



Bainbridge Island Land Trust

Conservation Plan

Adopted March 27, 2012



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 4 |
| MISSION & VISION | 6 |
| A BRIEF HISTORY OF BILT | 7 |
| STATUS & TRENDS OF LANDSCAPES ON BAINBRIDGE ISLAND..... | 8 |
| HOW HAS LAND USE CHANGED AND WHAT MIGHT THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE? | 8 |
| WHAT ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT TRENDS OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS?..... | 9 |
| HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT BEFORE ALL THE “UNDEVELOPED AND UNPROTECTED” LAND MAY BE GONE? | 10 |
| STATUS SUMMARY FOR SPECIFIC RESOURCE TYPES | 14 |
| <i>Shorelines.....</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Wildlife Corridors</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Forest Cover</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Streams and Buffers.....</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Agricultural Lands</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Wetlands.....</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Recreational Trails</i> | <i>17</i> |
| <i>Scenic Vistas.....</i> | <i>17</i> |
| PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND PRIORITIZATION | 18 |
| HOW WERE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED? | 18 |
| NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION..... | 24 |
| CONSERVATION TOOLS..... | 27 |
| POTENTIAL PARTNERS | 29 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 32 |
| GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS | 34 |
| REFERENCES..... | 35 |
| APPENDICIES | |
| Appendix A: Maps | |
| <i>Map 1: Aerial Photo</i> | |
| <i>Map 2: Island-wide Property Status Change</i> | |
| <i>Map 3: Property with Some Level of Protection</i> | |
| <i>Map 5: Wildlife Corridors Inventory</i> | |
| <i>Map 6: Wildlife Corridors Property Status Change</i> | |
| <i>Map 7: Shorelands Property Status Change</i> | |
| <i>Map 8: Shoreline Ecosystem Status</i> | |
| <i>Map 9: Forest Inventory</i> | |
| <i>Map 10: Forest Property Status Change</i> | |

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

Map 11: Agricultural Soils Inventory

Map 12: Agricultural Soils Property Status Change

Map 13: Stream Inventory

Map 14: Fish Passage Barriers

Map 15: Stream & Buffer Property Status Change

Map 16: Wetlands Inventory

Map 17: Wetlands Property Status Change

Appendix B: Supplemental Tables and Figures

Appendix C: BILT Capital Investment 2012-2021

Appendix D: Public & Stakeholder Comments Received During Plan Development

Executive Summary

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT) is a non-profit land trust that serves the people and wildlife of Bainbridge Island, Washington. Over the last 23 years, BILT has protected some of the most special places on Bainbridge Island, including forestlands, wetlands, shorelines, streams and riparian corridors, agricultural lands, recreational lands and trails, open spaces, and scenic vistas. BILT protects natural and working lands with high conservation values largely through land acquisition and conservation easements. BILT works cooperatively with willing landowners, other conservation organizations, and governmental entities to accomplish its mission. Since its inception in 1989, BILT has helped preserve more than 1200 acres on Bainbridge Island, with over 920 of those acres being open to the public.

Recognizing that the supply of conservation lands on Bainbridge Island is diminishing due to the continued press of development, and that the financial resources of BILT will always be constrained, BILT began developing its first comprehensive conservation plan in 2011. The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to bring more strategic focus to BILT's conservation efforts, and to identify BILT's potential conservation priorities for the next five to ten years. The Conservation Plan also identifies strategies for advancing BILT's priorities. While not a stand-alone decision document, the Plan is intended to provide additional direction and guidance for BILT's Board and staff to help ensure that we utilize our limited financial and human resources to achieve the greatest possible conservation gains for our Island.

Conservation initiatives contained in a 2011 draft plan were reviewed by the BILT board. In early 2012, Bainbridge Island Land Trust members, partner agencies and stakeholders, and the community were invited to provide feedback on the draft conservation plan by completing an on-line survey, submitting comments directly to the BILT, or by participating in a stakeholder meeting.

Interactions with our constituents, weighed with habitat trend data, past BILT successes, and community needs, led us to identify two priority ecological systems worthy of our increased attention and action:

Wildlife Networks: Systems of large ecologically functioning habitat blocks and connecting wildlife corridors that support sustainable populations of diverse and abundant wildlife species and provide opportunities for wildlife to move between large habitat blocks. These areas contain valuable critical habitats, including forests, wetlands, streams, and riparian areas. These networks provide some watershed protection and can provide public access, when compatible with conservation objectives, via well planned trails and other amenities.

Shorelines: Dynamic habitat systems that contain highly valuable critical habitats, including tidelands, estuaries, lagoons, nearshore, marine riparian and adjoining upland areas, important to a high diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species. Shorelines can provide public access, when compatible with conservation objectives, via well planned trails and other amenities. We recognize the Island's 58 miles of shoreline are integral to the larger Puget Sound ecosystem which gives added significance and importance to our shoreline conservation efforts.

The Conservation Plan is divided into a number of key sections. The opening sections lay out the mission and vision of BILT and review the history of BILT's conservation efforts to date. The next section describes the status and trends of various habitat and landscape types on Bainbridge Island. The Plan then identifies strategic conservation priorities and implementation actions. The Plan briefly describes the tools available for implementing preservation efforts, along with potential next steps (including potential partners). Going forward, BILT will evaluate and prioritize specific projects using the Conservation Plan along with the tools it has developed and assistance from various partners. The Plan concludes with a set of references, a glossary of terms & acronyms, and a list of contributors and acknowledgments. Appendices include maps, supplemental figures and tables, summary of BILT's historic capacity to undertake various types of projects, and summaries of the comments received on the draft plan.

Mission & Vision

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST MISSION STATEMENT:

To preserve and steward the diverse natural environment of Bainbridge Island for the benefit of all.

VISION STATEMENT:

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust envisions a future:

- In which the rural character and scenic beauty of our Island endures and enriches the lives of all,
- Where the Island's natural systems continue to sustain the interconnected life that inhabits this special place in Puget Sound,
- Where our level and pattern of development preserves important resources for future generations,
- Where biologically diverse communities of native plants flourish in a natural landscape, and wildlife has enough contiguous natural open space to roam and thrive,
- Where public natural areas and trails form an extensive, interconnected system which is well cared for by, and supports the well-being of the community,
- Where working farms remain strong and valued contributors to our economy and way of life, and
- Where water is pure and plentiful.

With all of this, Bainbridge Island remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play for generations to come.

A Brief History of BILT

For more than 23 years, Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT) has worked to protect vulnerable forestlands, wetlands, shoreline, stream and riparian corridors, agricultural lands, and scenic vistas on Bainbridge Island. Of the Island's 17,394 acres, more than 1200 acres have been permanently protected due to BILT's efforts. For a map of conserved lands on Bainbridge Island, see Map 3.

Of the lands we have protected, more than 920 acres are open to the public and host some of the most intact contiguous natural habitat parcels and the most beautiful non-motorized trails in the region. BILT currently hold 47 conservation easements (42 private and 5 public) on over 708 acres and we own nearly 63 acres of land outright. Another 435.85 acres have been preserved on the Island through acquisition with Land Trust assistance, and most of those acres are open to the public. We have done this through support from landowners, our members, fundraising in our community, acquiring grants from public and private funding sources, and building a network of community and regional partners. Our protected properties range in size from .18 acres to over 320 acres. The lands we protect through conservation easements and those we own become our obligation to steward – forever.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust has been fortunate to work on an Island where there is strong community support for conservation and land protection. This support has been indicated by the number of people who are members of our organization and also those actively involved in the community working towards resource protection. The voters of our Island created two significant public funding sources used to protect open space and park lands: the City of Bainbridge Island (COBI) Open Space Bond in 2001 and the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District (BIMPRD) expansion of the levy lid in 2008. The two local funding sources matched with state and federal grants, contributions from area partners, plus significant BILT private fund raising endeavors have resulted in the success of land protection to date.

Our success has largely been reliant on the good will and cooperation of landowners who have a desire to protect the special qualities of their property and have approached the Land Trust about placing a conservation easement on their property or to purchase their property.

However, in the mid-section of our island, we have been mindful of building a network of conservation properties. That concentrated effort has resulted in the protection of almost 540 acres of contiguous habitat and open space, illustrating the benefits of implementing a plan that focuses on a specific geographic area or conservation system priority. It is that same kind of concentrated effort – more from an ecosystem based approach rather than a parcel by parcel approach, that we intend to apply to the resources we have identified as priorities in this plan.

Status & Trends of Landscapes on Bainbridge Island

While BILT is well familiar with the land conservation and protection efforts that have already taken place, we were not as familiar with landscape changes taking place outside of those properties.

BILT undertook a spatial and temporal analysis of properties and selected resources, as called for in BILT's 5 year strategic plan (2010-2014) in order to understand the status and trends for land use and resources on Bainbridge Island. This provided us with the ability to:

- Understand the current status of properties;
- Evaluate historic land use trends;
- Identify remaining opportunities for conservation;
- Project approximately when the current inventory of undeveloped land might be consumed;
- Determine the current level of protections for each resource type;
- Assess risk of conversion to each resource type; and
- Determine how resource types should be prioritized for further action.

How has land use changed and what might the future look like?

The land use status¹ of properties on Bainbridge Island were analyzed for the 15-year period ranging from June 1996² to April 2010 with 5-year intervals including January 2001 and December 2005. Each land use status was assigned one of four broad categories:

- Undeveloped & Unprotected
 - Includes many land use types including active farms and forest lands without some type of protection in place. Because some of these lands are working resource lands; some of these properties may include some level of development such as a residence or barn/shed;
 - This is the primary category where opportunities with a high level of conservation gain can be made;
 - This is a category where restoration opportunities may provide valuable long-term conservation gains;
- Some Level of Development
 - The level of development ranges from very low density to commercial/industrial;
 - There still may be good conservation opportunities among properties with lower-densities of development in this category;
 - This is a category where restoration opportunities may provide valuable long-term conservation gains;

¹ Land use status codes are defined and managed by the Kitsap County Assessor's Office. BILT reviewed these codes, made modifications as necessary, and categorized them for our analysis.

² June 1996 was the earliest GIS tax parcel data readily available from the City of Bainbridge Island. Older GIS data may be available from the Kitsap County Assessor's Office. Non-GIS analysis of older data could be derived from paper-based records or digital tabular data from the Kitsap County Assessor's Office, if available and resources exist to conduct the analysis. January 2001 and December 2005 data were the closest 5-year intervals available.

- Some Level of Protection
 - The level of protection ranges from permanent (e.g. conservation easement) to less-than-permanent (e.g. unrestricted park land, current use (open space) tax status, perhaps a subdivision's open space tract). A detailed parcel-specific review is necessary to determine the exact nature and durability of the protections affecting each property;
 - This category includes all park lands and private reserves (i.e. IslandWood, Bloedel);
 - This category includes properties that have some development if they also have some type of protection in place (e.g. open space farm land, parks with recreation facilities);
 - This category does not include properties affected by regulatory protections (e.g. critical areas & buffers);
 - This is the category where opportunities may exist to upgrade protections for strategically important resource lands from a less-than-permanent to permanent status;
 - Ongoing stewardship (maintenance, restoration/enhancement) of properties in this category may be necessary to maintain and improve conservation values;
- N/A or Unknown
 - These are parcels that could not be placed into one of the categories above.

What are some of the important trends over the last 15 years?

