



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR VIDEO MEETING

Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 5:30 PM

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair Rory Westberg
Vice Chair Jodi McCarthy
Board Members: Don Cohen, Amy Richter,
Lyn Gualtieri, Sara Berkenwald, Peter Struck

LOCATION & CONTACT

Zoom Meeting
Phone: 206.275.7626 | www.mercerisland.gov

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 206.275.7706.

Virtual Meeting Notice

The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom and recorded and saved on the City's [YouTube Channel](#)

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances will need to register their request with the staff liaison at **206.275-7871** or [email](#) and leave a message before 4 PM on the day of the Commission meeting. Please reference "Appearances" on your correspondence. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 5:30 PM: To listen to the meeting via telephone, please call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **867 3762 3064** and Password **912459** when prompted.

Join by Internet at 5:30 PM: To watch the meeting over the internet via your computer, follow these steps:

- 1) Click [this link](#)
- 2) If the Zoom app is not installed on your computer, you will be prompted to download it.
- 3) If prompted for Webinar ID, enter **867 3762 3064**. Enter Password **912459**

For the safety and wellbeing of the public and staff, the City strongly recommends that community members attend the meeting by viewing the live feed on Zoom or watching the recording of the video conference on the City's [YouTube Channel](#), which will be available approximately 24-48 hours after the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - 5:30 PM

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Code of Ethics Discussion – Informal Opinion (10 min)
Recommended Action: Receive presentation.
2. Approve the minutes of the January 7, 2021 Regular Meeting and January 21, 2021 Special Meeting
Recommended Action: Approve minutes.
3. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan (30 min)
Recommended Action: Receive presentation, discuss, and provide input on the next phase of the PROS Plan community engagement strategy.
4. Recreation Reset / Recovery Planning (Cont.) (30 min)
Recommended Action: Discuss and provide input on the draft Cost Recovery Pyramid.
5. Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project Framework Recommendation
Recommended Action: Approve the recommended framework memo and authorize the chair to transmit it to the Mercer Island City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. Department Report & Update (5 min)
7. Commissioner Reports/Work Plan Updates

ADJOURNMENT



Code of Ethics

Abbreviated Training

February 4, 2021

Background

- Code of Ethics adopted 2018; amended December 2019
 - Officials comply with the laws and policies affecting the operations of government;
 - Official be independent, impartial and fair in their judgment and actions;
 - Public office be used for the public good, not for personal gain; and
 - Public deliberations and processes be conducted openly, unless legally confidential, in an atmosphere of respect and civility
- Code of Ethics amended and adopted December 2019
 - Improved the process for responding to a complaint, and added guidance on the acceptance of gifts, conflict of interest, representation of third parties, and misuse of public position and resources.
- Mercer Island City Code [2.60](#).



City Council Direction

- At the January 19, 2021 meeting, the City Council directed staff to:
 - Update the Code of Ethics for officials
 - Email all Board and Commission Members of the option to seek an informal opinion from the City Attorney on the applicability of the Code of Ethics to “hypothetical circumstances and/or situations solely related to the official making the request.”
 - Attend all Board and Commission meetings to review the informal opinion purpose and process.
 - Develop and deliver training on the revised Code of Ethics for all Board and Commission Members by April 2021.*

*Training date is dependent on adoption of revised code of ethics.



City Attorney – Informal Opinions

- Board and Commission Members may seek an informal opinion from the City Attorney
 - Applicability of the Code of Ethics to “hypothetical circumstances and/or situations solely related to the official making the request.” (MICC 2.60.060)
 - Wondering whether certain actions violate the Code of Ethics, contact City Attorney Bio Park (bio.park@mercerisland.gov), and submit your inquiry in writing.
 - The City Attorney will follow up with you if he needs additional information to give his opinion and advise you on the matter, or he may forward your inquiry to City’s Ethics Officer for an advisory opinion.
 - **NOTE:** Your communication seeking informal opinion from City Attorney may not be protected under attorney-client privilege.



Next Steps

- Code of Ethics Revisions
 - Your comments or suggestions are welcome – Contact Chief of Administration Ali Spietz at ali.spietz@mercerisland.gov
 - Discussions with City Council on code revisions will begin in March
- Code of Ethics Training
 - Board & Commission Members training on the revised code of ethics is anticipated to begin no later than April 2021*

*Training date is dependent on adoption of revised code of ethics.





PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **REVISED January 7, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm via Zoom Online meeting.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Don Cohen, Jodi McCarthy, Lyn Gualtieri, Sara Berkenwald, Amy Richter and Peter Struck were present. Commissioner Rory Westberg was absent.

City Council Liaison Jake Jacobson and Emily Moon, Consultant was present.

Staff present were Ryan Daly, Operations Transition Team Manager, Paul West, CIP Project Manager, Tammy Bodmer Interim HR Coordinator, Jason Kintner, Public Works Director, Katie Herzog, Recreation & Operations Coordinator and Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Recreation & Operations Coordinator.

APPEARANCES

1. Fred Glick – Presented opportunity for tree grove donation in Aubrey Davis Park and requested staff-review resources for the project.
2. Callie Ridolfi – League of Women voter’s climate project and their effort to assist Mercer Island in meeting its climate goals through public engagement.
3. Katie Hopkins – had issues logging in. will return to her.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 3, 2020 meeting was presented.

MOTION:

Commissioner Cohen motioned to accept the minutes from the December 3, 2020 meeting as presented. Commissioner Struck seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Recreation Reset - Immediate Action Plan

Daly introduced the Recreation Reset/Recovery Team to the Commissioners. He then introduced Emily Moon, Consultant. Moon gave presentation laying out the planning process to recover and reset Recreation programs and services. (Attached).

3. Luther Burbank Docks Reconfigure/Repair (LBDR) – Continued

West requested input from Commissioners to confirm evaluation criteria.

MOTION:

Commissioner Cohen motioned to allow public appearance #3. Commissioner Richter seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Appearance from Katie Hopkins – Questions regarding cell towers at Lake Ridge

Break

3. **Cont. Luther Burbank Docks Reconfigure/Repair (LBDR)** Continued.
After the break, the conversation continued regarding Luther Burbank Docks Reconfigure/Repair (LBDR). Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding various criteria and level of priority that criteria should have. The Commission confirmed the evaluation criteria. (Attachments with agenda packet)
4. **2021 Work Plan and Schedule**
Daly presented the P&R work plan and schedule. The Commissioners confirmed workplan and schedule. They also confirmed the process for the Commission to develop a preferred concept for the LBDR project by way of committee which will present to PRC at later date. Chair Westberg will appoint commissioners to the subcommittee based on response of interest. (Workplan attached)

Commissioner Berkenwald excused herself for the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION:

Commissioner Cohen motioned to extend the meeting at 7:35 for a period of 15 minutes. Commissioner Struck seconded the motion (5-0 Berkenwald) .

Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. **Department Report & Update**
Daly presented the department report. (Attached)
6. **Commissioner Reports/Work Plan Updates:**
 - Richter – Shared positive experience regarding Snake Hill BMX park (Upper Luther Burbank Park) and community collaboration around usage.
 - Cohen – Shared about fishing with his grandsons at Luther Burbank Park around Christmas time and how he left empty handed.
 - Gualtieri – Shared concerns regarding off leash dog park at Luther Burbank Park and her concern with the quality/height of the fence.
 - Struck – Congratulated Jacobson on his reconfirmation as Council Liaison. Requested a presentation regarding resources for wildfire control in parks.

The next regular scheduled meeting is 2/4/2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom technology.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:44 pm



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING MINUTES **REVISED**

January 21, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Westberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm via Zoom Online meeting.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Rory Westberg, Don Cohen, Jodi McCarthy, Lyn Gualtieri, Amy Richter and Peter Struck were present. Commissioner Sara Berkenwald was absent.

City Council Liaison Jake Jacobson and Emily Moon, Consultant was present.

Staff present were Ryan Daly, Operations Transition Team Manager, Tammy Bodmer Interim HR Coordinator, Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations, Katie Herzog, Recreation & Operations Coordinator and Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Recreation & Operations Coordinator.

APPEARANCES

1. Sue Stewart – Spoke about activity of mountain bikers in Upper Luther Burbank Park. Concerned about activity outside of established boundaries. Requested a ‘time-out’ of use of this area and a review of the use.

Chair Westberg will work with staff on including an agenda item for Upper LBP BMX Course to a future PRC meeting. Ryan Daly stated that staff will review current conditions at the BMX area in the meantime.

Chair Westberg announced members of LBP Dock project subcommittee- Commissioners Struck (subcommittee Chair), Westberg and Gualtieri.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. Recreation Recovery/Reset Plan

Consultant Emily Moon shared her presentation for the reset workshop. Moon confirmed that this project focuses on operational costs associated with programs and services and that cost recovery regarding capital costs would not be a part of the current cost recovery model, and could be taken up at a later date. Moon further helped to define “core services” and stated that this work should occur throughout the process as we evaluate programs and services. Commissioners discussed how to establish and identify “core services” Daly clarified that our higher-than-national-average overall cost recovery on the recreation side may, in part, be due to the existence of the MICEC, as a top-tier rental facility.

Break – Time: 6:25-6:35pm

1. Continued. Recreation Recovery/Reset Plan

Commission discussed and clarified their individual categorization of programs and services within the cost recovery pyramid model worksheet. The Commission worked to find consensus on

programs/services to be sorted into a draft Cost Recovery Pyramid which would be presented at the Feb. 4 regular meeting.

Gualtieri asked if fee study would be shared with Commission or if Commission would be involved in the process. Moon stated that staff would put fee study together but involve the Commission for input.

The next regular scheduled meeting is 2/4/2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom technology.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:42pm

DRAFT



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

**Item 3A
February 4, 2021
Regular Business**

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Discuss and provide input on the community engagement strategy.	

STAFF:	Jessi Bon
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation by Steve Duh, Conservation Technix 2. Community Survey Summary Results (March 31, 2020)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to continue engagement with the Parks and Recreation Commission on the planning process to update the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. This presentation will include a brief review of the survey data and a recap of the discussion at the Joint Meeting with the City Council. The discussion portion of the meeting will focus on gathering input to help frame the strategy for the March 23, 2021 Virtual Open House as well as the second community survey. The PowerPoint presentation is included as Exhibit 1.

BACKGROUND

As directed by the City Council in September 2019, the Parks & Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Commission, began the process of producing an updated Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The previous PROS plan expired at the end of 2019. This is a six-year plan that anticipates the programming and capital projects necessary to meet the community’s need for parks, recreation, and open space, as well as trails, arts, and cultural events. Conservation Technix was selected as the consultant to manage the process, including providing a baseline analysis on existing conditions and community needs, conducting a multi-faceted community engagement process, and developing a draft framework for the final PROS Plan.

Work was suspended on the PROS Plan update in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

At the end of 2020, the staff and consulting team resumed the planning process for the PROS Plan, with an initial focus on assessing the work that was already completed, adjusting the project timeline, and modifying the scope of work to reflect the need for virtual engagement strategies. To date, work that has been completed on the PROS Plan includes a review of existing conditions, one presentation to the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Arts Council, and the completion of a community survey (see Exhibit 2).

On January 19, 2021, the City Council hosted a joint study session with the Parks & Recreation Commission ([AB 5797](#)) to kick-off the re-start of the planning process for the PROS Plan update. During this meeting the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission received a presentation ([AB 5797 Presentation](#)) from the Consultant which included an overview of the planning process, highlights of the community survey results (see Exhibit 2), and posed questions to the City Council and the Commission related to desired outcomes for the planning the project.

DISCUSSION

The project team met to debrief the Joint Meeting and concluded that not enough information is available to inform a second community survey. A decision was made to move forward with plans for the first Virtual Open House, which is now scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The second community survey will follow the Virtual Open House with plans to release it at the end of March/beginning of April.

The project team is seeking information and feedback from the Parks and Recreation Commission this evening to help frame the community engagement strategy. Given what you learned from the first community survey and in preparation for the next phase of community engagement:

- What areas/topics should we explore further? Dive into a bit more?
- What additional information do you need from the community to start forming a recommendation on the long-term strategy for the PROS Plan?

NEXT STEPS

Following the February 4, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the project team will begin developing the framework for the March 23, 2021 Virtual Open House and the second community survey. The project team will attend the March 4, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to review progress and receive additional input on the next phase of the community engagement strategy.

Work is also continuing on the Inventory Assessment (also known the Infrastructure Assessment). Staff are currently reviewing the data collected by the consulting team and this work will continue over the next two months. The Inventory Assessment will be shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission at a meeting in either April or May.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive presentation, discuss, and provide input on the next phase of the PROS Plan community engagement strategy.



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

Parks & Recreation Commission: February 4, 2021

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Presentation Topics

Project Timeline & Major Tasks:

- Virtual Town Hall: March 23
- Second Survey: End of March/Early April

Additional Survey Highlights

Recap of Joint Council Session

Discussion & Next Steps

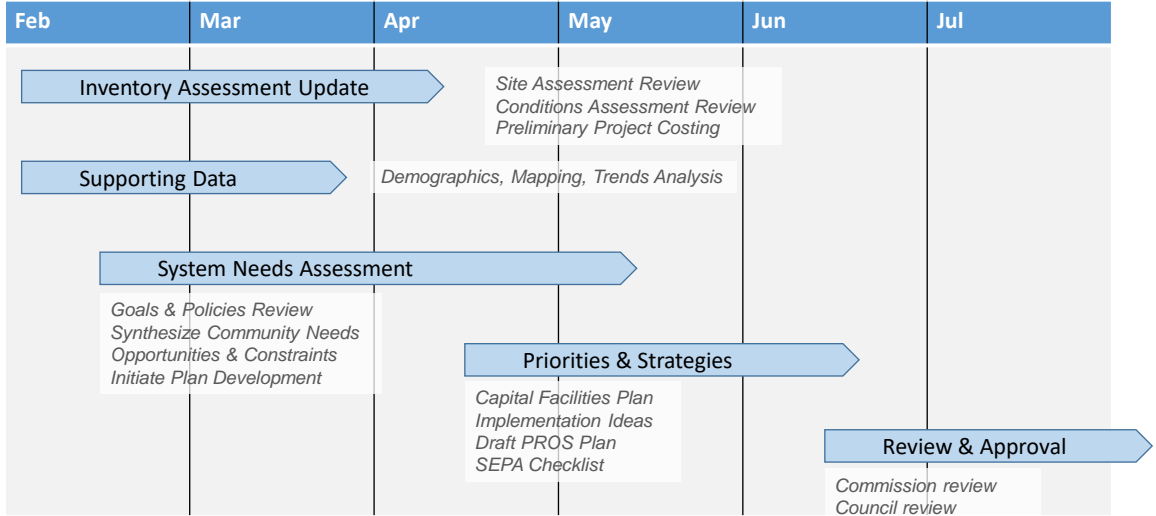


Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Project Timeline

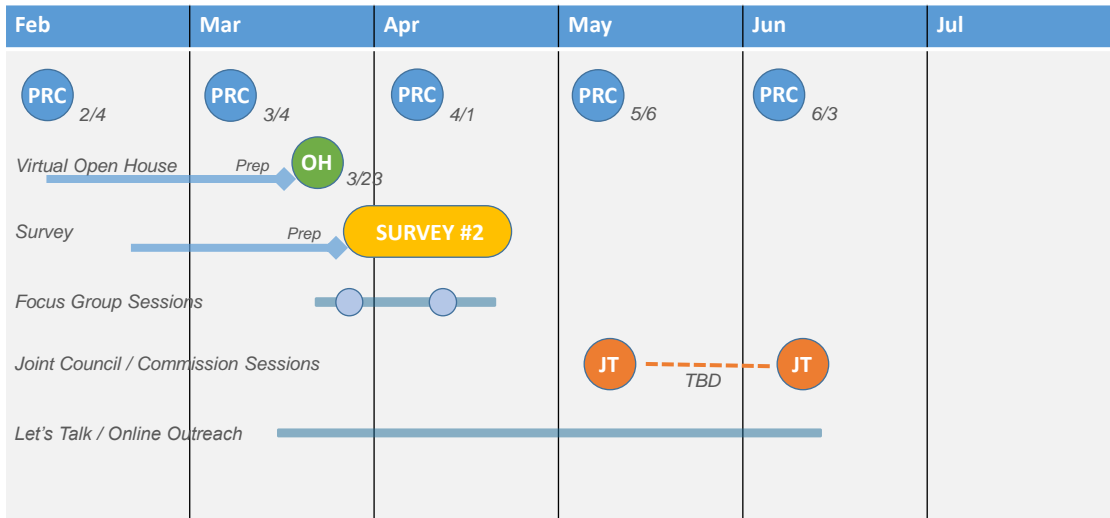


Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Project Timeline



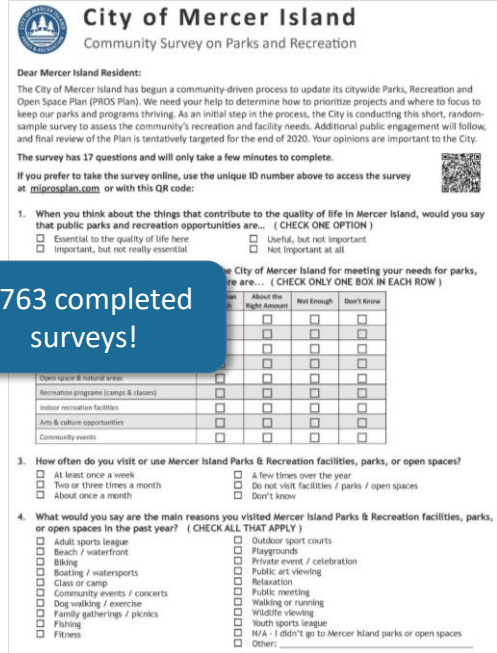
Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Survey #1 Highlights

- Designed in coordination with staff and Park & Recreation Commission
- February – March 2020
- Mailed to 2,500 randomized addresses
- 525 respondents (21% response rate)
- Online survey available to entire community
- Survey datasets kept separated



Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Survey #1 Highlights

Demographics

- Mail survey skewed slightly older and households without children
- Online survey skewed slightly middle-aged and with children
- Geographic distribution same between both datasets

Age group	Survey Respondents			M.I. Population	
	Mail	Online-only	Combined	Full	Over 20
Under 20	0%	1%	0%	25%	--
20-34	5%	5%	5%	12%	16%
35-44	12%	23%	20%	12%	16%
45-54	19%	33%	28%	17%	23%
55-64	26%	19%	21%	14%	19%
65 and older	39%	20%	26%	20%	27%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

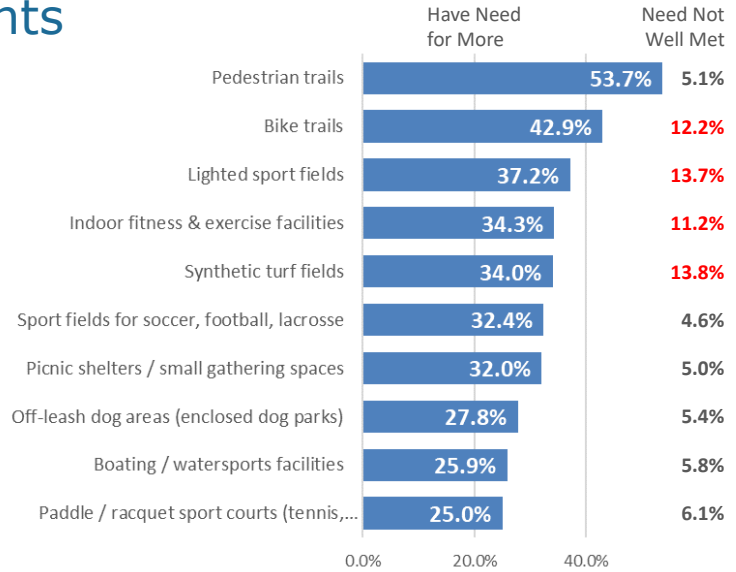
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Survey #1 Highlights

Interest in park system investments

- Synthetic turf fields
- Lighted sport fields
- Indoor fitness & exercise facilities
- Bike trails



Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

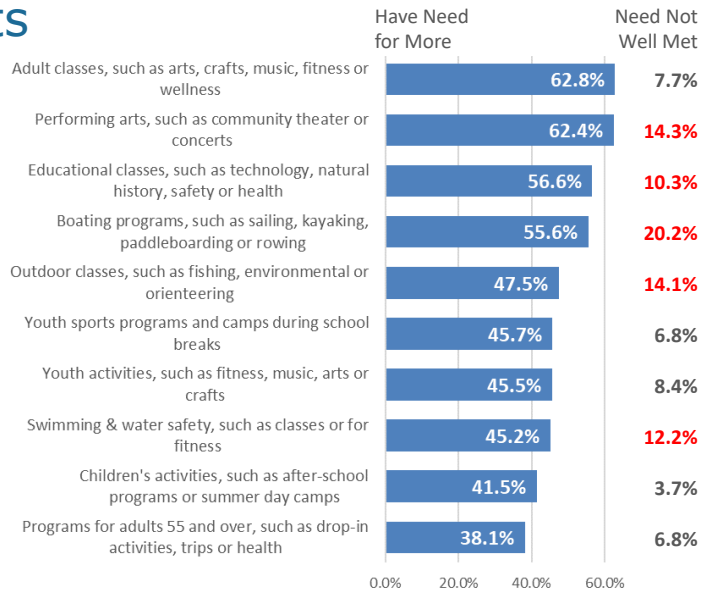
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Survey #1 Highlights

Interest in recreation opportunities

- Boating programs
- Performing arts
- Outdoor classes
- Swimming & water safety
- Educational classes



Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Survey #1 Highlights

Open-ended Responses

- Protect access to nature, trees, and open space for both people and wildlife
- Interest in specific improvements, such as pickleball courts, sports fields, picnic shelters, and park restrooms
- Restore the Summer Celebration, including the parade and fireworks
- Improve water-oriented opportunities, such as splash pads, lifeguards at beaches, improvements to docks at Luther Burbank Park, kayak/canoe/SUP rentals, and creation of sailing/rowing programs

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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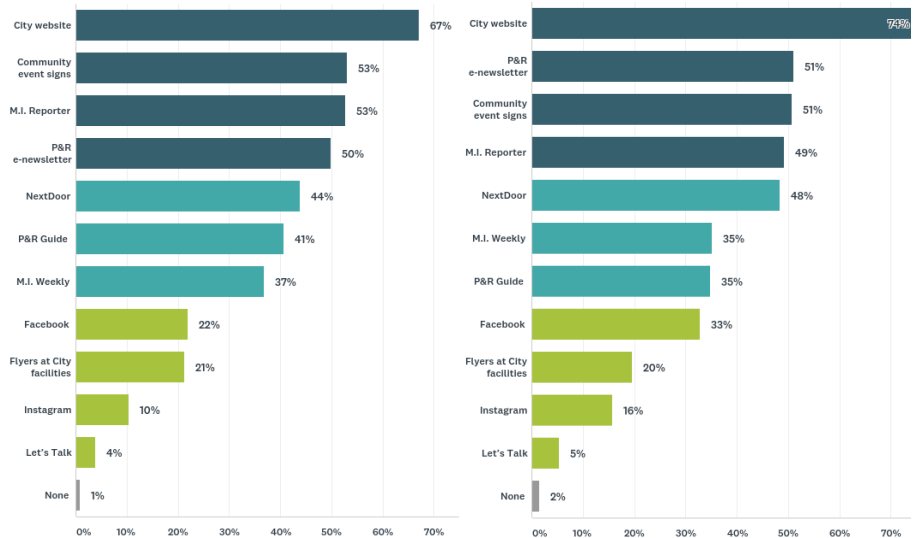
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Survey #1 Highlights

Information

Channels

- City website
- Event signs
- M.I. Reporter
- P&R Newsletter



Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Joint Session Take-Aways

- Take advantage of the uniqueness of Mercer Island (i.e., water-oriented programs & facilities)
- No net loss of open space – preserve natural areas
- Invasive species management
- Plan for ongoing maintenance & fiscal sustainability
- Concern about recreation programming becoming too commercial
- Explore partnerships & opportunities for volunteers
- Accommodate for diverse range of age groups & abilities (all-inclusive)

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update



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Discussion Questions

Given what you learned from the first survey and in preparation for the next phase of community engagement:

- What areas/topics should we explore further? Dive into a bit more?
- What additional information do you need from the community to start forming a recommendation on the long-term strategy for the PROS Plan?

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update



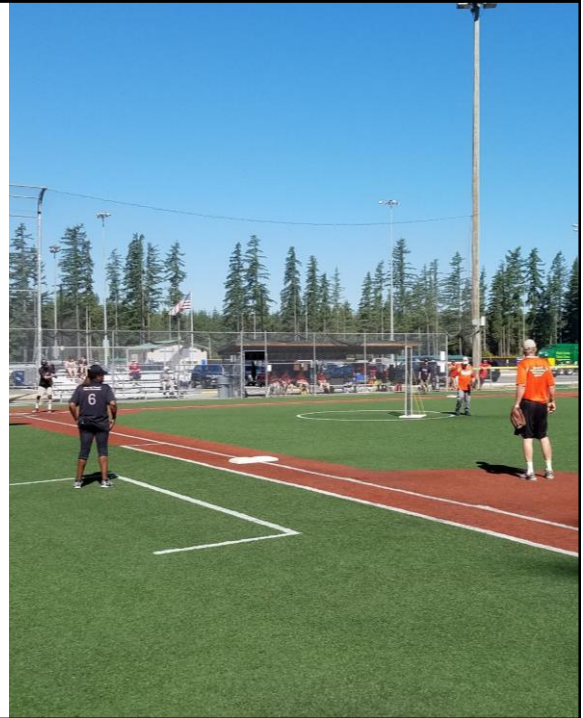
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Next Steps

- The project team will take the feedback from this meeting and begin developing the framework for the March 23 Virtual Open House.
- A second survey will also be developed as a companion to the Virtual Open House for release at the end of March/early April.
- Staff will review plans for the next phase of community outreach with the Parks and Recreation Commission at the **March 4, 2021** meeting.

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update



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To: Paul West, Capital Projects and Planning Manager
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: March 31, 2020
Re: **Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan**
Community Survey Summary Results

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of the City of Mercer Island that assesses residents' recreational needs and priorities.

KEY FINDINGS

Mercer Island residents strongly value their parks and recreation facilities.

Nearly all respondents (99%) think parks and recreation are important to quality of life on Mercer Island.



Residents are generally very satisfied with existing parks and recreation amenities and facilities.

A large majority of respondents (94%) are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from Mercer Island Parks & Recreation for parks, facilities and open space. The majority visit at least once a week, often to walk or run (81%), walk or exercise their dog (57%), visit beaches or waterfront (56%), and relax (56%).

Residents would like to see improvements made to the parks & recreation system and want to see the City preserve parks and natural areas for their wildlife and ecological values.

Respondents are generally satisfied with the number of park and recreation amenities on Mercer Island; over half of respondents said there are more than enough or about the right number of all amenities surveyed. However, between one-quarter and one-third of respondents feel like there is not enough shoreline access, community events, indoor facilities, arts and culture opportunities, and open space. Many respondents wrote about their support for enhanced boating and water sports opportunities, the restoration of the Summer Celebration, and the creation of a performing arts center on the island.

When it comes to recreational programs and activities, respondents expressed greater interest in, and need for, adult programs and activities than those geared towards youth or teens. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in seeing more performing arts, educational, and boating classes and programs.

Respondents also want the City to protect access to nature, trees, and open space for both people and wildlife.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In close collaboration with City of Mercer Island staff and the Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Technix developed the 17-question survey that was estimated to take less than ten minutes to complete.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the boundaries of the City of Mercer Island on February 4, 2020. An online version of the survey was posted to the City’s website several days later to allow the mail recipients to receive first notice about the survey. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on February 25th. Information about the survey was provided on the City’s website home page and on the Let’s Talk PROS Plan subpage. It also was promoted via multiple social media postings. The survey was closed on March 10th, and data were compiled and reviewed.

Overall, 525 responses were completed from the random-sample mail survey (21% response rate), and 1,238 responses were generated via the online link published on the City’s website. In total, 1,763 survey responses were recorded. Although households were randomly chosen to receive the mail survey, respondents were not necessarily representative of all City residents, see age demographics below.

Age group	Survey Respondents			M.I. Population	
	Mail	Online-only	Combined	Full	Over 20
Under 20	0%	1%	0%	25%	--
20-34	5%	5%	5%	12%	16%
35-44	12%	23%	20%	12%	16%
45-54	19%	33%	28%	17%	23%
55-64	26%	19%	21%	14%	19%
65 and older	39%	20%	26%	20%	27%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

This report includes findings of community opinions based principally on mailed survey responses. This report includes findings on general community opinions. Data are summarized for the mail and online surveys to highlight overall community preferences, with clarifying remarks on response differences between the two datasets. The data for the mail and online versions were kept separated.

The survey data were compared against the demographic data (e.g., age, location, number of children in household) to examine if differences existed between the different respondent subgroups. The summary below identifies variations in responses per question, if such variations existed and were significant between subgroups. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

FULL RESULTS

How much do residents value parks and recreation?

Virtually all respondents (99%) feel that local parks, recreation options and open space opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life on Mercer Island. More than nine in ten respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 8% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Less than 1% of respondents believe parks are “Useful, but not important”.

Respondents of various ages, length of residence, and household composition, as well as those who responded to the online survey, valued parks and recreation opportunities similarly.

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Mercer Island, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are...

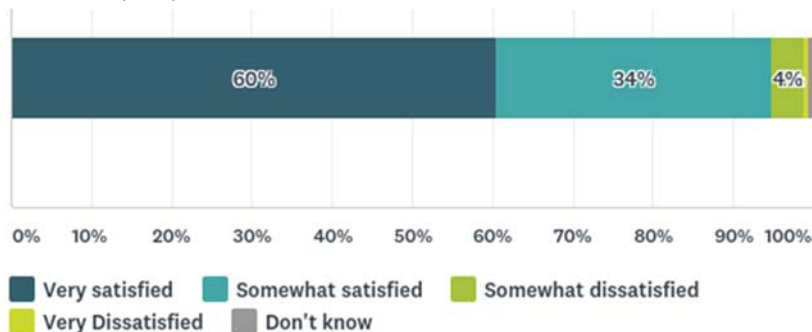
Response options	Mail		Online-only	
Essential to the quality of life here	92%	99%	90%	98%
Important, but not really necessary	8%		8%	
More of a luxury that we don't need	<1%		<1%	
Don't know	0%		<1%	

Are residents satisfied with the value they receive from Mercer Island Parks & Recreation?

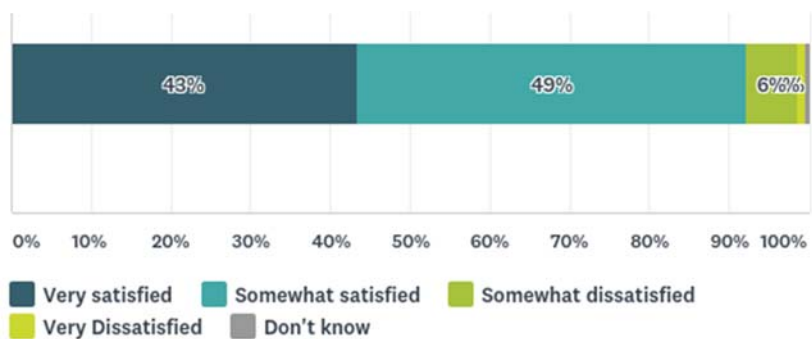
A large majority of respondents are somewhat to very satisfied with the value they receive from Mercer Island Parks & Recreation for parks, facilities and open space (94% for the mail survey and 92% in the online-only survey). However, one in twenty respondents (5%) is either somewhat or very dissatisfied. There were no significant differences in levels of satisfaction between subgroups.

6. Rate your household's overall satisfaction with Mercer Island Parks & Recreation facilities, parks or open spaces.

Mail survey responses



Online-only survey responses

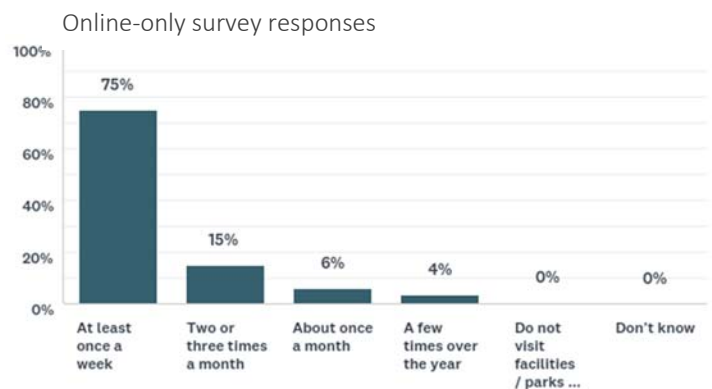
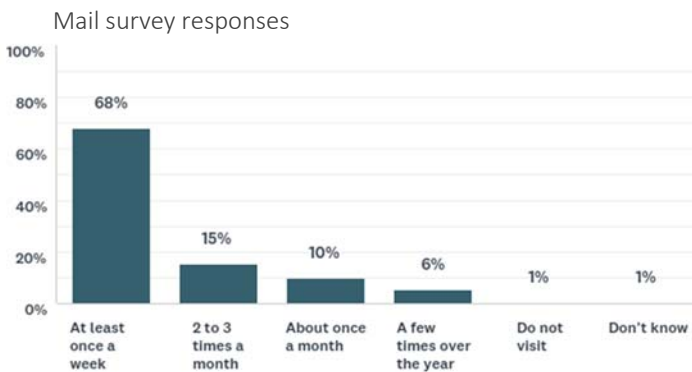


How often do residents use Mercer Island parks & recreation facilities?

Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their household, visited a Mercer Island Parks & Recreation park, recreation facility, or open space. Visitation is high, with 68% of mail survey respondents visiting at least once a week and another 25% visiting one to three times per month. Only 6% of respondents visit just a few times per year. Very few (1%) did not visit a park last year.

As compared to other subgroups, adults between 45 and 54 are the most frequent users of Mercer Island’s parks. Respondents of households with children also visit significantly more frequently than those without children. Online-only survey respondents tended to visit even more frequently than mail respondents, with 75% visiting at least once a week and 96% visiting at least once per month.

3. How often do you visit or use Mercer Island Parks & Recreation facilities, parks, or open spaces?



Why do residents visit parks?

Respondents visit local parks and recreation facilities for a variety of reasons. The most popular activities are walking or running (81%), followed by dog walking/exercise (57%), visiting beaches or waterfront (56%), and relaxation (56%). More than one-third of respondents visited for fitness (43%), to attend a community event or concert (36%), or use a playground (33%). Between 15% and 30% of residents visited Mercer Island parks to view wildlife, gather with family, ride a bike, use a sports court, boat, or view public art. Less than one in ten respondents visit for public meetings, private events, adult sports leagues, or fishing.

Respondents between 35 and 54, and those with children in their household, were more likely than other groups to visit for playgrounds, classes and camps, biking, family gatherings, and youth sports. Respondents over 55 were more likely than younger residents to visit to view art or wildlife. Respondents with children in their home were more likely to visit for youth sports leagues, playgrounds, family gatherings, or classes and camps than those without children.

In general, respondents to the online-only survey visited Mercer Island parks and facilities for similar reasons as respondents to the mail survey. However, 40% of online-only respondents visited to attend a youth sports league event, which is a frequency that is more than twice the percentage of mail respondents.

4. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Mercer Island Parks & Recreation facilities, parks or open spaces in the last year?

Reason	Mail	Online
Walking or running	81%	75%
Dog walking/exercise	57%	54%
Beach/waterfront	56%	49%
Relaxation	56%	46%
Fitness	43%	39%
Community events/concerts	36%	36%
Playgrounds	33%	40%
Wildlife viewing	27%	19%
Family gatherings/picnics	25%	29%
Biking	22%	29%
Outdoor sport courts	17%	24%
Youth sports league	16%	40%
Boating/watersports	15%	17%
Public art viewing	15%	10%
Class or camp	14%	18%
Public meeting	9%	7%
Private event/celebration	9%	10%
Adult sports league	3%	6%
Fishing	3%	4%

Why don't residents visit more often?

When asked why they do not visit Mercer Island's parks and recreation facilities more often, many residents responded that they do visit (53%). Approximately one in eight residents responded that they do not visit more often because of lack of parking (13%) and restrooms (11%). Similar numbers use parks or facilities provided by other cities or organizations (11%) or are too busy (9%) suggesting that further improvements would not increase their use of parks.

Between 4% and 9% of respondents selected a reason that could be addressed by the City, including concerns about conflicts between users (8%), lack of information (7%), crowding (5%), distance to parks (4%), maintenance issues (4%), and safety concerns (4%). In addition, multiple respondents wrote responses regarding concerns about off-leash dogs and a desire for additional hours for recreational facilities.

In general, respondents to both the mail and online-only survey expressed similar reasons for not visiting Mercer Island parks and facilities more frequently. Respondents between 35 and 44 and those with children at home were more likely to cite that parks do not have enough restrooms as a reason why they do not visit more often.

5. Please check all the reasons why your household does not use City of Mercer Island park or recreation facilities more often.

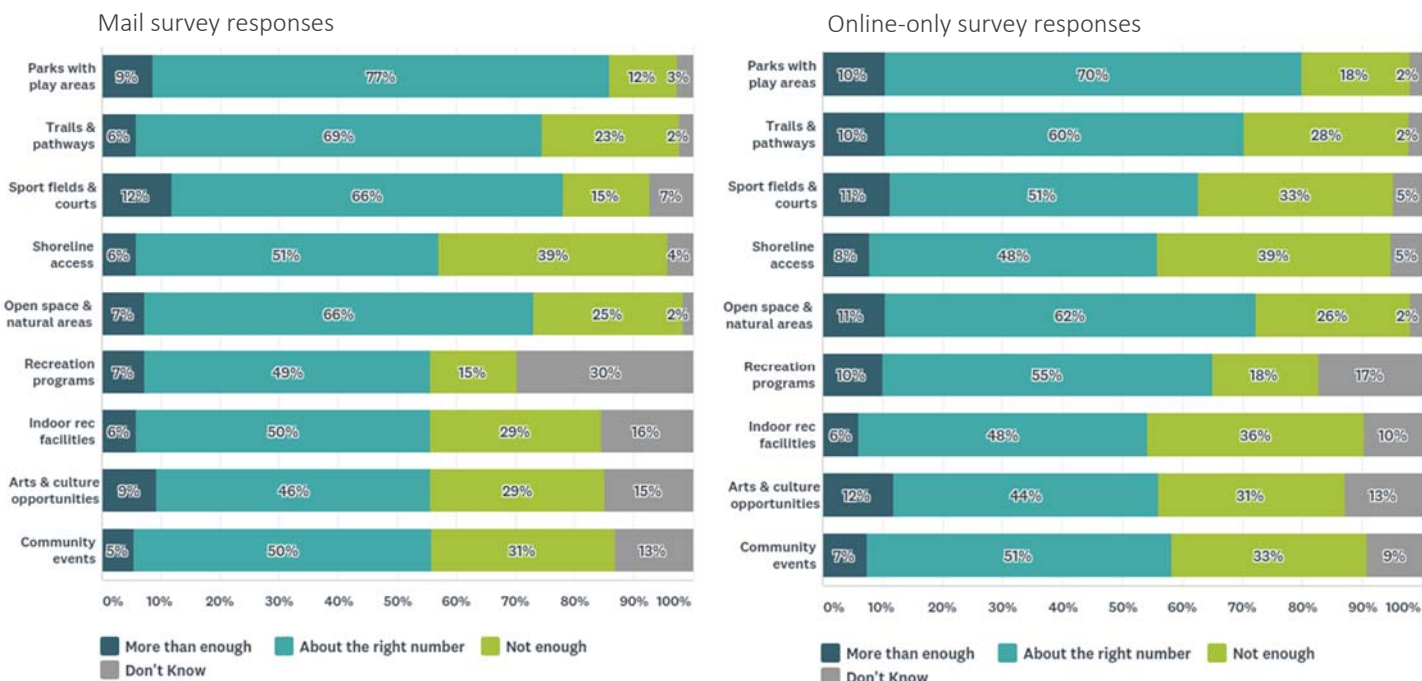
Reason	Mail	Online
None / Does not apply to me	53%	48%
Not enough parking	13%	11%
Use parks or facilities provided by another city or organization	11%	9%
Not enough restrooms	11%	11%
Too busy to go to parks and facilities	9%	8%
Concerns about conflicts with other users	8%	9%
I do not know what is offered	7%	6%
Too crowded	5%	6%
Too far from my home	4%	4%
Are not well-maintained	4%	5%
Do not feel safe	4%	3%
Do not have appropriate equipment	<1%	4%
Barriers related to accessibility	<1%	2%
Cost prohibitive	<1%	2%

Do residents think the City of Mercer Island needs more parks and recreation opportunities?

Respondents are generally satisfied with the number of park and recreation amenities on Mercer Island; over half said there are more than enough or about the right number of all amenities listed. Respondents are most satisfied with the number of parks with playgrounds and restrooms (86% think there about the right number of more than enough), sports fields and courts (78%), trails and pathways (75%), and open space and natural areas (73%). However, between one-quarter and one-third of respondents feel like there is not enough shoreline access (39%), community events (31%), indoor facilities (29%), arts and culture opportunities (29%), and open space (25%).

