



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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City's Roadside Mowing Services to Change

Bainbridge Island, WA, 06/17/09 – Bainbridge Island residents may notice a change in city roadside maintenance practices this summer, according to Lance Newkirk, Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance.

In the past, the city's Operations and Maintenance staff has completed two full mowing cycles of the island's paved public roadways during the course of the summer. This year, mowing during the summer months will be limited to preserving sight line distances and visibility at intersections, and to a single mower pass along each roadside. A full mowing cycle will be completed later in the fall and winter months which will also address vegetation in and behind roadside ditches.

"Because of this change, residents may notice more growth in roadside vegetation this summer than in the past," Newkirk said. "We encourage people to call our Operations and Maintenance office at 842-1212 or email PWOM@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us to report vegetation that may present a safety hazard."

The program change is an effort to focus limited resources on public safety, said Newkirk, noting that two positions in the Operations and Maintenance Department were eliminated this spring as part of the city's strategy to bring tax-supported expenditures in line with revenues.

"Safety is always a priority for us," Newkirk added. "Residents should use caution when driving near working mowers, and should never approach them on foot. If there's any need to communicate with city staff regarding mowing services, we ask that residents call our office rather than trying to talk with an operator in the field."

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