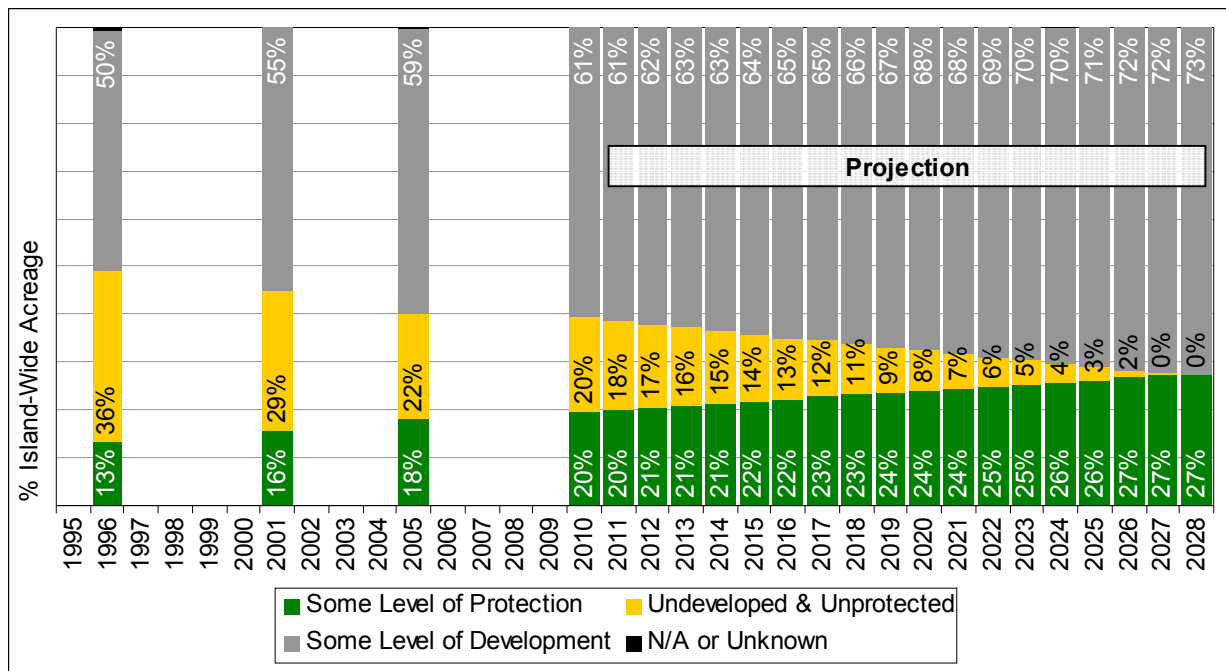
Highlighted here are some of the more significant trends that have occurred over the past 15 years (1996-2010). Additional information is presented in the figures located throughout this section of the Plan and Map 2 and Map 3.

- Land categorized as “Undeveloped & Unprotected” was reduced nearly by half, from 36% to 20% of the Island’s total acreage, or from 5,824 acres to 3,176. (Figure 1, Table 2) This represents an average reduction of 180.5 acres per year for a total of 2,648 acres over the 15 years. (Figure 2, Table 2)
- An equal number of acres were set aside as common areas (typically open space tracts in subdivisions and plats) as were acquired for park use (including public open space acquisitions). (Figure 5) This is a significant (and under-recognized) contributor to the inventory of land with “Some Level of Protection” on the Island.
- For every 7 acres of land that gained “Some Level of Protection”, 11 acres were converted to “Some Level of Development.” (Figure 2) Significant contributors to the “Some Level of Protection” category include the IslandWood campus, public properties purchased under the 2001 Open Space Bond (totaling \$8 million) and common areas set aside in subdivisions and plats.
- The number of large “Undeveloped & Unprotected” parcels has significantly decreased (Figure 3), with the remaining inventory of properties in this category largely less than 25 acres in size (Table 4, Figure 4). Only 7 properties greater than 25 acres remain “Undeveloped & Unprotected”. (Table 4)

How much time is left before all the “Undeveloped and Unprotected” land may be gone?

A simple linear projection based on the average rate of change over the past 15 years was used to estimate future changes in property status. The projection takes our experience over the last 15 years and carries it forward for the next 15 years.³ Accordingly, this projection estimates that the inventory of “Undeveloped & Unprotected” land may be exhausted by 2028, either having received “Some Level of Protection” or having been converted to “Some Level of Development.” (Figure 1) This horizon is an approximation, market forces and community support will significantly affect the pace of both conservation and development. However, this information points to the relevant task of identifying specific areas of focus in order to achieve protection of “significant” ecological processes and functions before it is too late.

Figure 1: Island-Wide Property Status Change & Projection



Notes: Does not include rights-of-way or tidelands. May not add to 100% due to rounding. Linear projection based on historic 15-year average.³

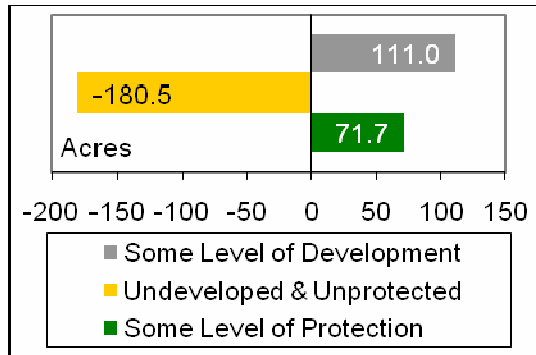
³ While any model will not precisely predict the future, this projection is informed by the historic record and provides us with a working target, which can be improved through periodic comparisons of the prediction to actual changes over time. All models are based on assumptions, and this model uses the average rate of change derived from 15 years (June 1996 - April 2010) of historic data. Specifically, the period studied was 14.76 years.

Table 1: Island-Wide Property Status Change & Projection

| Year | Jun 1996 | Jan 2001 | Dec 2005 | Apr 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2028 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Status | Actual (acres) | | | | Projection (acres) | | | |
| Some Level of Development | 8,224 | 8,957 | 9,649 | 9,852 | 10,407 | 10,962 | 11,518 | 11,782 |
| Undeveloped & Unprotected | 5,824 | 4,749 | 3,596 | 3,176 | 2,262 | 1,349 | 435 | 0 |
| Some Level of Protection | 2,134 | 2,533 | 2,934 | 3,186 | 3,544 | 3,903 | 4,261 | 4,432 |
| N/A or Unknown | 105 | 20 | 50 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Total | 16,286 | 16,259 | 16,230 | 16,228 | 16,228 | 16,228 | 16,228 | 16,228 |

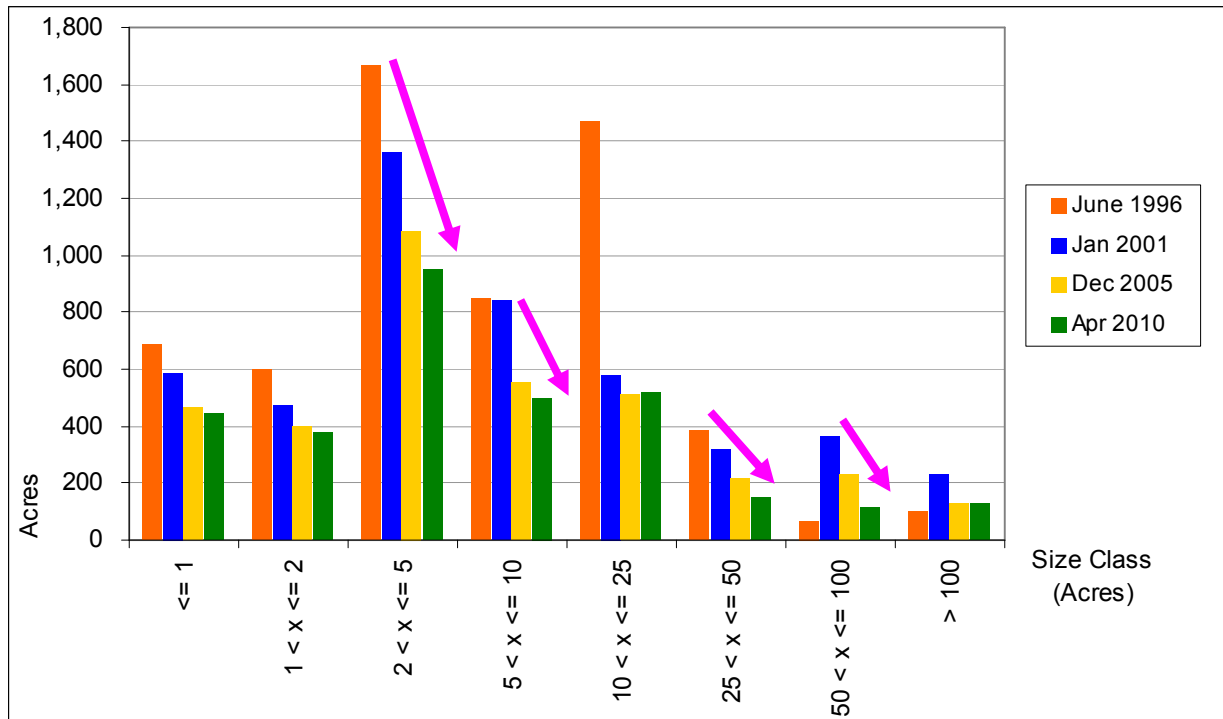
Notes: The Island-wide upland acreage totals 17,394 acres. These figures are less than that because they do not include rights-of-way. Figures do not include tidelands. Linear projection based on historic 15-year average.³

Figure 2: Annualized Change in Property Status Island-Wide (1996-2010)



Notes: Average annual change in acres over the historic 15-year period. Specifically, the period studied was 14.76 years. See Table 1 for total acreage.

Figure 3: Changes in Acreage of Undeveloped & Unprotected Properties by Size Class (1996-2010)



Note: Shows the significant declining trend in large undeveloped properties. See Table 4 for more detail on numbers of parcels and acreage. Does not include rights-of-way or tidelands.

Large sized properties can support a number of ecological processes better than smaller sized properties. Staff and financial resources needed to steward large properties owned by a single landowner, in the case of a conservation easement, are typically less than stewarding a number of small conservation easements owned by separate landowners. For these reasons, it is important to evaluate property size and future stewardship obligations in connection with acquired properties and easements.

Additionally, large blocks of strategically located land, interconnected with other protected properties, can act as the anchors of a larger wildlife network or ecosystem.

Based on the analysis of current trends, few opportunities remain to protect properties of significant size.

- There are only 7 properties remaining greater than 25 acres in size categorized as “Undeveloped and Unprotected”. (Table 4)
- There is an equal number (7) of similarly sized properties (> 25 acres) categorized as having “Some Level of Development”. (Table 4)
- These remaining large properties should be evaluated to determine if they contain high conservation values and would be important additions to a system of protected resource lands on Bainbridge Island. Even though they may be large properties, they may not be essential, for example, as part of a wildlife networks if:
 - There are already enough large habitat blocks in that specific wildlife network;
 - The subject property is too distant to connect to other large habitat blocks; or

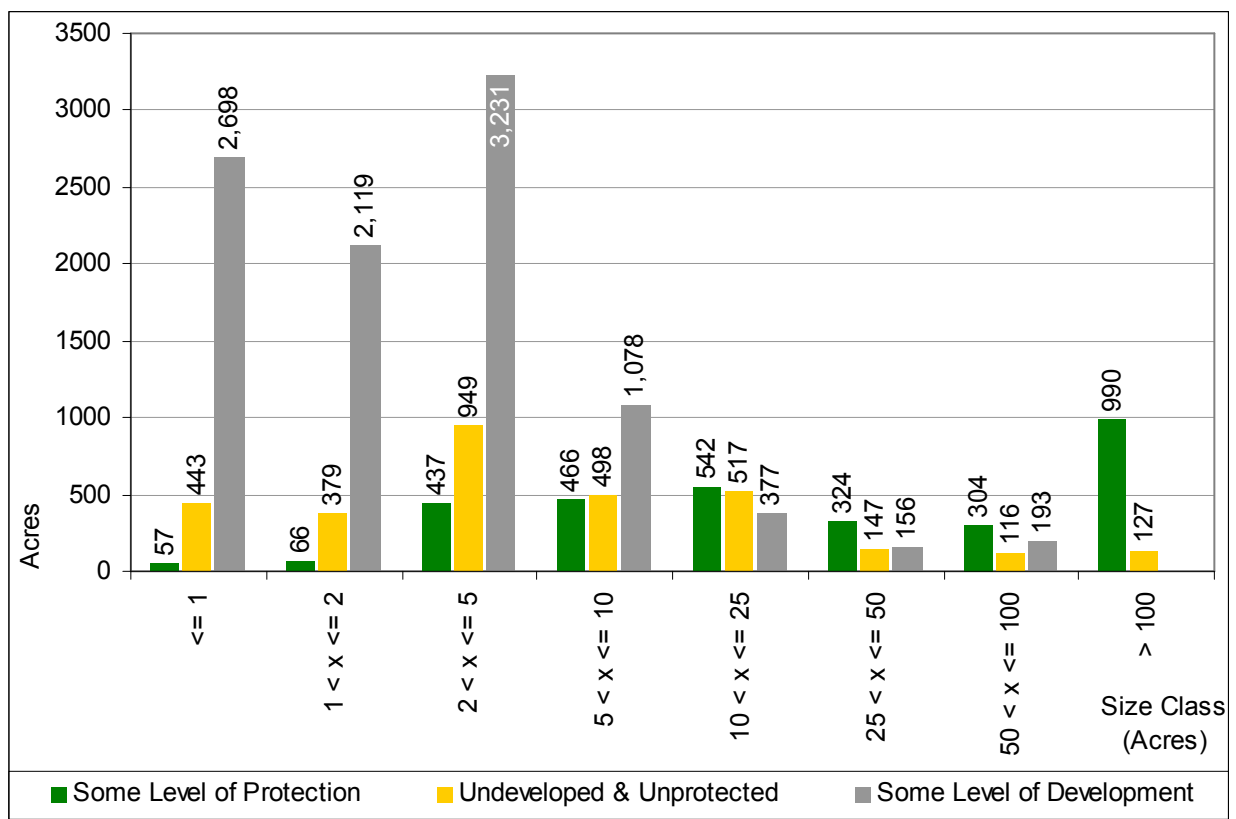
Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

- Connecting corridors are not feasible.
- Or in the case of restoration, the resources needed to restore the property, even over the next 20 years, do not justify the acquisition.

