



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Programmatic Buoy Process to Save Time, Money

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, April 22, 2010 – The City has launched a new program to expedite the application process for recreational mooring buoys that meet shoreline management policies and regulations.

“By creating a streamlined application and review process for buoy placement, the Programmatic Buoy system will save citizens time and money and allow City staff to more effectively manage shoreline resources,” said Kathy Cook, the City’s Director of Planning and Development. “We’re not changing any regulations regarding the placement of buoys, this is simply an administrative fix to what has been a complicated and costly process for our citizen applicants.”

Under the new program, residents will complete a standard application that includes a worksheet for depicting the buoy’s elevation details and a site plan. The application may be used by residents applying for new buoys as well as by those who wish to receive an after-the-fact permit to bring an existing buoy into compliance.

The City Council last week established a grace period and a graduated, reduced fee structure to encourage residents with unpermitted buoys to bring them into compliance with the City’s Shoreline Master Program (BIMC 16.12), and encourage those who want to install new buoys to place them legally. Residents submitting an application prior to October 31, 2010 will not be charged a fee, and those applying November 1, 2010 through April 30, 2012 will pay a reduced fee of \$200. The full fee of \$450 will go in to effect May 1, 2012.

The City has also implemented a process to document buoys installed prior to 1996, which are considered to be non-conforming. Owners of such buoys can complete a nonconforming buoy form and submit documentation to indicate their buoy’s placement prior to 1996.

MORE INFORMATION

The programmatic application, nonconforming form, and an FAQ are available at http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/buoy_permits.aspx. For updates on this and other information for boaters, sign up for the City's ListSrvs for Harbor Notices, Programmatic Buoy Program, and/or Shoreline Management, Stewardship and Public Access. Go to www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us, scroll down to "Sign up for ListServ updates" on the left side of the home page, and follow the directions.

Tami Allen, the City's Harbormaster, will offer a short workshop on the programmatic buoy permit process on Saturday, May 15th at 10:15 and 11:15 as part of the 2010 Boater Education Fair. The Fair will include boater education, demonstrations of on-water fire fighting and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter in-water rescue, kids' events and tours of the Coast Guard, Fire and Bainbridge Island Police marine response boats. The fair is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Bainbridge Commons.

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