

BECAUSE WE LOVE PARKS

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Our Report to the Community





OUR MISSION

Enhancing community by supporting
a thriving system of parks, trails
and open space.

OUR VISION

Bainbridge Island will be a place of great parks,
exceptional trails, vibrant green spaces and
excellent recreational opportunities that
connect our community.

A year of progress and opportunity at the Parks Foundation.



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Back in 2014 a group of community leaders brainstormed on how to help improve and expand the Island's trails, parks and recreational opportunities. From that collaboration the "new" Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation was born! Over the last 2½ years the Foundation has been reorganized and rejuvenated with a completely independent new board, two-member staff and a clear vision of our mission. We select our own projects and partners, seeking to work cooperatively with any agency or organization passionate about creating trails, parks and recreational opportunities on the Island.

As we leave 2016 and enter 2017, the "new" Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation is on solid ground. The staff is extremely effective and well-connected to the community—our Executive Director Barb Trafton is an accomplished leader. The Foundation board is engaged, cohesive and a dream-team of experienced and energetic advocates for trails and parks. As you review this report you will see that new trails are being built and maintained as a direct result of our efforts. Parks are being developed and improved that would not have been without the Foundation's participation. Grants are being issued in increasing amounts to a wide variety of organizations—many administered by our most important partner the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District. In short, despite its youth, the Foundation already matters.

For those of you who have donated to or volunteered for the Foundation, we thank you. And for those who are looking to become involved with an organization that really can make a difference in the quality of our Island's recreational life, we welcome your financial or volunteer support. We look forward to seeing you at a trail opening, work party or in our wonderful parks soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Glenn Haber". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

J. Glenn Haber
President

“As you review this report you will see that new trails are being built and maintained as a direct result of our efforts.”

In 2016, Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation programs progressed from the vigorous groundwork laid in the past year and a half. These programs are already providing positive change on the island. Project activities, such as those listed here, reflect the values of Islanders and enhance the quality of life on Bainbridge Island.

OWEN'S PLAYGROUND

An inspiring example of community teamwork and engagement, Owen's Playground came to fruition through the combined efforts of Friends of Owen's Playground, the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation, the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District, and Bainbridge Island Rotary. The playground—conceived as a welcoming and accessible place for children and caregivers of all mobility and cognitive abilities—opened to great fanfare in July, 2016 and continues to earn praise region-wide as a model of inclusive design. The Parks Foundation served as Fiscal Sponsor for Owen's Playground and is proud to have participated in its creation.



BLAKELY HARBOR PARK

Beloved, historic Blakely Harbor Park is in need of restoration and infrastructure improvement and major donors have come forward with a \$50,000 challenge grant toward an overall funding goal of \$100,000. Purchased in 1998 with strong community support led by the Land Trust, Blakely Harbor Park's neighbors and friends are now coordinating with the Parks Foundation to help plan and fund key park improvements. After neighborhood meetings and a community potluck, enthusiastic volunteers got to work on site, and fundraising began. The Parks Foundation-supported Student Conservation Corps provided invasive plant control. By the end of 2016 approximately \$17,000 of the \$50,000 goal had been raised. With additional community support restoration efforts will progress rapidly at this Island treasure.

WAYPOINT WOODS

Ferry passengers arriving on Bainbridge Island will soon have a gorgeous new “gateway” park to greet them, thanks to a Foundation-backed partnership between Washington State Ferries and the Park District. Restoration and trail building on the long-neglected ravine property began with invasive weed and garbage removal in 2016, courtesy of Student Conservation Corps participants and multiple volunteer work parties. Island resident architect Johnpaul Jones has volunteered to lead design efforts at the site in 2017, with his firm Jones & Jones Architecture and Landscaping. Enjoy a short walk while you wait for a ferry, and discover the surprising potential for this new park in Winslow.



FAY BAINBRIDGE BOARDWALK

An excellent example of the Foundation’s role in connecting community stakeholders with park projects—the Fay Bainbridge Boardwalk Initiative brought together locally-owned Fairbank Construction and the Park District to enhance a popular Island landmark. Fairbank sought a project for a newly formed Bainbridge High School work/learn internship program. The Park District wanted boardwalks at Fay Bainbridge to improve shoreline access and safeguard habitat. With Foundation coordination and grant funding for materials, this initiative resulted in a win-win for all. Other examples of 2016 Foundation grants in action: new gymnastics equipment at Battle Point, new drinking/water bottle fountains at the Aquatic Center, and a covered baseball facility at Rotary Park.

TRAILS

Bainbridge residents love the island’s expansive trail network, and with Foundation help new routes and connections are on the horizon. Progress was made in 2016 on a Winslow-to-Gazzam trail, and an Old Mill-to-Blakely Avenue trail, thanks to the Foundation and partners IslandWood, Washington State Ferries and private land owners. The Summer Trails Crew, funded by the Parks Foundation with support from the Bainbridge Community Foundation, constructed new trails in Gazzam Lake Preserve, Eagledale and Waypoint Woods. The Trails Crew also provided essential maintenance and repair to over five miles of existing trails. The Parks Foundation continues to coordinate with the Park District and City to support recreational trails island-wide.



2016 Revenue



Total revenue: \$305,868

- Interest and Fee Income: \$6,259
- General Contributions: \$127,438
- Restricted Contributions: \$172,171

2016 Expenses



Total expenses: \$302,573

- Management and General: \$47,050
- Fundraising: \$9,556
- Programs, Grants and Services: \$245,967

Summary Balance Sheet as of 12/31/16

Assets	\$	\$237,995
Liabilities	\$	\$17,119
Equity		
Restricted Assets	\$	\$109,041
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	\$111,835
Total Equity	\$	\$220,876
Total Liability & Equity	\$	\$237,995

Financial results preliminary

OUR IMPACT

Miles of trails built, maintained and repaired in 2016:

6.3



New play elements at Owen's and Schel Chelb Playgrounds:

38



Hours of stewardship support for parks and trails:

2100



Ongoing BIPF projects improving Island recreation:

18



Dollars enhancing parks, trails and recreational activities:

\$220,831



Donors supporting parks and trails:

600



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We'd like to thank the following donors and volunteers for their support of the Parks Foundation.

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OUR IMPACT

Bainbridge Island boasts an extraordinarily high acreage of parks and public lands per capita. Our valued trail system is expanding annually. The Parks Foundation plays a critical role in supporting these magnificent places so they are available for all to enjoy.

“We are blessed with many wonderful parks and open spaces. The Parks Foundation does important work seeking to improve trails and park facilities allowing for increased public access and use.”

ANDY MARON
Board Member, Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation

“Every step you take on a trail on Bainbridge Island represents hours and weeks, sometimes years of negotiations making easements and connections possible. This is the work of the Parks Foundation. I support trails by donating to BIPF.”

ALICE SHORETT
Author, *Walks on Bainbridge*

“The guidance, expertise and support of the Parks Foundation staff and board was essential for bringing to life the Island’s first barrier-free, accessible playground.”

STACY MARSHALL
Founder, Owen’s Playground

“The Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation is an essential partner of the Park District. Together we can achieve community goals that otherwise wouldn’t happen.”

TERRY LANDE
Executive Director, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District