

The City of Bainbridge Island elicited input for framing of the City's Comprehensive Plan Update through two in person workshops (November 12 and 17, 2014) and an online survey. The following indicates the elements that were identified as important to the citizens of Bainbridge Island through those comment opportunities. This document highlights the most common themes. There are additional details in the notes from each workshop (full files available from Jennifer Sutton) and in the online survey output.

## Workshops

The two workshops drew approximately 55 participants each. Workshops began by asking participants to consider what was important to them about Bainbridge Island. From this they were asked to consider how change would affect this feature of value to them, and how this applied to the Comprehensive Plan Vision, Guiding Principles and Core Elements.

### Key issues for participants:

Shoreline living  
Aging population  
Environmental protection vs. affordability  
Sustainable  
Diversity- expanding, maintaining  
Growth  
Transportation (motorized & non-motorized) and traffic  
Linked globally  
Develop neighborhood centers  
Special character  
Water  
Emergency preparedness

### **12 November 2014 Evening Workshop**

#### **Breakout 1: Considering the Vision Statement**

##### Report Back Main Themes

- In general, the vision statement was considered suitable but would benefit from updating and enhancing some components.
- Implementation and good governance ought to be included: codify, apply, enforce
- Sustainability, affordability, opportunities, coexistence, enhanced global perspective and better relationships with Seattle and Kitsap County.
- Focus now more on neighborhood service centers and less on Winslow

#### **Breakout 2: Overriding Principles**

##### Report Back Main Themes

##### Principle 1, Preserve the Special Character of the Island

- Overall it is still relevant and appropriate

- Preserve, sustain, foster special rural character, special cultural characteristics/resources/people
  - Marine views, social fabric

#### Principle 2, Protect Fragile Water Resources

- Critical resource = high priority. Include both surface and ground/drinking water, city and private management
- Change from ‘protect’ to ‘conserve and enhance’
- Balance current vs. future residents
- Codify, apply, enforce

#### Principle 3, Foster Diversity

- Valuable but complicated implementation. Expand to include creative fostering of inclusion and opportunities.
- Include ethnic, cultural, multi-generational components and diversity of skills

#### Principle 4, Consider Costs and Benefits to Property Owners and Land Use Decisions

- Needs rewriting to make better sense.
- Make more supportive and less defensive

#### Principle 5, Promote Sustainable Development

- ‘Resources’ is a broad term/concept that is common throughout the comp plan. Clarity on agreed definition of ‘sustainability’ is needed. Resources are finite (not only water). Adapt to changes. Language or stewardship clarity on who decides what is sustainable and what is to be sustained.
- Strengthen language to ‘must’.
- Viability of current resource base. Buildable vs. non-buildable land related to aquifer recharge and other natural resources.
- Population and cultural growth. Community sustainability.
- Mobility & Transportation
- Access to resources and ‘spaces’

### **Breakout 3: Core Elements**

#### Report Back Main Themes

- All required and optional elements ought to remain
  - Separate cultural development from economic development
  - Add governance element
  - Add agricultural/farmland element
  - Integrate change, climate related and other
- Develop sub-area plans for Rolling Bay, Island Center and other neighborhood service areas as needed.
- Integrate a ‘Pedestrian Safe City’ theme
- Utilities
  - Improve internet & telecommunication services
  - Stronger inclusion of utilities
  - Integrate renewable energy
- Transportation
  - Separate and emphasize public transportation



- Include ferries
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Cultural development
- Land use
  - Pay attention to business and industrial use
  - Link land use to environmental elements

## 17 November 2014 Morning Workshop

### Breakout 1: Considering the Vision Statement

#### Report Back Main Themes

- Generally, the vision statement is good
  - Shorten and more to the point with statements on how to accomplish the vision. Wording: Should -> shall
  - Should focus on people and values - environment, history, culture. Consider the whole not just the parts.
  - Include tipping point considerations
  - Include businesses, industry, job creation
  - Is Bainbridge a cohesive community? May be more defined by space than by way of life.
  - Include promotion of diversity
- Strengthen neighborhood service center components and thinking
  - Consideration of traffic impacts
- Infrastructure related tipping points
  - Water supply
  - Car dependency is not sustainable. Emphasize walkers, bikers and associated infrastructure
- Consider relationships with Seattle and West Sound/Kitsap County, but information such as economic relationships would be helpful in decision-making.