Given current trends and the declining number of large properties, BILT will increasingly need to focus its protection efforts on:

- The small and medium sized properties between 2 and 25 acres, which account for 52% of the properties (233 properties) and 45% of the acres (1,445 acres) categorized as “Undeveloped and Unprotected”; (Table 4) and
- Properties with “Some Level of Development” where conservation values are high. These are likely to be some of the properties between 5 and 25 acres, which account for 2% of the properties (192 properties) and 15% of the acres (1,454 acres) categorized as having “Some Level of Development”. (Table 4)
- Small to medium sized properties which can provide benefits to a system of protected resource lands, including:
 - Complete critical links in wildlife networks;
 - Make incremental improvements to the geometry of already protected areas;
 - Reduce edge effects to already protected areas;
 - Support long-term agricultural uses; and
 - Support recreational trail networks.

Figure 4: Current Property Inventory by Category and Size Class (April 2010)



Note: Does not include rights-of-way or tidelands.

Status Summary for Specific Resource Types

Table 2 summarizes the status of the specific resources as identified in the 5-Year BILT Strategic Plan (2010-2014). Evaluating the status and trends for these resources helps identify priorities for further protection and restoration efforts. Note that new terminology and categorization of resource types will be utilized later in this plan that better describe the BILT priorities adopted in this plan.

Table 2: Status Summary for Specific Resource Types

| Resource Type | | Total Abundance | Amount with Some Level of Protection (non-regulatory) | Amount Still Undeveloped & Unprotected | Advanced Analysis Completed | Federal Listed Species Present |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shorelines (shorelands only) | Acres | 1,179 | 167 | 102 | Yes | 3 (E) |
| | % Acres | 100% | 14.1% | 8.7% | | 5 (T) |
| | % Island-Wide Acres | 6.8% | 1.0% | 0.6% | | 1 (C) |
| Wildlife Corridors* | Acres | 1,350 | 425 | 255 | Yes | |
| | % Acres | 100% | 31.5% | 18.9% | | |
| | % Island-Wide Acres | 7.8% | 2.4% | 1.5% | | |
| Forests* | Acres | 12,190 | 2,466 | 2,716 | None | |
| | % Acres | 100% | 20.2% | 22.3% | | |
| | % Island-Wide Acres | 70.1% | 14.2% | 15.6% | | |
| Streams & Buffers | Acres | 1,019 | 248 | 166 | Some | 1 (T) |
| | % Acres | 100% | 24.3% | 16.3% | | 1 (C) |
| | % Island-Wide Acres | 5.9% | 1.4% | 1.0% | | |
| Agricultural Soils* | Acres | 15,707 | 2,740 | 2,798 | Some | None |
| | % Acres | 100% | 17.4% | 17.8% | | |
| | % Island-Wide Acres | 90.3% | 15.7% | 16.1% | | |
| Wetlands* (buffers not included) | Acres | 1,188 | 472 | 203 | None | |
| | % Acres | 100% | 39.7% | 17.1% | | |
| | % Island-Wide Acres | 6.8% | 2.7% | 1.2% | | |

Notes: * See clarifying note below.

- Additional detail for each resource type is provided below;
- Recreational trails and scenic vistas are not included due to inadequate data.
- "Acres" includes the total acreage of that resource, including rights-of-way located there-in, but excluding tidelands.
- "% Acres" calculations are based on the total acreage of that resource, including rights-of-way located there-in, but excluding tidelands. These figures may differ from the figures shown in the maps due to the inclusion of rights-of-way.
- "% Island-Wide Acres" calculations are based on an Island-wide acreage of 17,394, which includes rights-of-way, but excludes tidelands;
- Federal Endangered Species Act status: E = Endangered; T = Threatened; C = Species of Concern;
- Forest cover data is from 1999, so total abundance is likely less in 2010, but the acreage in the other columns are expected to be fairly accurate;

- *Total wetlands acreage includes estuarine wetlands, however the other columns include only non-estuarine wetlands at this time;*
- *Wildlife Corridors, in this context, refers to those identified in the 2000 Wildlife Corridor Plan published by the City of Bainbridge Island.*
- *Total agricultural soils with some level of protection include some forestlands that are permanently protected in their forested state and therefore not available for agricultural use or commercial timber harvest.*

Shorelines

Very few opportunities exist for new protection efforts along the shoreline, where only 8.7% (102 acres) of shorelands remain “Undeveloped & Unprotected”. Fortunately, some of these properties contain highly valuable critical habitats (e.g. riparian forest, tidelands, pocket estuaries, eelgrass, etc) and significantly contribute to shoreline ecological processes (e.g. feeder bluffs, alongshore transport, water quality, etc). Advanced ecosystem health analysis indicates that the Island’s shoreline is at significant risk of not being able to maintain properly functioning conditions unless protection measures continue, and restoration efforts are pursued (Map 8). This highly dynamic system supports a number of aquatic and terrestrial species and is linked to the regional priority of Puget Sound recovery. BILT has completed a detailed conservation prioritization analysis of shoreline properties and has begun focused discussions and actions with landowners to protect some of the best intact shoreline on the island. In addition, BILT is working with landowners to restore/enhance moderate to highly impacted shoreline, which, after implementation, will result in functioning shoreline. The majority of the future opportunities along the shoreline will be working on properties with “Some Level of Development” to protect and restore/enhance critical habitats and components of shoreline ecological processes that are essential for maintaining shoreline habitats into the future. Due to the high level of modification along the shoreline, this work will require significant resources, coordinated strategies and partnerships with other organizations and agencies, and decades of effort.

Wildlife Corridors

In 2000, wildlife corridors were identified through the City of Bainbridge Island with a stakeholder group, which included the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. The corridors were fairly linear in shape (Map 5). Currently, 31.5% or 425 acres of these corridors have “Some Level of Protection.” In the case of permitting and development, there are no regulatory protections of wildlife corridors, except where there may be protections for other reasons, such as buffers for streams or wetlands or as part of an open space tract in a subdivision or plat.

Fragmented and linear wildlife corridors do not provide a proportional amount of their intended functions, so even a corridor that is 80% protected does not provide 80% of desired function. Additional landscape-based analysis, and interaction with resource managers and stakeholders, will be necessary to identify with the best and most feasible unfragmented routing, habitat values, watershed protection attributes, and, when well sited, additional public access through trails.. This effort will likely result in fewer corridors than the 2000 plan.

BILT believes that wildlife corridors should be considered an integrated component of a larger system of wildlife networks. The systematic linking of large functioning habitats with perhaps smaller strategically

located lands would likely result in more acres being identified as needing to be protected, and include areas of focus, such as the mid-section of the island, where BILT has worked extensively to protect a wildlife network, and other areas stretching north to south, and other east to west networks. Significant effort and a range of tools, perhaps in the form of a campaign or partner agencies working in tandem, will be necessary in order to protect complete wildlife networks with the current level of development on Bainbridge Island.

Forest Cover

Forests are very abundant, covering 70% of Bainbridge Island or 12,190 acres according to the latest data available from 1999, and are obvious while traveling around most of the Island and in aerial photos (Map 1, Map 9). Of course, the semi-rural development pattern across most of the Island has caused fragmentation of forest habitats. A significant amount of previous conservation efforts have protected forest habitats, including several large habitat blocks (e.g. Grand Forest, Gazzam Lake, IslandWood, Fort Ward Park). In total, 20% (2,466 acres) of all forest resources have “Some Level of Protection” (Map 10). For comparison, this represents an astonishing 14% of Island-wide acreage. Almost an equal amount of forest habitat (22% or 2,716 acres) remains “Undeveloped and Unprotected”.

Streams and Buffers

A moderate portion (16% or 166 acres) of streams and their buffers remain “Undeveloped & Unprotected”. A large percentage has already received “Some Level of Protection”. Additionally, there may be a few significant opportunities to achieve protections beyond baseline regulatory requirements on a few large properties with “Some Level of Development”. There may also be similar opportunities to upgrade the type of protection on a few properties with “Some Level of Protection” that is less-than-permanent. (Map 13). Streams and their associated riparian buffers provide a rich habitat that supports a number of aquatic and terrestrial species.

Agricultural Lands

There is a moderate percentage (17.8%) but high acreage (2,798 acres) of agricultural soils that remain “Undeveloped & Unprotected”. A large percentage and a large amount of acreage have already received “Some Level of Protection”, with much of that being protected as forest habitats. A large portion of agricultural soils that are unprotected are currently covered by forestlands, which could present BILT with the dilemma of choosing to protect one resource over another. Soil typing data based on farming suitability/productivity analysis (Natural Resource Conservation Service, Map 11) shows a significant amount of agricultural soils are expected to require either drainage or irrigation in order to be highly productive, which could also present BILT with a dilemma regarding water resources.

Wetlands

39.7% or 472 acres of wetlands has already received “Some Level of Protection”, including large portions of the largest wetland complexes on Bainbridge Island. A moderate percentage (17.1% or 203 acres) remains “Undeveloped & Unprotected”. Wetlands, a unique habitat for plant and animal species and a valuable system that contribute to clean water and healthy watersheds, make up a valuable habitat type within a mosaic of habitats protected as part of a wildlife network (Map 16). While current regulatory protections exist, a number of wetlands have been altered, compromised or removed.

Recreational Trails

Recreational trails have been a public use resource of growing importance on Bainbridge Island. In recent years, trail inventories have been completed and trail networks have begun to be pieced together.

Leaders in this effort have been the Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District and the City of Bainbridge Island. Each of these organizations:

- Supports their own committee specifically focused on this topic;
- Has prepared their own comprehensive plan for recreational trails and other non-motorized facilities;
- Acquires property or easements; and
- Builds recreational trails and other non-motorized facilities.

The City also facilitates the development of recreational trail and other non-motorized facilities through its land use permitting process. A number of citizen groups also work to help promote trails and safe routes for various modes of non-motorized transportation.

Animals have been documented utilizing human trails in conservation lands. Locating trails, to not bisect habitat functions (such as bird nesting areas), can provide access to humans while protecting conservation resources. An analysis of this resource (existing trails, growth of trails) was not possible during this phase of planning because data was not available. Future phases of our conservation planning effort will include consultation with existing trail plans and partners to examine ways to optimize trail development with conservation values and identify where compatible (with BILT priorities) trail development could occur, as well as the examination of status and trends of trails

Scenic Vistas

This resource has not been defined and there is no inventory. Therefore, no analysis was possible. Status and trends are unknown. We recognize Highway 305, which bisects the Island, as a State scenic byway that provides those traveling with a visually pleasing, tree lined transportation route. Additionally, we realize there are key scenic views from the ferry to the Island as well as along local roadways.

