



BREMERTON
WASHINGTON

2022 State of the City

Making Bremerton Better for All





City of Bremerton Sales Tax History 2019 - 2021

The graph represents the City's cumulative sales tax totals for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

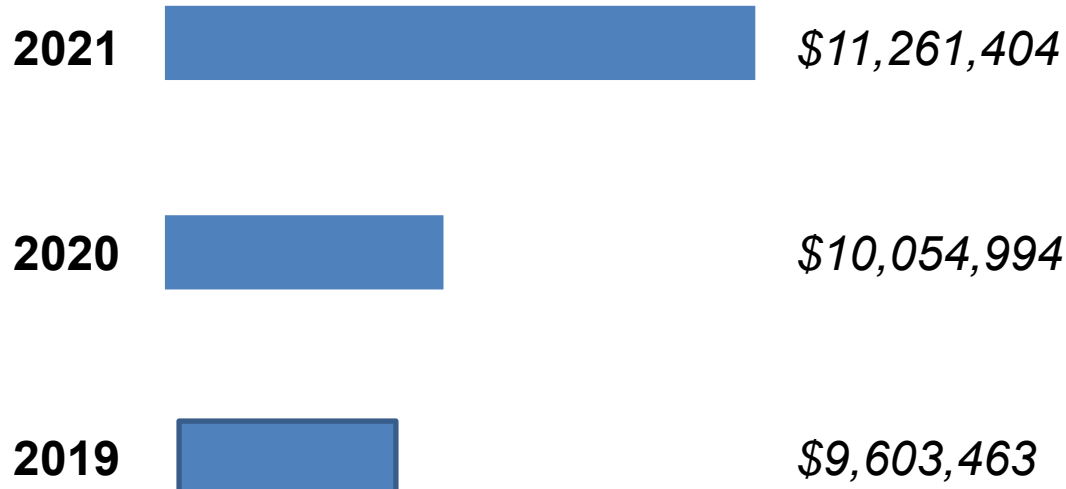




Photo by Sound West Group

Housing and Commercial Development Improvements

2021:

Record year of permit valuations (nearly \$145 million) with a total of 1,689 permits

2022:

- 1,700+ homes/apartments and approx. 150,000 sq. ft. of commercial space in pipeline
- Continue with infill development toolkit to add affordable housing, with this year's code updates focusing on cottage housing
- Update City's multifamily housing tax exemption program to focus incentive on affordable housing



Permit Activity Update

The City processed nearly 34% more permits than 2020 and exceeded valuation total by more than \$1.5 million in 2021!

As of the end of April, we had nearly \$35 million in permits approved. **The total is now close to \$144 million in permits approved and pending!** This puts us at 2020 levels and heading toward what we did in 2021.

Year	# of Permits	Total Valuations
2016	870	\$53,476,252
2017	929	\$51,297,918
2018	1238	\$79,461,508
2019	1204	\$128,301,690
2020	1265	\$143,423,389
2021	1689	\$144,935,400
2022	503	\$34,668,075 *

* Permits through April 30, 2022



Before



After

Proactive Code Enforcement

- **2021:** Completed third full year of proactive code enforcement and addressed 1,000+ issues as part of program
- **2022:** Continue enhanced code enforcement program to address issues



Affordable Housing Assistance

2021:

- 100,000 in City funding for City's rental assistance program with \$100,000 match by Bremerton Housing Authority – helped prevent eviction and maintain rental housing for 37 City households. The City also received special federal funding from the CARES Act and assisted 206 households.
- \$100,000 in City funding for weatherization and minor home repair program, helped reduce heating and housing costs for 10 households.

2022:

- Continue funding to Bremerton Rental Assistance program in partnership with Bremerton Housing Authority to provide eviction assistance that helps working low-income residents and seniors
- Continue additional \$100,000 of assistance for City's weatherization and minor home repair program in partnership with Kitsap Community Resources
- Transition the purpose of Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) from stimulating new construction to focusing on affordable housing



Kitsap Lake Cleanup Plan

2021:

- Completed second year of Phoslock treatment and mechanical harvesting of submerged and invasive vegetation to eliminate blue-green algae blooms; **increased water clarity from 6 feet to 20 feet**
- Coordinated with residents to harvest invasive vegetation at Kitsap Lake Park

2022:

- Continue near-shore vegetation management to enhance long-term water quality
- Continue algae control measures and monitoring of water quality
- Design 4 stormwater treatment discharge facilities, and install stormwater treatment at Kitsap Lake Park as part of the park's redevelopment project

