



FRIENDS OF THE FARMS

2017 Annual Report

City of Bainbridge Island and Friends of the Farms Master Lease and Management Agreement Lease Duration 2012-2042

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1. Friends of the Farms

Friends of the Farms is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation in Bainbridge Island, Washington founded in 2001 with the mission to preserve and enhance local agriculture, increase farmland, and support the farming community.

We create an environment on Bainbridge Island where local agriculture can flourish by managing approximately 60 acres of publicly owned farmland, providing affordable housing for farm interns in two farm houses, connecting farmers with landowners for affordable farmland, and work collaboratively to advocate the communitywide social, economic, and environmental benefits of local farms and food.

Friends of the Farms envisions a robust agricultural scene, with a minimum of 180 acres on Bainbridge Island permanently protected for agriculture, an ever-increasing customer base for locally grown food, and opportunities that attract and retain future generations of farmers.

Friends of the Farms is committed to improving the overall economic, environmental, and social health of Bainbridge Island by:

- Creating the desirable visual presence of a rural community
- Providing cultural and economic diversity
- Preserving our island's agricultural and ethnic heritage
- Ensuring food resilience
- Protecting our environment

2. Background and History

On December 9, 2011, Friends of the Farms (FotF) and the City of Bainbridge Island (City) signed the “City of Bainbridge Island and Friends of the Farms Master Lease and Management Agreement” (Master Lease). The duration of the Master Lease is 30 years, commencing on the first day of January 2012, and terminating on the first day of January 2042. The properties described in the Master Lease include 60.83 acres of City-owned agricultural land.

Summary of City-owned Agricultural Land Leased by Friends of the Farms

Agricultural Property Name	Location	Size (acres)
Suyematsu & Bentryn Family Farms	9229 NE Day Road- Northeast Section	14.76
Suyematsu & Bentryn Family Farms	9229 NE Day Road- Northwest Section	11.21
Morales Farm	8862 NE Lovgreen Road- Northeast corner of Highway 305 and Lovgreen	4.74
Crawford Property	Accessed either from Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farms or Lovgreen Road, between Bentryn property (private) to the north and Lempriere property (private) to the south	2.30
M&E Farm	Accessed via Charles Road; between Crawford (west) and private Bentryn property (north)	13.34
Johnson Farm	Johnsonville Lane off of Fletcher Bay Road, approximately ½ mile south of High School Road	14.51
TOTAL ACREAGE		60.36

3. Required Annual Reporting

Pursuant to Section 3.11 of the Master Lease, Friends of the Farms is required to provide the City with an annual written report. The report is to include at least the following information:

A. Quantification of produce and products from designated leased properties

This year farmers on public land grew a record 121,306 pounds of produce, along with sunflowers, flowers for bouquets, plant starts, and nursery trees.

Butler Green, Hey Day, Laughing Crow, Bainbridge Vineyards, and Suyematsu Farms sell produce grown on public farmland at the Bainbridge Island Farmer's Market. The Market took in \$573,540 in 2017, up from \$541,961 in 2016. Visitors to the market increased by 3% and there were an average of 37 vendors per week in the regular season, both upward trends.

Local businesses such as Bay Hay & Feed, Heyday Farm Store, Pane D'amore, and Town & Country Market sell products from farmers on public farmland. Restaurants such as Bainbridge Island Museum of Art Café, Bene Pizza, Blackbird Bakery, Bruciato, Café Nola, Fork and Spoon, Harbor Pub, Hitchcock, Jake's Pickup, Pegasus, Marché, Mossback, Psychedeli, and Via Rosa, source ingredients from local farms on public land.

The production of value-added products from produce grown on public farmland and sold by local small business owners is also growing and includes beverages and fermented foods from Iggy's, jams from Preserve, organic body products from Sun & Bee, and yarn from Emily Tzeng spun from sheep grazed on public farmland and dyed from natural Indigo from plants grown on public farmland.



Farmers on public land, including Bainbridge Island Farms, Butler Green Farms, and Laughing Crow Farms give back to benefit our vulnerable populations through regular donations of fresh, healthy food to the foodbank at Helpline House. Helpline's records indicate at least 6,000 pounds of fresh produce was donated in 2017. That figure means that each time a person left Helpline House with food, an estimated ½ pound of produce was from local farms. Two food bank customers shared the impact this has on their health . . .