Plan Development and Prioritization

The Conservation Plan was developed through a process that included the following steps:

- Review of the existing BILT Five-Year Strategic Plan (2010-2014);
- Review of prior BILT actions;
- Review of local and regional comprehensive plans as well as conservation and restoration plans;
- Review of conservation plans from other land trusts;
- Review of available resource inventories and assessments;
- Historic analysis of land use to evaluate general trends and risks; and
- Internal BILT presentations, discussions, and review; and
- Getting feedback from our constituents (see Appendix D).

How were priorities identified?

The priorities in this Conservation Plan must be read in concert with BILT's 5 year Strategic Plan. That Strategic Plan outlines our organization's commitment to stewarding this Island's magnificent natural environment. This Conservation Plan provides the framework for guaranteeing that BILT's efforts will serve that purpose. There are no criteria more critical in defining action steps, designing new projects, and allocating resources than the conservation priorities that BILT selects. So that BILT can achieve the greatest possible conservation gains for the Island, every BILT effort must and will be rigorously judged under these standards.

Priorities for strategic conservation actions were identified based on an evaluation of a variety of factors, including the status and trends of the specific resources identified in the BILT 5-year Strategic Plan. A preliminary draft was developed in 2011 and early 2012 and input from BILT members, partner agencies, natural resource stakeholders, and community was sought and used to set priorities. Other factors considered in setting priorities included the following:

- Abundance or scarcity of the resource;
- Amount of the resource currently with "Some Level of Protection";
- Amount of the resource still "Undeveloped & Unprotected";
- Level of baseline regulatory protections currently in place;
- Ecosystem health (functions & processes supporting habitat formation & maintenance);
- Risk from conversion or modification that could prevent an adequate amount of the resource from being protected or prevent the completion of a system of protected lands;
- How priorities fit into a larger Regional context
- Examination of activities where BILT provides a leadership role or where we provide support to partnering agencies and organizations
- Public support

Our commitment to securing the greatest possible conservation gains is carried out in concert with multiple related goals outlined in BILT's Strategic Plan. Among these are:

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

- BILT is devoted to continuing to expand the Island's network of trails and access to the natural environment, including the shoreline. We expect to remain a close and dedicated partner of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District and other agencies and organizations toward these ends.
- The Island's capacity to preserve and utilize farmland has values even beyond the contribution of such lands to the natural environment. BILT expects to continue to play a role in such efforts, in concert with Friends of the Farm and other agencies and organizations.

In addition, specific easement, land purchase and other projects, after being evaluated in regard to the conservation values they secure, must also be examined by BILT in the light of other less dominant but still important operational criteria. In a limited number of cases, factors such as these may cause a conservation-advancing project to be deemed as attractive even when it is not deemed a high conservation priority:

- 1) BILT's desire to complete major projects related to the Grand Forest, Gazzam Lake and the mid – island Wildlife Network where additional gains might be possible that increase the value of previous BILT investments;
- 2) The emergence of partnerships that help to leverage BILT's resources;
- 3) The offer of a significant land parcel on a time sensitive basis;
- 4) The availability of dedicated funding.

While this Conservation Plan will guide the Bainbridge Island Land Trust in fulfilling its conservation goals, this plan does not make decisions for the Land Trust or any of its partner organizations. Each new Bainbridge Island Land Trust project and program inspired by this Conservation Plan will be subject to approval by the board of directors and the principles of sound governance.

Given the limited timeframe and resources available to complete a system of protected lands on Bainbridge Island, BILT will:

- Focus its efforts and resources on the priorities identified in Table 4 and discussed below;
- Provide support to partnering organizations and agencies who will take leadership on projects in other areas that significantly fulfill the BILT mission/vision;

BILT prioritized key strategic action items – identified in table 3 below – are as follows:

- **Primary:** These areas will be BILT's highest priority for conservation, both in selecting priority geographical areas (or systems) for future work, and for developing project work plans.
- **Secondary:** These areas will be important for BILT but will not be the primary areas of focus. Other organizations and agencies will be looked upon to lead these projects where there is not significant overlap with primary BILT priorities..
- **Support Partner-Led Projects:** BILT will support partner agencies leading conservation or preservation projects in these areas, using BILT conservation tools and expertise.
- **Tertiary:** BILT support only as limited resources allow.

Table 3: BILT Priorities for Protecting Bainbridge Island Resources

| Resource | Summary Evaluation and Prioritization Considerations | Proposed Priority |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <p>Wildlife Networks</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife Networks are systems of large ecologically functioning habitat blocks and connecting wildlife corridors that support sustainable populations of diverse and abundant wildlife species and provide opportunities for wildlife to move between large habitat blocks. Provides watershed protection and at times, public access via well planned trails; ▪ Many resource types (forests, wetlands, streams, riparian areas) work together to provide high ecological values. A combination of all these resources types within a network increases the conservation values of the network; ▪ A wildlife corridor plan was developed in 2000; however, a large portion of the mapped linear corridors have been fragmented by development; revised analysis and network/corridor routing is necessary in many cases; ▪ Wildlife corridors are a scarce resource. For example, the corridors identified in the 2000 plan covered only 7.8% of Bainbridge Island; ▪ Of those corridors identified in the 2000 plan, 31.5% have “Some Level of Protection” and a moderate percent (17.1%) remains “Undeveloped & Unprotected”; ▪ Wildlife networks are highly sensitive to fragmentation. For example, only protecting part of a wildlife corridor does not provide a commensurate level of function (i.e. 80% protected does not provide 80% of function, but rather significantly less function); ▪ No baseline regulatory protections exist for corridors or networks; however, some wildlife corridors overlap with common areas set aside in subdivisions and plats; this type of co-location could be significantly increased if more formal protection programs were developed; ▪ Without a large amount of conservation (and perhaps some restoration actions), there is moderate-to-high risk that large portions of important wildlife networks will go unprotected, become significantly impacted and be unable to provide properly functioning conditions at a landscape-scale; ▪ The wildlife corridors identified in 2000 that still exist may be a factor in selecting priority geographical areas and preparing project plans and for completing wildlife networks; ▪ Opportunities exist for partnerships with a number of resource agencies and organizations to work together to identify key priority systems worthy of protection. The leveraging of resources is an important component of future potential campaigns or areas of focused work. | <p>Primary</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| <p>The following habitat types will be considered to the extent which they optimize the ecosystem function of an identified Habitat Network (isolated resources outside of an identified network will not be considered).</p> | | |
| | <p>PROPERTIES WITH STREAMS and ASSOCIATED RIPARIAN AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scarce, streams and their regulatory buffers cover only 5.9% of Bainbridge Island; ▪ Stream and riparian habitats, that support both aquatic and terrestrial species, are important supporting factors in selecting priority geographical areas, especially for completing wildlife networks. ▪ Moderate percent (24.3%) has “Some level of Protection” other than regulatory protections; ▪ Moderate percent (16.3%) remains “Undeveloped & Unprotected”; ▪ 1 threatened species may be associated with a stream on Bainbridge Island and 1 species of concern is widely associated with fish-bearing streams on Bainbridge Island; ▪ There is some information available regarding ecosystem health; the most actionable includes fish passage barriers; however, additional ecosystem evaluations are necessary to understand ecosystem conditions; ▪ Some baseline regulatory protections exist to protect basic stream and riparian functions; however, there is uncertainty about the level of baseline protections provided by water quality and water quantity regulations at a cumulative watershed scale and the effect that may have on stream habitats and ecosystem processes; ▪ There may be a low risk that additional streams and stream buffers will go unprotected because of the baseline regulatory protections currently in place | <p>First</p> |
| | <p>PROPERTIES WITH WETLANDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetlands are a unique habitat for plant and animal species, and contribute to clean water and healthy watersheds; ▪ Wetland and riparian habitats will be an important supporting factor in selecting priority geographical areas, especially for completing wildlife networks; ▪ While current regulatory protections exist, a number of wetlands have been altered, compromised or removed; ▪ Scarce, wetlands cover only 6.8% of Bainbridge Island; ▪ A high percent (39.7%) has “Some level of Protection” other than regulatory protections; ▪ Moderate percent (17.1%) remains “Undeveloped & Unprotected”; ▪ There is very limited information available regarding ecosystem health; additional ecosystem evaluations are necessary to understand ecosystem conditions; Baseline regulatory protections exist to protect basic wetland and riparian functions; however, there is some uncertainty | <p>Second</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------|
| | <p>about the level of baseline protections provided by water quality and water quantity regulations at a cumulative watershed scale and the effect that may have on wetland habitats and ecosystem processes;</p> | |
| | <p>PROPERTIES WITH FORESTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly abundant, forests cover 70.1% of Bainbridge Island; ▪ Large percent (20.2%) and acreage (2,466 acres) has “Some level of Protection”; ▪ Large percent (22.3%) and acreage (2,716 acres) remains “Undeveloped & Unprotected”; ▪ Limited baseline regulatory protections exist; ▪ We are unaware of any ecosystem health analysis; ▪ An adequate amount of forest habitat will have “Some Level of Protection” if future priority actions are taken to complete wildlife networks, which will protect a moderate amount of additional forest habitat; however, further ecosystem analysis is recommended to confirm the suitability of the size and shape of the existing large habitat blocks within wildlife networks; ▪ Forest habitat will be an important supporting factor in selecting priority geographical areas and preparing project plans, especially for completing wildlife networks. | <p>Third</p> |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| <p>Shorelines</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because we are an Island, surrounded by the waters of Puget Sound, our shorelines and associated uplands is a habitat system that defines the geographical area we serve; ▪ Shorelines are dynamic habitat systems that contain highly valuable critical habitats, including tidelands, estuaries, lagoons, nearshore, marine riparian and adjoining upland areas, important to a high diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species; ▪ Shorelines are scarce, with shorelands covering only 6.8% of Bainbridge Island; ▪ Small percent (8.7%) of shorelands remain “Undeveloped & Unprotected”; ▪ Moderate percent (14.1%) of shorelands have “Some Level of Protection”; ▪ Baseline regulatory protections are currently being revised; however, most shoreline properties were developed under regulatory programs that provided limited or no protection for many shoreline and riparian functions; ▪ 8 threatened and endangered species and 1 species of concern are associated with the shorelines of Bainbridge Island; ▪ Comprehensive ecosystem analyses (Williams, et al. 2003) indicate that the shoreline is moderately impacted and at risk of not being able to maintain properly functioning conditions; | <p>Primary</p> |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|

| | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| | <p>this analysis can be used to identify priority geographical areas as well as model the ecological benefits from undertaking restoration actions and the ecological impacts from development on a landscape-basis;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BILT currently holds eight conservation easements on privately owned lands protecting over 6,600 linear feet of shoreline and has helped purchase and permanently conserve five public parcels that protect an additional 9,900 linear feet of shoreline. Continued work on this resource type builds upon past endeavors and successes of BILT; ▪ BILT has already completed a detailed shoreline conservation prioritization analysis, which can be used to identify important properties or shoreline reaches for protection within a geographical priority area; ▪ Without some additional conservation actions and a large number of restoration actions, there may be a moderate-to-high risk that large portions of the shoreline ecosystem could become significantly impacted and unable to maintain properly functioning conditions at a landscape-scale; ▪ Over the past couple of years, BILT has worked on shoreline restoration activities on a shoreline conservation easement, expanding its knowledge and involvement in this type of activity; ▪ Public access to our shorelines is limited and protection actions can also lead to opportunities for access and education about this valuable ecosystem; ▪ Shoreline habitat will be a primary factor in selecting priority geographical areas and preparing project plans, including wildlife networks since a significant percent of terrestrial species have important associations with shoreline habitats. | |
| <p>Recreation (Passive Open Space, Trails, Public Shoreline Access)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20% of Bainbridge Island acres have some level of protection and these acres include parks (active and passive), trails and open space; ▪ BILT has assisted in significant passive open space acquisitions by teaming up with numerous island entities; ▪ Future parkland and open space additions that focus on adding to existing properties to expand preservation and recreation provide leverage to past efforts; ▪ Trail corridors can provide access to open space and connect neighborhoods and parks. Careful development of trail corridors also can help retain conservation values. When appropriate, park and open space expansion can overlap with wildlife network systems; ▪ Evaluation and assessment of existing trail and shoreline access network needed and is identified in the previous section. A number of community groups exist that work on | <p>Secondary</p> |