### Breakout 2: Overriding Principles

#### Report Back Main Themes

#### Principle 1, Preserve the Special Character of the Island

- Include human (psychological and social) and historical characteristics of the island in addition to natural aspects
- Expand and diversify economy
- Emphasize that the island's unique location and its connections within the region and world are crucial
- Prioritize non-motorized transport aspects

#### Principle 2, Protect Fragile Water Resources

- Protect and sustain
- Expand to incorporate shorelines and Salish Sea

#### Principle 3, Foster Diversity

- Add specific details about what diversity means to the island and expand to be more comprehensive and integrated throughout

#### Principle 4, Consider Costs and Benefits to Property Owners and Land Use Decisions

- Expand to consider cost/benefit to community



- Consider land use decisions in broader context

#### Principle 5, Promote Sustainable Development

- Development principles directly influence finite island resources, natural and other. Ought to be a strong two way relationship. Development as benefit to the larger public good.
- Improve clarity and local perspective for key terms: resources, sustainable, development
- Growth management is key and challenging. Agreed on clarity and broad integration is important.

#### Added principles and other notes

- Add 'Developing Resilience'<sup>1</sup>
- Create a citizens advisory group to monitor and report on plan efficacy

### **Breakout 3: Core Elements**

#### Report Back Main Themes

- Optional elements should not be listed as 'optional', but 'additional'
- Cross element integration is needed. It would be helpful that each element not be considered in isolation. Formalize and evaluate this integration.
- Create separate element for good governance and efficacy or make overarching and integrate throughout. Comprehensive Plan ought to clearly inform policies and regulations - with community involvement components.
- Elements to formalize, incorporate and integrate: agriculture element, emergency preparedness, public health, food security, wildlife risks, fire hazard, public education system, harbor moorage challenges
  - Example of cross-element integration: public health linked with transportation where walking & biking are encouraged by improved infrastructure components.
- Formalize inclusion of neighborhood service centers/economic hubs: Island Center, Rolling Bay, Coppertop, Day Rd, Lynwood Center
- Utilities, add/include/emphasize:
  - Water recycling
  - Reduction, efficiency
- Transportation, add/include/emphasize:
  - Public transportation
  - 305 and Winslow congestion
  - Non-motorized mobility
- Housing, add/include/emphasize:
  - Diversity
  - Research and understand demographics of anticipated population growth
- Water resources, add/include/emphasize:
  - Expand beyond drinking water
- Economic development, add/include/emphasize:
  - Very broad and ought to be integrated throughout

---

<sup>1</sup> Details were recorded by this breakout group on their workshop working documents



## Online Survey

Online survey participants responded between November 4<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, and were asked:

What is the most positive change you've seen occur on the Island in the time that you have lived here?

What is the most negative change?

What aspect(s) of the Island would you like to be sure to preserve for the future?

What aspect(s) would you like to see changed?

Of the aspects of the Island you prize the most, which of these do you think is most at risk?

Considering your thoughts about the future, is the existing Comprehensive Plan Vision appropriate?

An opportunity for other comments was also given.

There were 711 survey responses.

69% of respondents indicated that the Vision was still appropriate.

All of the guiding principles seem to be still applicable by at least 72% of respondents. Considering costs and benefits to land owners when making land use decisions receiving the least affirmation. This principle was also flagged as requiring revision by workshop attendees. Particular interests in revision included addition of sustainable jobs and inclusion of community cost/benefit issues.

