



# 2021 State of the City Address

## **Mayor Adrian Cortes:**

Welcome! I'm Adrian Cortes, Mayor of Battle Ground, Washington. I'm here to present the State of the City address. But not from City Hall.

Instead I'm here in our neighborhoods, because we're all part of the story of Battle Ground. And every day, we make new history together.

We're proud of what we've partnered to accomplish. But we look ahead to an even better 2021. Today, we'll share about how we're getting there.

In 2018, we asked you: What does the future hold for Battle Ground? How do you want your community to look and feel?

Your answers resulted in the Community Vision & Strategic Action Plan. This plan now guides our work as a city. And with your support, we will continue to make progress.

## ROADWAYS

### **Mayor Cortes:**

The history of nearly any place begins with the roads that connect us.

Up until now, we've accomplished preservation projects with about \$300,000 in annual funding. I'm happy to report, we now have the resources to increase that funding 3-fold to over \$900,000 that will be invested into our city's Street Preservation Program in 2021 alone.

### **Ryan Jeynes, City Engineer:**

This year we'll be focusing on mill and fill projects, a method we use to preserve streets where there are surface-level deficiencies.

We'll come in and completely remove the existing surface layer and then replace it with new asphalt.

At the same time, our crews will be out crack sealing streets throughout the city to prepare for slurry sealing projects in 2022.

We have a multi-year plan that guides our work and maximizes cost-effectiveness.

Watch for our crews in your area this summer!

## POLICE

### **Mayor Cortes:**

We made a promise to better fund the police department and we've done just that with an additional \$500,000 in funding.

We've hired three new officers, and with grant funding, we'll be hiring a fourth. We've also heard your request about more proactive policing, and more traffic enforcement.

And, since about every story involves individuals stepping into new challenges and opportunities, I'd like to introduce you to Officer Julia MacPhee.

### **Officer Julia MacPhee:**

I'm excited to be taking on a new role as Battle Ground's traffic officer. I'll be focused on improving public safety, with what I call the three E's.

The first E is education - working with citizens to elevate understanding of the revised code of Washington regarding traffic laws.

Next is engineering - working to identify areas of town that may statistically trend as challenging from a vehicle operator's standpoint, and advise on remedial actions.

The final focus is enforcement - enforcing existing traffic laws in Battle Ground to protect our community.

When everything is working together just right, it makes Battle Ground a safer, less stressful, and easier place to navigate - for everyone.

### **Mayor Cortes:**

Thank you Officer MacPhee.

And now, I'd like to introduce to you the newest member of our Battle Ground Police Department.

### **Officer Fraser:**

Thank you, Mayor Cortes. What story would be complete without a dog?

This is my new (K-9) partner, Charlie.

We love training and working together. His primary job is to use his nose – his superior sense of smell – to help us search for evidence, narcotics or suspects.

We also look forward to getting out to events and meeting the community. Charlie is very social!

## BEAUTIFICATION

### **Mayor Cortes:**

Everyone loves a redemption plot. One in which something that's become worn and weary is made better and

given a new chance at life.

This year, we've allocated a much needed additional \$80,000 to better maintain our streetscapes, our parks and our public areas.

***Todd Klein, Public Works Supervisor:***

Our plan focuses on parks, street medians, along major roadways, and our city-owned drainage facilities.

To be cost effective, we're recruiting temporary crews to work alongside our regular crew over the next several months.

Our staff takes a lot of pride in the work they do. We're excited to have additional resources to help with beautification efforts.

***Mayor Cortes:***

Neighborhoods - the places we live, connect with each other, and raise our families will always be at the backbone of our city. And, the livability of any neighborhood takes everyone's effort.

Like all cities, Battle Ground has a set of standards - code - designed to preserve and protect the safety and character of our neighborhoods. As part of our city's beautification efforts, we are streamlining code compliance processes. Our goal is to ensure city codes are observed to safeguard well-being and quality of life in our neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY PARTNERHSIPS

***Mayor Cortes:***

There's an enduring thread that runs through every chapter of our story. It's the spirit of partnerships – people connecting to care for our community.

We're here in Central Park, in the heart of the city's Old Town district, where those very connections are making great things happen.

***Voice Over:***

Great things like partnerships developed through the city's recently formed Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a Street programs.

The program provides Public Works support for organizations and individuals who have a desire to give back to their community – people who are energized by making and keeping Battle Ground beautiful.

The Lewis River Rotary Club adopted Central Park last year. Club members have gathered together on several occasions to care for the park. They've trimmed, edged, raked, and cleaned up the park beautifully. Their cleanup efforts have highlighted community partnerships of decades ago, as these recently rediscovered plaques will attest to, and, has inspired new community connections.

Last fall, the Lewis River Rotary Club teamed up with members of the Chief Umtuch Middle School DREAM

Team to plant hundreds of tulip bulbs in Central Park.

The DREAM Team, students who advocate for and empower their peers to live drug-free lives, organized the bulb planting project as a part of Red Ribbon Week, a national substance-abuse prevention campaign.

As red tulips emerge from the ground each spring, they serve as a beautiful reminder to support and encourage our community's youth.

Near the park entrance, is a bike rack – one of several donated by the Greater Federation of Women's Clubs of Battle Ground back in 2009.

Next to the bike rack sits an inviting park bench. Benches all along East Main Street are being lovingly restored by members of the Battle Ground Rotary Club.

Two years ago, the club adopted East Main Street in Old Town as part of the city's Adopt-a-Street program. Their beautification efforts, including weeding and litter removal has added to the welcoming nature of Old Town.

***Mayor Cortes:***

Battle Ground has a long history of caring partnerships, and we're so very thankful. Our entire community benefits when we work together toward a common goal.

Parks Planning

***Mayor Cortes:***

Here in Battle Ground, we value parks, open spaces and recreational resources.

This year, we'll be working with the community to envision parks and recreation resources of the future, and set goals to get there. I hope you'll join the effort.

Battle Ground residents and businesses, you've faced real challenges and hardships over the last year. And you've proven, again, the importance of a caring, connected community.

I am hopeful for our future, and so proud to call Battle Ground home.

At the city, we have a clear direction.

We continue to rely on your participation and support as we work toward creating the future our community has envisioned.

This is Battle Ground, and together, we are making new history.