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| | trails, providing momentum for further development of trail connections including the Sound to Olympics Greenway trail. | |
| Agricultural Lands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural soils cover 90.3% of Bainbridge Island; ▪ Moderate percent (17.4%), but high acreage (2,740 acres) has “Some level of Protection”, with some of that protection being over forested lands, ▪ Moderate percent (17.8%), but high acreage (2,798 acres) remains “Undeveloped & Unprotected”; ▪ No baseline regulatory protections exist; ▪ Ecosystem health is not relevant; ▪ BILT is in the initial stages of developing a framework for agricultural easements that may help guide future expansion of this tool for protection of working landscapes. ▪ Opportunities exist with partnering organizations to identify priority properties for agricultural land protection. Further analysis will be necessary to identify the best agricultural lands to protect; ▪ Many agricultural soils exist in areas with forest resources and other habitat types. Conservation of some areas for active agricultural use may result in the conversion of habitat to agricultural use. This shift in land use requires careful consideration; | Support Partner-Led Projects |
| Scenic Vistas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No information was available for this resource to evaluate; ▪ Lacking an inventory, this resource cannot be used as a supporting factor to select priority geographical areas; ▪ Scenic vistas might be identified during the process of preparing project plans and could then be used as a factor in final property selections. | Tertiary |

Next Steps and Implementation

Due to time, resource, and data limitations, our Conservation Plan is being developed through the phased process outlined below. The following list summarizes actions and activities that are necessary to implement the plan:

| <i>Phase</i> | <i>Complete By</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | Q4 2011 Q1 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify general priority areas through basic trend and risk analysis ▪ Internal review of first iteration of preliminary draft plan ▪ Share the preliminary draft plan with our membership, stakeholders, and community and solicit their input. ▪ Revise plan, in response to comments received. ▪ BILT Board adoption March 2012 ▪ Submit to Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office |

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Q 2 – Q 4 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Begin using the plan to guide the selection of projects – update project check list to reflect priority areas. ▪ The plan will be used by the BILT board, staff and volunteers as guidance for defining (and reviewing the performance of) the operations of BILT, including annual budgets, committee and administrative work plans, ▪ The plan is a communications tool, intended to share the BILT conservation vision with: BILT members, the community, partnering organizations and agencies, and funders ▪ Begin identifying Wildlife (Habitat) Networks and Shoreline Systems through initial discussions with stakeholders. ▪ |
| 3 | 2013 (or sooner if resources allow) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify – within the priority areas of Wildlife (Habitat) Networks and Shorelines, specific priority geographical areas for focused work through detailed landscape-based analysis and consultations with stakeholders/partners ▪ Use the identification of priority areas to aid in updates to COBI’s Comprehensive Plan (2013 start date, 2016 adoption date) ▪ Develop a ranked list of geographical priority areas with technical appendices detailing each priority area ▪ Begin examining additional funding mechanisms for pursuing conservation priorities (such as levy, bond, Legacy gifts, etc.). Continue as needed. See Appendix __ for proposed investment plan to implement conservation priorities. |
| 4 | As needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare project plans for each geographical priority area |
| 5 | 2014/2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scheduled 5-year GIS analysis update; ▪ Begin update the 5-year BILT strategic plan (2015 – 2019) consistent with Conservation Plan |
| 6 | 2019/2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scheduled 5-year GIS analysis update; ▪ Scheduled 10-year review of Conservation Plan, update as necessary – evaluate successes and need for modifications, restoration component of plan will likely increase in emphasis ▪ Scheduled update of BILT 5-year Strategic Plan (2019-2024) |
| 7 | Ongoing | <p>Stewardship actions necessary to achieve desired performance of resource lands, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring; ▪ Restoration; ▪ Enhancement; ▪ Maintenance |

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

This Conservation Plan may be reviewed and updated as necessary, but should be reviewed and updated if one of the following events occurs:

- Land use trends change significantly from the projections contained in this plan
- Land use policies/regulations change significantly from those in place at the time of this plan
- Unanticipated and significant risks threaten a high priority area, *such as a major Planned Unit Development (e.g. 1990's Port Blakely Mill Company proposal at Blakely Harbor)*
- New species determined to be threatened or endangered on Bainbridge Island

As part of future phases of plan development, BILT will consider convening one or more task force of local and regional experts and stakeholders who could help to evaluate:

- Action priorities for shoreline protection and restoration activities;
- Suitability of existing large habitat blocks and connecting wildlife networks to sustain populations of indicator species;
- The need to modify or improve existing large habitat blocks and connecting wildlife corridors in order to achieve adequate size, shape, or habitat composition;
- The feasibility of creating wildlife networks suitable to support movement between large habitat blocks.

The result of this process could include the adoption of geographical priority areas. These priority areas could then form the basis for preparing project plans for each of the geographical priority areas with applicable partners.

Conservation Tools

A number of conservation tools are necessary to implement a successful conservation plan within a given period of time. Below are the tools actively used today and the identification of tools that could be pursued in the future to assist with conservation efforts.

| Tool | How The Tool Can Be Applied |
|--|--|
| Conservation easements, including resource lands, agricultural lands, and trails | Primary tool for permanent protection. Includes both donated and purchased easements. To date, BILT has not purchased a conservation easement. |
| Acquisition | Use where significant threat of conversion to high priority ranked property exists and where conservation easements are not a viable option. |
| Land Swaps/ Land Sales | Trading/Selling/Swapping a non-conservation property or partner property for a priority conservation property. |
| Mitigation | Land can be protected as part of a mitigation need. |
| Development of a Revolving Fund | Through BILT's Legacy Program, develop a fund available for strategic property purchases, including acquisitions for the purpose of resale with conservation easement protections added. |
| Current use tax assessment | Low cost tool for medium-to-high priority ranked properties. Typically not permanent (see Leadership section) |
| Restoration | In a highly developed landscape like BI, restoration could be an important tool to achieve long-term goals and vision |
| Leadership on public policy that supports conservation projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) ▪ Public Support of Open Space Purchases (such as bond, excise tax on property sales, levy lid lifts) ▪ Updates to land protection regulations: Comprehensive Plan/SMP, Zoning, Critical Areas, Shorelines ▪ Capital projects (COBI, WSDOT, Utilities) ▪ Stormwater utility ▪ Current use tax assessment program |

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Could be improved for more urban use, joint/adjacent designations for small parcels, shoreline riparian areas |
| Leveraging | Area partners and their endeavors can be linked with the endeavors of BILT |

Potential Partners

Growing and maintaining partnerships with a number of organizations and entities have led to many past successes of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, and partnerships will continue to be important as we work to achieve our strategic conservation goals. Our partners provide support in a number of important ways, including fundraising, strategic support, scientific expertise and/or technical support in specific natural resource focus areas. Others provide education and outreach capacity and support.

| Partnering Organization Entity | Partnering Area |
|---|--|
| Local | |
| Friends of the Farm | <i>Farm preservation and agricultural land management</i> |
| Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District | <i>Recreational lands and trails, including acquisitions.</i> |
| City of Bainbridge Island | <i>Connecting resource protection with public policy, such as shoreline protection and restoration</i> <i>Non-motorized Transportation Advisory Committee</i> <i>Past supporter (and financial leader) for open space bond initiatives</i> <i>Fee owner of agricultural lands acquired through Open Space Bond.</i> |
| Suquamish Tribe | <i>Scientific and technical expertise in fisheries, timber, wildlife and cultural resources</i> <i>Past financial supporter of some acquisition projects</i> |
| Bainbridge Island Watershed Council | <i>Watershed planning</i> |
| West Sound Watersheds Council (Salmon Recovery Lead Entity for WRIA 15) | <i>Connecting resource protection with public policy and funding</i> |
| Association of Bainbridge Communities | <i>Public advocacy</i> |
| Bainbridge Island Weed Warriors | <i>Public involvement in improving natural landscapes</i> |

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

| | |
|--|--|
| IslandWood | <i>Environmental education (primary and adult) and technical/scientific expertise</i> |
| West Sound Wildlife Shelter | <i>Species abundance and diversity and linkages with wildlife resources</i> |
| Bloedel Reserve | <i>Open space preservation and community outreach/education</i> |
| Puget Sound Restoration Fund | <i>Community involvement in shellfish issues, commercial shellfish interests</i> |
| Natural Landscapes Project | <i>Local backyardwildlife habitat development</i> |
| COBI Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee | <i>Networking with local, regional and state non-motorized endeavors to connect existing trails/recreation lands with future endeavors (water and land trails)</i> |
| Sustainable Bainbridge | <i>Community outreach and partnership development in local ag, energy, etc.</i> |
| Kitsap – Puget Sound Region | |
| Washington Sea Grant | <i>Science technical assistance, citizen science</i> |
| WSU Beach Watchers | <i>Citizen Science</i> |
| Trust for Public Lands | <i>Real Estate technical expertise, regional scale priorities</i> |
| Kitsap County | <i>Kitsap County Noxious Weed Board North Kitsap String of Pearls Plan – water and land trail.</i> |
| Kitsap County Conservation District | <i>Technical Assistance, farm planning</i> |
| North Kitsap Trails Association | <i>Advocacy and planning for regional land and water trail system</i> |
| Puget Sound Partnership | <i>Regional policy guidance, financial</i> |
| Kitsap Audubon Society | <i>Technical expertise, citizen science</i> |
| People for Puget Sound | <i>Technical expertise, partnership leveraging in Puget Sound</i> |

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

| | |
|---|--|
| Sound to Olympics Greenway Trail | <i>Regional non-motorized plan that involves BI</i> |
| Washington Water Trails | <i>Regional water trail development and community outreach</i> |
| State | |
| Washington State Department of Transportation | <i>Highway 305 is a scenic highway</i> |
| Washington Department of Natural Resources | <i>Tidelands, water of the state jurisdiction, regulatory</i> |
| Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | Technical assistance, science, regulatory |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Technical assistance, watershed health, funding, regulatory |
| Washington Recreation and Conservation Office | Technical assistance, public involvement, funding |

Acknowledgements

Principal Researchers and Contributors

Peter Namtvedt Best – PNB Consulting (Bainbridge Island, WA)

Brenda Padgham - Stewardship Director, Bainbridge Island Land Trust

Additional Contributors

Tom Backer – BILT Board President

Tom Goodlin – BILT Board Vice President

David Harrison – BILT Board Secretary

Maryann Kirkby – BILT Board Member, Projects Committee Chair

Recommended Citation

Bainbridge Island Land Trust, March 2012. Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan.
Bainbridge Island, WA.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust

Physical Address: 221 West Winslow Way West, Suite 103, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10144, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Phone: (206) 842-1216

Website: www.bi-landtrust.org

BILT is a 501(c)(3) Washington state private, nonprofit corporation. It is a qualified conservation organization under IRS Code Section 170(h).

As a member of the national [Land Trust Alliance \(LTA\)](#), BILT has adopted the LTA's Standards and Practices which guide land trusts to operate ethically and legally.

Currently, the Land Trust has close to 850 members.

Acknowledgments:

At their annual planning meeting in November 2010, the board of Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT) agreed, despite a level of organizational success over the past two decades, to embark on the development of a conservation plan that would help provide strategic focus for the organization's future work and deployment of resources. This document is a result of that effort.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

Specific acknowledgment and thanks to Maryann Kirkby, Chair of the BILT Projects Committee, and Asha Rehnberg, Executive Director of BILT, for their commitment to this project. Their heartfelt understanding and knowledge of ecological processes and how protecting these processes is a benefit to not only wildlife but also to the people of Bainbridge Island is reflected in the pages of this document.

The staffs at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, Steve Morse and Gretchen Robinson at City of Bainbridge Island, Friends of the Farm, Suquamish Tribe, Kitsap County Conservation District, and more, have been, and will continue to be helpful as geographical priority areas and project plans are established in future phases of this plan.

