

# SUSTAINABLE BAINBRIDGE IMPACT REPORT 2025

SUSTAINABLE  
BAINBRIDGE

CREATING A MORE SUSTAINABLE  
ISLAND SINCE 2005



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**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
PROGRAMS, EVENTS,  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, AND MORE!**



# PROGRAM MANAGERS

## BAINBRIDGE BEACH NATURALISTS

Gaywynn Cooper & Jane Hannuksela

## BAINBRIDGE GREENWAYS

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## BAINBRIDGE ISLAND WATERSHED COUNCIL

Deb Rudnick

## CLIMATE ACTION BAINBRIDGE

Michael Cox

## REFASHION BAINBRIDGE

Naomi Spinak

## WEED WARRIORS

Jeannette Franks

## ZERO WASTE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

Diane Landry

# PROGRAM ORGANIZERS

## BI BEACH CLEAN-UP

Christine Perkins

## COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Deb Rudnick & Jeannette Franks

## EARTH MONTH

Christine Perkins

## FIX-IT FAIR

Heather Dowey

## THE REUSE DEPOT

Rachel Knudson, Gilian Engelson & Naomi Spinak

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## NEWSLETTER & IMPACT REPORT EDITOR

Gilian Engelson



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# BAINBRIDGE BEACH NATURALISTS

PROGRAM LEADS:  
GAYWYNN COOPER & JANE HANNUKSELA

In 2025, the Bainbridge Beach Naturalists program delivered a full season of community education and intertidal exploration across Bainbridge Island. The program hosted **11 events, including three summer low-tide explorations, two winter nighttime low-tide programs, a Beach Naturalist refresher, a Kitsap Regional Library low-tide walk,** and support roles at the **Earth Day Expo** and the **Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference**. Volunteers also conducted **two sea star monitoring sessions** tracking wasting disease.

These events engaged an **estimated 149 community participants**, primarily through low-tide explorations and sea star monitoring. The program was supported by **approximately 35 active Beach Naturalist volunteers**, who collectively contributed an **estimated 350 volunteer hours** in planning, setup, and on-site education.

Partnerships were central to this year's success. The program collaborated closely with **WSU Kitsap County Extension** and **IslandWood**, and provided support to **Kitsap Regional Library, Bainbridge Island Land Trust,** and **Sustainable Bainbridge** for several community-facing events.

Through hands-on coastal education, ongoing species monitoring, and strong regional collaboration, the Bainbridge Beach Naturalist program continues to foster stewardship, curiosity, and community connection along Bainbridge Island's shorelines.





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# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND WATERSHED COUNCIL

PROGRAM LEAD: DEB RUDNICK

The Bainbridge Island Watershed Council (BIWC) advances watershed health, ecological restoration, and community education through strong collaboration across the Island.

This year, BIWC served as a planning partner for **Earth Month**, the **Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference**, and the **Bainbridge Beach Cleanup**, which engaged about **125 volunteers** and **10 partner groups**. BIWC partnered with **COBI** on the Springbrook Fish Passage project; worked with **Wild Fish Conservancy** and **IslandWood** on an eDNA study of Mac's Dam Creek; and collaborated with **BI Parks**, **Land Trust**, **Weed Warriors**, and the **West Sound Partnership for Ecosystem Recovery** on restoration and public outreach efforts.

Two new grants strengthened BIWC's work this year. A **\$1,200 Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island grant** supported creation of a culinary and pollinator garden at Bainbridge High School. A **\$7,300 Bainbridge Community Foundation grant** is funding an eDNA study on Mac's Dam Creek ahead of removing a non-functional check dam that blocks fish passage. Sampling begins this November, with follow-up in spring 2026.

BIWC also helped design this year's Environmental Conference, focused on the **City Nature Challenge** and community biodiversity mapping.

BIWC has launched **What Watershed?**, a monthly post in the newsletter and website that describes the ecology and history of watersheds around Bainbridge Island. This series started in October 2025 and is planned to extend through September 2026.

