

section b

PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose

The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial *Study of Alternatives/Environmental Assessment* provides an evaluation of alternative concepts that consider preservation of the site and opportunities for developing local partnerships. The study also considers commemoration, public use, and education at the Eagledale Ferry Dock site on Bainbridge Island, Washington. It was from this site on March 30, 1942, that Japanese Americans from Bainbridge Island were taken against their will from their homes and sent to internment camps in accordance with Executive Order 9066. The 227 residents of the island were the first of nearly 120,000 Nikkei who were interned or incarcerated in remote camps throughout the western United States during World War II. The purpose of this study is to evaluate various ways in which this event can be properly commemorated and to evaluate the significance, suitability, and feasibility of this site to become part of the National Park System. A range of viable management actions have been developed and evaluated through a public planning process. They will be presented with recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior.



Mr. and Mrs. Yosuke Moji are escorted from their home by U.S. Army soldiers to a truck that will transport them to the assembly point at Eagledale Ferry Dock, March 30, 1942.

Photo courtesy the National Archives and Records Administration.

Need

The need for this study is to fulfill the requirements of Public Law 107-363, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study Act of 2002. The law states that, “The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out a special resource study

regarding the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of designating as a unit of the National Park Service the property known as Eagledale Ferry Dock. . . .” The public law uses the term “Special Resource Study” and

for purposes of this study, the terms “Study of Alternatives/Environmental Assessment” are used interchangeably. This study meets the requirements of P.L. 107-363. The final version of the study will be forwarded to the Director of the National Park Service, who will submit the study with a recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior, who will forward the study to Congress for consideration.

Financial Considerations

It must be understood that formal actions on any of the proposed alternatives are at the discretion of Congress. The Congress can pass legislation that would authorize any of the alternatives, a combination of alternatives, or an entirely new version to address the commemoration. Further, it is important to note that if Congress selects either alternative that involves the National Park Service (NPS), funding to implement the action would be provided through internal review and priority setting with other National Park Service projects, or through special Congressional appropriations.

section c

STUDY LOCATION AND AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Physical Location

Bainbridge Island is located in the Puget Sound region, west of the Cascade Mountains and east of the Olympic Mountains of Washington State. The island is eight miles west of downtown Seattle and can be reached by Washington State Ferries that leave every hour during the day. The island is about 10.5 miles long and 3.5 miles wide and is noted for its small-town ambiance, natural beauty, and rich community life. The island can also be reached by road by crossing the Agate Passage Bridge that connects State Route (SR) 305 with State Routes 3 and 16, which lead to Tacoma, Washington, and Interstate 5. The Eagledale Ferry Dock site, the proposed memorial site, is located on the south shore of Eagle Harbor at the intersection of Eagle Harbor Drive and Taylor Avenue. Eagle Harbor is the home to the Washington State Ferry System and is the major port facility for Bainbridge Island.

The study site is the former Wyckoff Company creosote facility property, comprising approximately 50 acres extending from Taylor Avenue east to Bill Point. Of the former Wyckoff Company lands, 11.5 acres on the east side of the study site now comprise a Superfund cleanup site. The entire 50-acre site was included in the study area because of community interest in using the entire site as public open space with recreational access in the

future. This study and the proposed management alternatives center on the approximately eight acres of land on the west portion along Taylor Avenue with the primary focus being the memorial site. Within these eight acres is the two-acre site along Taylor Avenue depicted in the historic 1942 photographs of the evacuation of the island's Japanese American population. For purposes of identification and planning, the 50-acre study site has been organized into zones