Park Updates

2021:

- Completed and opened Warren Avenue Park/Playfield and the first full season of field use
- Completed architectural, engineering and construction documents for Kitsap Lake Park
- Approved grant agreements for improvements to LuLu Haddon Park
- Completed master plan for Gold Mountain Golf Complex Cascade Course improvements

2022:

- Initiate construction and improvements to Kitsap Lake Park
- Begin design of Pendergast Regional Park soccer field improvements and secure construction funding
- Start architectural, engineering and permitting for LuLu Haddon Park improvements
- Initiate updates to Lions Park sports courts and accessibility improvements
- Begin implementation of master plan for improvements to Gold Mountain Cascade Golf Course
- Secure legislative funding for Kiwanis Park improvements
- Work with YMCA on increasing public access to City-owned Jarstad pool



Arts and Culture

2021:

- 3 art wraps for utility cabinets, 4 art wraps for service cabinets, 3 art wall panels added to the Wash. Ave. Open Air Gallery, supported efforts for Bremerton to become “creative district,” and continued poet laureate program

2022:

- 2-4 art wraps, select and install new art wall panels to Wash Avenue Outdoor Gallery, continue support for “creative district” certification for Bremerton, and support City poet laureate program.
- Secure funding and seek construction bids for Quincy Square on 4th Street. Support selection of a mural artist and an artist for a sculpture in Quincy Square through two committees. The art will be funded through the project. Approve contracts with the artists for production of the art.



Police Support and Crime Reduction

2021:

- Continued hiring of new officers to support police force
- Completed purchases of body cameras for all officers and began implementation of body camera program
- Hired Navigator position and worked on a second position to respond to mental health issues and provide crisis intervention; Navigator responded to 287 police cases related to mental health in 2021
- Laid groundwork for Citizens Academy of volunteers to support collaboration with police and safety efforts in the City
- Explored ways to expand police outreach through Block Watch neighborhood program and enhance relationships in community
- Looked for ways to further develop Safe Place program



Police Support and Crime Reduction

2022:

- Hire five new budgeted officers and continue full staffing of police force, including community policing such as bicycle patrols
- Complete purchases of police body cameras for all officers
- Continue implementation of Intelligence Led Policing initiative
- Continue looking for ways to enhance Safe Place program
- Explore remote technology for starting new Block Watch opportunities in neighborhoods
- Continue and expand the Navigator Program, which provides crisis intervention and connects those with services and treatment for mental health and addiction
- Double private security patrols, invest and improve city lighting, upgrade and add security cameras, increase police designated patrols along with hiring



Fire Reduction and Public Safety

2021:

- Additional funding approved for 2 firefighters and 1 firefighter/EMT to assist with improving efficiencies and emergency response
 - 1,224 life safety inspections completed
 - 2 loss of life due to fire, 22 fires investigated
 - Responded to 10,048 emergency incidents, a 16% increase over 2020 (8,653) and the highest on record for the department
- Purchased Wildland Fire Engine
- Completed first full year of implementation of mobile unit to better respond to opioid and mental health incidents in partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services
- Remodel of Fire Stations Two and Three were last two projects completed under \$4.5 million public safety bond (2015). The bond allowed the purchase of new Ladder 1 (L-1) truck, two fire engines, two ambulances, 5 staff vehicles and other safety equipment.



Fire Reduction and Public Safety

2022:

- Hire budgeted new staff to increase efficiencies and improve emergency response
- Complete fire department long range strategic plan, which will assess emergency support and needs for next 20 years in community
- Complete second full year of implementation of mobile unit to better respond to opioid and mental health incidents in partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services



Before



After

Nuisance Property Abatement Program

Two programs started in 2018 allow City to clean up nuisance property:

- **Court-appointed receiver program (RCW 7.60)**
 - 2 properties completed in 2021; 4 properties in progress/4 planned for 2022
- **Abatement program (RCW 35.80)**
 - 1 property completed in 2021

Note: 10 properties on priority list completed; additional properties being assessed for future action

Streets and Sidewalks Program

2021:

- Constructed 2,000 feet of sidewalks and installed 9 ADA curb ramps
- Began construction of overlay of 6th Street (Warren Ave to Pacific Ave)
- Worked on design of East 11th St and Perry Ave project
- Began design and construction of downtown bike lane improvements (Complete Streets)
- Began design of Naval Avenue project from 1st to 15th Streets
- Completed design of Kitsap Way corridor improvements
- Began design of Washington Avenue and 11th Street improvements
- Began Bremerton commuter transportation and traffic study in partnership with U.S. Navy