The fresh produce I get from Helpline means I recovered from an injury much quicker that I would have if I didn't have it, according to my doctor. I can't afford fresh produce from the grocery, so it made all the difference in my health.

We have a large family, and fresh fruit and vegetables simply aren't in our budget for every day. The produce at the food bank means I can feed my children healthy food.

Quantification of Produce and Products- 2017

Quantities are in pounds unless otherwise indicated

Name	Location	Produce	Quantity
Laughing Crow Farm Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Potatoes	900
		Dried indigo plant material (equals 20 gallons of natural indigo dye) - for Emily Tzeng	70
		Total quantity	970 lbs
Bainbridge Island Vineyards Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Siegeerrebe	4,300
		Madeleine Angevine	6,800
		Muller-Thurgau	4,000
		Pinot Gris	2,000
		Total quantity	17,100 lbs
Bainbridge Island Farms Karen Selvar	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Raspberries	6,000
		Pumpkins	58,750
		Total quantity	64,750 lbs
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Suyematsu– Bentyrn	Sweet Corn	1,225
		Lettuce	50
		Beans	2,230
		Cauliflower	365
		Broccoli	635
		Beets	2,650
		Carrots	4,850
		Onions	2,250
		Garlic	50
		Other Greens	1,275
		Herbs	65
		Artichokes	36
		Sunflowers	(300 stems)
		Total quantity	15,681 lbs
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Morales Farm	Tomatoes	7,400
		Onions	1,275
		Summer Squash	475
		Strawberries	240
		Lettuce	1,200
		Other Greens	1,150
		Cucumbers	675
		Herbs	25
		Carrots	2,150
		Beets	317
		Flowers	(60 bouquets)
Plants Starts	(675 flats)		
		Total quantity	14,907 lbs

Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Morales Farm	Melon de Bourgogne	1,634
		Total quantity	1,634 lbs
Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Suyematsu– Bentlyrn	Mueller Thurgau Madeleine Angevine	680 860
		Total quantity	1,540 lbs
John Chang’s Garden John Chang	Morales Farm	Corn Kale Winter Squash Brussels Sprouts Broccoli Lettuce Mizuna Arugula Chinese Broccoli Chard Cabbage Beets Mustard Collards Flowers	650 216 600 200 60 200 5 3 3 15 20 270 13 5
		Total quantity	2,260 lbs
Heyday Farm	Johnson Farm	Broccoli Cauliflower Kale Strawberries Brussel Sprouts	880 1,150 34 385 15
		Total quantity	2,464 lbs
Paulson Farm Mike Paulson	Suyematsu– Bentlyrn	Nursery Trees	N/A
		Total All Farms	121,306 lbs

B. Identification of farmer subleases by parcel, acreage, and lease rates



While public holding of agricultural land is a valuable community asset, it was recognized shortly after its acquisition that farmers cannot invest in their operations without the guarantee of long-term access to the land they are cultivating. To this end, the general Master Lease responsibility of Friends of the Farms is to negotiate and manage sublease agreements with farmers and provide various management services for the leased public farmland and structures.

In 2013, Friends of the Farms executed eight subleases on Suyematsu and Bentlyrn Family Farms, Johnson Farm, and Morales Farm (Only public farmland that was conducive for farming with minimum enhancements was considered.)

Sublease terms range from 5-25 years. Annual sublease rates (based on USDA lease rate formulas) range from \$170 per acre to \$334 per acre, plus utilities.

Summary of Farmer Sub-Leases - 2017

Name	Location Parcel Number	Acreage	Lease Rate (acre/year)	Duration (years)
Laughing Crow Farm Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentyrn 102502-1-063-2005	1.19	\$334	25
Bainbridge Island Vineyard Betsey Wittick	Suyematsu– Bentyrn 102502-1-063-2005	3.34	\$334	25
Bainbridge Island Farms (now Suyematsu Farms) Karen Selvar	Suyematsu– Bentyrn 102502-1-063-2005	6.82	\$334	25
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Suyematsu– Bentyrn 102502-1-063-2005	2.54	\$334	25
Butler Green Farms Brian MacWhorter	Morales Farm 102502-1-062-2006	1.7	\$290	25
Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Morales Farm 102502-1-062-2006	.4	\$290	25
Perennial Vintners Mike Lempriere	Suyematsu– Bentyrn 102502-1-063-2005	.59	\$290	25
John Chang’s Garden John Chang	Morales Farm 102502-1-062-2006	.67	\$290	12
Heyday Farm	Johnson Farm 282502-2-064-2002	1.6	\$170	12
Paulson Farm Mike Paulson	Suyematsu– Bentyrn 102502-1-063-2005	1.44	\$334	24
Total Acreage		20.29		

C. Summary of financial management (calendar year basis) including but not limited to: expense by parcel and payee; income by parcel; operating revenues and expenses of the management organization; grants sought/awarded, etc.