Key issues for participants (**bold** indicates several participants discussed, underlined indicates >10 participants discussed):

**Parks/Open space/land acquisition/Land Trust /road end access**

**Non-motorized transport (pedestrians, bikes)/walkability**

**Public Transportation**

**Roads/roundabouts/traffic/parking (too much & too little)/speeding**

**City dock/Recreational boating/rowing/eagle harbor/water access**

All island gov't (**Love it/Feel it doesn't work**)

**Arts/BIMA/Music/Frog Rock-Public Art**

**Downtown /Winslow Way/ T&C/Business development**

**High density and low income development**

**Community gatherings/networking/character /senior center**

**Sustainability**

**Shoreline Protection Planning/Access**

**Sewer expansion/functionality**

**Agriculture/Farmer's Market**

Sports facilities (public and community)/**pool**

**Energy Efficiency/RePower Bainbridge**

**More reliable electricity/internet**

**Diversity/Demographics**

**Schools/Education/Community Education (including Kidimu)/library**

Hub development (esp. **Lynwood**)

**Emergency services/medical care**

**Visitor services (including ferry, waypoint park and restaurants)**

**Theft**

**Cost of living on Island**



## Population growth

## Development/Visconci/non-chain businesses

## Freshwater

## Biodiversity (flora, fauna)/Ecological function

## Implementation of the plan

## Nothing good

75% of the 711 respondents had lived on Bainbridge Island for more than 10 years. With participation diminishing as time in residence decreased (5-10 years: 12%, 1-5 years: 10%, <1 year: 3%). 70% of respondents were 55 or older. Only 16 (~3%) were under 33.

## **Structural Ideas**

Based on the comments from community members there seem to be a few innovative ways to address some of the more mechanistic issues.

Update the Vision: There is some expressed interest in shortening the Vision Statement. However given the range of issues and opinions on those issues represented by the community, it may or may not be beneficial to shorten.

Clarify roles of sections: Consider creation of additional sections that address issues around implementation. For example one structure might include:

- Vision Statement: Presents the aspirational vision of what the Bainbridge Island community desires.
- Mission Statement: Presents the approach the City of Bainbridge Islands plans to take to make the Vision Statement a reality.
- Principles: Key themes of action. These could be replaced by the Bainbridge Island Themes:
  - Safe City
  - Green, Well-Planned Community
  - Reliable Infrastructure & Connected Mobility
  - Healthy and Attractive Community
  - Vibrant Economy
  - Good Governance

It would be advisable to add details behind each of these in at least a sentence.

- Goals: Specific metrics for the success of the vision statement and specific mechanisms for implementation of the mission statement. This can include actions by partners and enabling conditions to support those.
- Elements: The Comprehensive Plan elements (required and optional) as defined by state law.
- Pathway to implementation: This section should include the steps and timeline (dates or events) that lead to the Comprehensive Plan becoming part of City practice. This could include updating of code, monitoring to know when vulnerabilities require action, having a regular process to reflect on the Comprehensive Plan in annual budgeting and programmatic review, etc.



## Draft Change Analysis

Virtually all of the issues explored by workshop and survey participants will be affected by the many changes Bainbridge Island is set to experience in the coming decades. This table offers a cursory assessment of some of the questions and interactions that should be considered in the creation of a durable comprehensive plan.

Issue	Changes	Sample Implications
Shoreline living		Coastal instability and sea level rise may affect where current homes and roads can be located.
Aging population		What services will our community need more of? How do we support them? How do we leverage other age groups to build an intergenerational community?
Environmental vs. affordable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing population</li> <li>• Changing demographics</li> <li>• Altered precipitation patterns</li> <li>• Increasing temperature</li> <li>• Sea level rise/coastal instability</li> </ul>	Can we be innovative to accommodate both in the face of increasing energy costs, possible water challenges, increasing population, etc.?
Sustainable		Sustainability requires an agreed upon community definition but any of these changes will require regular responses to stay within the range of what is sustainable. How does being an island compound this challenge?
Transportation (motorized & non-motorized) and traffic		Increased population will require new planning to maintain traffic flow in challenge with meeting open space and development concerns. Creating incentives to reduce motorized traffic may help with traffic issues, as well as air quality issues relating to increasing temperatures.
Linked globally		How does our status as an island complicate our access to good and our connectivity?
Develop neighborhood centers		How can these be supported to decrease traffic or in the face of increasing traffic? Will water and sewer support with changing precipitation patterns and sea level rise?
Special character		How is this affected by population growth?
Water		Does extraction exceed recharge due to altered precipitation and increased demand?
Emergency preparedness		Are we considering all future emergency types (more intense storms, fire) and complicating conditions (drought, king tide/sea level rise)?
Open Space		Will features of our open space change based on growth around it, changing plant species compositions, altered precipitation patterns?

