

CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC FACILITIES

EXISTING CONDITIONS: PUBLIC FACILITIES

Many public buildings are located along Madison Avenue, which is beginning to emerge as a civic corridor. A fire station anchors the north end. The public library, school district offices and high school flank the intersection of High School Road and Madison Avenue. City Hall and the Bainbridge Performing Arts Center (BPA) are also accessed from Madison Avenue, immediately north of Winslow Way. In between City Hall and BPA there is an open pedestrian space that hosts the Farmers Market through the growing season. The Bainbridge Island Historical Society and Museum is adjacent to BPA, on Ericksen Avenue. The Commons on Bjune Drive provides space for community meetings and senior citizen services and activities. The primary post office on the island is located between Winslow Way and Bjune Drive. East of the retail corridor of Winslow, the police department occupies the corner of Winslow Way and Highway 305.

The Washington State Ferry Terminal generates major activity in Winslow and provides a vital link to Seattle and the east side of Puget Sound. The terminal is a regional facility that serves Bainbridge Island and the rest of Kitsap County. It serves auto, pedestrian and bicycle modes of travel and often operates beyond capacity during peak hour periods and on summer and holiday weekends.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FRAMEWORK

Beyond the facilities identified above, a specific need for other types of public buildings was not identified in the plan. However, inherent in the concept of the Mixed-Use Town Center is the notion that a range of public facilities could be available over time to add to the existing variety.

The installation of works of art along streets, in parks, and in public buildings would strengthen the image of the community. The City has a “One Percent for Art” program that applies to public projects, but techniques could be used to encourage privately provided public art.

Goal WMP 5-1: Enhance Downtown Winslow as the Civic, Commercial, and Cultural center for Bainbridge Island

WMP 5-1.1: The Winslow Mixed-Use Town Center, and the Core District in particular, is the preferred location for public facilities. This encourages Winslow’s continued role as the Island’s center of culture, commerce, and community.

WMP 5-1.2: Provide gateways into Winslow with a combination of a marker element, landscaping, lighting, and signage that provides an entry effect at various locations. The use of the name “Winslow” should be encouraged in these gateway signs.

WMP 5-1.3: Informational kiosks, parking and directional signs should be developed to direct the public to public facilities in downtown Winslow. Such kiosks and signs should be located at key intersections and near off street parking sites.

WMP 5-1.4: The U.S. Post Office is an anchor of Winslow, and the direct customer service function should be encouraged to remain in downtown Winslow.

WMP 5-1.5: Consider building a public parking structure or other public parking facility to serve the Winslow retail core.

WMP 5-1.6: The City should work closely with adjacent properties on transitions and opportunities for enhancements to all public facilities.

WMP 5-1.7: Public restroom(s) should be constructed in convenient downtown locations to serve Winslow residents and visitors. Private development should be encouraged to provide publicly available restrooms where practical.

WMP 5-1.8: Increase the public space in market square, including covered space for artists and farmers market built on top of underground parking build on top of underground parking at the south edge of the existing park.

Goal WMP 5-2: Public Facilities Should Set an Example for New Development, Incorporating Sustainability and Amenities

WMP 5-2.1: New or renovated public facilities should incorporate low-impact and “green” building techniques and development standards into their design.

WMP 5-2.2: Public facilities should incorporate amenities such as wider sidewalks, transit stops, public art, street trees, and bicycle accommodations wherever possible.

WMP 5-2.3: Works of art or other public amenities should be installed along streets, in parks, and in public buildings in a manner that symbolizes the history and character of the community. The City has a “One Percent for Art” program that applies to public projects, but incentives could be used to encourage privately provided amenities such as public art, gallery space, or public gathering spaces.

WMP 5-2.4: Any construction to Winslow Way should be considered an opportunity to add amenities such as power, water, and overhead banner improvements to support future “street fair” opportunities.

Goal WMP 5-3: Improve the Visual and Physical Connection between Winslow and Eagle Harbor

WMP 5-3.1 Waterfront Park is the primary public link between downtown Winslow and Eagle Harbor. New public amenities for the park such as enhanced beach access,

concessions, docks, marinas, or mooring should be developed in accordance with the park's master plan.

WMP 5-3.2 Future Waterfront Park planning should consider incorporating a walk-on water taxi linking Waterfront Park with other Eagle Harbor waterfront areas.

Goal WMP 5-4: Seek Opportunities for and Encourage the Development of Public Buildings and Public Spaces

WMP 5-4.1 As the population increases, additional multipurpose public meeting spaces could be built, either by expanding existing facilities, such as in the Commons, City Hall, BPA or the library, or building new ones. Incentives should be developed to encourage developers to incorporate multipurpose meeting space into the design of new residential or mixed-use development.

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