Streets and Sidewalks Program

2022:

- Construct 2,000 feet of sidewalks and install 20 ADA curb ramps
- Complete second year of three-year plan to improve Belfair Valley Road
- Continue implementation of 5-year contract to eliminate trip hazards on City sidewalks
- Complete overlay of 6th Street (Warren Ave to Pacific Ave): begin design of the final phase of 6th Street (Naval Ave to Warren Ave)
- Begin construction of East 11th St and Perry Ave project
- Complete downtown bike lane improvements (Complete Streets)
- Complete design of Naval Avenue project from 1st to 15th Streets
- Begin design/pursue funding to construct Warren Avenue Bridge improvements
- Begin construction of Washington Ave and 11th Street improvements
- Complete Bremerton commuter transportation and traffic study in partnership with U.S. Navy
- Begin the West Kitsap Way planning study (from SR 3 to Bremerton city limits)
- Begin citywide wayfinding plan



Medical Care Access

2021: Began exploring new health care opportunities for the City of Bremerton

2022:

- Continue to partner with CHI Franciscan/Virginia Mason to develop urgent/prompt care in Bremerton
- Partner on development of CHI Franciscan emergent care



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Mental Health

2021:

- Supported construction of Pendleton Place housing
- Completed first full year of implementation of mobile unit to better respond to opioid and mental health incidents in partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services
- Supported Stand By Me coordinated healthcare and Navigator Program for crisis intervention, mental health services and treatment for addiction

2022:

- Continue support for Pendleton Place permanent supportive housing development
- Continue support for Stand By Me healthcare coordination and expand Navigator Program for crisis intervention and connections to mental health services and addiction treatment
- Continue mobile healthcare clinic partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services to better respond to opioid and mental health incidents

Human Resources/Diversity

2021:

- Continued working on recruiting strategies to expand City's hiring pool
- Translated HR documents into Spanish and Mam (employment application, ADA Statement, EEO Program, Equal Opportunity Statement, and City's Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Plan)
- Made improvements to avoid unintentional implicit bias during candidate screening process. There have been notable changes in diversity of City's new hires since initiating Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Plan in 2018.
- All current City employees and new hires assigned diversity and inclusion training. The six-part learning path was completed by 360 employees.
- The EEO Committee and all newly appointed/hired supervisor have been assigned a learning plan that covers the Age Discrimination Act, the Equal Pay Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the ADA, and the Civil Rights Act.

Human Resources/Diversity

2022:

- Continue City's workforce diversity and inclusion efforts, including employee training, expanding recruiting outreach for job advertisements with professional/minority service organizations, and made improvements to avoid unintentional implicit bias during candidate screening
- Continue implementation of City's new NeoGov Onboarding system: saving time, money and making more environmentally friendly; helping to speed up onboarding process for new hires; and allowing employees to access personnel files online
- Review and update supervisor's handbook and HR policies
- Provide Equal Employment Opportunity Law learning path to all employees who have not already received it
- Provide sexual harassment training to all employees

Parking

2021:

Parking Enforcement

- Fully implemented License Plate Reader technology, reducing enforcement process from a 20-minute manual process to 5 minutes virtually. This has allowed for more regular enforcement in all City zones.

Parking Management

- Installed or replaced 127 parking signs across the City
- Completed downtown commuter survey to guide Smart Commuter Program
- Supported bike improvement project, including installation of 4 bike racks and improved access
- Utilized technology to improve parking services: installed first occupancy sign at the Red Level of the Harborside Garage to show availability of parking stalls; added City parking garages to online app for parking stall reservations; continued support of pay-by-phone/touchless meters for virtual parking payments
- Completed new permit options for recreational vehicles (RVs), including boats and boat trailers



Parking

2022:

- Continue expanding safety improvements for downtown, including increased budget for security guards to monitor City parking garages and downtown streets, upgrading street lighting and adding additional security cameras
- Further improve parking enforcement and tools, including expanded use of License Plate Reader technology
- Support continued update and improvement of parking signage throughout the City
- Continue improving access to multi-modal transit options and Smart Commuter program
- Add bike access in downtown core and throughout the City
- Continue to improve and adopt technology for online parking tools and apps for residents



Transportation

2021:

- Supported Bremerton fast ferries and local foot ferry service during pandemic conditions
- Continued to support work on increasing electrification of Kitsap Transit system

