



## CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **Revised Land Clearing Regulations Take Effect Week of February 17**

**Bainbridge Island, Wash.**, (February, 2015) On December 10, 2014 the City Council approved Ordinance 2015-03 (formerly 2014-38) modifying the *Land Clearing* regulations in the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code. *Land Clearing* generally applies to small scale clearing that occurs when a property is subject to other land use permits. Among other things, the new regulations establish an “After-the-Fact” Clearing Permit for unauthorized clearing and creates more stringent clearing regulations in certain zoning districts around the island. The ordinance was crafted by the Tree Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee, in coordination with City staff, including City Code Compliance Officer Greg Vause.

In the past, all clearing permits have been free. The new Ordinance establishes an “After-the-Fact” Clearing Permit for unauthorized clearing, which has a fee of \$500. This change is to encourage individuals to come into City Hall before they begin clearing. A “before-the-fact” permit can still be obtained for free.

The new ordinance also creates more stringent clearing regulations in the Mixed Use Town Center (MUTC) & High School (HS) Road Zoning Districts. In the MUTC and HS zoning districts, the definition of what constitutes a “significant tree” has changed to a tree with a diameter of 8”. This is a reduction from the previous definition that described a “significant tree” as having a 10” & 12” diameter. The threshold for requiring a clearing permit in MUTC/ HS Rd is also lower in the new ordinance. A permit will now be required to remove any “significant tree.” The ordinance also establishes criteria for removal of “significant trees” in those zoning districts.

Questions regarding Ordinance 2015-03 can be submitted to Jennifer Sutton, Special Projects Planner at 206.780.3772 or [jsutton@bainbridgewa.gov](mailto:jsutton@bainbridgewa.gov).

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