# REFASHION BAINBRIDGE

PROGRAM LEAD: NAOMI SPINAK

The ReFashion program significantly expanded its community engagement in 2025, promoting sustainable fashion through multiple events and key partnerships.

This year featured two highly successful Clothing Swaps. The March swap drew **259 participants** and successfully diverted over **2,295 pounds of clothing**, with more than **80% reclaimed** by the community. A second swap in November further demonstrated this success, collecting approximately **2,200 pounds of textiles**, of which **78% was kept in circulation** by attendees.

Beyond swaps, ReFashion hosted the annual ReFashion Show, this year entitled "Sewdown" because of its one-day creation format. The show sold **147 tickets** and showcased work from **36 artists**, emphasizing circularity by featuring garments created from discarded materials. A dedicated core committee of nine volunteers, alongside many event helpers, contributed hundreds of hours to the program's success. Supported by key partners—including host **Bainbridge Island Museum of Art**, **BARN**, **Esther's Fabrics**, and a grant from the **Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island**—the program continued its impressive growth, evidenced by a 22% increase in the mailing list.

ReFashion is effectively fostering a vibrant, share-oriented culture, encouraging the community to shop less and reuse more.



# WEED WARRIORS

PROGRAM LEAD: JEANNETTE FRANKS

Founded in 2004, Weed Warriors is a long-standing Bainbridge Island volunteer program dedicated to educating the community about invasive species and protecting the Island's forests, wetlands, and natural habitats.

In 2025, the program hosted **15+ education and action events**, engaging about **35 individual volunteers** who contributed **483 volunteer hours**—a service value of **\$8,274** based on Washington's minimum wage. Volunteers supported monthly weed pulls, environmental education tables, and community outreach displays.

Weed Warriors collaborated with key partners including **BI Parks & Recreation, Bloedel Reserve, City of Bainbridge Island, IslandWood**, and the **Student Conservation Corps**. Events ranged from habitat restoration at Strawberry Plant Park to repeated invasive-pull collaborations with Bloedel and Parks.

Founder Jeannette Franks also contributes approximately 10 hours per month coordinating communication, scheduling, and tool management.

In 2025, Weed Warriors launched two new educational initiatives: the **"Do No Harm" ethics handout** (seen below), emphasizing responsible stewardship and the avoidance of planting or distributing invasives, and the **"Heck with Holly" campaign**, spotlighting English holly, now illegal to buy or trade in Washington.

A largely volunteer-driven, revenue-neutral program, Weed Warriors continues to play a vital role in preserving the ecological health of Bainbridge Island.



**DO NO HARM! PLANT PLEDGE**  
COURTESY OF SUSTAINABLE BAINBRIDGE  
DESIGNED BY COLLIN FEHRENBACHER

**RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE**

**WATER NEED**  **PLANT HEALTH**

Sustainable gardening requires plants to be in a good habitat that maximizes resiliency.

**WATCH FOR FAST-GROWING PLANTS**

 **SCAN ME!**

If it grows like a weed, it's a weed.

If you're not sure whether a plant is invasive, you can check here: [nwcb.wa.gov/identify-a-noxious-weed](http://nwcb.wa.gov/identify-a-noxious-weed)

For more information on native plants, check out [wnps.org](http://wnps.org)

**AVOID NOXIOUS WEEDS**  
ENGLISH IVY HOLLY SCOTCH BROOM

**GROW NATIVE PLANTS**  
SALAL OREGON GRAPE SWORD FERN

**Native plants:**

- Provide habitat and food for native wildlife
- Thrive in local climate and soils
- Are gorgeous!

**DO NOT SELL, PURCHASE, GIVE AWAY, OR ACCEPT NOXIOUS WEEDS!**

# ZERO WASTE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

PROGRAM LEAD: DIANE LANDRY

In 2025, Zero Waste Bainbridge Island continued to advance waste reduction, reuse, and responsible recycling across the island through strong community partnerships and a dedicated volunteer network. It partnered with the **BI Senior & Community Center** on metal recycling, supported the **Department of Ecology** on the **Bring Your Own Container (BYOC) campaign**, teamed up with **Bainbridge Disposal and COBI** on recycling and yard waste audits, contributed its expertise to the **Rotary Auction's Green Team**, promoted the volunteer-run reuse/recycling start-up, **Bainbridge Island Flashdrive**, and maintained close ties with the **Bainbridge Island School District**.

