



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Buoy Permit Fees to Increase November 1

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, October 15, 2010 – Under the City’s new Programmatic Buoy system, owners of recreational mooring buoys that meet the programmatic criteria may apply for a permit free of charge through October 31, 2010.

The Programmatic Buoy system was created in order to expedite the application process for recreational mooring buoys. Under the new program, owners complete a standard application that includes a worksheet for depicting the buoy’s elevation and anchor type and a site plan. The application may be used by those applying for new buoys as well as those who wish to receive an after-the-fact permit to bring an existing buoy into compliance.

In order to encourage owners to bring unpermitted buoys into compliance, and encourage those who want to install new buoys to place them legally, the City Council established a grace period and graduated fee structure for buoy permits. No fee is required for applications submitted through October 31, 2010, and a reduced fee of \$200 will go into effect from November 1, 2010 through April 30, 2012. The full fee of \$450 will go in to effect May 1, 2012.

Staff and volunteers posted notices on unpermitted buoys in July, informing owners that their buoys are in violation of city code. The neon-colored notices referred owners to the Programmatic Buoy page on the city’s website, at www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us, and the Buoy Hotline, 780-3731, for information on the permitting process.

The City will take more rigorous steps for buoys that remain unpermitted after the November 1 date. At that time, owners will be given six months to bring their buoy in to compliance or risk a fine and/or the removal of their buoy.

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. Call the Buoy Hotline at 780-3731 with specific questions on buoy permitting.

For more information for boaters, sign up for the City's ListSers for Harbor Notices, Programmatic Buoy Program, and 2011 SMP (shoreline master program) Update. 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.

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