

CITY OF OAK HARBOR

MISSION STATEMENT: THE CITY OF OAK HARBOR IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BY DELIVERING QUALITY SERVICES, ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE, AND FOSTERING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.



OAK HARBOR MARINA

Driving Economic Growth, Accessibility, and Connectivity



DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Developing a Waterfront District



PARKS AND RECREATION

Expanding Parks and Recreation Opportunities



NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

Partnering with our Military Community



WHIDBEY ISLAND FERRY SERVICE

Increasing Transportation Access and Improving Reliance



WATER RESOURCES

Proactively Addressing the Utility needs of the Future



REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX FUNDS

Working to Expand REET Funding Flexibility

#THISISOAKHARBOR



CITY OF OAK HARBOR

MARINA

Driving Economic Growth,
Accessibility, and Connectivity



OVERVIEW OF THE MARINA

The Oak Harbor Marina has reached the end of its serviceable life. Aging infrastructure, limited capacity, and costly maintenance have made it unsustainable for future use. The Marina requires substantial updates and renovations to meet modern environmental standards and accommodate growing demand. Without funding for a full scale renovation or redevelopment, it risks closure and a missed opportunity for the City's upcoming Waterfront District project.



TOURISM & ECONOMIC IMPACT

Our goal for the Oak Harbor Marina is for visitors to come through and explore local businesses, restaurants, and event attractions.

Through a strategic partnership with Island Transit, the City now offers On-Demand transit service for Marina visitors. This service, a recent addition, makes it easier to explore Oak Harbor and creates a **connection** between the Marina and other areas of the city, driving further economic activity.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Revitalizing the Oak Harbor Marina will support local businesses through increased visitation and strengthen our city's position as a premiere destination.

The Marina is a key anchor in our city's vision for a revitalized Waterfront District. Upgrades to the Marina will directly complement and **sustain** ongoing efforts to enhance its appeal, with a focus on developments, public spaces, and improved accessibility for all residents and visitors.



REVITALIZE

CONNECT

SUSTAIN



DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Developing a Waterfront District



OVERVIEW OF DOWNTOWN OAK HARBOR

Downtown Oak Harbor is poised for a transformation that will bring new life into the heart of our city.

With strategic road improvements, new development opportunities, and a focus on community-driven revitalization, we are positioning our downtown area to become a vibrant hub for residents, visitors, and businesses.



INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

Road improvements would significantly enhance accessibility and ease of movement in the future Waterfront District. The **upgrades** would include street & utility improvements, enhanced pedestrian walkways, and improved traffic flow, all aimed at creating a safer, more attractive downtown area.

The city has purchased two key downtown properties to inspire a new re-vitalization of our downtown corridor.



DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The City is exploring the opportunity to bring a hotel to downtown Oak Harbor, which will not only accommodate tourists but also attract new businesses, conferences, and events. This would provide much needed accommodations, improve walkability, and support the local economy by drawing visitors to the heart of Oak Harbor.

A revitalized downtown will bring the **community** together by offering residents amenities, cultural activities, and spaces to connect, making Oak Harbor **vibrant** and even better place to live and visit.



UPGRADES

VIBRANCY

COMMUNITY



PARKS & RECREATION

Expanding Parks and Recreation Opportunities



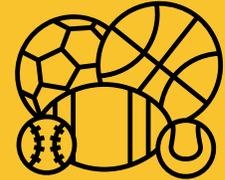
OVERVIEW OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

Study to meet the evolving needs of residents, enhance existing programs, expand our facilities, and develop spaces that serve our community year-round. By focusing on both indoor and outdoor spaces, we would like to provide recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities. Through strong partnerships with local leagues and school districts, we'll create more ways for families to connect, grow, and stay active together. Our ongoing feasibility study will help us strategically plan for the next generation all while building a stronger community for years to come.



COMMUNITY DRIVEN

Many **grassroots** initiatives, often led by youth, thrive with support from local organizations like the Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, North Whidbey Pool, Parks and Recreation, RISE, Oak Harbor Public Schools, Rotary Club, Whidbey Royalty, and other nonprofits. These partnerships help create programs and spaces that serve all residents, shaping the next generation of **community** leaders. Oak Harbor also continues to welcome new families, especially from our military community.



SPORTS & RECREATIONAL TOURISM

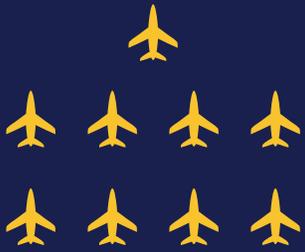
The **development** of a Regional Recreation and Sports Complex Center will promote sports tourism to Whidbey Island. Hosting regional and state tournaments will attract families for weekend trips. It will enhance and encourage year-round tourism focused on school and competitive indoor sports programs. Oak Harbor is focused on creating new recreation opportunities that will draw families and outdoor enthusiasts. An adaptive playground will be the only one of its kind in a 50-mile radius: new pickleball courts will bring players from around the Puget Sound; and Freedom Park with its 70+ acres of natural trails and disc golf course is ideal for nature lovers

GRASSROOTS

COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT





CITY OF OAK HARBOR

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

Partnering with our
Military Community



OVERVIEW OF NASWI

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) is an integral part of Oak Harbor, serving as one of the largest employers and partners in Oak Harbor. The base supports a working population of over 11,000 active-duty and civilian personnel along with their families, many of whom live on and off base, contributing to the local economy. The City of Oak Harbor values its long-standing partnership with NASWI and remains committed to supporting its continued success.