The Zero Waste Tableware Lending Library remained a cornerstone resource, supporting **270 individual or organizational events** with 800 volunteer hours from 22 volunteers.

The Zero Waste team also delivered **11 educational outreach events** and managed discards at **7 major community gatherings**, including the Street Dance and July 4th celebrations, contributing an **additional 260 volunteer hours**.

Metal recycling efforts continued steadily, with bi-weekly sorting yielding over **3000# of material** to the scrapyards, totaling **200 hours** from **20 volunteers**.

Through hands-on service, education, and partnerships, Zero Waste Bainbridge continues to help the community reduce waste, recover materials, and make more sustainable choices every day.



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# FIX-IT FAIRS

PROGRAM LEAD: HEATHER DOWEY

**Repair is resilience: Championing a culture of reuse by connecting skilled volunteers with residents ensures that cherished belongings get a second life.**

A new initiative this year, the Fix-it Fair started off strong with a collaborative effort among **Sustainable Bainbridge, BARN, and Kitsap County**, with a boost from a **Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island grant**. The expertise provided by the county allowed SB and BARN to continue on their own with a second free community repair event in the fall.

The two events drew an overall **attendance of 130 participants**, who brought in various household items and appliances for repair or mending by a dedicated team of community fixers. The commitment of these volunteers was significant, totaling an **estimated 60 volunteer hours** from **20 unique volunteers** across the two fairs.

The value in the repairs was measured not only in pounds diverted from the landfill, but in appreciation for prolonging the life of a treasured household item by an island neighbor sharing their repair skills in person.

Looking forward, SB and BARN plan to hold **three Fix-it Fairs in 2026**.

***"Karen from jewelry fixed my necklace and talked to me about the chain and her tools. So I even learned something. Also, kudos on how well organized it was."***



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# BAINBRIDGE GREENWAYS

PROGRAM LEAD: BARB ZIMMER

GreenWays participated in a Sustainable Transportation Coalition sponsored by COBI in 2025. There were two Coalition meetings this year. GreenWays has also worked with Bainbridge Parks and Trails to encourage the City to hold a community discussion early in 2026 about a WSDOT idea to construct a roundabout at High School Road and Highway 305. An internationally respected firm has been contacted to facilitate this discussion and offer its expertise to COBI, WSDOT, and community members.



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## EVENTS & OTHER INITIATIVES

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### BI BEACH CLEANUP

The 10th annual Bainbridge Island Beach Cleanup was a tremendous success thanks to the dedication of our community partners and the enthusiastic participation of volunteers. More than 125 people pre-registered—and even more joined on the day—to help remove debris from our shorelines. We extend special gratitude to **Bainbridge Disposal** for accepting all collected debris at no charge, supporting this island-wide environmental effort. Bainbridge Island is proud to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup, joining communities worldwide in protecting oceans and waterways. Thank you to everyone who helped make this milestone year impactful for our island and our planet.



# EVENTS & OTHER INITIATIVES

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## BI COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

Sustainable Bainbridge is a core partner in the Bainbridge Island Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), a joint effort involving multiple local organizations and stakeholders. BI Watershed Council was the rotating chair of this group for Spring 2025. This initiative focuses on comprehensive, integrated invasive weed management, including inventorying, controlling, and monitoring efforts across the island. The CWMA's primary goal is to effectively reduce the harmful environmental impacts of invasive plants that disregard jurisdictional boundaries. Key priority species include English ivy, Scotch broom, and English holly, chosen for their widespread presence and ecological damage. By strengthening partnerships, the CWMA successfully protects native biodiversity and improves ecological health across Bainbridge Island.