2022:

- Begin moving forward on Kitsap Transit feasibility study for development of Gateway Center
- Support electrification of Kitsap Transit fleet and local ferries, including pursuit of federal funding for electric fast foil ferry prototype on Bremerton-Seattle route, support of design and construction of an all-electric foot ferry for Bremerton-Port Orchard-Annapolis route, addition of more electric buses and expansion of electric charging infrastructure
- Looking to secure former bowling alley in West Bremerton for future location of new transit park & ride lot with access to SR 3
- Secure funding for Washington State Ferry system to restore services
- Analyze multi-modal transit options (ferry, buses, bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, etc.) and identify gaps to improve mobility in the City
- Implement Sunday service and continue making transit improvements across the City



Naval Base Kitsap – Bremerton Transportation and Traffic Study

2021:

- Began commuter transportation and traffic study in cooperation with U.S. Navy to reduce gridlock and parking issues from heavy commuter traffic in and around City
- Gathered public input on traffic and parking challenges for development of long-term solutions

2022:

- Complete commuter transportation and traffic study



Youth Academic and Civic Engagement

2021:

- Completed 3rd year of Mayor's Challenge program, which supported top student science projects that addressed City issues.
 - Grades 9-12: Vedant Srinivas – *Ora - A Non-Habituating Audiovisual Animal Warning System to Mitigate Roadkill*
 - Grades 1-8: Prayrona Choudhury – *Robot Fish - Exploring Aquatic Environments*; Srivikaat Ravi and Sanjay Chandra – *The Parking Lot^2*
- Completed 3rd year of Mayor's Youth Leadership Award program, which recognized academic achievement and civic leadership of high school students in the Bremerton district. Selected Alejandra Pulido for 2021 award.

2022:

- Administer Mayor's Challenge Award for student science project addressing City issue
- Continue Mayor's Youth Leadership Award program

Business Opportunity and Economic Growth

2021/2022:

- Make continuous code updates to support revitalization of Eastside Village Center (formerly Harrison hospital site), including adjustment of height and density requirements
- Updated zoning regulations to wrap in results from Callow Ave business district study in 2021; changes support continuous revitalization of area
- Delivered final report on Wheaton Way/SR 303 Corridor recommendations in 2021
- Gather input from public to identify service gaps of internet services and networks in the City and deliver study recommendations in 2022; continue coordination with Kitsap Public Utility District to look for opportunities to expand local broadband infrastructure



Business Opportunity and Economic Growth

2021/2022 (continued):

- Bremerton Airport named as one of top 6 airports to be considered for expansion in Washington state; final recommendations expected in early 2023
- Carry out work with Port of Bremerton and private partners to analyze economic benefits for expansion; discussions include potential job growth, business expansion and long-term prospects for Bremerton and region
- Worked with partners on transportation improvements for Gorst corridor, secured initial funding to fix Gorst corridor in 2022
- Provide funding for local businesses, including small business assistance, help for downtown businesses through Mainstreet Association, and entrepreneurship program
- Increase business and occupation (B&O) tax exemption from \$240,000 to \$1 million in 2022 for businesses; implement utility rate freeze for 2022

Finance

2021:

- Evaluated technology to allow for a streamlined digital on-boarding of new hires; identified and purchased solution and prepared for testing phase
- Implemented new technologies and processes across departments to improve efficiencies and expand digital services to residents and businesses
- Worked to prepare Council Chambers for a new hybrid format, which integrates Zoom video with in-person attendance to expand reach to public

2022:

- Continue implementation of monthly water/sewer/stormwater billing for residents
- Begin new asset management program, which uses data to inform decisions on new and existing City equipment and maintenance
- Explore additional improvements and efficiencies using technology and new processes
- Implement utility rate freeze for 2022
- Complete testing and rollout of digital on-boarding and E-forms



Legislative Efforts

- Worked to pursue solutions to reduce homelessness
- Participated in solutions to increase affordable housing solutions
- Secured initial funding to fix Gorst corridor
- Secured legislative funding for Warren Avenue Bridge pedestrian improvements
- Attained final funding for development of Quincy Square on 4th Street
- Achieved funding to support upgrades to downtown Bremerton Library
- Secured state funding for Kiwanis Park playground
- Achieved funding for Washington State Ferry system workforce challenges and new vessels
- Supported funding for electrifying ferry fleet, including Kitsap Transit all-electric foot ferry for Bremerton-Port Orchard-Annapolis



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