Respondents to the online-only survey were more likely than respondents to the mail survey to feel there are 'not enough' parks and recreation amenities and activities. However, a majority of online-only respondents felt there are enough or more than enough of all amenities listed. Younger respondents were more likely to believe the City of Mercer Island does not have enough parks with play areas, sports fields and courts, and community events. Those with children in their household expressed a greater need for sports fields and courts, recreation programs, indoor recreation facilities, and community events than those without children. In general, respondents who are newer to the island tended to think that Mercer Island needs more park and recreation amenities.

2. When it comes to amenities provided by the City of Mercer Island... would you say there are...



What park and recreation options do residents have a need for? Do they feel their needs are met?

The survey asked a series of questions regarding needs for typical park and recreation facilities. The first pair of questions asked which park and recreation facilities and amenities the respondent’s household has a need for, and then, whether that need is well met, somewhat met, or unmet locally. The second set asked similar questions related to recreational programs and activities.

Respondents indicated that the highest unmet park and recreation facility need is for pedestrian trails. Respondents have a more limited need for bike trails, indoor fitness facilities, picnic shelters, and off-leash dog areas, but many feel that these needs are met by existing facilities. On the other end of the scale, respondents generally expressed little additional need for outdoor fitness equipment, boating facilities, paddle sports courts, fields for baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse (including lit and synthetic fields), basketball courts, all-inclusive play equipment, and skate parks. However, multiple respondents used open-ended questions to voice their desire for boating facilities, pickleball courts, off-leash dog areas and all-inclusive play equipment.

Younger respondents, especially those under 45, expressed a greater need for all-inclusive play equipment, picnic shelters, basketball courts, indoor recreation facilities, and outdoor fitness equipment than residents over 55 years of age. Respondents over 45 years of age stated a greater need for boating and watersports facilities than younger residents. Respondents with children at home were more likely than those without to have a desire for more sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and boating areas.

Respondents to the online-only survey generally expressed similar levels of interest and need for park amenities and facilities as respondents to the mail survey. A notable exception, however, was with sports fields – between 21% and 42% of online-only survey respondents stated they need more baseball/softball, soccer/lacrosse, lighted, and synthetic fields, approximately twice rate of mail survey respondents.

7. Please indicate how well your household needs are met locally for each of type of **amenity or facility** and indicate if you have a need for more...

Higher need but well met (% who need more / % well met or n/a)	Moderate need and well met (% who need more / % well met or n/a)	Lower need and well met (% who need more / % well met or n/a)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian trails Mail: 50% / 56% Online: 55% / 51% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike trails Mail: 39% / 59% Online: 44% / 50% • Indoor fitness facilities Mail: 34% / 60% Online: 34% / 53% • Picnic shelters / gathering spaces Mail: 29% / 59% Online: 33% / 54% • Off leash dog areas Mail: 28% / 70% Online: 28% / 69% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor fitness equipment Mail: 24% / 68% Online: 24% / 59% • Boating/watersports facilities Mail: 24% / 70% Online: 27% / 64% • Paddle/Racquet sports courts Mail: 23% / 71% Online: 26% / 63% • Synthetic turf fields Mail: 19% / 78% Online: 38% / 60% • Lighted sports fields Mail: 19% / 75% Online: 42% / 56% • Soccer/Lacrosse fields Mail: 18% / 78% Online: 37% / 60% • Basketball courts Mail: 12% / 79% Online: 21% / 66% • All-inclusive equipment Mail: 9% / 87% Online: 12% / 81% • Baseball/Softball fields Mail: 8% / 85% Online: 21% / 71% • Skate park Mail: 5% / 90% Online: 10% / 84%

When it comes to recreational programs and activities, respondents expressed greater interest in, and need for, adult programs and activities than those geared towards youth or teens. In particular, respondents had a higher interest in seeing more performing arts, educational, and boating classes and programs.

Respondents under 55 were more likely than older residents to state a need for adult sports leagues, boating programs, and children’s activities. Those over 55 years of age were more likely than younger respondents to be interested in and want more adult classes and programs for people over 55. Households with children were more likely than those without to feel like their need for children’s activities were well met but expressed a greater interest in having more teen activities, swimming and water safety programs, and youth sports programs and camps.

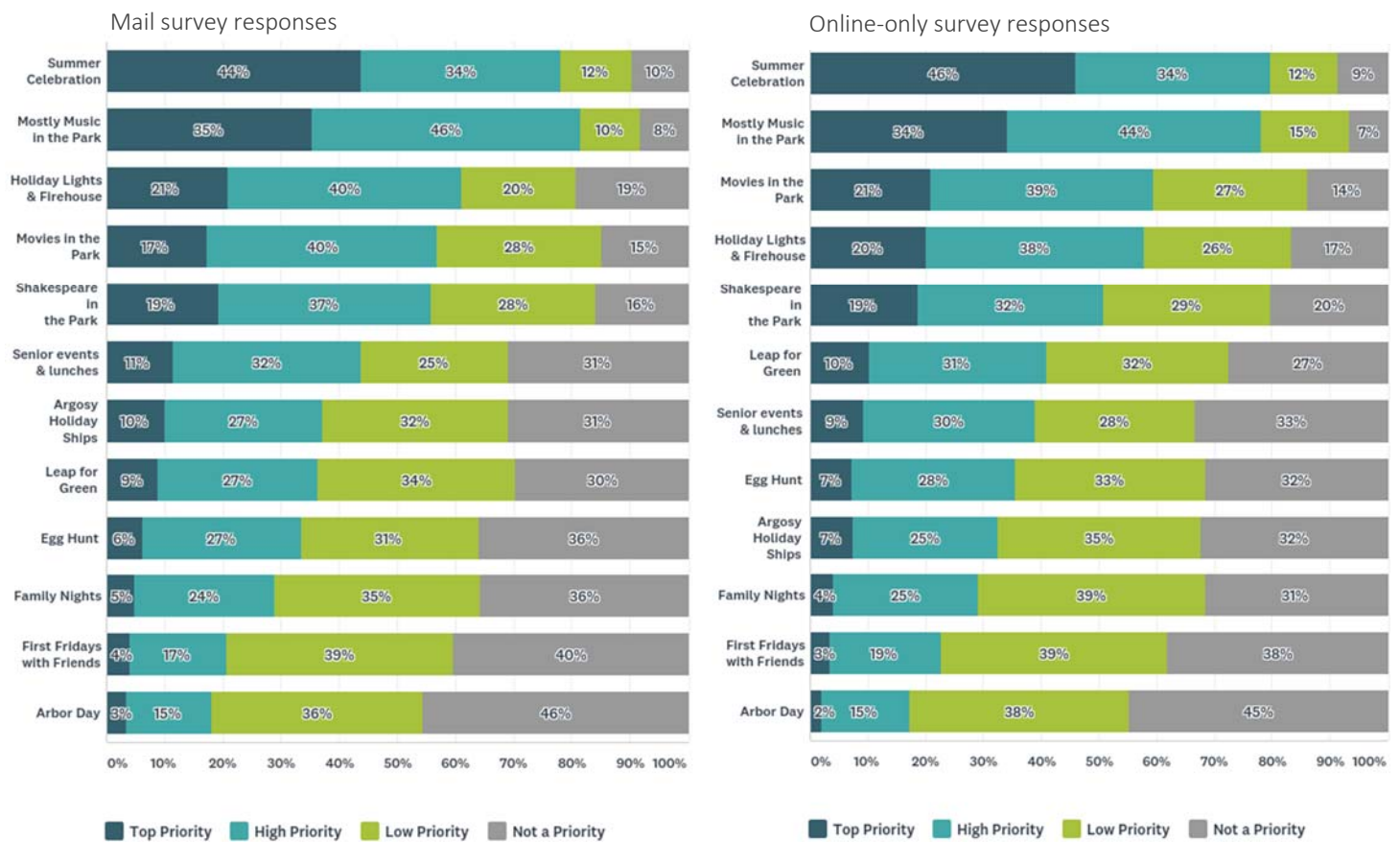
8. Please indicate how will your household needs are met locally for each of the existing **programs and activities** and indicate if you have an interest in each...

Higher interest but well met <i>(% who need more / % well met or n/a)</i>	Moderate interest and well met <i>(% who need more / % well met or n/a)</i>	Lower interest and well met <i>(% who need more / % well met or n/a)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing arts Mail: 67% / 50% Online: 61% / 49% • Adult classes Mail: 65% / 58% Online: 62% / 58% • Educational classes Mail: 57% / 57% Online: 56% / 59% • Boating programs Mail: 56% / 62% Online: 55% / 58% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs for adults over 55 Mail: 47% / 64% Online: 35% / 75% • Swimming & water safety Mail: 46% / 67% Online: 45% / 60% • Outdoor classes Mail: 44% / 67% Online: 49% / 63% • Youth activities Mail: 37% / 73% Online: 48% / 61% • Youth sports and camps Mail: 35% / 75% Online: 49% / 63% • Children’s activities Mail: 33% / 77% Online: 44% / 65% • Adult sports Mail: 30% / 79% Online: 31% / 73% • Teen activities Mail: 26% / 81% Online: 36% / 73% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs for people with special needs Mail: 20% / 86% Online: 24% / 81%

Which special events do residents prioritize?

The City of Mercer Island offers a wide variety of community special events each year. When asked which of these events they felt the City should prioritize, costs aside, respondents strongly supported the Summer Celebration (44% listed as a top and 34% as a high priority) and Mostly Music in the Park (35% and 46%, respectively). Other priority events included Holiday Lights and Firehouse Munch, Movies in the Park, and Shakespeare in the Park. Respondents listed Arbor Day, First Fridays with Friends, Family Nights at the Community Center, and the Egg Hunt as lower priorities. However, the annual Egg Hunt and Movies in the Park were a higher priority for respondents between 35 and 44 and those with children, while Shakespeare in the Park was a higher priority for adults over 55. Respondents to the online-only survey had mostly similar priorities as those who responded to the mail survey.

10. Below is a list of City community special events that have been offered in the past or are currently offered. Although there are costs associated with each event, costs aside, for each event indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, Medium Priority, Low Priority or Not a Priority for your household.

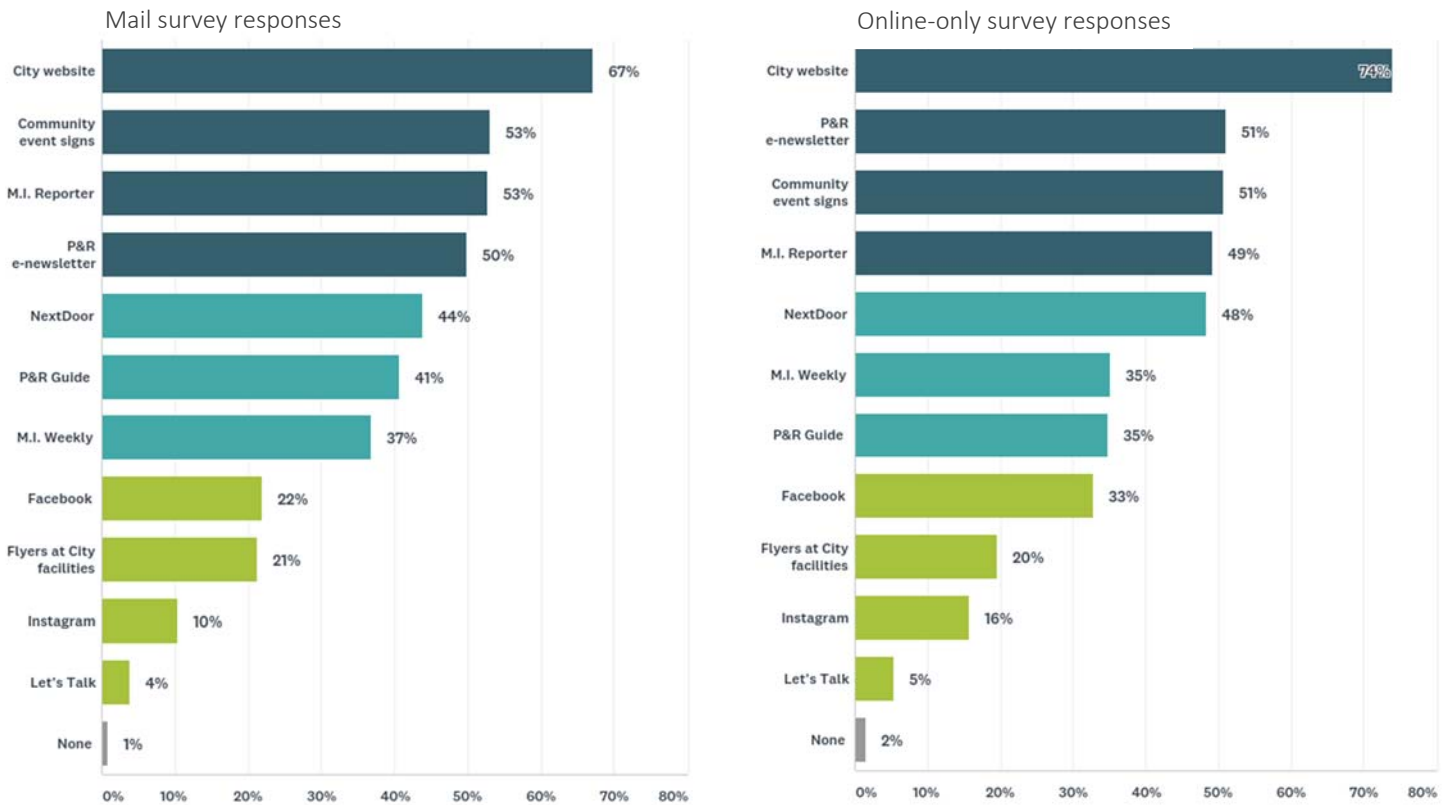


How do residents want to hear about Mercer Island’s parks, facilities, and events?

The majority of respondents prefer to hear about Mercer Island’s parks, facilities, and events through online channels such as the City’s website (67%) and Parks & Recreation e-newsletter (50%) as well as posted event signs (53%) and the Mercer Island Reporter (53%). These sources were popular with respondents to both the mail and online-only surveys.

Fewer than one in three respondents would like to hear about park and recreation opportunities through Facebook (22%), flyers at City facilities (21%), Instagram (10%), and Let’s Talk (4%). However, social media, including Facebook and Instagram, is a more popular source of information for respondents under 44, who prefer these sources 2-to-1 over older residents, and for families with children. The Mercer Island Reporter and Parks & Recreation Guide are preferred at higher rates by older residents, though all age groups use these printed publications to get information about parks and recreation offerings.

11. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Mercer Island’s parks, recreation facilities, programs and special events.



Other Comments

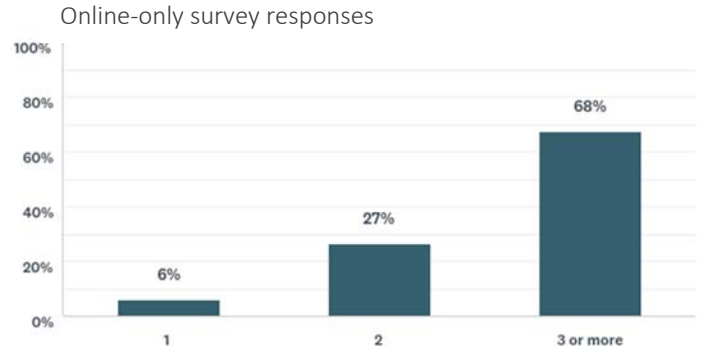
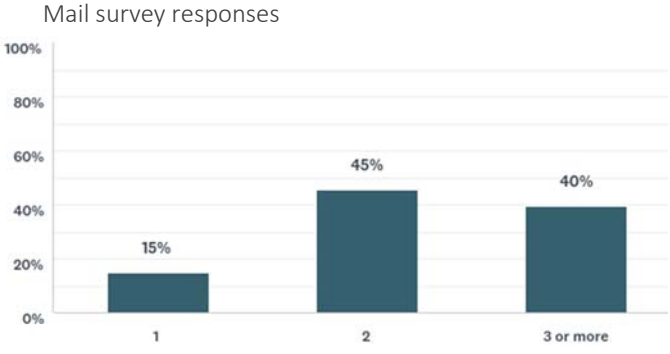
The survey provided respondents with two opportunities to share their ideas and suggestions via open-ended responses. Common themes from these comments include:

- Many respondents want to make sure the City protects access to nature, trees, and open space for both people and wildlife. Some respondents encouraged the City to permanently protect all park spaces. Others specifically encouraged the City to use of bee- and pollinator-friendly planting and landscape practices.
- Many respondents responded that they are eager to see additional off-leash dog parks in the City, either because they would use it themselves or because they hope it would lessen the number and impacts of unauthorized off-leash dogs in Mercer Island parks.
- Respondents expressed interest in, and enthusiasm for, specific park improvements, including the development of pickleball courts, sports fields, picnic shelters, and park restrooms, and additional adult programs and classes.
- Many respondents see the Summer Celebration Festival as an important tradition on the island and felt dismayed at the reductions to the Festival. They encouraged the City to restore the Summer Celebration, including the parade and fireworks.
- Many respondents comment on the need for improved swimming and boating opportunities, including renovations and expanded hours at Mary Wayte pool, additional splash pads, lifeguards at beaches, improvements to docks at Luther Burbank Park, kayak/canoe/SUP rentals, and the creation of sailing and rowing programs.
- Multiple respondents see the development of a performing arts center and venue as an important need on the island, frequently referencing the Mercer Island Center for the Arts (MICA) proposal and the desire to have a venue for Youth Theater Northwest (YTN).

Demographics

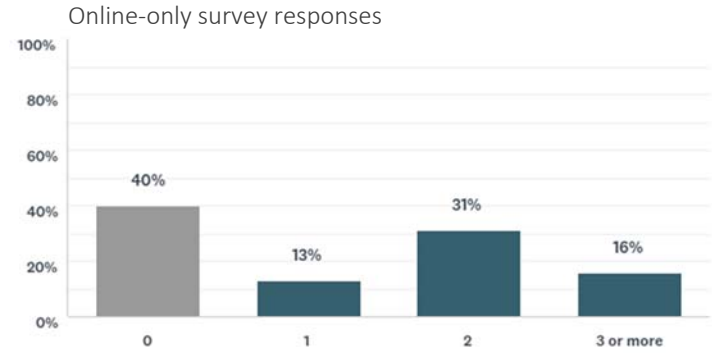
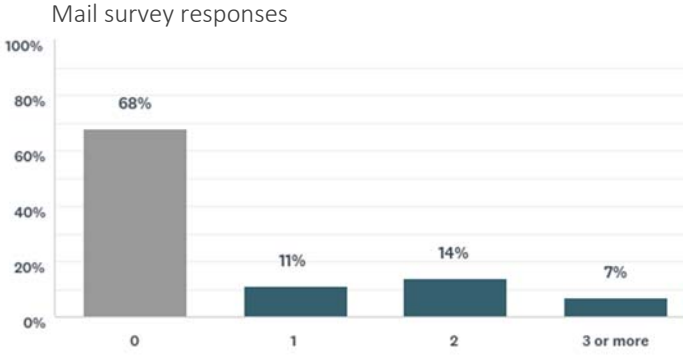
Number of People in Household

The majority (85%) of respondents to the mail survey live in households with either two (45%) or three (40%) people, while 15% percent live in single person households. Online-only survey respondents were more likely to live in households with three or more residents.



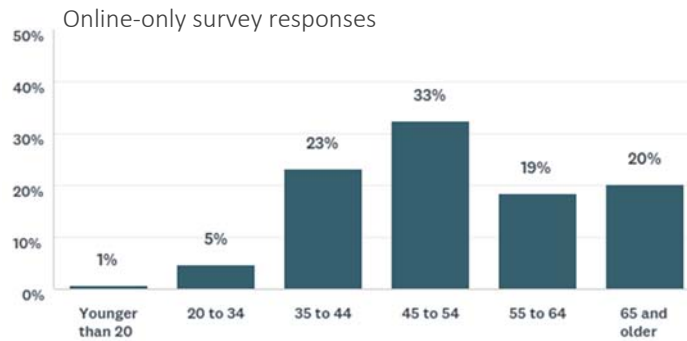
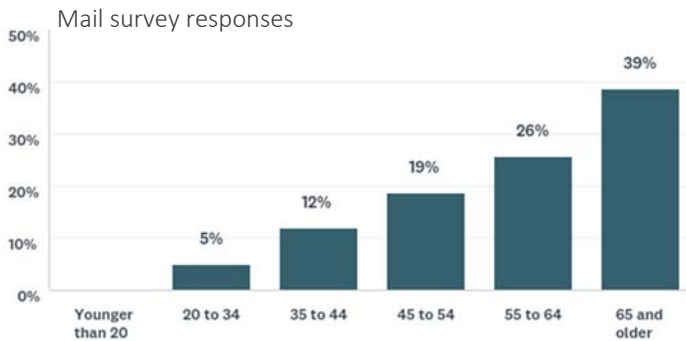
Number of Children in Household

Nearly seven in ten respondents to the mail survey (68%) have no children in their household. These households tended to include older adults (over age 55). The remaining 32% of households have one (11%), two (14%), or three or more (7%) children in the home. Online-only respondents were more 28% likely to have children at home than mail survey respondents.