Also, thanks goes to Karl Johansen who, back in 2007, introduced BILT to the concept of using GIS technology and maps for providing data helpful in recognizing where natural resource protection opportunities exist. It took a few years for the organization to digest this idea but Peter Namtvedt Best took that foundation of information many steps further with his understanding of the data, expertise in GIS analysis and planning, and his personal interest in protecting the Island's last great places. His analysis, contained in this report, was produced to help guide BILT as it considers the issues raised by this draft Plan.

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

| | |
|------------|--|
| BILT | Bainbridge Island Land Trust |
| Conversion | The development of land from a relatively natural condition to a built condition that significantly or completely eliminates the natural or community resources. |
| GIS | Geographical Information System, which is cartographic (map) and spatial analysis computer software. BILT used the ArcGIS Desktop software made by ESRI, Inc. |
| Shorelands | For this analysis, shorelands are the area parallel to the shoreline extending 200 feet landward from the ordinary high water mark. Shorelands do not include tidelands or bedlands. |

Some Level of Protection: The level of protection ranges in nature from permanent (e.g. conservation easement) to less-than-permanent (e.g. unrestricted park land, current use (open space) tax status, perhaps a subdivision's open space tract). A detailed parcel-specific review is necessary to determine the exact nature and durability of the protections affecting each property. This category includes all park lands and private reserves (i.e. IslandWood, Bloedel) and properties that have some development if they also have some type of protection in place (e.g. open space farm land, parks with recreation facilities). This category does not include properties affected by regulatory protections (e.g. critical areas & buffers).

Some level of Development: The level of development ranges from very low density to commercial/industrial.

Undeveloped and Unprotected: Includes many land use types including active farms and forest lands without some type of protection in place. Because some of these lands are working resource lands, some of these properties may include a limited level of development such as a small residence or barn/shed.

References

Action Agenda, Puget Sound Partnership, 2000

Community Forest Management Plan, City of Bainbridge Island, 2000

Bainbridge Island Land Trust. 2008. Shoreline Parcel Analysis and Priority Action Areas

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District. March 12, 2009. Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan (2008-2014).

City of Bainbridge Island. December 2000. Bainbridge Island Wildlife Corridor Network Study

City of Bainbridge Island. May 2007. Mayor's 2025 Growth Advisory Committee. Final Report.

City of Bainbridge Island. October 2008. Bainbridge Island Open Space Study.

City of Bainbridge Island. 2011. Draft Shoreline Master Plan Update restoration and conservation plan.

Haring, D. 2000. Salmonid habitat limiting factors: Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 15 (East) Final Report. Washington State Conservation Commission: Olympia, Washington.

Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group. 2008?. Bainbridge Island Fish Passage Study.

Public Open Space Feasibility Study, Trust for Public Lands. 2007

West Sound Watersheds Council (East Kitsap) Strategy Summary salmon recovery strategy, Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan

Williams, G.D, R.M. Thom, and N.R. Evans. 2004. Bainbridge Island Nearshore Habitat Characterization and Assessment, Management Strategy Prioritization, and Monitoring Recommendations. PNWD-3391. Prepared for the City of Bainbridge Island: Bainbridge Island, WA; by Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory: Sequim, WA.

GIS Data:

- Bainbridge Island Land Trust
- City of Bainbridge Island
- Kitsap Conservation District
- Kitsap County

Appendix A: Maps

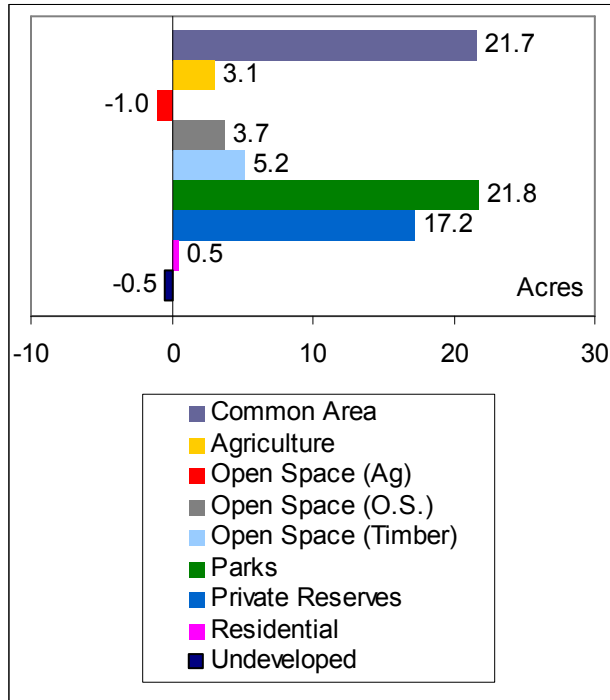
Map Index

- Map 1: Aerial Photo
- Map 2: Island-wide Property Status Change
- Map 3: Property with Some Level of Protection
- Map 5: Wildlife Corridors Inventory
- Map 6: Wildlife Corridors Property Status Change
- Map 7: Shorelands Property Status Change
- Map 8: Shoreline Ecosystem Status
- Map 9: Forest Inventory
- Map 10: Forest Property Status Change
- Map 11: Agricultural Soils Inventory
- Map 12: Agricultural Soils Property Status Change
- Map 13: Stream Inventory
- Map 14: Fish Passage Barriers
- Map 15: Stream & Buffer Property Status Change
- Map 16: Wetlands Inventory
- Map 17: Wetlands Property Status Change

Appendix B: Supplemental Figures & Tables

This appendix includes supplemental figures and tables that might be of interest to some readers, but were not essential in the main body of the Plan.

Figure 5: Annualized Change in Properties with Some Level of Protection (1996-2010)



Notes: Average annual change in acres over the 14.76 years studied.

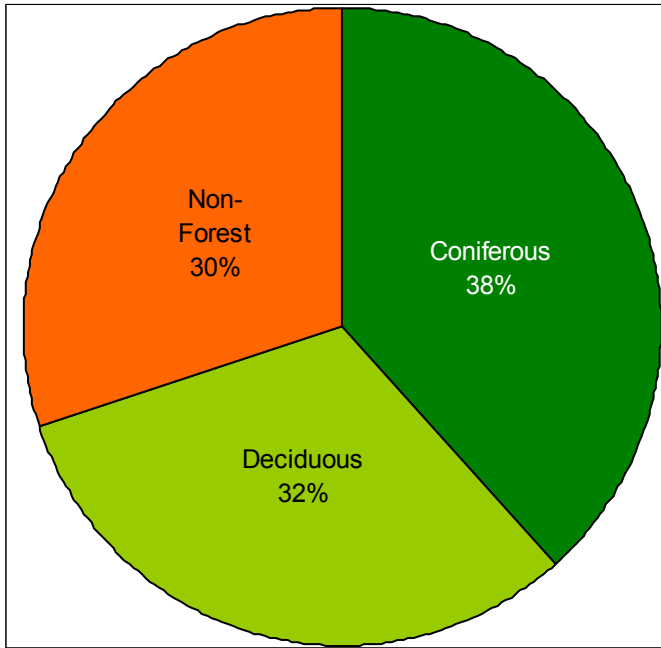
Table 4: Parcel Size Distribution by Category (April 2010)

| Size Class (Acres) | Some Level of Protection | | | | | Some Level of Development | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| | Parcels | | Acres | | % Island- Wide Acres | Parcels | | Acres | | % Island- Wide Acres |
| | # | % | # | % | | # | % | # | % | |
| <= 1 | 152 | 34.0% | 57 | 1.8% | 0.3% | 5,704 | 66.2% | 2,698 | 27.4% | 15.5% |
| 1 < x <= 2 | 45 | 10.1% | 66 | 2.1% | 0.4% | 1,609 | 18.7% | 2,119 | 21.5% | 12.2% |
| 2 < x <= 5 | 134 | 30.0% | 437 | 13.7% | 2.5% | 1,104 | 12.8% | 3,231 | 32.8% | 18.6% |
| 5 < x <= 10 | 65 | 14.5% | 466 | 14.6% | 2.7% | 163 | 1.9% | 1,078 | 10.9% | 6.2% |
| 10 < x <= 25 | 34 | 7.6% | 542 | 17.0% | 3.1% | 29 | 0.3% | 377 | 3.8% | 2.2% |
| 25 < x <= 50 | 8 | 1.8% | 324 | 10.2% | 1.9% | 4 | 0.05% | 156 | 1.6% | 0.9% |
| 50 < x <= 100 | 4 | 0.9% | 304 | 9.5% | 1.7% | 3 | 0.03% | 193 | 2.0% | 1.1% |
| > 100 | 5 | 1.1% | 990 | 31.1% | 5.7% | - | 0% | - | 0% | 0% |
| Total | 447 | 100% | 3,186 | 100% | 18.3% | 8,616 | 100% | 9,852 | 100% | 56.6% |

| Size Class (Acres) | Undeveloped & Unprotected | | | | | Total | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| | Parcels | | Acres | | % Island- Wide Acres | Parcels | | Acres | | % Island- Wide Acres |
| | # | % | # | % | | # | % | # | % | |
| <= 1 | 974 | 57.6% | 443 | 14.0% | 2.5% | 6,830 | 63.5% | 3,198 | 19.7% | 18.4% |
| 1 < x <= 2 | 292 | 17.3% | 379 | 11.9% | 2.2% | 1,946 | 18.1% | 2,564 | 15.8% | 14.7% |
| 2 < x <= 5 | 311 | 18.4% | 949 | 29.9% | 5.5% | 1,549 | 14.4% | 4,618 | 28.5% | 26.5% |
| 5 < x <= 10 | 72 | 4.3% | 498 | 15.7% | 2.9% | 300 | 2.8% | 2,041 | 12.6% | 11.7% |
| 10 < x <= 25 | 34 | 2.0% | 517 | 16.3% | 3.0% | 97 | 0.9% | 1,435 | 8.9% | 8.3% |
| 25 < x <= 50 | 4 | 0.2% | 147 | 4.6% | 0.8% | 16 | 0.1% | 627 | 3.9% | 3.6% |
| 50 < x <= 100 | 2 | 0.1% | 116 | 3.6% | 0.7% | 9 | 0.1% | 613 | 3.8% | 3.5% |
| > 100 | 1 | 0.1% | 127 | 4.0% | 0.7% | 6 | 0.1% | 1,117 | 6.9% | 6.4% |
| Total | 1,690 | 100% | 3,176 | 100% | 18.3% | 10,753 | 100% | 16,214 | 100% | 93.2% |

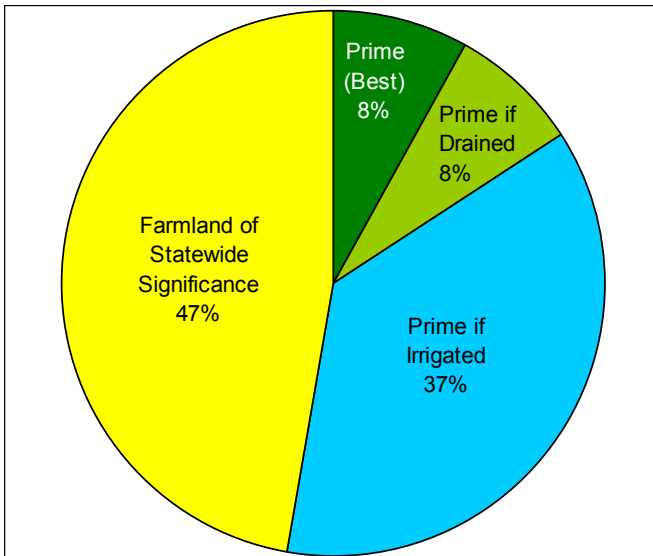
Notes: Does not include rights-of-way or tidelands, except that the basis for Island-wide acres (17,394 acres) includes all parcels & rights-of-way. "Total" does not equal 100% of Island-wide acres because of rights-of-way and parcels categorized with an "N/A or Unknown" status.