## BI ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

Sustainable Bainbridge proudly partnered in the annual Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference, "Nature Counts!" The event took place in April at IslandWood. The conference focused heavily on community science, highlighting numerous community-based projects underway on Bainbridge Island and encouraging public involvement. Attendees participated in expert-guided walks, where they learned how to identify local plants and wildlife. They also received valuable training on the community science application, iNaturalist. These sessions successfully prepared participants for the subsequent nationwide Nature Challenge, a competition where communities strived to identify the most biodiversity in their local environments. The conference successfully fostered community engagement in scientific initiatives and promoted environmental awareness.



## EARTH MONTH

Earth Month Bainbridge Island 2025 brought together an engaged and enthusiastic community committed to celebrating and protecting our planet. Residents participated in stewardship events, invasive plant removal, film and music gatherings, educational lectures, guided walks, and joyful community celebrations. These efforts were made possible through the collaboration of our many Earth Month Planning Partners, who helped create opportunities for learning, connection, and action.

Earth Month reminds us that caring for the planet is a year-round commitment. We encourage everyone to continue sustainable practices, and join local cleanups and work parties.



# THE REUSE DEPOT

PROGRAM LEADS: RACHEL KNUDSON, GILIAN ENGELSON, & NAOMI SPINAK

## A NEW SUSTAINABLE BAINBRIDGE PROJECT

Sustainable Bainbridge is the fiscal sponsor for The ReUse Depot, a major up-and-coming initiative designed to establish a community hub for circularity and resiliency on Bainbridge Island.

This new program will unite reuse, recycle, remake, and repair programs under one roof in an accessible central location (TBD).

The ReUse Depot will fundamentally address community goals by increasing access to affordable, reusable goods, reducing the waste stream, and minimizing the carbon footprint associated with consumerism.

By promoting sharing, repairing, and creative collaboration, The ReUse Depot aims to strengthen community resiliency and support disaster response efforts.

The initiative will launch three core programs:

- **ReMaker Space:** A program educating the public on the environmental impact of clothing and material choices through speakers, workshops, fashion shows, clothing swaps, and textile repairs. This space will also offer hands-on reuse and recreation for all ages to innovate creative solutions and conserve resources.
- **Library of Things:** A subscription-based membership lending library of shared goods such as tools, recreational equipment, toys, entertaining supplies, and other household goods.
- **Materials Resource Kiosk:** A community information kiosk to promote recycling and community reuse opportunities, including a more centralized drop-off location for hard-to-recycle items (batteries, eyeglasses, pill bottles, etc.).



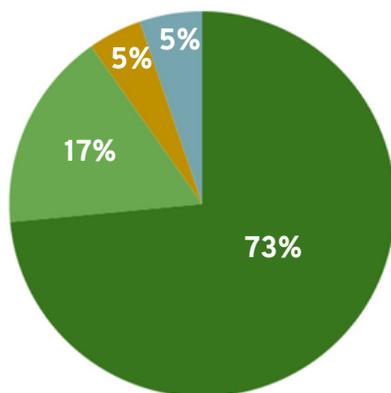
LEARN MORE, SUPPORT  
& GET INVOLVED  
[www.thereusedepot.org](http://www.thereusedepot.org)  
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## 2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

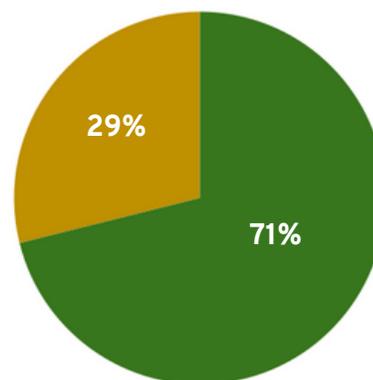
### REVENUE

1-1-25 to 12-15-25

### EXPENSES



Donations	\$32,068.00
Grants	\$7,300.00
Program Revenue	\$1,970.00
Interest	\$2,289.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$43,627.00</b>



Programming	\$16,605.00
Operations	\$6,747.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$23,252.00</b>