



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2017
TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JENNIFER SUTTON, AICP
SENIOR PLANNER
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 2017-18: ADOPTING THE 2006 *COMMUNITY FOREST
MANAGEMENT PLAN*

I. BACKGROUND

The Community Forestry Commission, a former City Citizen Advisory Group, initiated the *Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP)*. The purpose of the *CFMP* is to guide and promote sustainable forest conditions on Bainbridge Island through education, incentives, and regulations on public and private property. The *CFMP* begins with a description of the “community forest” and then describes the state of forests and trees on Bainbridge Island, including a tree canopy inventory by zoning areas (p. 11) and watershed (p. 14). The estimated forest cover Island-wide calculated in 2004 was approximately 72% (p. 11). 2015 City LIDAR information shows that 70% of Bainbridge Island land area has tree canopy.

Chapters 4 and 5 of the *CFMP* focus on actions and policies to achieve the overall purpose of the plan, including setting tree canopy cover goals by zoning areas (p. 27). Some of the actions called for by the *CFMP* have been completed. For example, the City created a Heritage Tree Program and added “tree protection during construction” standards to the municipal code (BIMC 18.15.010.C). However other recommendations, such as hiring a City arborist and developing a proactive public education and outreach program, have not been implemented.

The City Council heard a presentation on the *CFMP* once it was completed. The Council formally accepted the *CFMP* with the approval of Resolution 2006-07 on February 8, 2006.

II. TREE AND LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Tree and LID Ad Hoc Committee recommended to the full City Council that the *CFMP* should be adopted. The City Council agreed with that recommendation at their July 18, 2017, meeting. Resolution 2017-18 accomplishes that goal.

III. NEXT STEPS

As mentioned above, the *CFMP* identifies several actions that the City can take to promote forest and tree health throughout Bainbridge Island. The adoption of the *CFMP* gives weight to the City working toward completing other relevant actions identified by the Plan.