Per the Master Lease agreement, Friends of the Farms acts as the fiscal agent for earned revenue from public farmland use. In 2017 earned income from farmer leases was \$6,392.58 and tenant rent from housing was \$10,642.60. Lease money from 14 community P-Patch gardeners generated \$350.00.

Additionally, a grant was received from the Bainbridge Community Foundation for \$3,000.00. Those funds will be spent in 2018 on wayfinding and informational signage on public farmland.

Expenses totaled \$31,162.14 and included utilities, insurance, equipment rental, supplies, food and beverages for volunteers, maintenance, improvements, repairs, and staff salary directly related to public farmland management.

Additionally, Friends of the Farms' volunteer program provides hundreds of volunteers every year, working thousands of hours on public farmland. Many volunteers loaned or donated tools and equipment that otherwise would need to be rented or purchased at significant cost.

Friends of the Farms has received no financial support from the City for operations since the Master Lease agreement commenced in January 2012.

Details of income and expenses for 2017 are attached at the end of this this report.

D. Schedule and status for farm-related capital improvements, if any

Friends of the Farms monitors the farmer subleases and oversees farm-related capital improvements on all five public farmland properties. The Projects committee gathers input from leasehold farmers through the Site Committee Process, Kitsap Conservation District, Friends of the Farms' Board members and staff, and community members. Together, a list of priority capital improvement and maintenance projects is developed. The list is updated annually by the Projects Committee and approved by the Friends of the Farms' Board of Directors.

Working within the budget established by the City, FotF worked with City staff to organize longer term plans for the City properties and develop criteria to identify which potential projects (capital or major maintenance) should be the responsibility of FotF and which should be the responsibility of the City. This resulted in the following projects completed by the City during 2017:

- Underground fuel tank removal and soil remediation at Day Road Farmland
- Public farmland irrigation systems, legal support, and farmhouse stabilization
- Additional repairs to public farmland infrastructure
- Vegetation management, including clearing along the east fence at Day Road and along the Day Road deer fence, and mowing along the fence line and around the pump house at Morales.

E. **Description of use and activities, including but not limited to: farm-related activities, educational programs, community outreach, farm stewardship volunteer work parties, and public events**

In addition to agricultural activities by farmers with subleases, public farmland is used extensively throughout the year by the broader community.

P-Patch Plots. The Friends of the Farms P-Patch Gardener Program benefits the community by providing 14 plots at Johnson Farm for families to grow their own food. The P-Patchers are a convivial group who share resources and knowledge and take pride in their gardens.

Bainbridge Island Fruit Club Orchard Maintenance. In 2014 interested Islanders (including the future BIFC President) meet with FotF leaders about the potential to help manage the Johnson Farm orchard. In 2015 BIFC sponsored a fruit information booth at the Harvest Fair, providing samples of various apples, pears, and grapes as well as answering fruit-related questions. A partnership was born and in April 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding signed between BIFC and FotF.

Within a month BIFC Board members did a walk-through of Johnson Farm orchard, examining condition of trees and pruning needs as well as removing tent caterpillar nests. Shortly thereafter, BIFC members conducted 4-hour pruning event at Johnson Farm, involving seven large apple trees. In August of 2016 an inventory was done of the fruit trees on the property counting a total of 66 apple, pear, plum, and walnut trees.

Last year, a significant amount of work was done as restoration of this historic orchard at Johnson Farm continues, ensuring it remains a community asset for generations to come.