Figure 6: Island-Wide Forest Cover (1999)



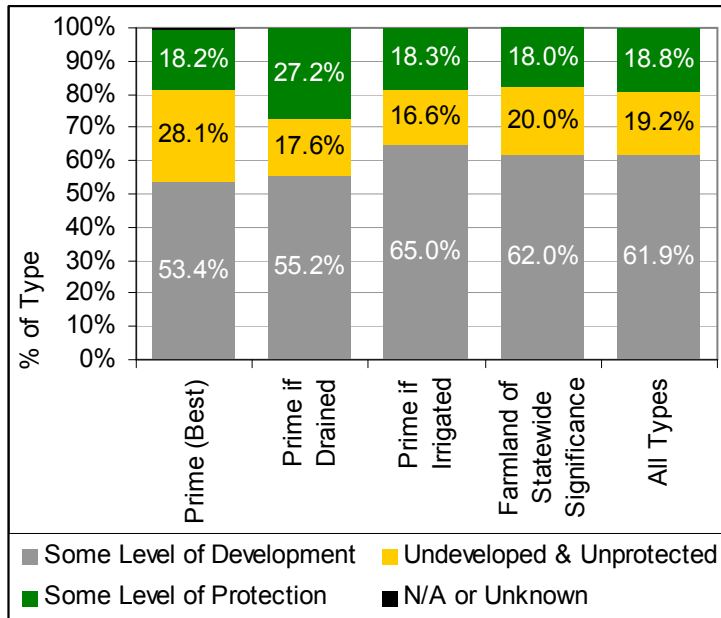
Note: Includes rights-of-way. Excludes tidelands.

Figure 7: Agricultural Soil Types



Note: Does not include rights-of-way or tidelands.

Figure 8: Agricultural Soil Status by Type (Apr 2010)



Note: Does not include rights-of-way or tidelands

Table 5: Agricultural Soil Status by Type (Apr 2010)

| Status | Prime (Best) | Prime if Drained | Prime if Irrigated | Farmland of Statewide Significance | All Types |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Some Level of Development | 634.10 | 614.38 | 3,501.80 | 4,271.79 | 9,022.07 |
| Undeveloped & Unprotected | 333.34 | 195.27 | 895.75 | 1,374.11 | 2,798.46 |
| Some Level of Protection | 215.73 | 302.82 | 983.04 | 1,237.95 | 2,739.54 |
| N/A or Unknown | 3.97 | 0.03 | 4.15 | 3.44 | 11.60 |
| Total | 1,187.14 | 1,112.49 | 5,384.75 | 6,887.28 | 14,571.67 |

Note: Does not include rights-of-way or tidelands

Appendix C: BILT Capital Investment 2012-2021

The BILT Conservation Plan underscores with clarity that the significant investment by BILT and its multiple partners must continue to grow, and that the next ten years will have huge importance in the conservation and stewardship of Bainbridge Island. As the plan outlines, additional capital investments will be built upon an enviable record of Islanders preserving critical properties and securing very large sums from individual donors, foundations and governmental agencies to make that possible. The Grand Forest, Gazzam, Blakely Harbor and Pritchard Parks are all Island jewels, and none was on the map twenty-three years ago.

Acquisitions and capital-intensive restoration projects continue to be necessary, and as important parcels continue to be at risk of development, time is of the essence.

In a number of instances in the past, the efforts of BILT have leveraged considerable Island taxpayer and governmental investment. An \$8 million open space bond passed in 2000 is a prime example, as are bond issues that covered parts of the purchase price of both the Grand Forest and Gazzam Lake and continued acquisition efforts by the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreational District. BILT can't predict the specific date when the next large taxpayer or governmental investment will emerge, but efforts to keep Islanders fully committed to BILT's land preservation and stewardship objectives will be a part of securing necessary financial resources needed to implement this plan.

Thus, leverage will continue to be a key part of BILT's capital approach. The record over the past ten years reveals that both BILT and various public sources have raised an average of \$2 million per year to cover major acquisitions, with the share of that average raised by BILT being about \$1 million per year. The record on restoration has also grown, with the recent nearly \$500,000 effort to restore 1,500 feet of currently armored shoreline on the Powel conservation easement property. We project over time that restoration efforts will increase as acquisition opportunities decrease, thus capital investment in these activities is projected to increase.

Informed by these past efforts, it is appropriate to project that BILT will be able to secure an additional \$3.1 million in the years 2012-2014, and \$3.5 million in 2015-2017 and \$5.2 million in the years 2018-2021. In fact, the near completion of the Hilltop acquisition, the completion of the campaign to add to the Gazzam Lake properties (\$810,000), and the strong interest in a currently available prime shoreline parcel (which would cost approximately \$1 million) all demonstrate that BILT is unflinching in advancing its conservation goals.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

Bainbridge Island - BILT Land Protection & Restoration Projects Resource Investments
10 YEAR PROJECTIONS (2012-2021)

| Period | Approx BILT Share of Acq Cost (including grants secured by BILT and sales to other entities) | Acquisitions | Approx BILT Share of Restoration Cost (including grants secured by BILT and sales to other entities) | Restoration* | Cons Esmts** (includes amt of Stwdshp Fund contrib) |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|---|
| Estimated Average Per year 2012-2014 | 900,000 | 1,800,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 30,000 |
| Estimated Average Per year 2015-2017 | 1,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 | 40,000 |
| Estimated Average Per year 2018-2021 | 1,100,000 | 2,200,000 | 150,000 | 150,000 | 50,000 |
| Estimated 10-year TOTAL | 10,100,000 | 20,200,000 | 1,260,000 | 1,260,000 | 410,000 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 10-year PROJECTION TOTALS: | |
| AVG PER YEAR TOTAL | 2,187,000 |
| 10-year TOTAL | 21,870,000 |
| BILT-Only 1 AVG PER YEAR TOTAL | 1,177,000 |
| BILT-Only 10-year TOTAL | 11,770,000 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 10-year HISTORY: | |
| AVG PER YEAR TOTAL | 2,034,255 |
| 10-year TOTAL | 20,342,550 |
| BILT-Only AVG PER YEAR TOTAL | 945,455 |
| BILT-Only 10-year TOTAL | 9,454,550 |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>*Restoration - The history contains only one restoration project (design + implementation) over four years for a total cost of \$470K, or a 4-year avg of \$117.5K/year.</p> | <p>**Cons Esmts - The history contains many esmts w/very low stwdshp fund contributions. Going forward those contributions will be more like \$5-20K per esmt. These numbers do not include actual appraised value of cons esmts, which would likely increase figures cited by between two- and ten-fold.</p> |
|---|---|

The securing by BILT of nearly \$12 million to cover the costs of acquisition, major restoration projects and conservation easements during a ten year period could leverage similar amounts in local public and taxpayer investment. This projected total of another \$10 million would provide a huge down payment toward the advancement of this conservation plan.

In addition to the past record of success in securing individual donations and governmental grants, there are additional reasons to expect this high performance.

- BILT has been the recipient of major gifts from several major donors and family foundations on an ongoing basis. These donors have supported each of the last several acquisition efforts and remain in close contact with board members and staff.
- Income levels of Islanders remain high, and the recent increases in the stock market have created a positive giving outlook.
- The number of major donors and supportive foundations has continued to grow.
- As our Legacy Program matures, resources may come available to help implement this plan.

Appendix D: Public & Stakeholder Comments Received During Plan Development

The preparation, adoption and implementation of a Conservation Plan are major steps in the history of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. From the beginning, the organization recognized that gaining broad, intensive public participation would be an important element in creating a workable and impactful plan. That general commitment to public process was felt even more keenly because of two key elements of the BILT program:

- Several of BILT's land acquisition efforts in the past decade have marshaled very high levels of public support. The Island's "One Call for All" fundraising campaign always results in BILT being one of the top organizations on the Island receiving the support of individual Islanders. In regard to the major acquisition campaigns, BILT is dealing with a very active and informed public. These citizens make it a point to be informed and rightly expect to have their thoughts reflected in the course of action BILT takes.
- BILT has enjoyed excellent partnerships with agencies and non-profit organizations which, if anything, must continue to grow if the Conservation Plan is to be properly implemented. Making certain those partners understood and contributed to the plan has been key to maintaining and strengthening those partnerships.

Consequently, from the fall of 2011 to the adoption of the Conservation Plan on March 27, 2012, BILT has devoted considerable effort to securing a high level of citizen review of the Plan and its priorities.

BILT made certain that its own Board members were fully informed and willing and able to review the plan's analysis and priorities with their fellow Islanders. The initial draft of the plan was the focus of the Board's strategic planning retreat in October of 2011. At that retreat, the board underscored several steps that should be taken to make sure robust comment would be received from the public and incorporated into the plan. The Board also scheduled a briefing and feedback session regarding the plan to be held at the February, 2012 BILT annual membership meeting.

To make certain that a wide variety of inputs was generated, the BILT staff designed and promoted a Conservation Plan survey using Survey Monkey. 138 responses were received, tabulated and reported to the board/staff working group which was responsible for creating the plan's final draft. (see attached Survey Monkey results as part of this Appendix D). The results underscored citizen preferences that BILT be both multi-dimensional and analytically sophisticated in its review of parcels for easements or acquisition.

BILT also hosted a half day focus group seeking detailed responses and Conservation Plan recommendations from 21 organizations and agencies. (see attached Stakeholder Group meeting Agenda and Notes). This meeting was co-facilitated by a BILT board member and staff member, and was hugely successful in eliciting thoughtful and pointed responses from

participants. For instance, a number of agencies or organization advanced additional parcel review strategies to augment those included in the draft plan.

To make certain that the best possible advantage could be gained from the Survey Monkey results, the focus group session and other input, a staff/board task force, including volunteer planner Peter Namtvedt Best, reviewed all comments and recommendations in a half day meeting on March 15, 2012 and adjusted the draft plan significantly in such areas as conservation values to be emphasized in securing wildlife corridors. The final Conservation Plan was presented to the BILT Board on March 27, 2012 and was adopted for implementation (see Resolution 2012-8).

**Bainbridge Island Land Trust
Strategic Conservation Plan Stakeholder Meeting
March 9, 2012**

Agenda

- Introductions - 10 minutes
- Goals for the Meeting - 5 minutes
- Brief Overview of BILT Planning Effort to Date and Proposed Next Steps - 10 minutes
- Agency and Organization Input - 2 hours
- Take Home Messages, Next Steps, Wrap Up - 30 minutes

Questions to help guide Agency and Organization Input:

1) What is the primary key message your agency would want to express to the BILT board about priority conservation actions it should consider taking on Bainbridge Island (also taking into account Kitsap County and Puget Sound natural resource issues)?

2) What are the natural resource trends your agency has observed taking place (positive and negative) and what type of work (on the ground (restoration/acquisition), planning, sharing of natural resource data, etc.) do believe is needed or where are gaps?

3) What natural resource data does your agency hold or collect that we should be aware of to help guide us in our conservation/education actions?

4) What are current activities/actions your agency or organization is involved with that tie in with helping identify priority conservation protection, restoration actions, or that help provide public access to important open space areas?

5) Please help BILT understand/clarity where you believe partnership opportunities exist with your agency/organization.

6) What is your opinion on the methodology being used (in the draft BILT Conservation Plan) to help identify priority conservation actions?

Questions? Contact Brenda Padghar, Stewardship Director, Bainbridge Island Land Trust - 206.839.2666 brenda@bi-landtrust.org

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan Stakeholder Meeting NOTES

March 9, 2012, Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island

Agency/Organization Attendance:

Dhira Brown, People for Puget Sound

Deb Rudnick, Bainbridge Watershed Council

Steve Morse, City of Bainbridge Island

Don Willott, North Kitsap Trail Association, Kitsap Audubon,

Perry Barrett, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District

Mike Mejia, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District

Ed Moydell, Bloedel Reserve

Stan Rullman, IslanWood

Wendy Tyner, Friends of the Farm

Bobbie Morgan, Friends of the Farm

Dana Coggon, Kitsap Noxious Weeds

Betsy Lyons, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

BILT: Asha Rehnberg (Executive Director), Brenda Padgham (Stewardship Director), David Harrison (BILT Board Member), Maryann Kirkby (BILT Board Member/Projects Chair), Peter Namtvedt Best (BILT Volunteer Consultant), Lauren Cuyendall (BILT volunteer/note taker) Agency introductions and priorities:

Don (North Kitsap Trails Assoc):

- General mission to preserve natural landscape while accommodating growth.
- Sound to Olympics Trail
- Priority for View sheds. 305 is a scenic byway. Let's keep a scenic appearances (ex. 305 which is Scenic byway.) – preserve the look and feel of BI. 175 foot ROW on 305 – might allow for funding
- Pope land turned into trails into open space and trails near Hansville. We are part of the mountains the sound greenway, etc.