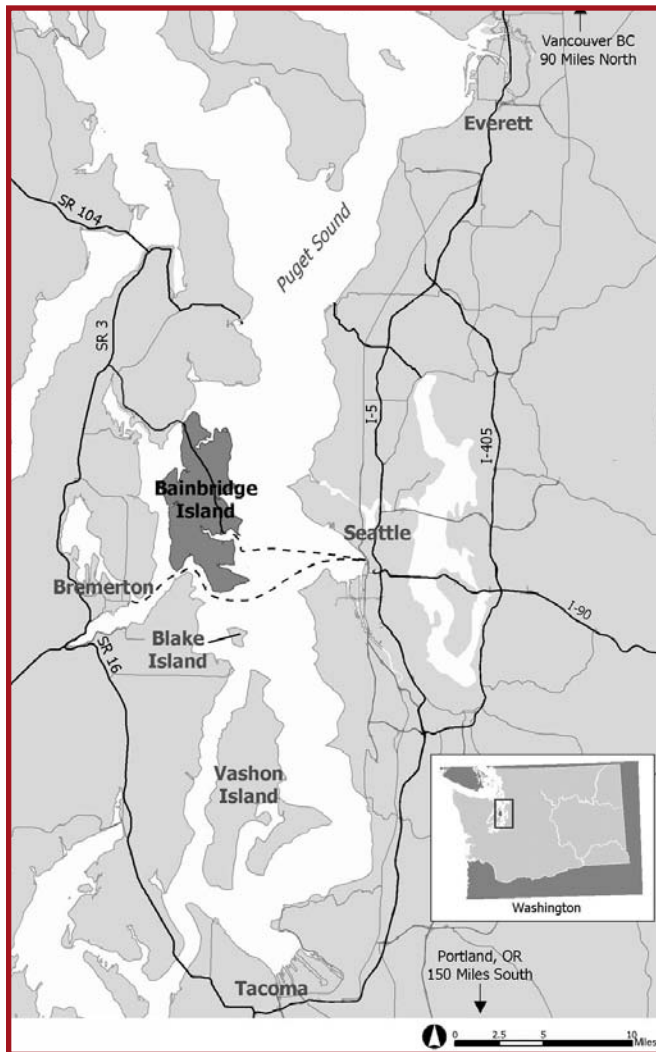


Figure C-1. Location Map.

Study Location and Affected Environment

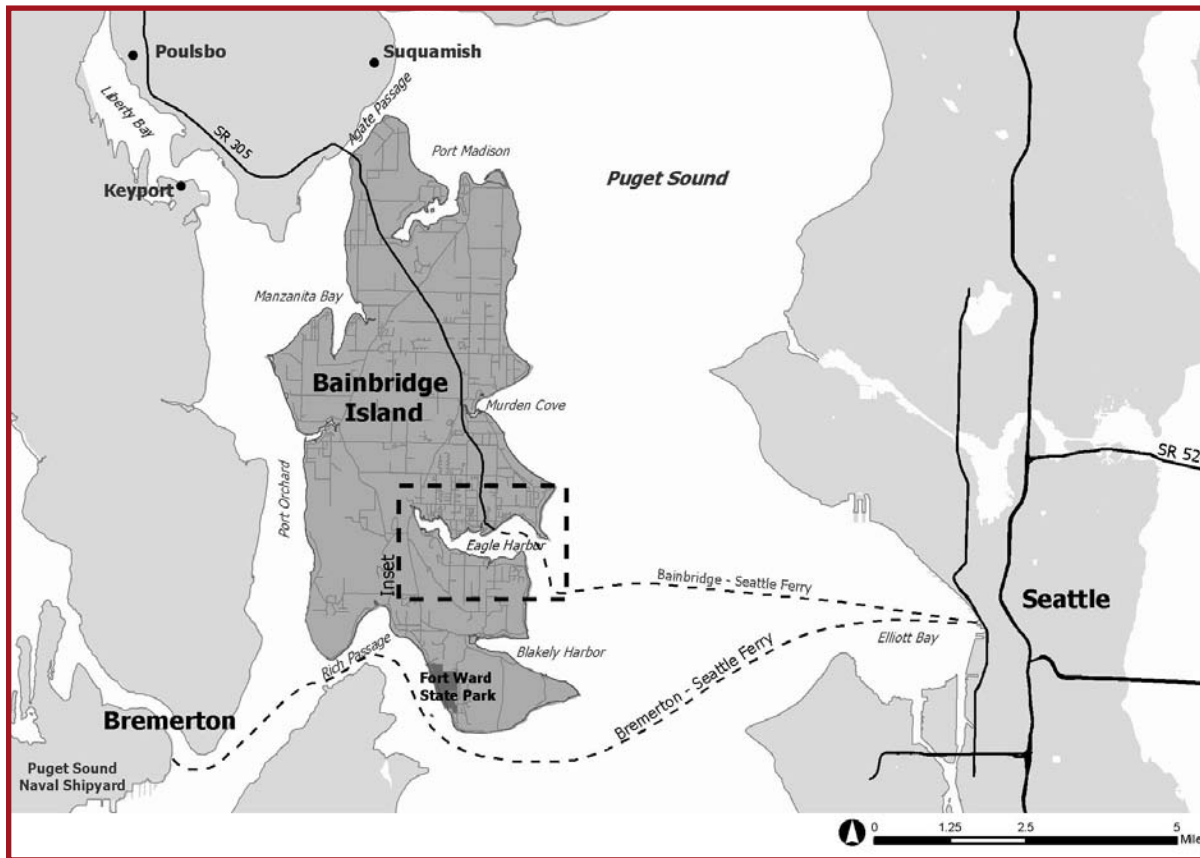


Figure C-2. Bainbridge Island and Puget Sound.