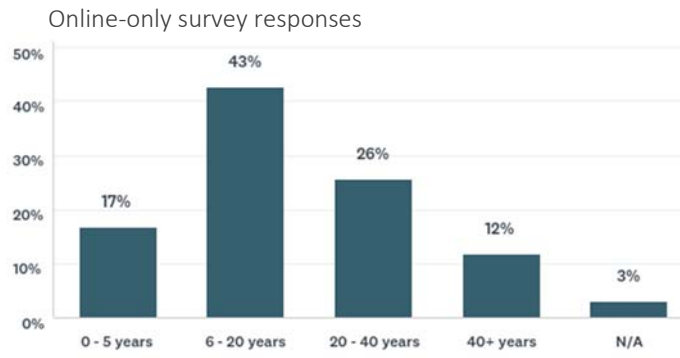
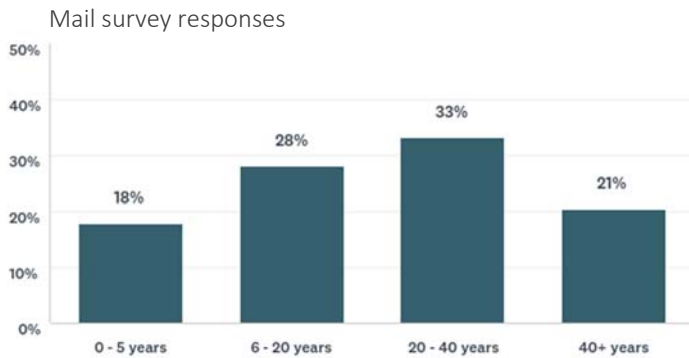
Age

Nearly 40% of respondents to the mail survey were over 65 years of age. Another 26% were between 55 and 64 years, while 19% were 45 to 64 years. There were few responses from younger residents, 12% of responses were from people 35 to 44 and 5% were from those 20 to 34 years of age. Respondents to the online-only survey were predominately 45-64 years old (33%), followed by 35-44 years (23%), with fewer residents over 55 responding.



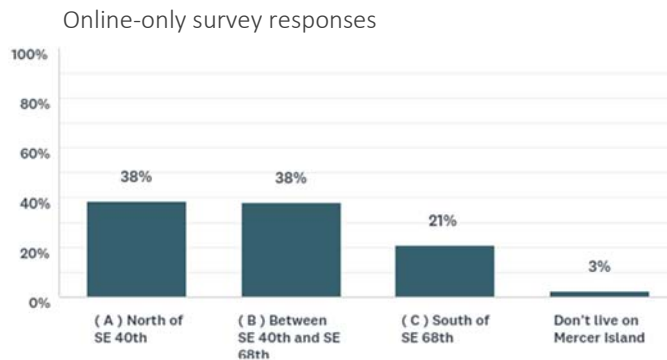
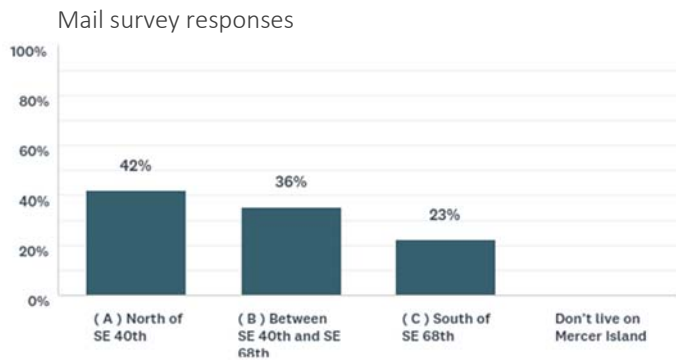
Length of Residence

Over half of mail survey respondents have lived on Mercer Island for decades, with 21% having lived on the island for more than 40 years and 33% having done so for 20-40 years. Approximately 28% have lived on the island for 6 to 20 years, while 18% are relative newcomers (less than 5 years). Respondents to the online-only survey were more likely to have lived on Mercer Island for between 6 and 20 years.

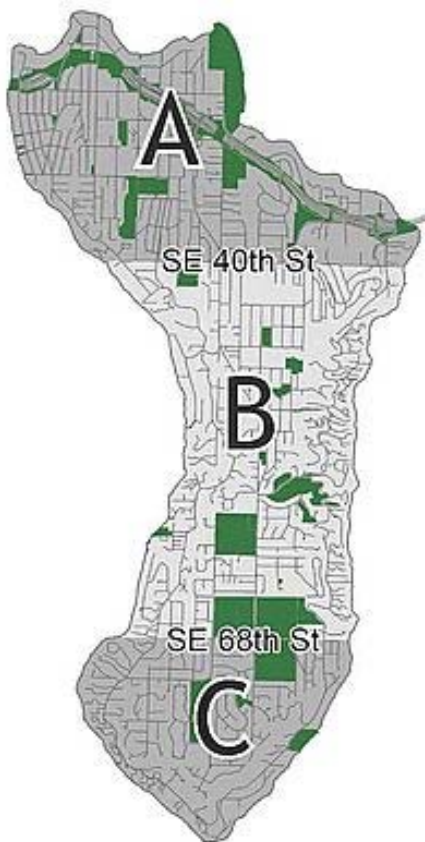


Location of Residence

Approximately 42% of mail survey respondents live on the northern part of the island (north of SE 40th Street). Another 36% respondents live between SE 40th and SE 68th Street. The remainder of respondents live south of SE 68th (23%). No respondents live outside of the City of Mercer Island. Respondents to the online-only survey were similarly distributed across the island. However, 3% of online-only respondents do not live on Mercer Island.



Location Map (for reference)



ATTACHMENT 1. SURVEY INSTRUMENT



City of Mercer Island

Community Survey on Parks and Recreation

Dear Mercer Island Resident:

The City of Mercer Island has begun a community-driven process to update its citywide Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). We need your help to determine how to prioritize projects and where to focus to keep our parks and programs thriving. As an initial step in the process, the City is conducting this short, random-sample survey to assess the community’s recreation and facility needs. Additional public engagement will follow, and final review of the Plan is tentatively targeted for the end of 2020. Your opinions are important to the City.

The survey has 17 questions and will only take a few minutes to complete.



If you prefer to take the survey online, use the unique ID number above to access the survey at miprosplan.com or with this QR code:

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Mercer Island, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are... (CHECK ONE OPTION)

- Essential to the quality of life here
- Useful, but not important
- Important, but not really essential
- Not Important at all

2. When it comes to amenities provided by the City of Mercer Island for meeting your needs for parks, amenities and activities, would you say there are... (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX IN EACH ROW)

	More than Enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Parks with playgrounds, play areas, restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails & pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields & sport courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shoreline access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open space & natural areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs (camps & classes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts & culture opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How often do you visit or use Mercer Island Parks & Recreation facilities, parks, or open spaces?

- At least once a week
- A few times over the year
- Two or three times a month
- Do not visit facilities / parks / open spaces
- About once a month
- Don't know

4. What would you say are the main reasons you visited Mercer Island Parks & Recreation facilities, parks, or open spaces in the past year? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Adult sports league
- Outdoor sport courts
- Beach / waterfront
- Playgrounds
- Biking
- Private event / celebration
- Boating / watersports
- Public art viewing
- Class or camp
- Relaxation
- Community events / concerts
- Public meeting
- Dog walking / exercise
- Walking or running
- Family gatherings / picnics
- Wildlife viewing
- Fishing
- Youth sports league
- Fitness
- N/A - I didn't go to Mercer Island parks or open spaces
- Other: _____

City of Mercer Island
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Take this survey [online](#) or use the QR code, and enter the unique ID number on the front:

miprosplan.com

Or send it back in the self-addressed envelope provided. **Thank you in advance for participating!**



5. Please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use City of Mercer Island parks or facilities more often.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are not well maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough restrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barriers related to physical accessibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Too busy to go to facilities, parks or open spaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerns about conflicts with other users | <input type="checkbox"/> Too crowded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost prohibitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Too far from my home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have the appropriate equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Use amenities provided by another city, organization or private club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not feel safe in facility, park or open space | <input type="checkbox"/> None / Does not apply to me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I do not know what is offered | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough parking | |

6. Rate your household’s overall satisfaction with Mercer Island Parks & Recreation facilities, parks or open spaces.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Dissatisfied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Satisfied | <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Don’t Know |

7. For each of the following existing park and recreation amenities, indicate how well your household needs are met locally AND if you have a need for more of each amenity.

Type of Amenity	How well met are your needs for each?				Do you have need for more?	
	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Not At All Met	N / A	Yes	No
All-inclusive playground equipment (ADA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic shelters / small gathering spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating / watersports facilities (docks, boat launch, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paddle / racquet sport courts (tennis, pickleball)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor fitness equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pedestrian trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-leash dog areas (enclosed dog parks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sport fields for baseball, softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sport fields for soccer, football, lacrosse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lighted sport fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Synthetic turf fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

City of Mercer Island
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

8. For each of the following existing programs and activities, indicate how well your household needs are met locally AND if you have an interest in each program or activity.

Type of Program / Activity	How well met are your needs for each?				Do you have interest?	
	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Not At All Met	N / A	Yes	No
Adult classes, such as arts, crafts, music, fitness or wellness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer or softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating programs, such as sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding or rowing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's activities, such as after-school programs or summer day camps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety or health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor classes, such as fishing, environmental or orienteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performing arts, such as community theater or concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips or health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for youth, teens and young adults with special needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming & water safety, such as classes or for fitness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen activities, such as drop-in, trips or camps during school breaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts or crafts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Please share additional needs for amenities, programs or activities you may have on Mercer Island.

10. Below is a list of City community special events that have been offered in the past or are currently offered. Although there are costs associated with each event, costs aside, for each event indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, Medium Priority, Low Priority or Not a Priority for your household.

	Top Priority	High Priority	Low Priority	Not a Priority
Arbor Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Argosy Holiday Ships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Egg Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Nights at the Community Center (Around the World, Hoedown, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Fridays with Friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holiday Lights & Firehouse Munch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leap for Green Sustainability Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mostly Music in the Park concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Movies in the Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior events & lunches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shakespeare in the Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Celebration Festival	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Please check ALL the ways you would prefer to learn about Mercer Island’s parks, recreation facilities, programs and special events.

- City website
- Community event signs
- Facebook
- Flyers at City facilities
- Instagram
- Let’s Talk
- Mercer Island Reporter
- Mercer Island Weekly (City e-news)
- NextDoor
- Parks & Recreation e-newsletter
- Parks & Recreation Guide publication
- None

12. This survey may not have addressed all of the topics important to you. Please share any other issues, policy-related items, concerns, or other information the City should consider for future planning.

The following questions help us understand whether we have a cross-section of the community responding to this survey. It’s important that you provide a response to each question. Please remember your answers are confidential.

13. How many people live in your household?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

14. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

15. What is your age?

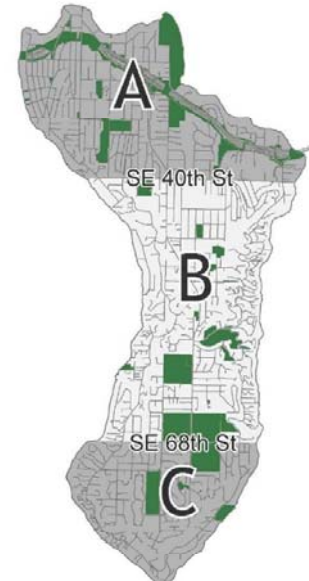
- Younger than 20
- 20 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 and older

16. If you are a Mercer Island resident, how long have you lived on the Island?

- 0 - 5 years
- 6 - 20 years
- 20 - 40 years
- 40+ years
- N/A

17. Using the map, in which section of Mercer Island do you live?

- (A) North of SE 40th
- (B) Between SE 40th and SE 68th
- (C) South of SE 68th
- Don’t live on Mercer Island



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input will help guide the development of the Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online with the unique ID number on the front: miprosplan.com

Learn more about why Mercer Island needs a PROS Plan and stay informed about the process at <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/miprosplan>



The City of Mercer Island is using the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.
PO Box 12736
Portland, OR 97212

ATTACHMENT 2. OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES (MAIL)

Please share additional needs for amenities, programs or activities you may have on Mercer Island.

- More dog off leash areas.
- Keep open space open. Protect parks from development. Pesticide free, please. Manage off leash dogs please.
- more adult art classes
- birding
- more lap swim hours at Mary Wayte Pool
- Need active indoor art space - painting, sculpture, pottery. Messy art spaces needed!
- a splash pad for young kids would be wonderful!
- Splash pad for the summer
- Please do not destroy our parks do not change Lid and other parks.
- beginning art, painting classes for our 55
- Lifeguards all summer long at the major beaches.
- More toddler activities
- more ongoing classes for kids under 5
- Space and equipment for making pottery - wheels, clay, kiln
- would love to have racquetball courts
- piano music lessons
- All the programs we are interested in are provided by our retirement home
- Small boat sailing club would be great
- We need a home for performing art and visual arts.
- I believe MI residents have many other activities than Mercer Island. Vacations, vacation homes, travel experiences, hobbies, families etc. church activities, charities, boating, skiing, travel.
- Bring back summer celebration!
- Nature walks; environmental education
- Need more walking trails; performing arts space needs to be a priority!
- Would like the community center open Sunday.
- The pickleball players would love to see the Luther Burbank tennis courts converted to pickleball!
- There is a lot of deferred maintenance of MI parks that needs money to fix.
- More turn and more lighted fields.
- Pioneer Park needs ivy abatement and downfall clearing.
- all inclusive pickleball courts (open to all skill levels)
- Please bring back summer celebration
- I prefer the parks in their natural state
- Would love kayak or SUP rentals.
- More covered areas for picnics and/or recreation outside.
- none needed, mercer island has plenty

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- would love an after-school Mandarin language class at Northwood Elementary
- Please update the restroom at all facilities - bigger, cleaner, with baby changing tables in the M + W
- library used to have more programs
- Nice if we had SUPs, kayaks, etc. for rent at Luther Burbank Park. Would LOVE a rowing a rowing team too!
- Performing arts facility
- Pedestrian only paths please, with barriers between peds and cars/bikes
- Small water access park on southwest part of island like the landing parks on NW part of island
- Public boat dock for access to MI business district.
- We need more gathering spots for gamers near stops - preferable with benches and rain shelters
- would love to get more Pickleball courts on MI. Great family sport as well as those for both young and old
- M. Island always overlooks the many swimmers at Mary Wayte pool
- need MICA!
- Early morning M-F working adult fitness programs
- lifeguards
- Tennis lessons and clinics for youth and adults on public courts
- Woodworking
- It would be nice to have more activities that bring people together
- Need more dog parks, put fence around S. Mercer park
- more bike and pedestrian friendly trails needed.
- More attention to invasive ivy in Gallagher open space and trees!
- 1. No performing arts center, larger than off-broadway theater needed. More outdoor summer concerts. 2. Want July 4th Fireworks. It is a Summer Celebration tradition. Bring it back.
- Not aware of any of these - they might exist.
- Special needs - all ages programs. Drop-in art, drama, exercise - free or low cost for all, including ADA. Concerts free/low cost. Pool improvements for all abilities. Trail signs.
- ultimate frisbee for adults
- open spaces are most important. please do not limit!
- more interesting trails and paths and open space
- Love the Community Center. It's a terrific resource. Have gone to classes, presentations, Solemates. Thank you!!
- I would really enjoy/ utilize an arts center!! Could have many art classes, performances-could really add to feeling of community
- I would love more trail connectivity. We have some great trail systems and large parks. Finding a way to better connect these facilities would be great. I have used the BMX bike park but feel a more general area for mountain biking would be more useful for us.
- lack of access to information on existing programs.
- Teach drivers on MI how NOT to run pedestrians down in Right curves on East Mercer Way. ~ 70 -80% of all drivers do cut those curves and creates very dangerous situations for pedestrians. Note, I've complained to some of the Police officers on Patrol when I meet them, but they have informed me that is NOT part of their job. It is the JOB of Mercer Island City.
- Programming for adults with special needs - drama, more dance, nights out
- Need more soccer fields

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- Some covered or indoor playground options for children - rain is a bummer!
- Less lights at Holiday at Mercerdale Park. We need replacement fir trees along Sculpture Park E.
- Speakers at a place easy to access
- sailing lessons
- rec center needs to be open an hour earlier and an hour later, bring back sundays (open)
- More camp variety for teens- we go off island
- Focus on updating/upgrading restrooms. Island Park tennis courts poorly maintained.
- as to 7, 8, and 9: I'm good as is.
- - we need a true gallery to show paintings, etc. - we need a theater to show plays, musicals, conduct lectures, and YTN
- Mary Wayte Pool needs major upgrades/investment
- wish there were activities/gym mid-island or north mid-island
- More off leash opportunities for dogs
- canoes, kayaks, boats for rent
- frisbee golf!
- High quality indoor gym with weights, kettle balls, etc.
- Despite the controversy, I like the idea of a performing arts center on Mercer Island.
- None come to mind
- Bring Sandpoint Sailing to Mercer Island like we had before.
- more evening/weekend fitness classes
- Mercer Island needs a performing arts venue.
- more picnic tables and BBQs at Arthur Burbank Beach
- Evening and weekend adult classes (cooking, baking, arts, crafts). Lower fees for indoor swimming and classes.
- A home for YTNW
- 1. Maintain toilets. 2. Maintain trails for exercise.
- We need many more hours of open gym for preschoolers! It rains here! Please invest in some giant inflatabales for kids under 10 years old. Glad to pay admission price.
- More concerts in the park, more community events (July 4th, Easter egg hunt, etc). More events at MI rec center for kids on the weekends or during school closures. Swimming class for tots (mommy & me). Amenities: more dog areas, more shade near kids playgrounds, more swings at playgrounds.
- I walk NW Pioneer Park daily and virtually every day I encounter a dog running well ahead of its owner. Being disabled, I worry about being knocked down. Please address as I believe this is an ADA trail and that appears to be impossible with off leash dogs.
- Shoreline access..arts in the community. More notification of events
- Please expand the small dog park at Luther Burbank. It's an afterthought to the larger dog park-the turf is uneven/dangerous for people and pets, there are giant holes, and there is no shelter or shade during the summer (or water access!). Convert the grass to sand, like the larger dog area, expand it down the hill (thus offering shade), or build a shelter of some sort. The large dog park has so many amenities, and the small dog park has none.
- Better transportation to the bus/lightrail. The current situation is just too infrequent to make me ditch the commuting car. Also, the beaches in the summer are way too crowded and with no policing, the situation can get weird and unsafe. No lifeguards is a huge problem. Finally, the traffic situation... the traffic around the high school is worse every year. We need a regular traffic light at 47th/Island Crest, or close to it. The fact those pedestrians were hit in front of the church is no

surprise to those of us that have to navigate that intersection every day. The streets are too busy for old-fashioned courtesy, so I think we should be realistic and make some choices for safety.

