

Housing Resources Bainbridge

ADVOCACY ALERT

Update

The City of Bainbridge Island is updating its Comprehensive Plan, as required by the 1990 Growth Management Act (GMA) and 2019 House Bill 1220, which strengthened the housing requirements of the GMA. The city is also updating the Winslow Subarea Plan. Both documents will guide the city as it decides how best to accommodate anticipated growth through 2044, addressing needs such as housing, open space and trails, public facilities, transportation, utilities, and capital facilities. These plans will coordinate with the city's other guiding documents, including the Housing Action Plan (2023).

The Comprehensive Plan calls for concentrating growth in the Winslow Town Center, neighborhood centers, and industrial centers. The Winslow Subarea Plan update takes place first and will inform the subsequent Comprehensive Plan update, which accounts for areas outside Winslow as well as island-wide issues. The city will examine center boundaries, zoning, and regulations to control density, such as lot coverage and building height.

As part of this process, the city commissioned an environmental impact statement. The study assesses three methods for accommodating growth and their community and environmental impacts: 1) no action, 2) developing the Winslow Town Center and neighborhood centers at greater density, or 3) distributing density to expanded neighborhood and industrial centers and revising Winslow Subarea boundaries. The [Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(DEIS\)](#) is complete and available for public review.

Action

Housing will be one of the most important considerations in both plans. There are five open houses scheduled (one island-wide and four focused on neighborhood centers), where community members can engage in the process. HRB will send out Advocacy Alerts to help you understand the issues related to affordable housing, let you know when it is time to speak up, and help you craft an effective letter or public comment.

The first open house is still over a month out. In the meantime, visit the city's [website](#) on the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update where you can find all the documents and dates associated with this process. As time and interest allows, get acquainted with the DEIS so that you are ready to voice your support for affordable housing on Bainbridge when the next Advocacy Alert arrives.





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