(Figure C-4). This zoning originated in the *Recommended Zoning Report for the Wyckoff Site* prepared by the Wyckoff Zoning Advisory Committee for the City of Bainbridge Island:

South Area

Approximately 7.5 acres of woodland to be left undeveloped to serve as a buffer between the park and existing residential neighborhoods.

North Area

Approximately 42 acres and consists of:

Point

Approximately 11.5 acres to be developed as an active park, retaining views and providing public access to the water (currently the Superfund cleanup site).

Flatlands

Approximately eight acres of waterfront parkland with trail and beach access, protected shoreline habitat. The potential development of active public marine-related uses would provide a public dock, boathouse, and other boating facilities. Consideration will be given to cross-harbor, foot-only ferry access.



Figure C-3. Eagledale Ferry Dock Study Site.

Uplands

West Uplands—A minimum of two acres adjacent to Taylor Avenue would be devoted to the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial in honor of citizens incarcerated during World War II. Vehicular access to the Wyckoff property would be limited or redirected to provide a buffer between the active uses and the memorial.

Ravine—This natural area would primarily serve as a natural wildlife corridor connecting to the habitat beach.

East Uplands—The main vehicular entrance to the park; parking and service uses would be sited here, including buildings serving as interpretive, educational, historical, or cultural centers.

Trail—A trail link through the Uplands would connect to Eagle Harbor, the Uplands, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial, the Point, and the recreational activities along the shoreline.

Eagledale Ferry Dock Site

The Eagledale Ferry Dock was built in September 1937 and dismantled in 1963. Its physical setting has been largely retained since 1942. The dock site is located on the south shore of Eagle Harbor a few hundred yards west of Bill Point. The Eagledale Ferry Dock site slopes from Eagle Harbor Drive along Taylor Avenue to Eagle Harbor where there is a sharp embankment. A line of cedar and other coniferous trees and scattered hardwoods cover the hilly eastern edge of the eight-acre site. The common understory of Puget Sound plant species cover the wooded areas of the site. Vegetation has grown over the historic gravel parking lot for the ferry, but the open character of the site still remains. A large 100-year-old western red cedar tree adjacent to the historic location of the ferry dock has