- I have a need for big trees and no street lights. A rural oasis between two big cities.
- Concerned about impact of bus intercept and possibly MICA on downtown bicycle access. Also concerned about the dangers around E Mercer Way and on ramp to interstate when on bicycle and motorcycle. That's a really dangerous area. I have had numerous situations where I've almost been hit there. And I have seen pedestrians have some near misses with cars on a number of occasions as well.
- Please offer more classes for senior citizens, including more options for transportation to the location. My 84 year old mother is active but no longer able to drive. It would be great if she could take an art class and have transportation options provided. Also, please add ultimate frisbee to the list of sports fields needed. My husband and I are parent volunteers and started a youth ultimate program on Mercer Island. We would be grateful to have some access to turf or other premium field space during popular times.
- Please bring back life guards and the summer celebration. Music in the parks is very appreciated. I'd like to see more shoreline access with parking. I'd be interested in more tai chi and yoga classes.
- Desperate need for more amenities in our parks that target 10-15 year olds and compels this demographic to get outside. Ask kids what they want! Pump tracks are an excellent option, which can be used by scooters, bikes, skateboarders. Draws multi generation (yes adults love these too) and all ages (3 years old up to adults). Great for community as parents and kids love to do it together. Check out Redmond, OR, Leavenworth, and Hood River as inspirations. Always crowded! Kids will play for hours on them. Would love to see more mt. bike trails in general for kids to get out and use. Would love to see south mercer play fields evolve to include more synthetic turf so that programs can be utilized full time all year long even with the rain - Chinook Middle in Bellevue is a beautiful example. Overall, I'd like to see work done to improve park utilization, add amenities that compel youth to get outside and cultivate community - some parks, i.e. Clark Beach, are run down and falling apart, which further drives down park utilization. Who wants to visit a park that is falling apart?
- Boat rentals
- More fenced dog parks, esp south end. Changes to Clarke beach so there is paddle launch area. Keep restrooms open year round at Clarke and Groveland
- Bring back summer celebration and the car show
- More playgrounds - need a better one on south end near Lakeridge. New playground does not have enough equipment.
- The island has no outdoor pickleball courts, yet many unused tennis courts. Please, please, please convert some of these tennis courts to pickleball courts. Also, increase days and hours of indoor pickleball.
- Missing link bike route to the south end
- More adult sports leagues (especially for women) would be welcome
- More dog friendly events, parks, etc
- More permanent restrooms at parks. Improved ADA accessibility at all public parks.
- Would love more programs for my kids between 0-3 years old. Love the indoor playground at MICC but it's the only thing we have besides the library. Could really use some more activities for the little bitty babies to get them out of the house for an adventure.
- We need another pool on the south end or the Mary Wayte Pool needs to be renovated and expanded. It's too old and there are not enough lanes/hours for lap swim.
- The open space on MI is it's single best feature.
- I think it would be neat to have a rowing program. We're surrounded by water after all... The boat launch needs to be maintained, as there is an excessive buildup of rocks/sand/etc. at the waterline. This makes launching difficult and entering a vehicle messy.
- More parks without off leash dogs please!!!
- We stayed on Mercer Island in fair part because of YTN and the promise of MICA. The ongoing obstruction of progress on

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MICA is deeply disrespectful of our children's needs and interests. We should be far less concerned with how grouchy septuagenarians want to live out their years than with how we're educating the next generation.

- Make island crest baseball fields light control open to everyone.
- More music concerts, more expansive and longer lasting farmers market
- I would like more sheltered picnic areas. The picnic areas in Luther Burbank aren't sheltered, and the one in Aubry Davis Park is right next to a playground which feels intrusive.
- Recommend more dog parks that include dog training/obstacle courses for the dogs.

12. This survey may not have addressed all of the topics important to you. Please share any other issues, policy-related items, concerns, or other information the City should consider for future planning.

- Be fiscally conservative - Don't spend more than you have. All will survive just fine.
- Keep as much green space as possible. It's what makes our island special.
- Pesticide free land management, become a bee haven! Please make clear where dogs can be off leash - residents are not responsible with this - ticket if necessary. Please do not develop existing parks - green space is diminishing, make MI a haven for its residents.
- Protect parks permanently and preserve open spaces. Please do not increase impervious surfaces. Save the Sculpture Park. Less use of pesticides.
- Chairs in MICEC need more padding to sit on. I've noticed this discomfort at meetings there. I have to bring cushioning.
- Please move toward a toxin-free environment in order to be bee friendly and bring friendly no poisons released on our environment intentionally. Please sign all areas of the island that are not off-leash. Off leash dogs are a growing problem and have forced our leash dog walks onto IC Way or W Mercer - not safe for us but safer than an approach by a "friendly" dog. I appreciate the job the City and workers do in our parks. We must protect them for future generations with a trust or other mechanism so that they cannot be developed with buildings or sold/traded off.
- Night time walking (lit areas like a track would be nice. Maybe access to High School or Middle School or light LID trails!
- Public art integration into parks is important
- Promote more "wooded areas". I think the beautification of Mercer Island needs to be preserved. Encourage trusts where residents can gift their property to the City for open space. The downtown needs to have character. Island Crest Way on the North end could be more beautiful w/ trees not wildflowers that turn into weeds. Maybe create a large loop around the city center where young and old walk safely on a ~2 mile route.
- I like the senior golf program
- Inconsiderate dog owners - attacking dogs that are off-leash or badly behaved dogs that approach you and can knock you down
- I think good maintenance of what we already have should be prioritized first before additional projects are initiated.
- For a community surrounded by water, our public dock/ boat launching area are inadequate/poor. Tie up space at LBP is inadequate.
- As a family with toddler age kids, more fenced in playgrounds would be a huge help
- I have a young child and having more fenced in play areas would be essential.
- Please do not put any more pavement or hard surfaces in our parks. Bikes should be directed to roadways and out of the parks as they tend to speed, endangering themselves and park users.
- Need to keep costs/taxes reasonable - pay to play is good. If you charge users a bit, everyone can have more, e.g. parking pass \$50/year or \$5 per use, soccer field \$25 per use, etc.
- All of our park space is precious. Please keep our parks a priority.
- Need to keep all of our retail stores and parking access easily available to these retail stores.

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- I think it would be smart to build “up” on our park and ride, 2 more stories would be nice. Bring back 4 lanes on Island Crest Way. Newer stop lights at 47th and 42nd should be at corner and for traffic too.
- Hours of the community center are limited and I can't enjoy it as much as I'd like.
- Do not permit “arts center” to encroach on park land- be mindful of the need for parking. (Farmers market, bathroom facilities) Try to keep Summer Celebration’s other “all” community events. Thank you!
- Would like the city to provide more community events such as music and theatre in the parks.
- Plenty of things to do on Mercer Island. I think Mercer Island made big mistake cancelling Summer Celebration. It was retaliation for last year.
- My husband and I walk The Lid every day. All dogs should be leashed there. We've seen aggressive dogs knock over elderly people and children, menace other dogs. There is also too much wear and tear on the Lid fields as well as other island fields by dogs. MI has an off leash dog park. We totally support all MI levies but resent paying for field upkeep when they are used for off-leash areas. Our grandchildren play lacrosse on the Lid and have also stepped in dog poo due to the number of dogs.
- Terminate allowing off leash dogs in NW quadrant of Pioneer Park. Off leash dogs are hurting/harassing wildlife, ruining their habitat, damaging vegetation, digging holes, leaving dog doo, running into people. hey scare and bother other trail users too. And bark (noise nuisance).
- Very disappointed the Summer Celebration parade was cancelled in 2019 due to funding. It is one of the best ways in which we all gather as a community. Truly makes it feel like a 'small town'. Bring it back and let the community know we can help fund it.
- The bridge over I90 that is a natural park east of Island Way - Is there a better use of that bridge? All the deer have migrated south.
- Please try to bring Summer Celebration back
- Park walking tours for education on ecosystems
- I am not retired so many weekday activities not an option. Visiting families use play spaces, etc.
- preserve open areas
- Make sure no development / buildings such as MICA to go in any park. Too late for the sculpture park! Continue to develop the garden area in Mercerdale. No wider bike trails on the LID.
- Please don't fill the green spaces up with structures! Just because there's budget \$ available, don't ruin the parks just to spend it all!
- lifeguards at beaches in summer
- Island Crest Park and Pioneer Park have too many off-leash dogs that are not truly under voice control
- Definitely do not reduce current facilities
- Should have included small pockets of open spaces in the downtown area prior to development, now it's too late. It's not a pleasant place to visit, no redeeming qualities or charm.
- Would love trails where dog can walk without leash. With signs allowing within a certain perimeter.
- Park maintenance is wonderful! Pickleball courts would be great.
- Everything we do is provided by the retirement program.
- Highest priority is gateway to our city with Link light rail. Development of a gateway plaza, enhance Greta Hacket Sculpture Garden and develop a community performing arts center
- Walking around can be dangerous under low light conditions.
- We would so enjoy ample kayak, canoe boat rentals and sports equipment here on the island.
- Summer celebration last year was missed and Parks employees have too much control as well as being over-paid and arrogant.

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- Just remember MI property owners have multiple interests as I stated before- we are not wanting to satisfy all seattle-ites— let them build their own parks Etc. We travel have vacations and homes in other places taxes are high enough Many have limited income- wish to live here until death. Leave to children.
- Would love more places to eat out.
- People who visit can not believe that there are no places to eat o the water. Too bad the old power plant in Luther Burbank park couldn't be converted to a restaurant.
- Very concerned and don't feel safe with bikers going way too fast in the parks and blocking streets & traffic
- Higher quality playground equipment - active (not passive) interaction with equipment e.g. better swingsets, merry-go-round, zip-line or similar
- The Al+Olive Fleury is badly maintained. The little ponds on the trail are being used as dumps for yard waste and dying. The trail is a mess and someone keeps cutting branches or trees down. Some other trails are also a mess.
- Nothing wrong with arts in the park. Happens everywhere. Mercerdale is underused and could host a lot more events.
- Seems mildly insane that we can't have a cultural center at Mercerdale Field.
- Thank you for putting out this survey!
- We have lovely natural places to enjoy on Mercer Island and I think M.I. keeps them maintained beautifully. The tennis courts @ Luther Burbank are begging to be used and pickleball players are begging for outside courts.
- We really enjoy all the community activities at Mercerdale Park like Holiday Lights, Music in the Park, and Summer Celebration. We miss Summer Celebration and Movies in the Park! Our grandchildren live near the park and love these activities!
- I am 88 living in a retirement community. The only time I have used a park is for Shakespeare in the park.
- Encroachment of homeless & graffiti. Thanks for all you do!
- The loss of Summer Celebration cannot be overstated. The event planned for this year is not enough. We need Summer Celebration back!!!
- Public speaker events in eve/nights 7-9pm
- Although the City is facing serious budgetary issues, priority should be given to maintaining MI's Parks facilities and trails infrastructure. The longer that maintenance is deferred, the greater the cost to replace and upgrade will be.
- I love our parks and support funding to keep them 1st rate.
- 1) Most difficult issue: receiving materials (illegible) events/offerings. The Reporter and P&R online DON'T come on my radar screen! 2) Hours for fitness/rec events at Comm. Center are wrong for me. NEED more 5-9 p.m. sports/fitness activities.
- 1) Enforce leash laws. 2) Enforce "no camping/no tents" in parks 3) Enforce "no loitering" in parks/rec facilities 4) Arrest for drug use in parks/rec facilities
- Summer Celebration parade sorely missed
- Control building height, minimize condos to limit MI population.
- I would like to see the parks remain natural. There is too much development in the parks, and too much pavement.
- Thank you for allowing horses on the one tract of Pioneer Park. It is a joy to still see these amazing animals on MI. I saw some posts n Nextdoor with some crazy man complaining about manure on trails. Please silence him with appropriate, reasonable acceptance to the nature of horses.
- I have yet to participate in a tree/open space work day but I would like to. Seems like the City needs more park staff to keep the trees healthy.
- Flower baskets (hanging) and better median maintenance. I want to have pride in my community again.
- City funds to paint murals or plant live reindeer shrubs were a waste of funds, so are full color brochures (booklets) of programs and recreation. Bring back the Summer Celebration. Create new rules that require short & long pats in

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neighborhoods to improve infrastructure in that area, reducing work for public works.

- We need more lighted sports fields
- Simply completing this survey will make me pursue more of the benefits available. This was a good educational tool.
- Boat rentals at Luther Burbank, Kayaks, Canoes, Stand-up paddleboards
- How to become a bee friendly city: ivy removal, toxic herbicide use - needs to be banned, cutting down of mature and non-native trees, and, concerned where is the money coming from to pay for things people "need"? And we don't want a levy. I don't want it that people say they need or want more \$ then you present the findings to the Council only for them to say "No need to put a Parks Levy on the ballot". It should be that you have to spend a year old what can you do with the money. The City are exposing itself to legal and environmental liability as they have disregarded the health of citizens and workers. Please protect Sculpture Park from development There is too much plastic in the playgrounds.
- I worry about Budget cuts! We really should have passed Prop 1 to better support our City.
- Mercer Island needs a Theatre! Some of us have tried ever since the community center was built. We have been consistently shot down by people who think sports are the only important thing.
- Playground renovation for the Mercerdale Train Park is long overdue. We'd love a fenced in park with updated equipment similar to Massie Bailey playground in Chicago.
- Police station open house!
- More development of trails (walking) east and west —> (eg. EMW to Library @ 44th)
- Hundreds and maybe thousands of residents play electronic games in our parks. Only a few spots provide a place to sit out of rain. Great examples: picnic tables by playground near A. Davis ballfields. Please get info from gamers as to new benches or seating areas in our parks.
- Better maintenance along walking paths.
- Very disappointed the power flex class was disrupted in an attempt to get more rental revenue- you disrupted a very under served group- senior males in group exercise.
- Parking fee should be charged near or at Park Parking lot to create additional fund to maintain service. Also dog license fee for all pet (dog) owners on Mercer Island
- Even though this is not unique to Mercer Island, unleashed dogs and dog poop remains a problem in sports fields, playgrounds and parks. I've seen dogs attempting to climb slides and pooping in turf fields - signs posted at playgrounds are completely ignored and the phone number to call for complains is useless, I gave up calling many years ago. My husband and I have asked owners of large dogs to hold them in the presence of elementary age children with limited success. Many, if not most, dog owners are respectful and clean after their dogs and keep them on leash where appropriate but that is not consistent. In a time when there is so much concern about public health, why should we keep a blind eye regarding how dog owners deal with their dogs, public spaces and other park users? Thank you for conducting this survey!
- We don't use a lot of the MI parks and rec offerings but we are glad they are here for others to enjoy.
- Definitely off leash dog areas with lights at night and fenced
- Our needs are very few. MI is safe and pleasant for us. Our children are grown and our hobbies are past enjoying.
- 1. City fix pot holes 2. City medians are not kept up ; example the main area driving up Island C going south 3. City always doing fields for sports, no attention to redoing anything at M.W. Pool 4. City wastes too much \$\$ on "green" companies in open spaces 5. Lack of supervision of workers often trucks stopped for long period with workers doing nothing.
- 1. MI should adopt Permanent Protection of parks & open spaces 2. No net increase in impervious surfaces 3. Save the Sculpture Park 4. Suspend the use of Round-up and adopt native plant practices to increase the bee population and decrease the cost of water and increase conservation practices.
- I am concerned that the light rail may bring in crime (although I'm all for light rail) which would threaten the peace and safety of our streets, open spaces and parks. I believe it will be important to have security/policy on duty at the stations. Thank you for your service to our community!
- YTN needs a permanent home!

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- Really appreciate spring/fall recycling program
- We missed Summer Celebration - it is a tradition and one I think we need to keep as a high priority. We value family and its the best we have for community. Very sad we didn't find a way last year, regretful!!
- low-impact parks like Mercerdale & Luther Burbank should be protected as Pioneer Park was
- lifeguards
- The community center hours are too few for most activities hosted there. Fitness center hours are really too few and closures are most inconvenient over weekends and holidays when most people have free time and yet cannot access the center.
- Maps for walkers and bikers online which can be printed out
- There are obviously activities that I've never attended and don't know about.
- Put fence around S. Mercer park so dogs don't run into street!! We need more off leash dog parks. IMS field needs to be open to public during school hours.
- Gallagher Hill needs safer pedestrian and bike paths
- We have huge opportunity to enhance & drive towards pedestrian only options on MI, so we have greater access to shops and friends by walking and our kids have safe walks to school. In sum, healthier and better for environment Again, I would love to walk on pedestrian trail or paved walkway from home (mid-island) to north end without walking along ICW (too much traffic, noisy, exhaust).
- We would like to suggest that the dock at Luther Burbank Park be brought up to standard by installing mooring cleats and fendering for boats to safely tie up.
- Stop fireworks!
- There are so many beautiful places on the island. Thank you! Would appreciate trail maps with degree of difficulty and ADA. Would enjoy a community art center to drop in and take a class per individual/family or theatre night for all ages & abilities. Self-guided nature walk. Free bus service during summer celebration weekend. Yoga for families with disabilities. Bring back cooking or hang out event at community center. Partner with clubs to have families with disabilities night. Games in the park. Create roundabouts for traffic to slow down in neighborhoods and busy areas/high traffic. Twice a year have a spring/fall walking tour. Keep pumpkin walk! Kite making in the park. Wood block art in the park. Summer theme around the island.
- I think MI is doing a great job in all these areas. Our family is very grateful for and happy with our open spaces and activities/programs/playgrounds
- I tend not to know about Com. Center classes. I used to participate all the time when you sent schedules to people's homes. Would like to see it return.
- make Luther Burbank boat dock like Colown (sp?) Park with summer restaurants
- Trails are not being maintained on S. end
- Better bike lanes around and across the island
- Please evaluate the true costs of turf fields in addition to the personal health issues. Field scheduling should be more transparent. Don't make LBP and the Lid a Regional park, keep it MI!
- Please fund summer celebration. It really means a lot to the community.
- Since we have school age kids, we mostly use the summer camps, playgrounds, and dog park/off leash trails. There are many great offerings. I wish we could take advantage of more.
- Parks and Recreation should make some effort to contact retirement communities about programs and transportation available.
- See above as for the issue on being run over by a car. Likewise, emphasize specifically for females- age 40-50, they should not bring their dog for a walk when they themselves are fully occupied by talking on the phone(one hand) and in the other hand have a cup of coffee. Result: They have no control over the free running dog!

City of Mercer Island

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

- City park policies should include: 1 - Permanent protection of parks from development; 2 - No net increase in impervious surface; 3 - Temporary suspension of the use of Roundup until the science proves it's completely safe.
- With the pollution coming from the freeway between 77th & 78th, more planting needed. I've needs to be removed in all of Aubrey Davis Lid Park.
- How much does the city spend on these projects? Will the city increase taxes on us? Please don't increase taxes!
- Bikers should ride single file on W, N, E Mercer Way. There is a sign on the way to Colony Park
- Would like lights at the main lid (Aubrey Davis) field and pathway that go on from 4-8 p.m. and 6-8 a.m. during fall/winter months. Walking, dogs, kids, people walking home from Transit Center. This would be a major help.
- Lived on M.I. over 50 years, raised 4 children and used all parks and amenities that were offered. The main reason we chose M.I.
- - better boating/docking - more trails - mountain bike park
- keep rec center open longer. 1 hour at 7 am and 1 hour 10 pm and reopen on sunday.
- No public park near the northeast part of the island.
- 1. Do not sacrifice green space for sports fields! That said we need more quality soccer fields. Could the Lid fields be leveled? Some of them are too sloped with balls going into the street (Lid B). Perhaps improving homestead with lights. 2. Need more picnic shelters @ parks, lots of spaces just not shelters. Set up baseball S. Merc outfield for soccer games. The space below the baseball fields and IMS tracks as formal soccer field w/lights. Build a formal soccer field in Lid A? Between the 2 baseball diamonds?
- We have written to many of you, with no reply ever. Save the costs and stop trying to act like a big city- we are a small town. Build up the downtown, develop the south end and maintain what we have that makes us MI.
- Definitely do not decrease the size or number of parks and green spaces. Do not subdivide existing lots to increase density. Further develop the town center so that there are more shops and restaurants and it is more walkable.
- Important that all parts are maintained. For example reduction in size of the sculpture park is not acceptable and that it be replaced with multi-function high rise.
- I love being outdoors and in parks. Not interested in programs or events.
- Provide the orange flags to cross the intersections from the park & ride to town. Bikers have lights, walkers seem to ear black and are not visible. Very dangerous for drivers and walkers.
- Don't sacrifice parkland for MICA or anything else
- Recent cuts to community events tear the community apart. They are at the heart of what makes M.I. a sought after community in which to live. Costs can be defrayed utilizing volunteers at all levels and taking better inventory of how current staff (paid) use their time. I believe there is rampant wast, fraud, and abuse of city funds and the citizens are 'paying the price' in sacrifice.
- Keep the median on Island Crest Way next to the carpool entrance to I-90 free of weeds once the wildflowers are past their peak.
- The small dog off-leash park allows for no access for swimming in the lake, there is no shade on hot days, the surface is often terribly uneven and difficult to walk on. Also the hand dryers in the parks bathrooms do not work.
- we need to think about all the positive ways the new rail lines will help our community and plan accordingly. Example, we can host Bellevue College classes at our Community Center. We can hose Seattle Arts and lectures at same venue, or until we build a theater.
- we need way more benches along trails
- It is a concern that there are no lifeguards anymore - that is a safety problem.
- More summer camps for 13+ yos & volleyball facilities. Adult classes all happen during business hours so I can't attend.
- park maintenance, flowers, green space, environmental conservation, reserves, etc.