BIFC 2017 activities included:

- Prepared color-coded diagram of orchard showing varieties, size of trees, and those involving significant pruning
- Completed nearly 50 grafts on 7 pruned trees
- Pruned large grape row at Johnson Farm with help from Friends of the Farms' P-Patch members
- Cleaned up of 7 pruned trees with 12 successful grafts
- Sponsored fruit information booth at the Harvest Fair, providing sample of various apples, pears, and grapes as well as answering fruit-related questions

Plans for spring 2018 include a second round of pruning of the larger trees and grape row and additional grafting of trees pruned in 2016. Additionally, several pre-grafted plum trees will be planted in areas where previous fruit trees have died or been removed.

Restoring Johnson Farm Orchard via Selective Pruning, Grafting, and Introduction of New Fruit Trees.



In July 2016, the BIFC and FotF staff pruned seven Red Delicious apple trees, most of which were adjacent to the Johnson Farm P-Patch. This involved removing old, dead wood as well as topping some of the trees that had become very top heavy and difficult to manage. The photo above shows the before and after photos of one of the



apple trees, which had about one-third of its canopy removed. Several other trees required nearly 90% branch removal (see bottom photo) in an effort to totally convert the trees to new varieties. These trees recovered nicely in 2017, experiencing significant new growth that will be used in 2018 for grafting new varieties.



The BIFC is also growing several mid-sized plum starts (now 5+ feet tall) that will be planted in the Johnson Farm orchard in Spring 2018. The hope is to expand the plum selection, including such Japanese varieties as Methley, Obilnaja, Peach-Plum, Satsuma, and Shiro and heirloom European varieties as Burbank Prize, Green Gage, and Victoria. Finally, the BIFC is planning on doing another major pruning event in 2018, with the hope of working on another seven trees.

Creating New Varieties Through Grafting of Older Trees.



In early March 2017 nearly 50 grafts were placed on the seven apples trees pruned the prior year. Of these, around 12 successfully took. The two photos show one of the trees grafted and several months later an example of where one of the branches on the original Red Delicious tree is being converted to another variety (Winter Banana, metal tag).

Work was ongoing throughout the summer, with follow-up pruning of the seven trees, removing remaining old/dead branches, and placing aluminum tags on the successful grafts. The club plans to continue grafting onto these seven trees in 2018, especially now that significant new growth has occurred as a result of the earlier pruning. Using such new growth should significantly improve the club's grafting success rate.

Educating the Public About Growing Fruit.

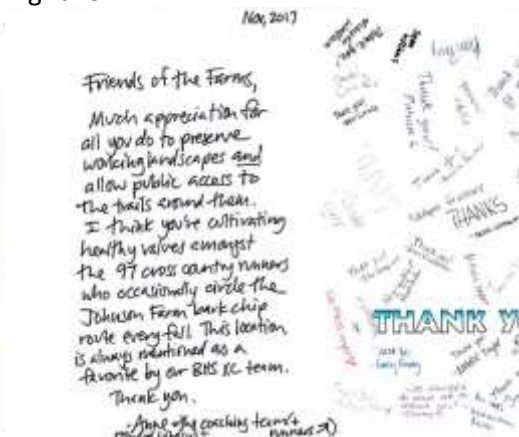


On September 24, 2017, BIFC sponsored an information/fruit tasting booth at the annual FotF Harvest Fair at the Johnson Farm. Beyond the educational displays and handouts, the big attraction was the fruit tasting. To say the least, our grapes and red fleshed apples were a big hit.

In April 2017, the BIFC also assisted the Johnson Farm P-Patch in pruning a large, overgrown grape row. The grapes appear to represent a number of older varieties and had not been pruned for many years. The club plans on holding a follow-up event in Spring 2018, doing more selective grape pruning as well as hopes to identify some of the varieties (assuming we get some good clusters this fall).



Youth Activities. As they have for many years, the Bainbridge Island Lacrosse team continues to utilize the trail network at Johnson Farm for training runs.



Friends of the Farms also coordinates and oversees other activities at farms, including the annual Gear Grinders Farm Fresh Scramble, a community mountain bike race.

F. Description of farm and farm-related activities demonstrating compliance with the Goals, Policies and Practices and other requirements of the Master Lease. Where appropriate, reporting and an explanation of instances where the Goals, Policies and Practices and other requirements of the Master Lease may not have been met

Friends of the Farms manages public farmlands consistent with Goals, Policies and Practices set forth in Section 3.9 of the Master Lease.

