THE CITY OF
Battle Ground
WASHINGTON

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The Battle Ground Veterans Memorial at Kiwanis Park

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Focusing on the community's vision, improved service levels, and efficient use of public resources

Battle Ground's Community Vision and Strategic Action Plan, implemented in 2019, charts a clear direction for the city. The vision and plan are based on core community values, identified through Battle Ground's Roadmap community survey and visioning process.

City efforts and resources are focused on the community's vision and strategic plan, the promised service level improvements made with voter approval of fire annexation, and our ongoing commitment to efficient use of public resources.

The city's 2021 budget and operational plan focuses on:

- **City Streets:** An additional $935,600 is dedicated specifically to street repair and maintenance
- **Police Services:** The law enforcement fund increased by $582,077 to maintain and enhance police services including increased traffic patrols, investigations, proactive policing, community outreach and re-implementation of the K-9 program.
- **Beautification:** $77,800 is added for increased maintenance of streetscapes, parks and public areas. (Read more about our beautification plan on the next page.)
- **Parks & Recreation:** A one-time investment of $100,000 to create a master plan for the city's parks and recreation resources of the future. Battle Ground residents place a high value on well-being and the sense of community that parks and recreation resources offer.

In keeping with our commitment to using public resources efficiently, the city will pay off a parks bond at its earliest payoff date of December 1, 2021. Doing so saves $140,160 in interest.

Core city services (police, streets, planning and parks & recreation) are funded by you, the taxpayer, through property, sales, and utility tax.

City Council made a commitment to reduce the utility tax rate on water, sewer and stormwater drainage by 46% beginning in 2021. That promise was delivered early in June of 2020 as a way of providing relief to residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the 2021 budget process, council chose not to increase the property tax levy (the total amount of property tax collected). New growth that occurred in 2020 will provide an additional $122,776 of property tax revenue this year.

With more property owners sharing the cost of city services, the city's property tax levy rate decreased from $1.35 per thousand of assessed value in 2020 to $1.29 per thousand this year.

Creating a sense of place that fosters community pride

The city is actively engaged in a beautification plan to improve the overall appearance of the city. We recognize that beautification is an entire-community effort, where the city, organizations and individuals work together to create a sense of place that fosters community pride.

Here is a look at what the city is doing, and how you play a part.



We are increasing maintenance in public spaces with the addition of temporary staff during the growing season between April and October. Crews will focus on landscaping along city streets and public spaces. Trees will be trimmed and replaced as needed. In addition, the city has obtained a right-of-way permit from WSDOT to access and regularly mow along SR 503 and SR 502.

Maintenance will increase in city parks, too. Crews will focus on more frequent mowing and care of landscaped areas and trees. Irrigation of parks will resume, starting with Kiwanis Park and Central Park. The Parks & Community Engagement Advisory Board is tasked with engaging the community to design new landscaping for the Community Center's outdoor pavilion area, and procure monetary and in-kind donations to complete the project.

Street sweeping makes a community look clean and tidy, and protects the environment by reducing harmful contaminants entering the stormwater system and local streams. Thanks to a new sweeper truck, crews will be able to conduct more street sweeping. In keeping with our commitment to use public resources efficiently, the city obtained a grant to cover 75 percent of the purchase. And, we sold the old sweeper, further reducing costs.

City codes are designed to keep residents safe and improve the quality life in neighborhoods. An increased emphasis will be placed on code enforcement. An update to the code and new procedures will streamline the process of removing abandoned vehicles, of enforcing minimum property maintenance standards, and ensuring building and development activity is permitted. We believe that education and voluntary compliance is the best approach. Continued non-compliance, however, will be addressed with the appropriate fines and actions.

We have pursued a partnership with Clark County to reduce the exorbitant cost of removing large abandoned recreational vehicles. We are happy to report success and that an unsightly abandoned RV was recently removed from city streets at a fraction of the pre-partnership cost.

The city will continue to promote its Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Street programs, and other volunteer opportunities that engage the community in beautification efforts. Currently 5 city parks and 2 streets have been adopted by individuals and organizations. If you are interested in participating, we invite you to learn more here.

Communication plays an important role in developing successful partnerships and achieving common goals. While current circumstances make personal contact difficult, we are committed to providing information and updates through our website, social media, and through media releases. We invite you to reach out by phone, by email or through our website portals if you have any questions or comments.

Together, we can create a sense of place and pride in neighborhoods and throughout the city of Battle Ground.

Spring brings the promise of hope and opportunity

Spring is just around the corner. Central Park, located on East Main Street in the city's Old Town district will soon bloom with hundreds of red tulips in a visual sign of hope and opportunity.

The Lewis River Rotary Club formally adopted Central Park last year, joining the efforts of Friends of Central Park who have dotingly cared for the park over the years.

The city's Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Street programs were established in 2019 as public service programs for volunteers interested in enhancing the quality of public spaces, engaging with their community, and promoting civic pride. The city's Public Works department oversees the program and works in concert with volunteers to leverage and maximize resources.

Last October, the Rotary club partnered with the city, Prevent Together: Battle Ground Prevention Alliance, and Chief Umtuch Middle School students to plant hundreds of red tulips in Central Park.

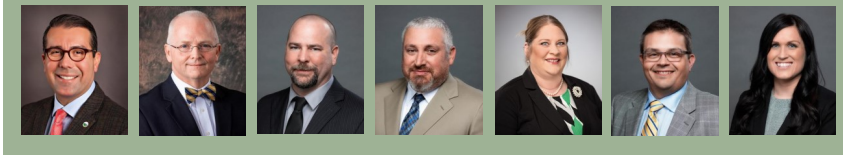
The students are members of the DREAM Team, a youth extension of Prevent Together, who advocate for and encourage drug prevention. The bulb planting project was part of Red Ribbon Week, a national drug-abuse prevention campaign. Red ribbons, and in this case, red tulips, symbolize hope and opportunity.



As tulips emerge from the ground each spring, they'll serve as a reminder to support our community's youth, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention efforts.

Prevent Together: Battle Ground Prevention Alliance believes connection is the best prevention. The coalition is comprised of individuals and organizations committed to supporting a healthy environment for kids. Learn more and connect with Prevent Together.

Meet your Battle Ground City Council



- Información será traducida al español a petición de cityclerk.info@cityofbg.org.
- Информация имеется на русском языке по запросу на cityclerk.info@cityofbg.org.
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