City of Mercer Island

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

- a frisbee golf course at Luther Burbank. They're non-obtrusive and relatively inexpensive. A food court at Luther Burbank.
- continue improving shoulder/bike lane around the island and related signage for cyclists
- Thank you for doing the important work of maintaining our community!
- Limit out of city traffic into Groveland Beach park area during the newly moved Blue Angel weekend. The Blue Angel weekend of 2019 has proved impossible for residents to enter or leave around Groveland Beach. There were no police presence, some parking were illegal, and overall proves to be an actual hazard if there were any emergency.
- City park land should be put in a permanent protective trust to protect it from development - top priority
- Who will pay to maintain the public spaces near light rail with massive increases in pedestrian traffic? (from off-island, non MI-tax paying guests)
- more restrooms
- Summer celebration needs updating, less political and better food options. The parade was fun for all ages.
- Maintain what we have.
- During winter/rainy months, please open up the gym and buy more bikes, trikes, toys, inflatables for kids under 10 years old. We need indoor places to run these kids. It's too soggy outside and muddy too. It's hard for the little ones to even go outside while at school. Open up the gym like they do at Boys & Girls Clubs in other neighborhoods!
- Our priority is the trails and park maintenance. We use the trails daily and find hazards all the time. Also, concessions (ie food trucks) and more restrooms in the parks and public spaces would be great.
- Safety at pedestrian crossings in general but especially near parks and play structures and at crosswalk at 72nd Ave SE and 24th.
- I was disappointed that Jazzerciz took over the gym and changed the timing of the power flex classes. As a result one of the classes was discontinued which had been going on for 30 years
- Besides the small dog park (of utmost importance!), please consider your use of roundup to control weeds/blackberries in public parks. Its proven toxicity should prohibit its use in public areas where children and pets could come in contact with contaminated plants.
- I added them in the previous section! Please read. And I should really go to one of the town meetings, I know...
- I didn't know I could sign up for e-newsletters. Guess I'll investigate that option.
- Please bring back Summer Celebration. Farmers Market is a top priority event as well.
- Very concerned about the zoning issue around JCC and FAC. I use that intersection often in the car, on the motorcycle, and on the bicycle. Making changes that increase traffic and congestion down there is a terrible idea. I can only imagine the impact on the people down there, but I've experienced the negative impact of the new school on 40th, which has further constrained life due to the morning and afternoon traffic.
- The parks seem dominated by 1 voice here on MI - the "dont change" mantra. How as a city do we continue to evolve our parks so that they cultivating an active generation that wants to be outdoors? Many of our parks are falling apart (what happened to Clark Beach?!), under utilized, and offer limited amenities that compel youth to get outside. I'd love to see some positive change with our parks that will encourage our younger generation to get outside. As it stands, when MI kids grow out of play grounds, there is not an exciting next step park for them to spend time in unless they are in structured activities and playing on our sport fields.
- How much is being spent from city funds in Aubrey Davis changes ? Not sure if that is city money or other funds Don't use community center at north end at all as we are in south end , so felt we had to join private fitness club
- Bring back summer car show - need a new venue!
- Please bring back Summer Celebration. It is beloved!
- Would like to see more landscaping maintenance using native and low water usage plantings. More regular removal of dead trees and overgrown vines. JCC represents a good alternative to public facilities. However, a community pool would be nice. In general, I feel like more time/focus should be directed to other areas of concern (Budget, downtown

development and implications of light rail/bus traffic)

- Please consider keeping the MICC open during the latter part of December, or only closing it for a few days. It's a time people really want to make use of the center, seems a most inopportune time to close it for 2 weeks.
- Policy related items: Power outages and response time. Please have PSE put power lines underground. Every year, during high wind storms, ice storms, we lose power, for days. Unacceptable given the taxes we pay. Please get PSE to improve the infrastructure and to mitigate tree damage.
- Great job -- we are lucky to have such a great program!
- I was frustrated when the City cut so many programs after the raises were voted down. It felt like a big slap in the face to MI residents, like, "If you vote the way we don't want you to, we will show you! We'll cut your favorite programs!" I love this city and miss the programs but wasn't about to vote for a raise I did not feel was justified just because of a threat to take away our programs. We're okay without them.
- My family would consider sacrifice of any park or open/forested space for additional arts/sports/commercial structures to be extremely unfortunate.
- Need more space/trail and less building, esp the downtown area. Way too many buildings/people and traffics
- I still have concerns related to lighting and speed enforcement in my neighborhood (Mercerdale). I've expressed the speed issue to MIPD twice and once in person when an officer had to respond to a car that lost control due to excessive speed. Signage and/or speed bumps/humps need to be considered before someone gets hurt, or worse.
- Please make Pioneer park safe for every people and remove off-leash dog so others can also enjoy. Summer concert series would be nice with picnic style seating.
- Just build MICA already.
- My wife and I walk daily outside on the trails between Luther Burbank and Aubrey Davis park and we both agree the off-leash dogs are out of control. Many owners walk around with multiple dogs off leash, or with a leash trailing on the ground, and the dogs will run out of control, sometimes even jump or bark at us as we are walking along the trail. There seem to be no visible signs of what the laws are, and zero enforcement - so all the dog owners have assumed they can get away with no leash at all no matter what area they are in- it makes us nervous as we walk- it is not like this in other cities like Bellevue or Kirkland. Also the dogs are sometimes so far away from their owners it would be impossible for the owner to tell if they needed to clean up after their dog, because they wouldn't even be able to see, so there is another problem of dog owners not scooping up after their pets.
- We really love the Luther Burbank off-leash dog park, we wish there were more off-leash areas!
- There is often a lack of parking at various city parks and facilities. The city seems to be unable to address its parking needs, possibly because of impacts on surrounding neighborhoods and the NIMBY attitude that seems to go with building larger parking structures. But it needs to be addressed.



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

Parks & Recreation Commission: February 4, 2021

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Presentation Topics

Project Timeline & Major Tasks:

- Virtual Town Hall: March 23
- Second Survey: End of March/Early April

Additional Survey Highlights

Recap of Joint Council Session

Discussion & Next Steps

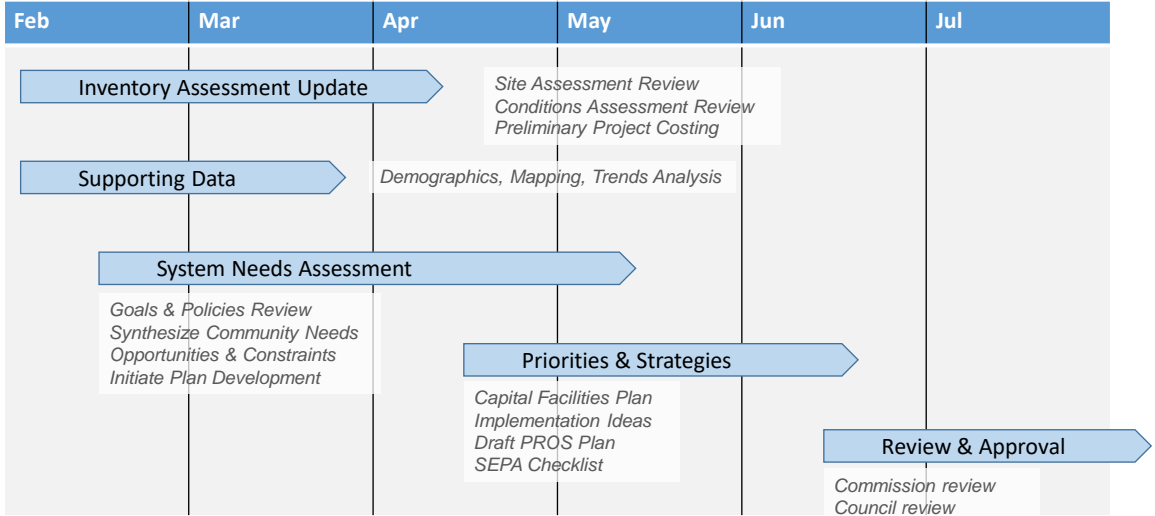


Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Project Timeline

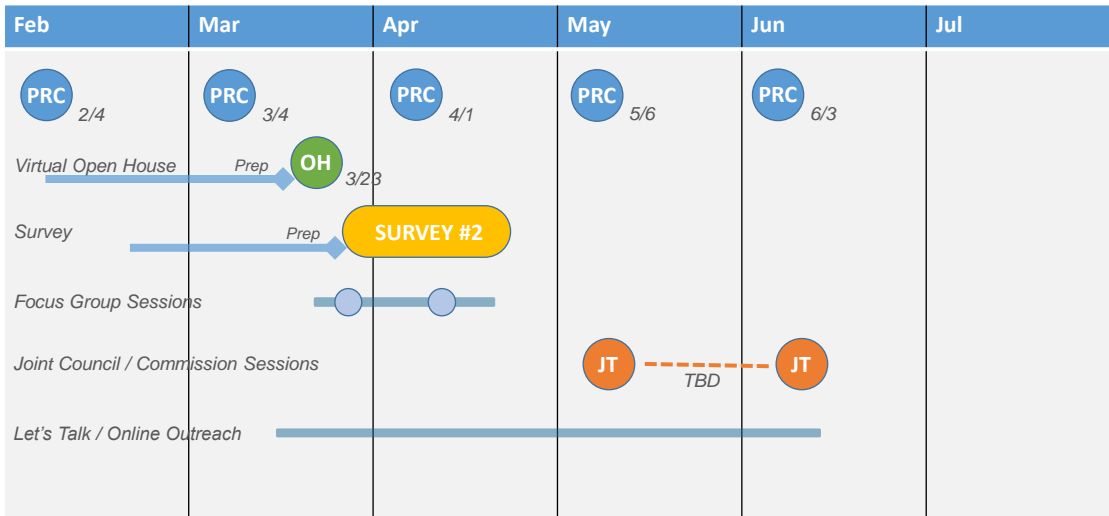


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Project Timeline



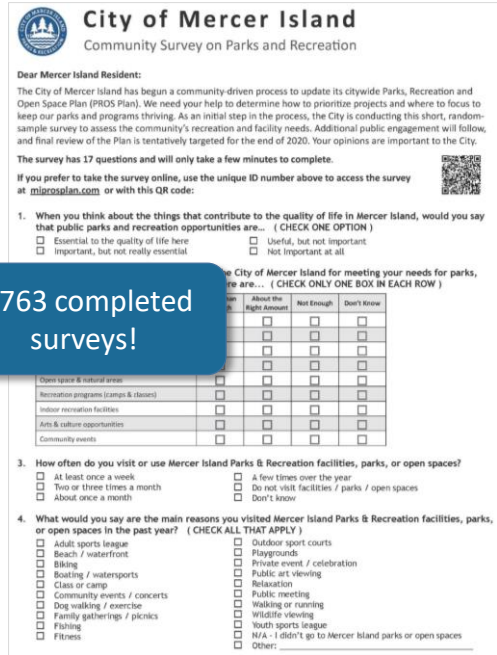
Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Survey #1 Highlights

- Designed in coordination with staff and Park & Recreation Commission
- February – March 2020
- Mailed to 2,500 randomized addresses
- 525 respondents (21% response rate)
- Online survey available to entire community
- Survey datasets kept separated



Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Survey #1 Highlights

Demographics

- Mail survey skewed slightly older and households without children
- Online survey skewed slightly middle-aged and with children
- Geographic distribution same between both datasets

Age group	Survey Respondents			M.I. Population	
	Mail	Online-only	Combined	Full	Over 20
Under 20	0%	1%	0%	25%	--
20-34	5%	5%	5%	12%	16%
35-44	12%	23%	20%	12%	16%
45-54	19%	33%	28%	17%	23%
55-64	26%	19%	21%	14%	19%
65 and older	39%	20%	26%	20%	27%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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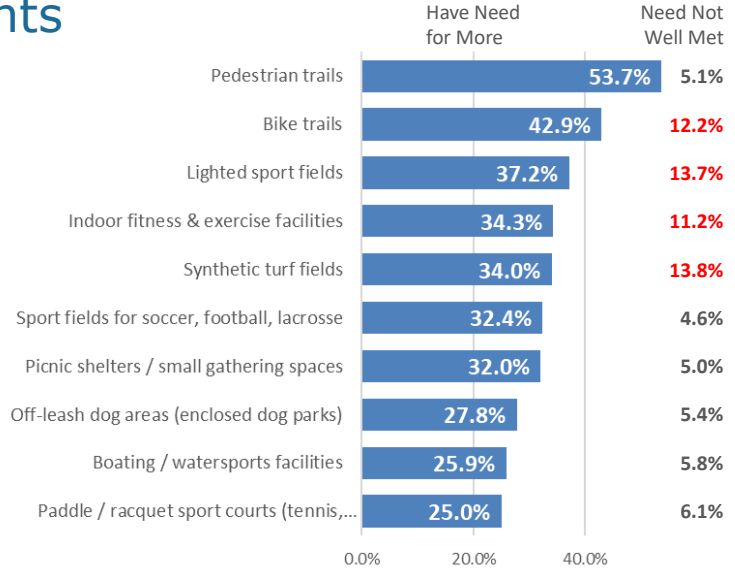
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Survey #1 Highlights

Interest in park system investments

- Synthetic turf fields
- Lighted sport fields
- Indoor fitness & exercise facilities
- Bike trails



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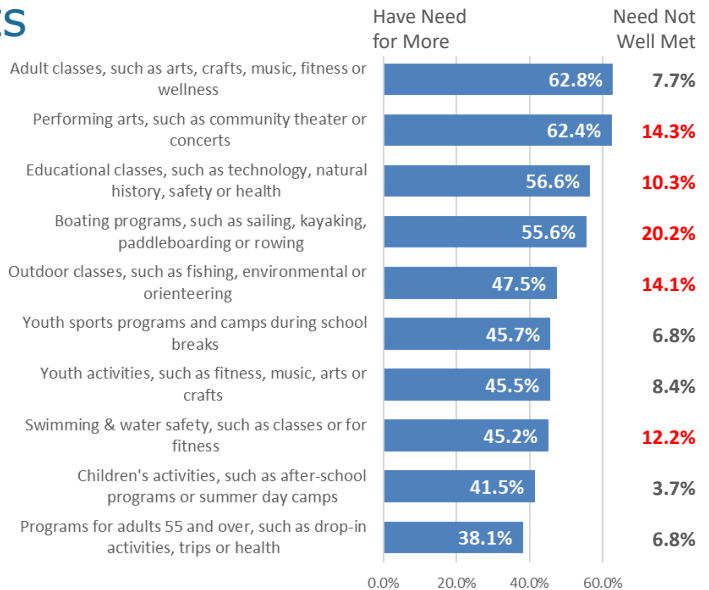
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Survey #1 Highlights

Interest in recreation opportunities

- Boating programs
- Performing arts
- Outdoor classes
- Swimming & water safety
- Educational classes



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Survey #1 Highlights

Open-ended Responses

- Protect access to nature, trees, and open space for both people and wildlife
- Interest in specific improvements, such as pickleball courts, sports fields, picnic shelters, and park restrooms
- Restore the Summer Celebration, including the parade and fireworks
- Improve water-oriented opportunities, such as splash pads, lifeguards at beaches, improvements to docks at Luther Burbank Park, kayak/canoe/SUP rentals, and creation of sailing/rowing programs

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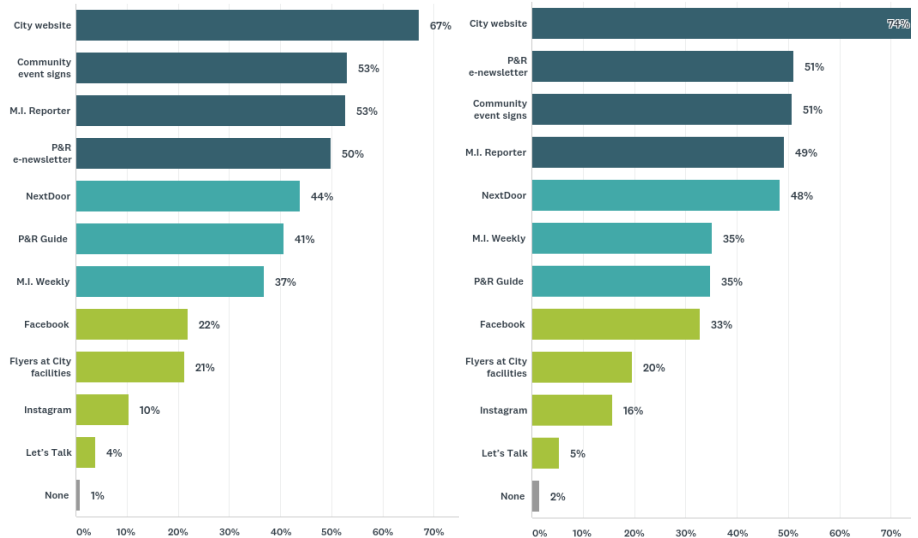
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Survey #1 Highlights

Information

Channels

- City website
- Event signs
- M.I. Reporter
- P&R Newsletter



Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update

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Joint Session Take-Aways

- Take advantage of the uniqueness of Mercer Island (i.e., water-oriented programs & facilities)
- No net loss of open space – preserve natural areas
- Invasive species management
- Plan for ongoing maintenance & fiscal sustainability
- Concern about recreation programming becoming too commercial
- Explore partnerships & opportunities for volunteers
- Accommodate for diverse range of age groups & abilities (all-inclusive)

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update



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Discussion Questions

Given what you learned from the first survey and in preparation for the next phase of community engagement:

- What areas/topics should we explore further? Dive into a bit more?
- What additional information do you need from the community to start forming a recommendation on the long-term strategy for the PROS Plan?

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update



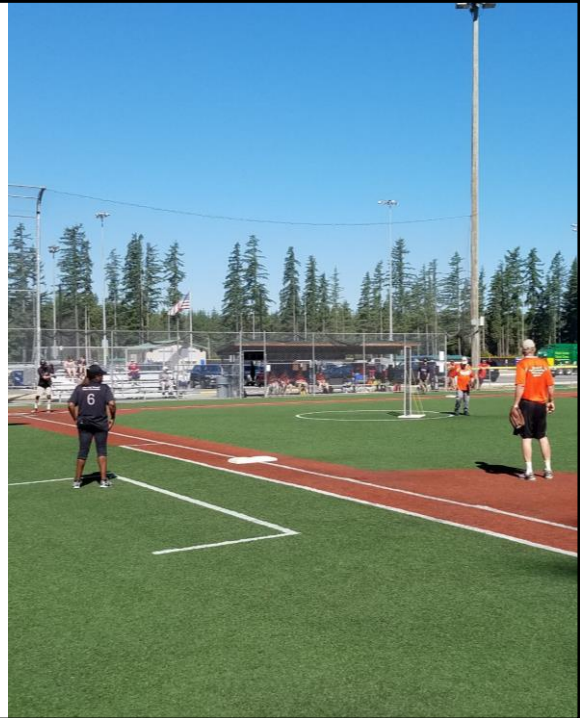
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Next Steps

- The project team will take the feedback from this meeting and begin developing the framework for the March 23 Virtual Open House.
- A second survey will also be developed as a companion to the Virtual Open House for release at the end of March/early April.
- Staff will review plans for the next phase of community outreach with the Parks and Recreation Commission at the **March 4, 2021** meeting.

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Update



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**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

**Item 4
February 4, 2021
Regular Business**

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Recreation Reset / Recovery Planning (Cont.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Discuss and provide input on planning process.	

STAFF:	Ryan Daly / Emily Moon (Consultant)
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson
EXHIBITS:	Exhibit 1: Rec and MICEC Reset Presentation (January 21, 2021) Exhibit 2: Cost Recovery Pyramid (draft)

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a workshop on January 21 which included a presentation by consultant Emily Moon, shown as **Exhibit 1**. This meeting and presentation included an exercise where past and potential categories of services and programs were sorted into cost recovery target tiers. Services were sorted principally according to who benefits from the service, and who should bear the cost of providing the service. Additional factors that influenced the categorization included whether the service was required, whether it was reasonable to assume that taxpayers should subsidize the service (in part or whole), whether other providers of the service exist on Mercer Island, whether there was equal access to the service, and the perceived value to residents of the service being provided by the City of Mercer Island.

UPDATE

City staff from the Recreation Rest Team (“Reset Team”) reviewed input received at the workshop and collated that information into a draft Cost Recovery Pyramid for the Commission’s review, shown as **Exhibit 2**.

In reviewing the pyramid, the Reset Team recommends that the Commission consider the following adjustments based on the rationale provided below.

Youth Camps, Before and After School, School Break Programming:

The majority of the Commission placed this program category in Tier 3 and it was not discussed during the workshop. Now that the draft cost recovery pyramid shows the Commission’s placements, the Reset Team would like the Commission to verify that Tier 3 is its preference for this program category.

The Reset Team (and approximately half of the cities that have performed this exercise) placed this program in **Tier 2: Considerable Community Benefit**, to underscore the program’s benefit to the wider community. In Mercer Island, these types of programs provide an affordable and enriching childcare offering to a diverse

population of residents. These programs directly support working families and may reduce the need for other public services. The community benefits by ensuring children have a safe and supervised childcare experience, where participants engage in positive and structured activities. In addition, camps are often a first exposure for Island families to other recreation programs and can lead to the creation of enduring behaviors that promote wellness. The Reset Team believes this program category reflects the definition of Tier 2.