Historic Suyematsu Farmstead. In 2016 Council accepted the recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission to designate the Suyematsu Farmstead at Day Road as a Historic Area, which includes the Suyematsu farmhouse, historic barn, picker cabins, sheds, and storage buildings. In 2017, acknowledging the need for capital improvements to the buildings and landscapes within the Historic District, as well as a desire for the site to provide more public value, the City appointed Friends of the Farms to lead a multi-phase process to plan and identify how improvements might be achieved. Consulting firm KO Projects was engaged by FotF to study needs and opportunities in the historic district, and to create an Implementation Plan that outlines proposed capital projects, site operations, costs, and next steps.

The objectives of this effort included:

- Preservation and interpretation of historic farm structures, landscapes, and histories
- Repair and improvement of the properties to accommodate preservation, interpretation, and agricultural use, as well as needed support functions
- Securing significant artifacts from the site and cataloguing them for future analysis, interpretation, or display
- Exploring the possibility of on-site housing for farm interns and new farmers, and
- Sustaining public value, vibrant activity, historic interpretation, and agricultural output at the farm for decades to come.

Friends of the Farms also engaged the Bainbridge Island History Museum to:

- Organize and inventory contents of Workshop, Office, and Picker Sheds
- Recommend steps needed to secure contents in the short-term
- Deliver to Friends of the Farms written recommendations for long-term disposition of contents of Workshop, Office, and Picker Sheds

Work included organization and inventory of over 2,000 objects/artifacts that were photographed and assigned individual numbers, along with photo inventories of the resulting groupings and locations.

The resulting reports were presented to Council in November 2017. Currently, Friends of the Farms and the Suyematsu Farmstead Planning Leadership Committee (Bart Berg, Hank Helm, Darlene Kordonoy, Clarence Moriwaki, Bill Moskin, and Dave Williams) are drafting a recommended timeline and budget for implementation of 2018 – 2020 projects. We anticipate bringing this before Council in Q2-2018.

Activities on Public Farmland

Farmland Stewardship.



There are volunteer opportunities for all ages throughout the year at various public farmlands. Together, volunteers work to maintain and enhance each property. Participants are treated to a locally sourced meal as our way to give thanks. The community reaps the benefits through this work of invasive species removal, trail construction, general maintenance, and completion of capital projects.

Passive Recreation. An extensive trail network throughout all five public farm properties allows the public to access our farmland for year-round passive recreation. Birders are able to use Johnson Farm, M & E, Crawford, and portions of Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farm to enjoy and observe over 55 bird species. Johnson Farm’s community orchard presents a perfect place to forage for food and enjoy picnics. P-Patches at Johnson Farm allow community members to work gardens year round to grow their own food.

Partner Organizations.

In 2017 FotF worked with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust to enable them to utilize Johnson Farm parking and public trails for 300+ guests attending their summer fundraiser on an adjacent private property. FotF also partners with the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District, Historic Preservation Commission, Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, EduCulture, the Grange, Kitsap Conservation District (KCD), WSU Extension, BARN, the Bainbridge Island Fruit Club, Sustainable Bainbridge, the Trust for Public Land, The Bainbridge Island Lodging Association, the CoBI Affordable Housing Task Force, Helpline House, Bainbridge Prepares, and the Chamber of Commerce. It is through collaboration and partnerships that Friends of the Farms is able to create public farmland experiences that benefit the whole community.

Collaborating for Farmland Protection.



In 2017 Friends of the Farms signed a formal memorandum of understanding with The Bainbridge Island Land Trust that outlines the roles each nonprofit will play in future attempts to preserve or acquire agricultural land on Bainbridge Island. The first collaborative project will be working to place a conservation easement on Johnson Farm to ensure it remains our public farmland in perpetuity.

*Signing a Memorandum of Understanding
Connie Waddington - BI Land Trust
Ginny Brewer and Heather Burger - Friends of the Farms*

Commercial Farmers. Commercial farmers not only utilize public land for the business of providing our community with delicious, healthy locally grown food, they also offer seasonal events for the public, including farm stand sales, raspberry u-pick, and pumpkin patch festivities.



In October of 2017 over 5,000 people visited the pumpkin patch at Day Road.

Additionally, hundreds of kids from school groups visited the site and seniors’ groups provided organized outings from Stephens House and Messenger House.



Over the summer 500 raspberry lovers turned out to enjoy time on public farmland for the annual u-pick.

