



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
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SHORELINE ACCESS GUIDEBOOK

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
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INTRODUCTION

Bainbridge Island is a community of about 20,000 residents as of 2002, and has approximately 53 miles of shoreline defining its boundary. Given that the vast majority of the Island's shoreline is privately owned, access to the shoreline by the public is very important and Bainbridge Island is fortunate to have parks, road-ends and other types of sites that provide public access to our shore. Experiencing the shoreline reinforces our identity as an island community, and provides a glimpse of the ecological and geological processes that make this place unique. Shoreline access is also an essential means of recreation on Bainbridge, allowing passive and active endeavors such as kayaking, walking, picnicking, and wildlife watching.



Like streams and wetlands, shorelines are fragile and dynamic. The interface between the marine environment and the upland environment is sensitive, naturally changes with the seasons, and is home to a great diversity of creatures, so it is important to tread lightly. Accessing the shoreline for recreation, relaxation, and education also must not compromise the privacy, safety, and quality of life for adjacent residents.

The sites described in this guidebook are diverse in size, surroundings, ownership, and historic use; therefore, the recommended uses depend on the individual site. There are four sections in this book that help to categorize the different types of access: *parks*, *road-ends*, *shore-view roads*, and *other access*. **Parks** are typically owned and managed by the Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation District or Washington State Parks. **Road-Ends** are typically narrow rights-of-way that are owned and managed by the City of Bainbridge Island while in some cases road-ends are easements across private property that provide public access. These narrow rights-of-way and easements extend across the tidelands down to the water - *users should be aware and respect that most tidelands on either side of these sites are privately owned*. Since road-ends are small, narrow sites surrounded by private residential properties, users should conduct their activities respectful of the constraints inherent to that setting (rules and recommended uses are discussed further below). The City works to maintain access, safety, and signage at road-ends, but oftentimes neighborhood groups, Boy Scouts, or other community members provide significant improvement and maintenance to these sites. Bainbridge Island's shorelines can also be enjoyed from the many **Shore-view roads**. These are paved public roadways that offer scenic shoreline views and opportunities for driving, walking, biking, and wildlife viewing. The fourth section, **Other Access**, lists private parcels that allow public access and typically are parcels with land trust easements or open space taxation status (these parcels get tax breaks for preserving open space). Visits to most of these sites must be prearranged.

Look for the blue Public Shore Access signs, and enjoy with care!

Notes to Boaters

Kayaking is a popular activity in the waters surrounding Bainbridge, and many of the sites in this guidebook offer excellent landing/launching areas for human-powered craft. Many of the harbors of Bainbridge Island are excellent for mooring deep-keeled boats. Washington State Parks offer buoys at Fay Bainbridge and Fort Ward. The City of Bainbridge Island has guest moorage and day-use at the city dock in Eagle Harbor. Many of the Island's other harbors provide good anchorage and

nearby road-ends provide a place to pull a dingy ashore. See the *Index* for a listing of places for deep-keeled boats to moor or anchor, and the corresponding road-ends that offer shore access. Power and sail boaters should be aware that there are no fuel docks on the Island. There is a public pump-out station and a day-use dock available at the Waterfront Park in Eagle Harbor.

RECOMMENDED USES

The sites included in this guidebook is appropriate for various types of use because of size, community setting, or legal agreement. Each site is categorized as one of the following three types of uses. Additional site-specific information is provided in the guidebook for each site.

Neighborhood Use: These sites are typically small narrow road-ends tucked into residential neighborhoods and do not accommodate large groups or high-intensity use. Parking is often limited or non-existent at these sites. While anyone is welcome to enjoy all of the sites listed in this book, the designation of *Neighborhood Use* is meant to encourage smaller groups and minimal disruption to the site and the neighbors.

Island-Wide Use: This designation is used for most Bainbridge Island Parks and all Washington State Parks. The parking accommodations and maintenance plans at these sites are designed for broad public use, and a higher volume of visitors.

Access with Permission Only: These sites provide public access on a limited, permission-only basis and some sites may allow access for only certain types of activities (e.g. education groups). The Bainbridge Island Land Trust owns or holds conservation easements on some of these parcels while others are enrolled in the open space taxation program managed by the Kitsap County Assessor's Office. *Please contact property owners 24 hours in advance of your planned visit.*

ROAD-END RULES

The City of Bainbridge Island has established general rules that apply to all of the Island's Road-Ends. Please respect these rules as they are designed for safety, cleanliness, and to respect the neighborhoods surrounding these sites. Wildlife, plants, buildings, signs, tables, and other structures are protected; removal or damage of any kind is prohibited.

- Hours: dawn to dusk
- No fires
- Remove trash and clean up pet waste
- Animals must be kept on leash
- No camping
- No overnight parking

RESOURCES & CONTACT INFORMATION

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Website</u>
City of Bainbridge Island	206-842-2552	www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us
Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation District	206-842-2306	www.biparks.org
Bainbridge Island Land Trust	206-842-1216	www.bi-landtrust.org
Kitsap County Assessor's Office	206- 842-2061	www.kitsapgov.com/assr/default.htm
Washington State Parks	360-902-8844	www.parks.wa.gov
Washington Water Trails Association	206-545-9161	www.wwta.org
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	360-902-2200	www.wa.gov/wdfw
Washington Department of Health (Shellfish Hotline)	1-800-562-5632	http://ww4.doh.wa.gov/gis/biotoxin.htm

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- City of Bainbridge Island Road-Ends Notebook
- Bainbridge Island Parks & Recreation District
- Bainbridge Island Land Trust
- Bainbridge Island Historical Society
- Kitsap County Assessor's Office
- Washington State Parks
- Boy Scouts
- Mosquito Fleet Society
- Washington Water Trails Association