Fitness Center Use:

In addition to applying the cost recovery benefits filter of “Who benefits from this service?” it is important that we ask, “Should taxpayers subsidize the cost of an individual’s workout?” Placement in a cost recovery tier is fundamentally about the level of taxpayer subsidy, not about whether the program or service has sufficient benefit to justify its existence. Furthermore, if access equity is a question, the City’s scholarship program is the applicable service that would receive subsidization. Also, consider that fitness centers are not a standard service offered at many community centers; it is a more premium service. The private sector offers this service and there are many options on the Island, including venues that have differential pricing. For these reasons, the Reset Team believes this service should be moved to **Tier 5: Mostly Individual Benefit**.

P-Patch Use:

While the P-Patch program is open to all, there are fewer than 60 individuals who have a plot at any given time. Plots are leased for exclusive use, like the use of a field or picnic shelter, and leases can be renewed annually indefinitely, per the City’s existing policy. No community-driven programming is conducted at the P-Patch and there is not a formal relationship to the MIYFS food pantry. Plots are currently \$65 per year and the department typically recovered approximately 20% of the direct costs, not including water.

The Reset Team believes this program should be moved to **Tier 5: Mostly Individual Benefit**, as it meets that tier’s definition. Moving it to Tier 5 does not force the City to increase this program’s fees to the tier-level cost recovery target but would signal that the program mostly serves the individuals who participate in it and that its costs should be covered by non-tax sources (such as user fees and the proceeds of the other Tier 5 programs).

The Reset Team would also like to share the following thoughts about the recommended placements for the following services:

Senior Transportation:

This service was not discussed during the workshop. Commission members had expressed separately that a Tier 2 or Tier 3 placement would be preferable. The Reset Team has placed the potential program in Tier 3 but wishes to define the previously existing program so that everyone shares this definition. The past program involved transporting seniors from their home to the Community Center via a City-owned bus to participate in a Parks and Recreation program, before returning seniors to their homes. This service was used for programs such as: Senior Social, senior lunches and exercise programs. Transportation was also included in some additional programs (such as grocery shopping), but in those cases the rides were considered as an aspect of those programs and not an additional service.

Communitywide Special Events or Open Special Programs (no pre-registration):

Parks and Recreation Commission members were split on whether to place this in Tier 1 or 2, with just slightly more members advocating for Tier 2. The Reset Team believes Tier 2 is appropriate. While this program or service meets the Tier 1 test of providing “mostly community benefit,” it is considerably different in nature than the other Tier 1 programs, more scalable and, perhaps, more discretionary. In addition, taxpayers can

choose to participate or not, whereas many of the Tier 1 services are foundational in nature and will be provided at all times, to all.

The costs of providing this service or these programs are considerably higher than many others. By placing this in Tier 2, the City will demonstrate its intent to seek non-tax funding sources to help offset the costs of providing special events and programs. Most cities who develop cost recovery and resource allocation philosophies have made a similar decision to reserve the bulk of tax dollars for other business sustainability and social core services, and to place community events in Tier 2 or Tier 3. Many have stated that the base tax support for these events could not meet the exponential growth of the cost of providing these events in the last two decades. Some cities have even approved separate levies or designated non-tax revenue sources to provide the municipality's share of the expense, limiting events to only those that fit the available funding.

In Mercer Island, some special events or special programs may be able to recover costs through implementing actions such as:

- Seeking sponsorships or donation
- Selling tickets or collecting entrance fees
- Charging an admission fee for a portion of an event (e.g., a certain concert, tournament element or art show)
- Licensing or renting business/private areas (e.g., vendor booths)
- Selling merchandise or collecting a percentage from vendors for food or beverage sales
- Hosting beer or wine gardens / hosting tastings for food or beverage.
- Offering VIP experiences or additional amenities or features for an additional price
- Conducting raffles, fundraisers or auctions
- Selling advertising space
- Charging for parking

Scholarship Program:

The City's existing policy enables income-qualified individuals and households to receive a discount of 50%-100% of the cost of participation, up to a maximum of \$300 per person or \$500 per household per year. The increment of cost that is not paid by the program participant is waived or covered by General Fund revenues (including donations from community members). The scholarship program facilitates equity in service access and provision. In the past few years, 15-20 individuals have received scholarship assistance. In 2019, the Parks and Recreation scholarship program provided approximately \$2,700 of assistance.

The Reset Team (and at least half of the Commission members during the January 21 workshop) placed this program in Tier 1. While individuals clearly benefit from the program, the Reset Team believes the entire community benefits by ensuring municipal recreation services are available to all taxpayers and that all residents benefit from diverse participation in City programs. Placing the scholarship program in Tier 1 is consistent with the City's past policy and practice, and recognizes that the cost recovery philosophy allows the City to weigh such factors as:

- The probability that others (non-participants) benefit from the service or program even if they are not engaged in it,
- That the need for the service or program (therefore the cost of it) may be generated by circumstances created by something other than the participants,
- That community values support the subsidy of this program, and

- That Tier 1 is defined, in part, as services or programs that address social needs and enhance quality of life for residents. The community generally pays for these basic services via tax support. These services are generally offered to residents at a minimal charge or with no fee.

Placing the scholarship program in Tier 2 would mean that half of the program's cost (which is the value of the waiver or discount) would need to be recovered either by charging the participant more or by generating some other non-tax source of revenue. This would, in essence, diminish the intent and effectiveness of the program.

COST RECOVERY TARGETS

The January workshop included limited time for discussion about the recommended cost recovery targets. Thus far, the discussion has been focused about who benefits for the services and programs and what sources of funding (i.e., taxes or non-taxes) would be appropriate for each. The lowest levels of the pyramid receive the greatest share of tax support. The programs and services in the upper tiers provide financial support for the lower tiers and some of the indirect costs of all services and programs. Targets are set at the tier aggregate level, and the actual fee charged for each program or service within a tier can vary considerably.

Most recreation departments do not have accounting systems that easily allow them to set and monitor cost recovery targets. Going forward, Staff will work to establish a system and a process that will enable them to periodically report out about performance and make recommendations about adjustments to tier placements and targets. Cost recovery targets and the placement of each service can be altered as the City sets fees, has informative expenditure and revenue data, or as community priorities change. Tier targets should be examined on a regular, established basis, which will be outlined in the final recommendations.

The Reset Team reconsidered the targets after the Commission's draft pyramid was developed and does not recommend making any changes to the targets at this time. As was discussed briefly during the workshop, the targets were based on reviewing a sampling of programs' direct costs and revenues, examining cost recovery targets from other jurisdictions, and considering the revenue potential of each tier's collection of services and programs. However, the Commission should be aware of one potential challenge the Reset Team predicts with the initial targets:

- The ability of Tier 2 to meet its 50% cost recovery goal given the inclusion of one of the City's highest direct cost categories ("community-wide special events or open special programs - no pre-registration"). That program category will be a cost burden regardless of tier placement.

NEXT STEPS

The Reset Team and the Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a second workshop on February 25, 2021. The anticipated agenda for that meeting includes:

- Sharing the Let's Talk survey results and identifying programs and services as public good/social core, business sustainability core or non-essential desirables.
- Introducing the fee study data and resource allocation recommendations.
- Discussing ideas for program and service offerings that may begin in the Fall of 2021.
- Disclosing resource needs for future service delivery.
- Reviewing a list of policies and procedures that require attention and possibly adjustment to implement the cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy and future service delivery.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and provide input on the draft Cost Recovery Pyramid.



Rec and MICEC Reset

January 21, 2021



Introductions and roles

Rec reset team: Emily Moon (consultant); staff:
Ryan Daly, Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Katie Herzog

Develop recommendations for the reset (immediate and longer-term) of recreation and Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) programs and services by applying data, priorities/goals and input, such that some operations can begin as soon as the Summer of 2021.


Parks and Recreation Commission Members

Review and provide input on the reset plans; provide City Council with advice regarding a recommended cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy, a pricing strategy and a multi-year road map for recreation and the Mercer Island Community and Events Center; help ensure alignment with the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan; advise City Council concerning the development of future policies related implementation.

Big task, but take comfort...

- Two months to learn, listen, discuss, make initial recommendations; you've been empowered to represent and advise
- Public engagement's focus is on helping residents know that we're working on the reset; engagement and input opportunities will be ongoing – even after initial recommendations are made
- All final products can be updated over time, as priorities or other factors change; full implementation will take a few years

Goals for workshop



Learn	Learn about the cost recovery model
Discuss	Discuss outcomes for reset project and, overall, for recreation and MICEC
Begin	Begin to identify cost recovery targets and share ideas about a pricing strategy

BIG PICTURE project directive

“Figure out how to start up some services.”

- What?
- When?
- How?
- Why?
- Who?

What are we working with? Limited financial and staffing resources, a great physical asset, a new but dedicated commission, a supportive community, and more.

“If you don’t know where you are going,
any road will take you there.”

Reset project's goals and expectations

- Improve financial sustainability
- Be deliberate about which programs we offer and what level of resources we are putting into them
- Use strengths and assets to improve the City's ability to deliver more service, services that need more financial support, or higher quality services
- Create greater clarity around who is benefitting from services and who is paying for them
- Develop a strategic approach for near- and far-term (including a cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy)

What are the outcomes we are seeking through developing a philosophy or strategy for cost recovery and resource allocation?




FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY THAT ENSURES STEWARDSHIP AND ACCESSIBILITY THAT BENEFITS ALL




PURPOSELY PLANNED BALANCE BETWEEN COMMUNITY-INVESTMENT AND INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS



SERVICE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH VALUES AND GOALS



What is cost recovery?

- 
- The degree to which the operational (and sometimes maintenance) costs of providing a program or service are supported by user fees and/or other funding mechanisms such as grants, partnerships, donations, sponsorships, or other alternative (non-tax) funding sources.
 - Subsidized programs and services receive General Fund support such as revenue from taxes collected by the City. Subsidy can be thought of as the community's investment in recreation.



Questions so far?

A brief sidenote...

a framework focusing on Rec's financial sustainability isn't new.

- Fee study completed in 2002 established an overall cost recovery goal, which has been increased several times
- 2014-2019 Parks and Rec Plan includes goals such as:
 - Cost recovery levels for adults shall be greater than youth and seniors and youth programs shall recover more than senior programs
 - Adult sports leagues shall recover a higher level of costs than youth sports leagues
 - Operate community center (MICEC) within budget policy as set by City Council
 - Establish city and department usage and fee guidelines for overall facility usage such as recreation programs, public rentals, and free usage
 - Establish cost recovery guidelines for facility
 - Review and establish Council directed funding policy for center that can support its annual operational needs.



Policy questions to keep in mind

- To what extent should recreation programs, services and MICEC costs be taxpayer supported, as opposed to being paid for by participants or users? Does that extent vary depending on if the service is deemed to be a core service rather than a discretionary one, or if the service benefits individuals more than groups or the community as a whole?
- Should specific populations be the target audience or recipient of a larger share of the City's recreational programming or MICEC use? If so, who are those populations?
- Should the way the City charges for programs and services reflect the mission, values and vision for recreation services? If so, how?
- What is the City's role and responsibility for recreation (or as a recreation center or events center) in Mercer Island? How can the new portfolio of programs and services reflect that role and responsibility?

These questions appeared on the project's Let's Talk page.

Key questions in establishing a cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy

- Where's the money going?
- Which programs or facilities are being subsidized?
- What should you be subsidizing to meet your overall goals?
- Is the City the best or most appropriate organization to provide the service?
- Is market competition good for our residents?
- Is the City spreading its resources too thin without the capacity to sustain core services and the system in general?

Key questions in establishing a cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy

- Are there opportunities to work with another organization to provide services in a more efficient and responsible manner?
- Are our programs priced fairly and equitably?
- How will we continue to fund departmental facilities and services in relationship to future budget constraints?
- Are we using funding in a responsible manner?
- Is there a methodology for the distribution of subsidy (funds used in excess of what is collected by direct fees)? If so, are we transparent?
- Does the way we charge for services (facilities, programs, etc.) support the departmental/City values, vision, and mission?



Questions so far?

Funding

In the past, recreation and MICEC sources of funding were:

- 57% from taxes
- 23% from rental fees paid by people of groups to rent rooms in the facility
- 17% from fees paid by participants and users for programs
- 2% from miscellaneous assortment of sources (such as gallery art sales, donations, etc.)

Nationally, sources of operating support for parks and recreation departments or districts are, on average:

- 60% General Fund tax support
- 24% earned/generated revenue
- 8% dedicated levies
- 3% other dedicated taxes
- 2% grants
- 2% other
- 1% sponsorships

(Source: NRPA)

Mercer Island's cost recovery compared to a benchmark

- National average cost recovery (non-tax revenue to operating expenditures) = 26.6%
- Mercer Island = 42% (in 2019; just shy of the upper quartile at 45%+)

Source: NRPA, for populations 20-50K in 2020. Note: national average includes parks

Cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy

Getting started

Getting started



Typical steps for departments that are simultaneously delivering services:

1. Pause to examine values, mission, vision
2. Identify core services and assets
3. Do some assessment of services/programs
4. Categorize past/potential types of services
5. Identify direct and indirect costs
6. Examine past and market pricing
7. Consider current and future capacity for doing cost recovery accounting

Our steps

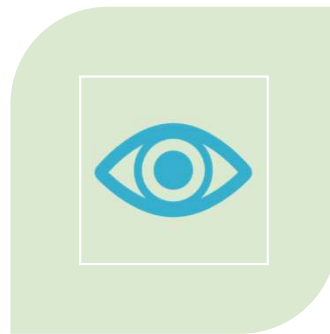
1. Proceeding with these in mind
2. Will discuss with Commission
3. No current programs but will review when new framework complete and ready to select offerings
4. Will discuss with Commission
5. Have identified
6. Will do as part of the fee study and development of fee schedule
7. Ongoing

Guiding statements



MISSION

(P&R) Take pride in providing the highest quality facilities and services in partnership with the community to enhance livability on Mercer Island.



VISION

(City) To provide valued and effective municipal services in ways that are efficient, flexible, innovative, and creative, with an emphasis on sustainability. We strive to be among the best in all we do.



VALUES

(City) We value high ethical standards, outstanding customer service, teamwork, and leadership development.

Community members were largely happy with recreation and the MICEC prior to the pandemic.



76% “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with “recreation programs and special events”

(2018 community survey)



Nearly all respondents (99%) think parks and recreation are important to quality of life on Mercer Island.

(2020 PROS survey)



The majority expressed satisfaction with the quantity of programs, services and indoor facilities.

(2020 PROS survey)

Past offerings included...

- Youth and adult athletics
- Room/gym/facility rentals
- Special events
- Trips
- Fitness and non-fitness classes (such as art, language, computer)
- Daytime program for seniors
- Adaptive recreation opportunities
- School break and summer camps
- Drop-in activities
- Art gallery
- Fitness Center
- And more!



60+ different activities, offered multiple times each season

Core services and (fixed) assets

Recreation

Assets:

Equipment, available space

Core services: ?

Community and Events Center

Assets:

Gymnasium, meeting/activity rooms, kitchen, locker rooms, gallery space....

Core services:

Facility rental or reservation for public or private use....

Core = can be debatable; often means services that the municipality is required (compelled) to deliver and services that are expected (usually because no other provider exists).

Which
programs
or activities
should we
provide?

- We will identify our goals for service delivery.
- By clarifying how we will achieve our sought-after outcomes, we will bring into focus what is “essential”.

Eventually, we will begin to label programs and services as one of the following:

- The public good/social core
- The business sustainability core
- The non-essential desirables



Quick discussion on core services

Ways of viewing service provision

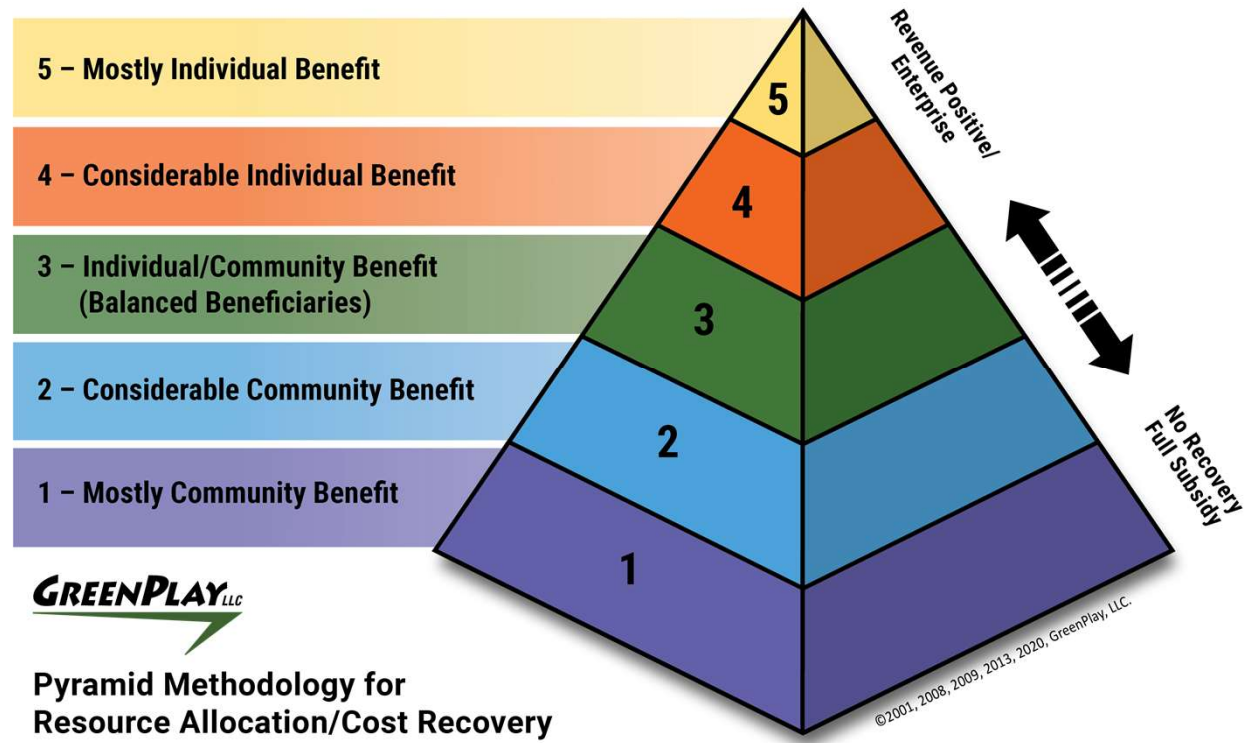
Filter	Definition
Benefit	Who receives the benefit of the service? (Skill development, education, physical health, mental health, safety)
Access/Type of Service	Is the service available to everyone equally? Is participation or eligibility restricted by diversity factors (i.e., age, ability, skill, financial)?
Organizational Responsibility	Is it the organization's responsibility or obligation to provide the service based upon mission, legal mandate, or other obligation or requirement?
Historical Expectations	What have we always done that we cannot change?
Anticipated Impacts	What is the anticipated impact of the service on existing resources? On other users? On the environment? What is the anticipated impact of not providing the service?
Social Value	What is the perceived social value of the service by constituents, city staff and leadership, and policy makers? Is it a community builder?



Pyramid Methodology

Sorts programs and services into tiers based on an assessment of who benefits from that program/service

Other filters may also be applied but the benefits filter is primary.



Influential Factors and Considerations

The provision of services also can be influenced by these factors and filters:

- Trends (traditional and expected to innovative or fad)
- Commitment factors (drop-in to specialized)
- Political filter (not a continuum; asks, “What’s in/out of our control?”)
- Marketing factor (effect in attracting participants/customers)
- Relative cost to provide factor (low to high)
- Economic conditions factor (financial realities; ability to pay)
- Financial goals factor (100% subsidized to generates excess revenue)



Categorizing services/programs

- Administrative overhead/allocated costs
- Adult advanced/competitive programs
- Adult beginner/intermediate programs
- Boat launch use
- Community and Events Center facility rentals (exclusive use)
- Community-wide special events or open (no pre-registration) special programs
- Drop-in, self-directed sports
- Equipment rentals
- Facility/park shelter/field rentals (public use)
- Fitness center use
- Inclusion services
- Maintenance/custodial services
- Merchandise sales
- Mixed age/family programs
- Park shelter/field rentals (exclusive use)
- P-Patch use
- Preschool-age programming
- Private leases of Annex
- Private/semi-private lessons, taught by City instructors/contractors
- Scholarship program
- Senior transportation
- Social or human services
- Special events (not City-sponsored/external party; substantial)
- Therapeutic/Adaptive/Specialized Recreation Services
- Tournaments
- Trips
- Vending, concessions or other commercial sales
- Volunteer program
- Work study/internship/community service
- Youth advanced/competitive programs
- Youth beginner/intermediate programs
- Youth camps, before and after school, school break programming

32 categories: past and possible



The tiers

At the top of the Pyramid, the fifth level represents services that have potential to generate revenues above costs, may be in the same market space as the private sector, or may fall outside the core mission of the agency. In this level, services should be priced to recover full cost in addition to a designated profit percentage.