Education.



Providing educational opportunities for the next generation of farmers is critical to the long-term viability of local agriculture.



Together, farmers value and embrace agricultural education. Suyematsu and Bentryn Family Farms, Morales Farm, and Johnson Farm are used extensively for educational purposes.

The EduCulture Project, a program of Global Source Education, provides Island students with on-the-ground experiences on local farms that cultivate stewardship, citizenship, sustainability, and an understanding of food systems. Through a collaboration involving farms, schools, and the community, this initiative has been enhancing classroom curricula, nurturing school gardens, and enriching school lunches, while preserving local sustainable agriculture and growing future generations of Bainbridge farmers. 2017 was the 12th year of the EduCulture Project, with dedicated farm-to-school partnerships with Wilkes Elementary, Ordway Elementary, and Island Co-op Preschool.

Many of our local farmers recruit and mentor interns every year. Zachary Fulton, who lived in housing provided by Friends of the Farms at Morales House in 2016, is returning for a second season to mentor with Brian McWhorter who farms on public land at Day Road and Morales farms.

Zachary shared the following thoughts about public farmland:



I like that there is community support for local agriculture on Bainbridge Island and an appreciation of the role it plays in maintaining our island's history. It promotes a sense of community and creates a landscape that isn't like every other place. I understand the commitment it takes for a community to set aside land to save for farming.

And I really appreciate the work of Friends of the Farms. It's unusual to find an organization dedicated to supporting the agricultural community and preserving farmland.

I loved living in Morales House. It's beautiful, clean, well equipped. At my last internship I lived in a horse barn. Other interns lived in a teepee or VW bus and our common area was a trailer.

I wish there was more investment in sustainable agricultural systems and I hope more people become involved in farming, be it commercial or home gardens. It is important for people to be connected to their food. Farming and gardening create community.

I also wish there were more organizations like Friends of the Farms with programs that help make farming viable.

Harvest Fair.



September 24, 2017 was Friends of the Farms 16th Annual Harvest Fair at Johnson Farm. A multi-generational community-wide event, Harvest Fair is a celebration of local food and community attended by several thousand residents and non-residents. Harvest Fair is a festive day that includes sheep shearing, apple cider pressing, a pie contest, live music, local food, and nonprofit organization exhibits. Rides include the beloved Landslide, tractor and carriage rides, and farm demonstrations.

With the help of over 100 volunteers we increased awareness of the value of local agriculture and public farm land. 2018 goals include the expansion of non-profit participation, new activities, increased partner sponsors, and outreach to include even more of our community. Future goals include the island-wide expansion of harvest activities to include local farm-to-table events, wine tastings, farmers' market special events, etc., to eventually create a multi-day event, "Harvest Bainbridge."



Farmer Housing. In 2017 Friends of the Farms provided housing to 7 farm interns. This year we will house a record 9 first-year farm interns who will work a minimum of 30 hours a week alongside a commercial farmer from Full Tilth, Farmhouse Organics, Butler Green Farms, or Laughing Crow Farm/Bainbridge Vineyards. Interns also volunteer with Friends of the Farms.

We will welcome them at a community gathering on Sunday, March 25th when we once again partner with Grange Hall for our third Farmers' Potluck Supper. This informal gathering of farmers of all ages and experience throughout Kitsap County is an opportunity to share a meal with interns coming from around the country to live and work on public farmland sharing ideas and making valuable connections.

Affordable housing for farm interns and new farmers is the highest priority need for the Bainbridge Island agricultural community. The cost of housing on Bainbridge has increased greatly in recent years, and threatens the viability of farm businesses on the island. Recently Friends of the Farms presented at a CoBI Affordable Housing Task Force Committee meeting to ensure the needs of our agricultural community are represented in their holistic approach to addressing our island's affordable housing needs.

Housing will also be at the forefront as the Leadership Team for the Historic Suyematsu Farmstead Project resumes its work. The Farmstead has a long history of housing farm workers. In 1928, Yasuji and Mitsuo Suyematsu purchased 40 acres near Day Road in then-8-year-old Akio Suyematsu's name, as Japanese-born immigrants were not permitted to own property at the time.