Study Location and Affected Environment

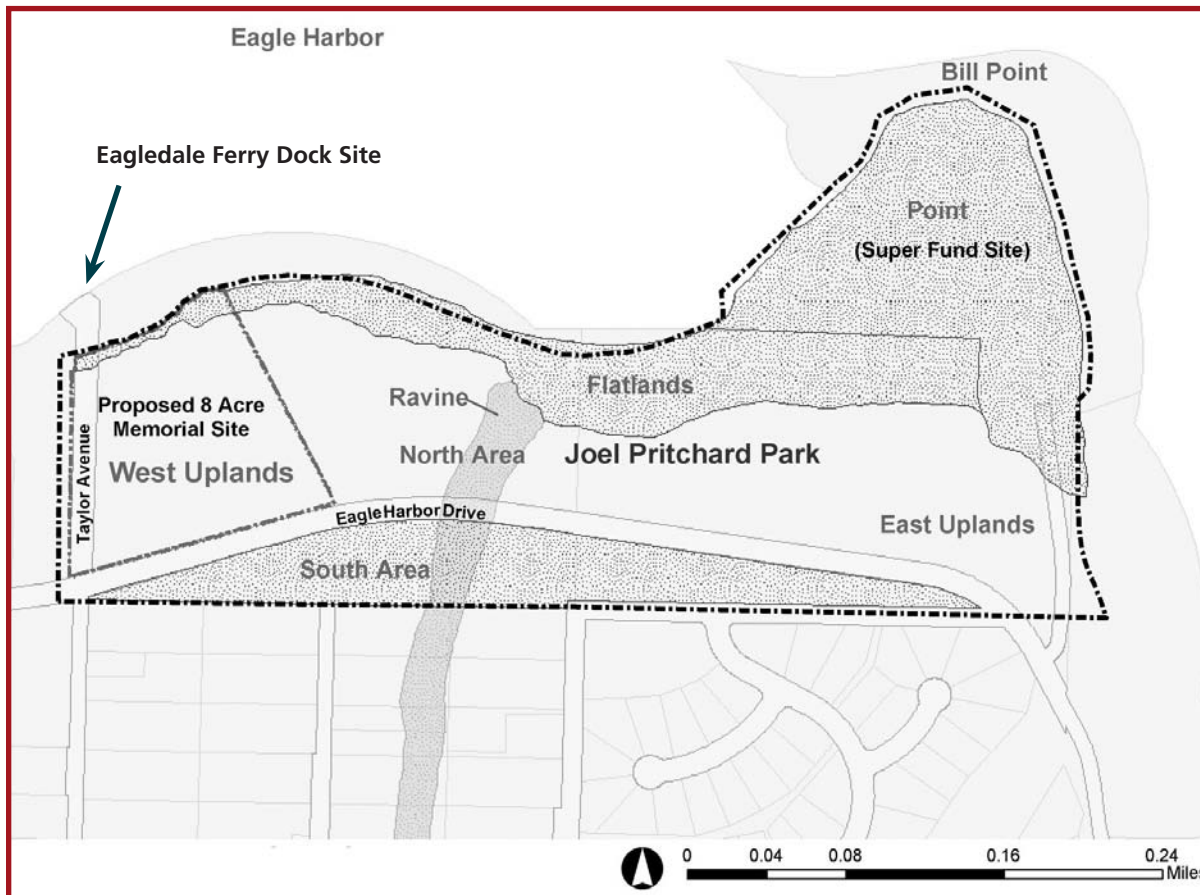


Figure C-4. Detail of Study Site.

been accepted to the National Register of Historic Trees. The tree can be seen in several wartime photographs taken the day of Nikkei departure from their homes on Bainbridge Island. The tree was selected because of its connection to and witness of the human suffering the 227 Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans experienced during World War II.

The major changes to the historic site include the construction of a low, one-story city well house within the original Taylor Avenue road corridor and the removal of the original ferry dock. The City has plans to relocate the well house during Phase I of the memorial development. A private marina abuts the site's western edge. Only a few wood pilings, which can be seen at low tide, delineate the original location and configuration of the ferry dock. The draft National Register of Historic Places nomination summarizes the appearance of the site by saying, "... the site (Eagledale Ferry Dock site) itself has seen few changes over time. . . ."



The creosote plant at Bill Point during its heyday provided treated pilings for use around the Pacific Rim from 1905 to 1988. Eagledale Ferry Dock was located immediately beyond the log rafts in the center of the picture. Since the closing of the creosote plant, much of the area has been re-vegetated. The Superfund site is located where the major concentration of buildings is located.

Photo courtesy Bainbridge Island Historical Society, PB page #164



Local residents are already using the 1,700-foot reconstructed sandy beach created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Superfund mitigation. This beach will be the marine recreational hub for the proposed Joel Pritchard Park.

Background on the Wyckoff/ Eagle Harbor Superfund Site

The Recommended Land Use for the Former Wyckoff Creosote Facility (June 2001) prepared by the City of Bainbridge Island states:

The Wyckoff site, located at Bill Point on the south shore of Eagle Harbor, was the home to wood treatment operations from the early 1900s until 1988. During the nearly 90 years of operation, the soils at the facility and groundwater beneath the site became severely contaminated with creosote and other wood treatment compounds. In the mid-1980s, a citizen's organization, the Association of Bainbridge Communities (ABC), became active to have the site cleaned up after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration identified diseased bottom fish in Eagle Harbor. In 1987, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the site as a Superfund site. After a dozen years of cleanup activity, EPA estimates that at least one million gallons of creosote product remains in the

soil and groundwater beneath the Wyckoff site which is now contained.

This containment area of approximately 11.5 acres is located on the northeast corner of the property and is outside of the scope of the proposed management alternatives.

At this time, the only risk to both public health and the health of the environment is from contamination limited to the containment area.

Since 2000, the EPA working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has installed a sheet pile wall around Bill Point to prevent the migration of contamination and has capped the near harbor shore to cover contaminated sediments. This capping has resulted in the creation of a new 1,700-foot-long sandy beach that offers both public recreation opportunities and habitat improvement. In addition, the EPA has begun treating the major area of contamination by injecting steam into the soil to mobilize the contaminants and pump the residue to the surface. It is planned that this pumping process will continue for another decade.