Perry (BIMPRD):

- They are mid-way in their 6 year comprehensive plan.
- Interested in talking about habitat oriented interface with land trust.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

Ex. Gazzam Property (primarily wildlife).

- Shoreline is very important and access to the shoreline.
- Future challenges: Parcels, habitat features— esp. shoreline.

What are Public preferences? Access? 80% developed. Providing for non owners.

-Trails public vision. Developing cross Island trail.

Wendy (Friends of the Farm):

- Developing European style trails on Island farms.
- Trails on farmland
- Interested in increased farm production
- Value open space, one use of which is farmland. Increase and preserve farmland on Island.
- Consider farm lands as an option – “It won’t be #1 on your list but if it is farmable . . .”
- In Land Trust Plan, development make Farmland an option.

For historic pieces of land-- is it still farmable?

For new pieces-- Could it be farmable?

Bobbie (Friends of the farm):

-Remember the Farmscape. Functional but also beautiful.

Dana (Noxious Weed Control):

-Create management plans to control/remove invasive species

Kol (West Sound Wildlife):

-Focus on large blocks of land (#1 priority) and wildlife corridors (#2 priority).

-Concern of habitat fragmentation. Work to defragment habitat which includes different varieties of ecosystems.

Dhira Brown (People for Puget Sound):

- Prioritizing shoreline as #1.
- Restoration emphasis

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

-Would like to see a more in depth analysis of Island about where water is absorbed, and a focus protecting those areas. Wetlands naturally. Clean water. Runoff is a issue Puget Sound wide. look other places. Pick out sections for restoration and concentrated opportunities.

-Ecosystem function approach. Look upland of shoreline. "get whole package" not single out a single ecosystem.

- Piece together little parcels now before opportunities are gone or rare (i.e. Duwamish).
- Protect wildlife corridors
- People for Puget Sound could possibly help with restoration and monitoring funds.

Ed Moydell (Bloedel Reserve):

- Develop own ecosystem and our land management plan. Interface and Sync with Land Trust.

-Figure out right messages for outreach and communicate messages with the public. What are possibilities of overlap? Bloedel could be a place for public to learn this message

- 40,000 visitors per year, 150 acres, ¼ is protected forests.

Steve (COBI):

- City's primary role is through regulation
- We have an obligation to accept growth. Where should it occur?
- BI is in a slack period of growth right now (30 permits last year, 240 annual is what was "typical").
- Zoning hasn't changed since 1984, should it?
- Next City Comprehensive Plan Update will start in 2013 and is due to be completed in 2016. BILT plan can be useful to update
- Look at Kitsap County Alternative future model and data
- Look at population projections

Deb (Watershed council):

- Look at shorelines, rivers and buffers in a connected whole. Watershed approach to conservation.

- Conversation techniques integrate our entire understanding. Streams are complimentary to wildlife corridors.

- Stream to shoreline focus.

-What is the reality for regulatory protection of streams and buffers? Look at Infringement on and maintenance integrity of buffers.

Stan (Island Wood):

“Coexisting with Carnivores” . April 29th at IslandWood.

-Do a forest inventory. There is a difference between forest and tree cover. Existing map is really showing tree cover. Take existing map and make a negative 200 meter buffer around forest parcels to identify remaining interior forests. Interior forests are only where some species will live. Interiors are also where iconic, native NW species (such as winter wren) are found. Forest edges doesn't bring in the same type of tree or wildlife species integrity.

- Large parcels, fragmentation, connectivity priority. Look at the big chunks.

-Camera traps capturing wildlife (IW)

-Importance of wildlife corridors. Not just water (rivers) but also damp lands.

Mike (BIPRD):

-Island Wood Open Campus? Connecting trails and corridors

Setting Priorities for rest of meeting

David: Start with interior forests, and ecosystem functions. What might we have learned if we mapped by ecosystem function?

What parcels and corridors work would people like to continue? What about land that doesn't connect to existing? Should it be considered less important than an East/West opportunity? Should we expand SE/SW too?

Let's talk about the scarcity issue and also farmland.

BREAK

First segment--Interior Forest, and Ecosystem Function Approach

Peter: This plan focused on trend and risk analysis. “What are we up against? Where is there abundance and scarcity? Where have we been successful, what have we neglected?

Has there been ecosystem health analysis done? Shoreline is where most advanced assessment is done. There is limited or no ecosystem analysis for other habitats.

Future study could ignore parcel lines and look at landscapes instead. What are the indicators species? Are we currently meeting their needs? What should the landscape look like? What are we going to need? Are habitat blocks adequate/working? Size, connection? Helpful to get more specificity in these areas to guide future landscape analysis.

Brenda: What do we know now? How do trails and habitat's fit together?

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

- Dhira:* Maybe an approach where certain geographical sections of the Island are prioritized first rather than resources. Then within each prioritized area (section) you can dive into prioritizing habitat type (shorelines, forest, etc). Create a second map without parcels lines. Focus in conserving. Department of Ecology has a methodology to look at – a watershed planning approach. Need to identify where the ideal level of knowledge needs to be to help prioritize resources.
- Deb:* What about the issue of ideal knowledge vs. reality
- Bring in known physio-chemical information into figuring out plan. The City did a ground water study. Could we incorporate it into our analysis?
- Stan:* Look at the intersection of trails and wildlife. Animals using our trails all the time. We need to direct trails keeping in mind activity centers.
- Ex. Ted Olson acquisition--Used trail placement to maintain interior forest. Gives interior species space.
- Deb:* Many opportunities for restoration. What is the status and what would it take to increase function?
- David:* How do we get to the desired level of function on the properties?
- Brenda:* After identifying corridors, what could we develop?
- Wendy:* But what about a cost analysis? There are things you can't do. What are you doing where? What are your limitations? Does restoration expand mission of Land Trust?
- David:* This plan should provide guidance for that cost analysis
- Mike:* Remember the bean count from last year's annual meeting--shoreline was number one. If that is what people support, that is what you should do.
- Asha:* There is a premium with shoreline. Buying is expensive. Conservation easements will be smaller in size and might be more marginal in value to conservation of island. Some donors will support this, some won't.
- Dhira:* This plan will lay out why we need the funds. This will educate and convince people of your projects. Donors can appreciate these explanations.
- Peter:* defining geographical areas and developing a plan is a multi-partner approach. Ideas for what that area could be? In any given region there is project a, b and c, how do we choose which ones the Land Trust should lead and which ones others should lead, perhaps with Land Trust support?
- Dhira:* Development, likelihood, expensive. Don't start with lower components. Start with "ideal" picture then go from there with limitations.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

- Bobbie:* Any science about climate change on shoreline? How can we incorporate what's coming
- Betsy:* Climate change doesn't lose habitat, just shifts it inward. Choose shoreline that will adapt with change (system resilience). A functioning shoreline is a more resilient shoreline. Look at risk abatement – look at lands where the shore can move. If you look at armored shorelines, once the shoreline moves, then infrastructure is in harms way. PSNERP (Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program) prioritizing restoration/protection to support resilient shorelines. Lynn Holbrick WDFW climate change specialists.
- Bobbi:* That should be considered in decisions. Absolutely shorelines should be prioritized.
- Don:* To what extent do you focus on education, for property owners? Making housing decision compatible with what the animals (habitat) needs are. Seems there is an opportunity for further education on stewardship by landowners, how do we make choices for what we do on the landscape.
- For any organization focused on mission you need a screen. What are priorities? What are the places we could preserve? What we can't purchase?
- Asha:* Land trust does some education, (ex. Environmental conference). Providing information to the community. How can you manage your lands?
- Wendy:* Education and marketing is important. Include builders and developers in things like this today. If shoreline is #1 priority, and it's 80% developed, it's crucial that the developers know what they can do to preserve the land.
- Peter:* People know about the efforts to preserve public parks, IslandWood, etc. Do they know that acre for acre, private sector conservation (open space tracts in subdivisions & plats) matched public/NGO sector during the last 15 years? Is it possible to ensure those open space tracts are aligned with conservation priorities?
- David:* Need to have an education component.
- Steve:* Washington State University Extension has a shoreline stewards/Beach Watchers program that does this.
- Don:* Have maps, show homeowner where you stand in relation to the Island
- Steve:* City and homeowners currently in opposition b/c new regulations in development.
- Land trust can contribute local knowledge and take advantage of existing programs
- David:* Sounds like we need the plan to expand on how we would develop and use an ecosystem-based (landscape)/multivariate analysis. Expand on education and private sector outreach.

Second Segment—Corridors

Don: Developing a regional trail as a greenway. Sound to Olympic Greenway. Trail carries over two ferries connecting with the Olympic discovery trail. Build on 305 --Large right of way (175ft?).

Trail would be 12ft, paved with an end goal of an integrated system of trails with regional, sub regional, and neighborhood trails. Valuable to connect the trail to a series of parks and open space that would be along the corridor.

Regional trail is for transportation. The more connections to sub-regional trails the more recreational value.

How do we preserve that corridor in a way that's supportive to users and conservation?

Opportunities in North Kitsap to develop new trails—trails should be mutually supportive between BI and Kitsap.

Adopt idea of greenway could raise visibility. Encourage money from other side of water.

Trails Assoc is regional leader working on this project but important for overlap with Land Trust. Would like BILT plan to support trail, which would be important to show broad support for project.

Betsy: Have a science document and then a plan/implementation document. The plan should list "here are the priorities."

Use to build your implementation both short term, and long term. Don't limit to what is fundable. What are the priorities for each one of you elements (shoreline, farmland...)?

Plan could then also steer other organizations.

Dana: Trail Corridors are not only used by us but also invasive species. Need an early detection and rapid response plan – especially with the development of trails.

When we evaluate projects, what about invasive? When you purchase it's your responsibility to maintain and manage

Brenda: What is it going to take to maintain or improve stewardship of land?

Dhira: When evaluating a parcel, how much resources go into implementation plan?

Mike When you have accessible waterfront people come. Almost 10,000 vehicles at Fay Bainbridge, 2.3 people per car. Not counting walkers.

Bobbie: How close does the Land trust look at road ends? Try and stay connected.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

Don: There are both land and water trails.

Mike: Only Fay Bainbridge and Fort Ward have water trails

There is a property possible purchase which could connect with rotary park, passive use, ecosystem value, currently privately held.

Mike: If you want to attach people to a place have a place for them to get off road, park and use

Don: Also remember bikes and how people can get there without cars

Final words

Betsy: BI sits in a degraded part of Puget sound. This increases importance of shorelines. Island work helps larger sub basin. change analysis could help develop strategic needs assessment and strategies for restoration. Protection of shorelines is larger than BI.

Categorizes shoreline into protect, restore, enhance. On BI, PSNERP analysis (just has completed peer review) indicates:

-Need restoration: Fay Bainbridge and Lagoon

-Need Protection: 6 inlets. 2 highly-- Fletcher Bay and Hidden Cove,

Look at the BI near shore assessment, look for opportunities to connect upland. Where is that drift cell, what properties, reaches within need attention?

Climate change resilience.

Public access, provide opportunities for passive use. Great for public support. Betsy will look to provide us with PSNERP priorities.

Mike: If you want access to the beach, people need to be able to drive, sit in their cars, and see the water.

Perry: Look at the least public interface for the land trust. With public parks, user groups want to know what they get out of it. The narrower the range of uses the harder to get public funding.

Don: Keep in mind 305. We will soon be developing a corridor management plan for the scenic byway. Land trust might want to be included in shaping. Maybe about a year and a half out.

Steve: Be sensitive about how detailed information is shared publicly. When you identify properties, people get excited.

Perry: Allow for opportunities

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conservation Plan (March 2012)

Bobbie: Integrate with city's comprehensive plan (to be completed by 2016, but started in 2013)

Results from the Survey Monkey Public Survey – inserted as a separate document and included here at the end of the conservation plan