Over the next 15 years they established a strawberry farm and built a barn, farmhouse, and several outbuildings, many of which remain today as part of the oldest continually farmed property in the county. Like many Japanese-American farming families, they employed Filipino and First Nations people as farm workers who also lived onsite seasonally. The Suyematsu's family home remains on the site and will house 5 first-year interns this year.

4. Site Committee Reports

As required in Article 3.10 of the Master Lease, Friends of the Farms has a Site Committee process that involves multiple meetings of key stakeholder (farmers, Friends of the Farms' representatives, and neighborhood stewards) per year to monitor each property. The site committees follow policy and processes developed to appropriately manage each farm and identify issues that need to be addressed to improve the land. This process includes the following:

- Monitor Goals, Policies and Practices from Lease Exhibit B
- Identify and document issues of concern with recommended resolutions
- Identify and document capital improvements/maintenance measures to be addressed; participate in developing a Capital Improvement Plan



Farm-related capital improvements and maintenance completed in 2017 are detailed below. Day Road farm properties, Johnson Farm, and Morales are more developed than Crawford or M&E and so generally require more time and expense, although ongoing maintenance and improvements occurs on all properties.

Suyematsu East and Bentryn West

Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Approved and monitored cleanup of main inflow ditch to irrigation ponds from the headwaters of Manzanita Creek by Brian Stahl, Kitsap Conservation District, and City water resources grant.



- Maintaining ongoing dialogue with Bentryn's, FotF Board, and farmers on public land to craft solutions to concerns regarding water access, health of the water system, and irrigation rights.
- Monitored and collected monthly water meter reports from sub-lease farmers.
- Added truckloads of gravel to driveways surrounding Suyematsu farmhouse to preserve roads and parking. Materials and equipment donated by Brian McWhorter. Labor by FotF staff and volunteers.
- Coordinated ongoing vegetation management with City-approved funds. Focused on NE corner surrounding the historic area, and South to the border trail connecting Vista Place, Day Road farms and M&E farms and also along Day Road, from East end and west to the farm stand.
- Continued intensive cleanup of garbage and invasive vegetation surrounding Suyematsu Farmhouse. Work is being done by FotF staff, farmers, and volunteers.

- Coordinated with the City on removal of underground fuel storage and above ground, historic, failing, and toxic oil, preservative and pesticide drums.
- In tandem with cataloguing of artifacts by the BIHM, removed and disposed of materials identified as having no historical, practical, or monetary value in garage/office structures
- Assisted BIHM in separating items of historic value from those used in current farm activities in the historic area.
- Identified unlocked historic outhouses and secured them to prevent further use, as they are not up to code and too close to water source

Structural Maintenance



In 2017 FotF secured consultations pro bono from Cris Ugles Building Inspection Services. Over two days, Cris conducted a thorough inspection of the historic Suyematsu Farmhouse and generated an extensive report on the structural condition. The report was organized into Repairs (life safety and code issues), Maintenance (items in need of attention), Improvements (for consideration), and Observations. Cris' report provided a much-needed guide in identifying and prioritizing work necessary to stabilize the structure, weatherize the exterior envelope, prevent further deterioration, and take the farmhouse into the next 100 years.

Work done by the City and coordinated with FotF included:

- Caulk south wall siding
- Addition of T1-11 historic siding and paint to north wall
- Addition of trim around windows to north and south walls to prevent moisture intrusion
- Addressing problems areas in existing roofing and flashing, and
- Cleaning out basement crawl space and installation of vapor barrier to ground.

FotF work to Suyematsu Farmhouse included:

- Excavating and replacing broken drain line outside of basement level
- Removing rotten end of east deck to eliminate step-through hazard and adding a railing for safety
- Well and line flushing of main pump system at pond along with yearly winterization and turn-on
- Pumping septic tank at Suyematsu farmhouse
- Applying treatment to deck for preservation and anti-slip
- Painting interior ceiling with anti-mold treatment, and
- Coordinating with City staff on research to future pump house improvements.



