.

In July the City Council approved the public's choice.

Currently, two water tanks exist near the high school softball field. Tank 1, which holds 1 million gallons of water, was constructed in 1973 and does not meet current seismic standards. Tank 2, a 1.5-million-gallon tank, is in need of upgrades. In spring 2024, demolition of Tank 1 will begin so that the new tank can be constructed in its location. Tank 2 will be upgraded and then used for backup water supply and emergencies.



## THE GREAT SHAKEOUT

Each year on the third Thursday of October, over 1 million Washingtonians join residents from across the Western United States and Canada and participate in The Great ShakeOut. The event helps communities prepare for earthquakes by encouraging people to participate in an earthquake simulation. This year's event – sponsored by FEMA, the National Geological Survey and the National Science Foundation – took place on October 19 at 10:19 a.m. During the drill, participants practiced simulating the "drop, cover and hold for 60 seconds" response method for earthquakes.

More than 942,000 organizations and institutions across Washington were registered to participate in the event. Across the globe, the number of registered participants exceeded 45.6 million. For more information visit: [shakeout.org](https://shakeout.org).

### The Earthquake County Alliance encourages people to do even more than just drop, cover and hold:

#### Before an earthquake strikes:

- » **Secure your space.** Affix moveable items by screwing them to the wall. Identify potential hazards. Make sure your home is attached to the foundation.
- » **Plan to be safe.** Create an emergency plan with details about how to communicate with family, friends and colleagues. Make sure your neighborhood is participating in Map Your Neighborhood.
- » **Organize emergency supplies.** Make sure to have enough water and food for every member of the household (including animals) for two weeks at the minimum.
- » **Minimize financial hardship.** Make copies of important documents, such as insurance policies, mortgages, vehicle registrations, lists of possessions and personal identification, and keep them in a safe, easily accessible place.

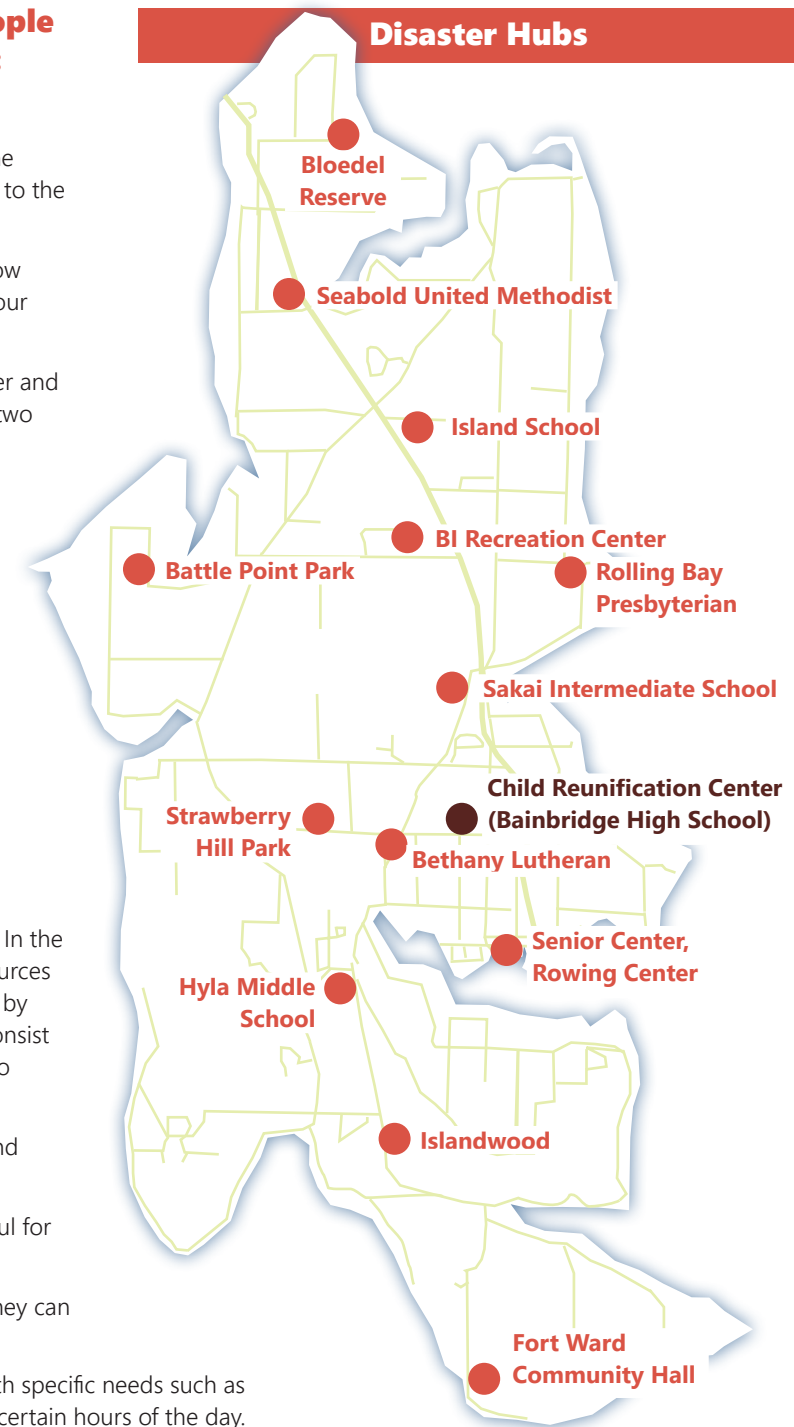
#### After the earthquake:

- » **Improve safety.** Evacuate if necessary, check on your neighbors, turn off propane tanks and get the injured to the nearest Disaster Hub. Expect aftershocks.
- » **Reconnect and restore.** Reunite with your community, repair damage and rebuild.

### Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)

Map Your Neighborhood is the foundation of the City's emergency plan. In the event of a large earthquake, our community will likely not have the resources needed to reach every resident in a timely manner. MYN closes that gap by encouraging neighborhoods to form a plan for response. MYN groups consist of about 15 to 20 households. Each group holds an initial MYN meeting to review the MYN resources, as well as:

- » Learn what to do immediately after a disaster to secure homes and protect the neighborhood.
- » Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful for an effective and timely disaster response.
- » Identify the locations of propane tanks in the neighborhood so they can be shut off.
- » Establish a neighborhood contact list that helps identify those with specific needs such as the elderly, disabled or children who may be home alone during certain hours of the day.
- » Work together as a team to evaluate the neighborhood during the first hour after a disaster and take the necessary actions.
- » Identify the location of the nearest Disaster Hub where the injured can be treated.



To get started, find out if your neighborhood is mapped: [bainbridgewa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17700](https://bainbridgewa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17700).

Then contact the City's Emergency Management Coordinator, Anne LeSage, at [alesage@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:alesage@bainbridgewa.gov).

# SPRINGBROOK CREEK AND SALMON TO GET HELP FROM FEDERAL GRANT AND LOCAL PROJECT

Salmon that try to swim up Springbrook Creek, which flows into Fletcher Bay on the west side of the island, are currently stymied by an undersized culvert and a series of concrete weirs. More than 3.6 miles of spawning and rearing habitat lie upstream, inaccessible.

The Springbrook Creek Fletcher Bay Road Culvert and Weir Fish Restoration Project (FBCW), which has been in the works since 2017, will replace the undersized culvert with a large bridge, remove the eight concrete weirs and restore the degraded stream channel to increase salmon access to the watershed and to improve the delivery of sediment and wood to the Springbrook estuary. The City secured a \$2.5M grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program in support of the project, which is currently underway.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) originally classified the culvert and weirs as partly passable to fish, but in the fall of 2017 volunteer salmon monitors with the BI Watershed Council observed that the weirs were a total barrier to salmon passage. Volunteers have since periodically sandbagged the creek to facilitate passage by some salmon.

The FBCW project is a direct result of work completed by the Springbrook Creek Watershed Assessment (SCWA 2018), a multiyear, multipartner effort led by Bainbridge Island Land Trust and Wild Fish Conservancy, with strong collaborative involvement by the City of Bainbridge Island, the Bainbridge Island Watershed Council, WDFW and the Washington Department of Ecology. Numerous technical experts and more than 50 landowners were involved in the development of the SCWA report.





Other culvert removal and restoration/protection projects identified within the Springbrook Creek watershed upstream from FBCW are in progress, but these projects won't be able to contribute maximum benefit to fish and watershed function until FBCW is completed.



Springbrook Creek Weir during low flow conditions

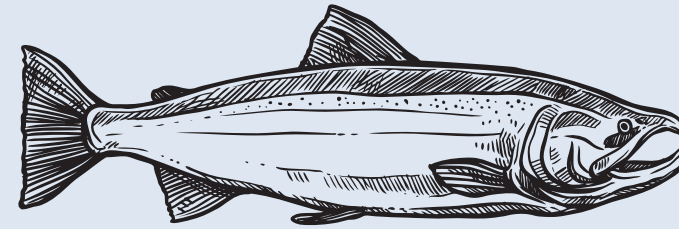


## Facts about Springbrook Creek

-  The creek is a designated critical habitat for threatened Puget Sound Steelhead.
-  There are 46 fish passage barriers in the 999-acre watershed.
-  The FBCW is the first culvert in the creek encountered by returning salmon.
-  The Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT) removed a fish passage barrier this fall in the upper watershed on the Springbrook Creek Preserve.
-  BILT is working with the Wild Fish Conservancy, the Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group and landowners in the watershed to address other fish barriers.

## Who and what will the project benefit?

**Anadromous fish** (fish that migrate from freshwater where they hatch to the ocean where they spend most of their lives) including species that are classified as endangered, threatened or critical (by the Federal Endangered Species Act):



Coho salmon      Chinook salmon (*threatened*)  
Chum salmon      Steelhead salmon (*threatened*)



Stickleback  
Sculpin



Searun cutthroat trout



Lamprey

**Resident fish** (fish that reside most or all of their life in freshwater streams and ponds)



**Endangered southern resident orcas** for whom salmon are an important food source.



**Birds, mammals and amphibians**—more than three-fourths of Washington's land-based species use riparian areas as habitat



**Floodplain function and stream hydrology** (by reconnecting the creek below and within the culvert with its floodplain)



**Water quality** by improving in-stream complexity, removing streamside armor (rock lining) and restoring riparian vegetation that slow water flow and leave subsurface water cool and clean

## Climate change and Springbrook Creek

Climate change will likely increase the frequency and severity of rainstorms.



More frequent and intense rainstorms increase runoff and water flow in the stream.



Increased water flow will threaten the creek's infrastructure, especially the existing 5-foot-diameter culvert at the bottom of the creek.



Improved infrastructure that can handle the changing conditions will reduce maintenance costs.



Culvert at Springbrook Creek