INFRASTRUCTURE

The partnership between Oak Harbor and NASWI not only strengthens our community and economy but also supports the mission of those who serve to protect our nation's **freedom**.

We share infrastructure that supports our community, such as water services through a shared water line, ensuring reliable access. Looking ahead, expanding broadband connectivity is an opportunity for enhanced communication benefiting both residents and NASWI personnel.



SUPPORT

NASWI's impact extends beyond the military, particularly through its Search and Rescue (SAR) team, which provides life-saving emergency response services to communities throughout the region.

We actively **support** NASWI through city services, infrastructure, and community engagement. We work closely with the base to ensure access to quality housing, schools, and essential resources for military families. Additionally, **Team Whidbey** brings together local leaders, businesses, and organizations to advocate for the needs of the base and strengthen community ties.

FREEDOM

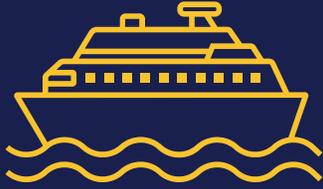
SUPPORT

TEAM WHIDBEY



WHIDBEY ISLAND FERRY SERVICE

Increasing Transportation Access and Improving Reliance



OVERVIEW OF THE FERRY SYSTEM

Whidbey Island relies heavily on the Washington State Ferry system for daily commuting and transportation, As a critical transportation lifeline, we are committed to improving the ferry service to accommodate growing ridership.

We are grateful for Governor Ferguson’s ongoing efforts to support the revitalization of our ferry system, including his commitment to replacing aging ferries.



SERVICE LEVELS

As our community continues to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, restoring and improving ferry service is a top priority to meet the **needs** of our community. Key priorities include returning ferry routes to pre-pandemic service levels, improving commuting routes, and expanding travel **opportunities** with more frequent sailings. We also seek better integration with other transportation options and the expansion of workforce training for long-term sustainability of the ferry system.



TRAINING

Training is a crucial element of ensuring the sustainability of our ferry system. A **training** program, similar to law enforcement academy training, that allows local residents to receive training within their community, would benefit our locals. Trainees can stay in their hometowns, go home to their families and pursue well-paid careers in their community. Additionally, this initiative will drive economic opportunities for local businesses by creating jobs and supporting the growth of a skilled workforce.



NEEDS

OPPORTUNITY

TRAINING





CITY OF OAK HARBOR

WATER RESOURCES

Aging Water Supply



OVERVIEW OF AGING WATER SUPPLY

Navy Air Station Whidbey Island, both at the air and seaplane bases, receives its drinking water supply from the City of Oak Harbor. The water is supplied from the Skagit River and distributed to Oak Harbor from two water transmission mains hanging from the 1934 Deception Pass bridge. The oldest water main was built in 1942 and second in 1976. The City in partnership with the Navy, must develop a funding program to replace this **critical** water supply.



FEDERAL/MILITARY FUNDING

Mayor Wright and the City Council have approved the completion of a water **comprehensive** plan update in 2025 and 2026. A key component of the funding will be the award of federal grants to complete the replacement of these aging water transmission mains.

Approximately half of the system was installed during World War II and has recently failed at several locations. Building **partnerships** early and creating a long-term action plan over the next several years will be key to success.



RESILIENCE FOR THE FUTURE

The comprehensive plan will include how the island responds to emergencies, such as a major earthquake. It is **critical** for the City to develop a plan that includes backup storage capacity, expansion of emergency groundwater supply, pumping systems, and groundwater monitoring that includes close collaboration with the Navy's Perfluorinated Compounds Sampling Program (PFAS).

COMPREHENSIVE

PARTNERSHIPS

CRITICAL





CITY OF OAK HARBOR

REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX FUNDS (REET)



Working to Expand REET Funding Flexibility

The City of Oak Harbor is working with the Legislature to remove restrictions on Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds that the City already collects so they can be used more **flexibly**, such as for **public safety** facilities. Oak Harbor's police station is about 70 years old, and it would be highly beneficial to be able to double the amount of REET funding available for a potential replacement.

Removing restrictions would also be able to **leverage** these additional funds to enhance our ability to obtain grants and other outside funding.

The proposed bill (HB 1791) being considered does all this without increasing taxes or requesting additional funding from the State.

FLEXIBILITY

PUBLIC SAFETY

LEVERAGE