Johnson Farm



Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Provided plots to 14 P-Patch members who grow a diverse range of crops. P-Patches are managed by volunteer Lori Gibson, who along with nearby neighborhood stewards provided hundreds of hours of ongoing security and maintenance, including trimming, and additional access road and trail repair.
- Coordinated with P-Patcher Dennis Miller, who continues to volunteer his time to winterize the pump house and irrigation system at Johnson Farm.
- Coordinated with Rebecca Slattery of Persephone Farms, who continues to use Johnson Farm as a pickup site for her annual CSA members.
- Johnson Farm neighbor and FotF volunteer Rob Ferguson continued to provide equipment to maintain grade and added new chips to the multi-use trail system.
- Worked in partnership with *Let's Pull Together* for numerous Scotch broom removal parties



- inside farm property and on neighboring property to prevent future spreading back onto public farmland and adjacent private property.
- Ongoing removal of Himalayan blackberry around the farm.
- Removed Gorse along the central fence line.
- Removed old apple tree at barn entrance road after it fell over in spring storm.
- Coordinated, monitored, and assisted with ongoing maintenance to the historic orchard on Johnson farm through a partnership with the Bainbridge Island Fruit Club (details in Section 3. E. above).
- Coordinated trimming of old grape vine along the P-Patch fence with P-Patchers under the expert guidance of Bainbridge Fruit Club president Darren Murphy.

Structural Maintenance

- Built a new water catchment system at the entrance to runoff pipes along central east-west fence line to address water runoff issues with the building.
- Replaced rotten structural fence post at west end of P-Patch to keep gate in working order.
- At the request of farmers and P-Patchers, FotF added a permanent portable restroom and is paying the monthly fee.
- Assisted farm intern Zachary Fulton in taking over management of the bee population and structures along main east-west fence line for continued honey production.
- Added locks to all barn doors to increase security of stored supplies and to the structures themselves.
- Pruned trees along Twin Ponds Lane in preparation for Harvest Fair. This work benefitted both the farm and nearby neighbors.

Morales Farm



Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Created a plan to clean up unused farm materials from sheds shared by farmers and spaces between. Work scheduled by FotF staff and volunteers in 2018.
- Ongoing cleaning and upkeep at Morales intern farmhouse by FotF staff.
- Coordinated invasive vegetation management done by City staff along West fence line and corner of Highway 305 to improve visual access to farmland.
- Ongoing mowing around the most visible corner of the farm at Lovgreen Road and 305 by City staff and farm interns working and living on Morales property.
- Identified future irrigation infrastructure needs, such as completion of the water lines along the south border. The lines would feed public farmland leased by John Chang and the location of potential additional community P-Patches.

Structural Maintenance

- Coordinated with the City to completely rebuild the well/pump house. The new pump house is sealed, insulated, and locked for security. The project was a wonderful improvement to the future of this farm and the health of the well and pump system.
- Replaced old failed frost-free hydrant in irrigation lines.

M&E Farm

Agricultural Land Maintenance

- Significant ongoing work to clear invasive species.
- Friends of the Farms once again partnered with *Let's Pull Together* to remove Scotch broom throughout the whole property.
- Hosted a volunteer work party to upkeep and clear the trail connecting Vista Place and M&E farm along the East border of Suyematsu/Bentryn farms.

Structural Maintenance

- Identified and reported failed trail due to fallen tree/root system, which may affect the Manzanita storm drainage routes.

Crawford Property



Agricultural Land Maintenance

- FotF staff coordinated with volunteer Bart Berg to secure services and machinery pro bono from West King Tree Service to drop six alders that were shading vines on the adjacent farmland to the north.

Structural Maintenance

- Ongoing dialogue regarding legal easement from Grace Church to connect M&E via Crawford property trail.

Conclusion



The information in this report illustrates the tangible benefits of the rare public-private partnership between the City of Bainbridge Island and Friends of the Farms. But it is also important to recognize how an investment in public farmland stewardship defines our community. It reflects our history, and creates a sense of place and belonging that spans generations and cultures. Each spring as we line up at the Suyematsu Farmstand for the first berries of the season we become part of the history of land first cultivated in the 1920's by Japanese American farmers. On a fall day when children run through the corn maze and parents pull carts laden with heritage pumpkins of myriad shapes and colors, they play a role in the preservation of the oldest continually operated farmland in the County. When we are nourished by the pure, fresh, locally grown foods we love, like sweet corn, tomatoes, snap peas, heirloom potatoes, or vibrant leafy greens, we become part of the place we call home. Friends of the Farms thanks you for the opportunity to share this report and to work alongside you to preserve and protect our public farmland.

**Submitted by,
*Heather Burger, Executive Director***



Photography by Emily Grice, Rick Gordon, Tami Meader, and Joel Sackett