The fourth level of the Pyramid represents specialized services generally for specific groups, and those that may have a competitive focus. Services in this level may be priced to recover full cost, including all direct expenses.



The third level of the Pyramid represents services promoting individual physical and mental well-being, and provides an intermediate level of skill development. The level provides balanced INDIVIDUAL and COMMUNITY benefit and should be priced accordingly. The individual fee is set to recover a higher percentage of cost than those services falling within lower Pyramid levels.



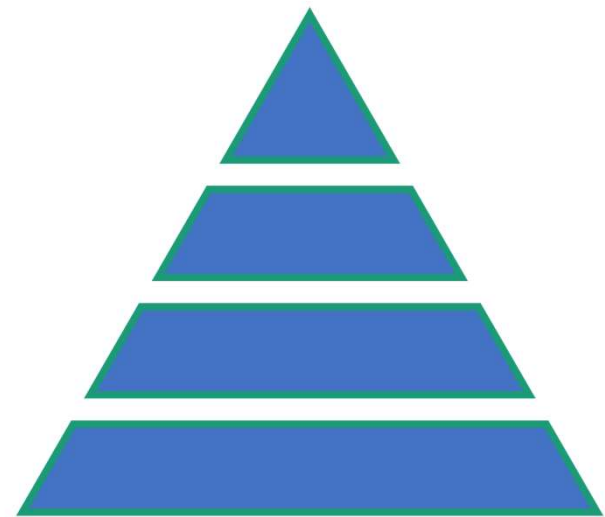
The second level of the Pyramid represents services that promote individual physical and mental wellbeing, and may begin to provide skill development. They are generally traditionally expected services and/or beginner instructional levels. These services are typically assigned fees based upon a specified percentage of direct (and may also include indirect) costs. These costs are partially offset by both a tax investment to account for CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY benefit and participant fees to account for the individual benefit received from the service.



The foundational level of the Pyramid is the largest, and encompasses those services including programs and facilities that MOSTLY benefit the COMMUNITY as a whole. These services may increase property values, provide safety, address social needs, and enhance quality of life for residents. The community generally pays for these basic services via tax support. These services are generally offered to residents at a minimal charge or with no fee. A large percentage of the agency's tax support would fund this level of the Pyramid.



Exercise: Designing MI's pyramid



Exercise

- Considered helpful guidance (next slide)
- Reviewed and applied tier definitions
- Sorted categories of services and programs into tiers
- Reset Team aggregated the results
- Tonight: discuss Commission's pyramid and the Reset Team's pyramid

Exercise

Guidance included:

Think less about who is paying what and more about who is benefitting. Is the service available to more or less of the community? How specialized is the service? Do other people benefit even if they are not engaged in the program/service directly? Who is generating the need for and therefore the cost of the service? Is the City compelled/required to provide this? Are there competing providers?

Cost recovery tier is not synonymous with level or amount of fee. Fees will be set based on a variety of factors (not simply based on the “benefit filter”).

Commission’s aggregated pyramid

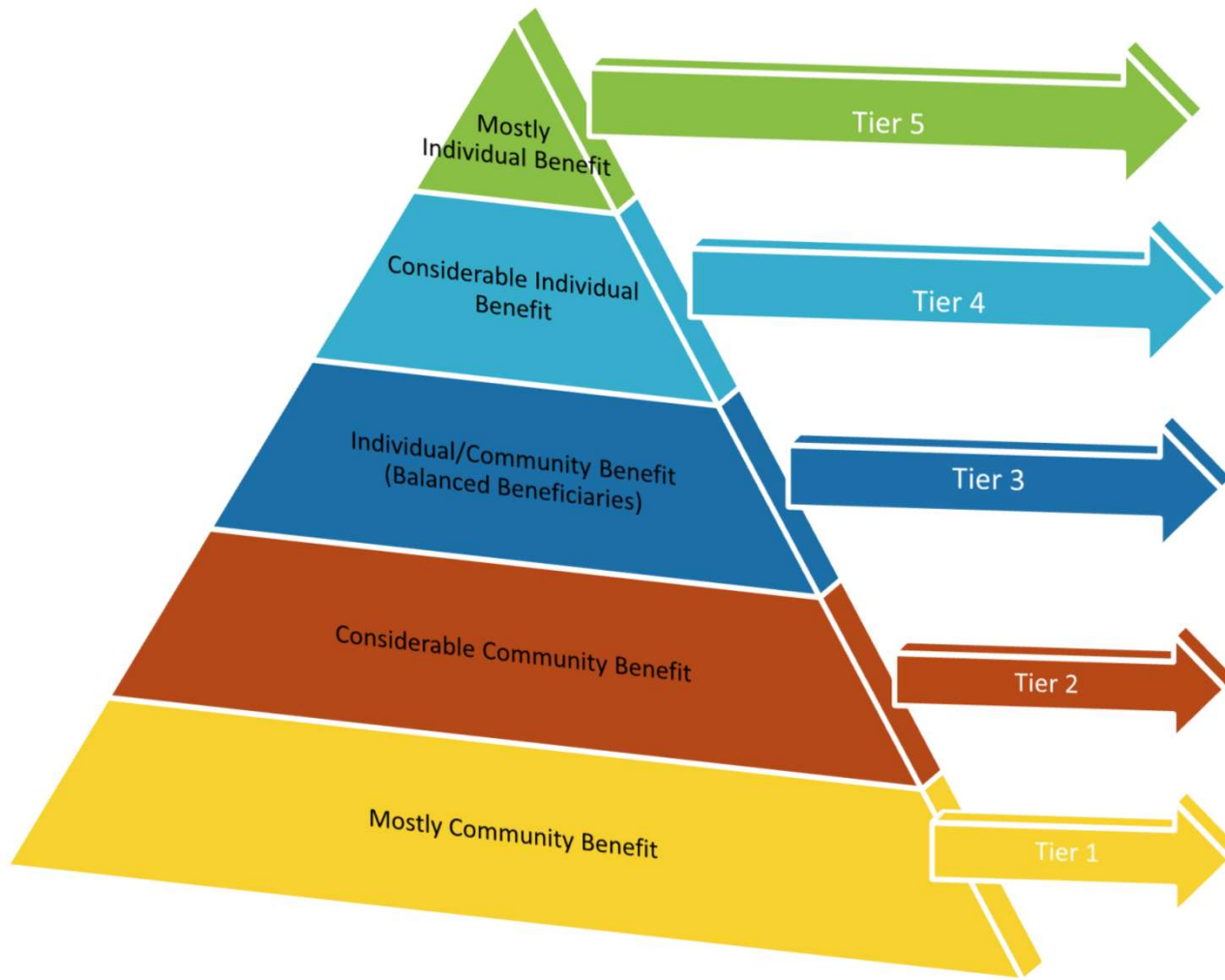
	1 - Mostly Community Benefit	2 - Considerable Community Benefit	3 - Individual/Community Benefit	4 - Considerable Individual Benefit	5 - Mostly Individual Benefit
Administrative overhead/allocated costs	5		1		
Adult advanced/competitive programs		1		2	3
Adult beginner/intermediate programs		2	2	1	1
Boat launch use	2		1	1	2
Community and Events Center facility rentals (exclusive use)				1	5
Community-wide special events or open (no pre-registration) special programs	2	3	1		
Drop-in, self-directed sports		3	2	1	
Equipment rentals				3	3
Facility/park shelter/field rentals (public use)	1		5		
Fitness center use		1	3	2	
Inclusion services	2	2	1	1	
Maintenance/custodial services	6				
Merchandise sales					6
Mixed age/family programs	1	2	2	1	
Park shelter/field rentals (exclusive use)				3	3
P-Patch use		1	2	3	
Preschool-age programming		4	1	1	
Private leases of Annex				1	5
Private/semi-private lessons, taught by City instructors/contractors		1		1	4
Scholarship program	2	2	2		
Senior transportation		3	3		
Social or human services	4	2			
Special events (not City-sponsored/external party; substantial)				2	4
Therapeutic/Adaptive/Specialized Recreation Services	1	3	1	1	
Tournaments				6	
Trips		1	1	4	
Vending, concessions or other commercial sales					6
Volunteer program	4		2		
Work study/internship/community service	4	1	1		
Youth advanced/competitive programs				5	1
Youth beginner/intermediate programs		1	4	1	
Youth camps, before and after school, school break programming			4	1	1

Commission’s aggregated pyramid

	1 - Mostly Community Benefit	2 - Considerable Community Benefit	3 - Individual/Community Benefit	4 - Considerable Individual Benefit	5 - Mostly Individual Benefit
Adult advanced/competitive programs		1		2	3
Adult beginner/intermediate programs		2	2	1	1
Boat launch use	2		1	1	2
Community-wide special events or open (no pre-registration) special programs	2	3	1		
Drop-in, self-directed sports		3	2	1	
Fitness center use		1	3	2	
Inclusion services	2	2	1	1	
Mixed age/family programs	1	2	2	1	
P-Patch use		1	2	3	
Scholarship program	2	2	2		
Therapeutic/Adaptive/Specialized Recreation Services	1	3	1	1	
Senior transportation		3	3		
Park shelter/field rentals (exclusive use)				3	3
Equipment rentals				3	3

1. Discuss placement of programs/services that lacked good consensus, where results were highly varied
2. Discuss placement of programs/services that had a 3:3 split
3. Discuss where the Commission’s pyramid differs from the Reset Team’s pyramid

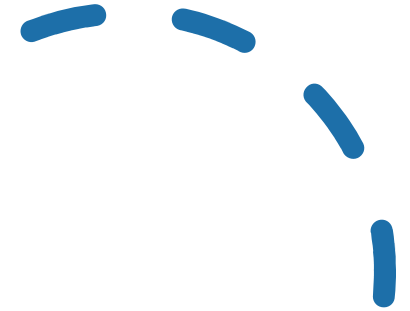
Reset Team's Proposed Cost Recovery Pyramid



- Boat launch use
 - Vending, concessions or other commercial sales
 - Merchandise sales
 - Private leases of Annex
 - Equipment rentals
 - Fitness center use
 - Private/semi-private lessons, taught by City instructors/contractors
 - Special events (not City-sponsored/external party; substantial)
 - P-Patch use
 - Community and Events Center facility rentals (exclusive use)
-
- Adult advanced/competitive programs
 - Youth advanced/competitive programs
 - Tournaments
 - Trips
 - Park shelter/field rentals (exclusive use)
-
- Adult beginner/intermediate programs
 - Facility/park shelter/field rentals (public use)
 - Drop-in, self-directed sports
 - Youth beginner/intermediate programs
 - Senior transportation
 - Mixed age/family programs
-
- Preschool-age programming
 - Volunteer program
 - Therapeutic/Adaptive/Specialized Recreation Services
 - Work study/internship/community service
 - Youth camps, before and after school, school break programming
 - Community-wide special events or open special programs (no pre-registration)
-
- Inclusion services
 - Maintenance/custodial services
 - Administrative overhead/allocated costs
 - Social or human services
 - Scholarship program



Thoughts about the categorization exercise?



Costs

Direct

Includes all the specific, identifiable expenses (fixed and variable) associated with providing a service, program, or facility. These expenses would not exist without the program or service and often increase exponentially.

Indirect

Departmental administration, support services or cost allocations from other internal departments encompass the remaining overhead (fixed and variable) and are not identified as direct costs.

Cost Recovery Targets

- The tier cost recovery targets represent the minimum cost recovery for aggregated categories of service within that tier and are primarily attempting to recover direct cost of service provision, not all costs nor fully loaded (direct and indirect) costs.
- While each individual service within the tier may have a fee that is established to recover at or above the target level, the primary objective is for the entire tier as a group to achieve the target.
- The fees for each service will be a product of several factors; tier placement is not the same as scale of fee.

Examples of Cost Recovery Targets



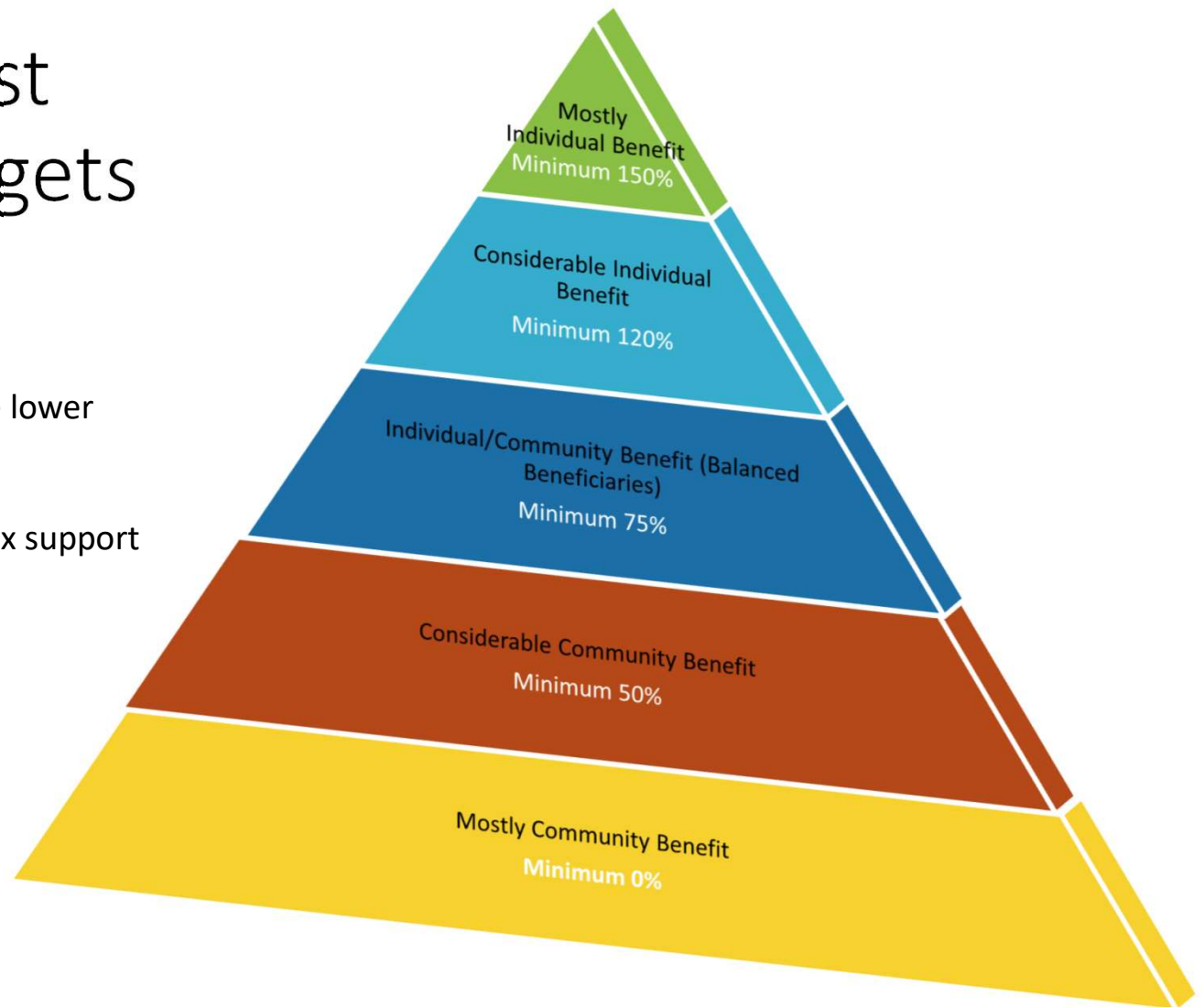
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Jurisdiction
Minimum 0%	Minimum 45%	Minimum 90%	Minimum 100%	Minimum 200%	Corvallis, OR
0-15%	16-50%	51-80%	81-100%	100%+	~Steamboat Springs, CO
Minimum 0%	Minimum 20%	Minimum 50%	Minimum 125%	Minimum 150%	Alexandria, VA
Minimum 0%	Minimum 75%	Minimum 100%	Minimum 150%	Minimum 200%+	Tualatin Hills P&R District
Minimum 0%	Minimum 55%	Minimum 75%	Minimum 100%	Minimum 150%+	~San Luis Obispo, CA
Minimum 0%	Minimum 50%	Minimum 75%	Minimum 125%	Minimum 150%+	Denver, CO*
0-1%	Minimum 100%	Minimum 110%	Minimum 130%	Minimum 160%	Redmond, WA
>0%	>25%	>50%	>75%	>100%	Kirkland, WA
<i>Minimum 0%</i>	<i>Minimum 50%</i>	<i>Minimum 75%</i>	<i>Minimum 120%</i>	<i>Minimum 150%</i>	<i>Mercer Island, WA!</i>

~ Representative
 • Includes indirect and capital costs
 • ! For discussion

Proposed Cost Recovery Targets

Upper tiers must help subsidize lower tiers.

Lower tiers will receive more tax support than upper tiers.






Questions so far?

Next Steps





Develop a
pricing
strategy and
complete a
simple fee
study

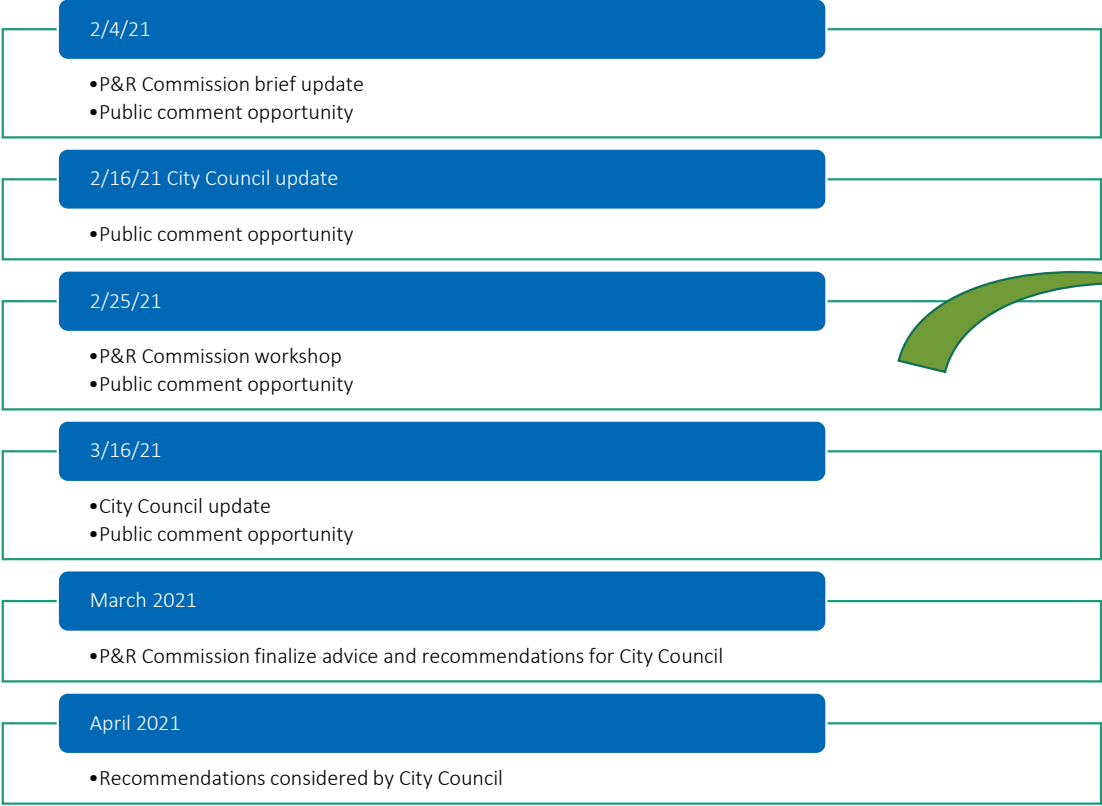
Possible aims of a strategy:

- Recover costs
- Create new resources or seed funds
- Establish value
- Influence behavior
- Promote efficiency
- Implement differential pricing to either stimulate demand for a service during a specified time or to reach underserved populations

Types of strategies:

- Arbitrary (need to reach an overall target)
- Market-based (product of demand)
- Competitor based (match, beat or exceed other providers)
- Cost recovery pricing (designed to reach cost recovery goals)

Project Schedule



Let's Talk survey is open now!
Closes February 16th.

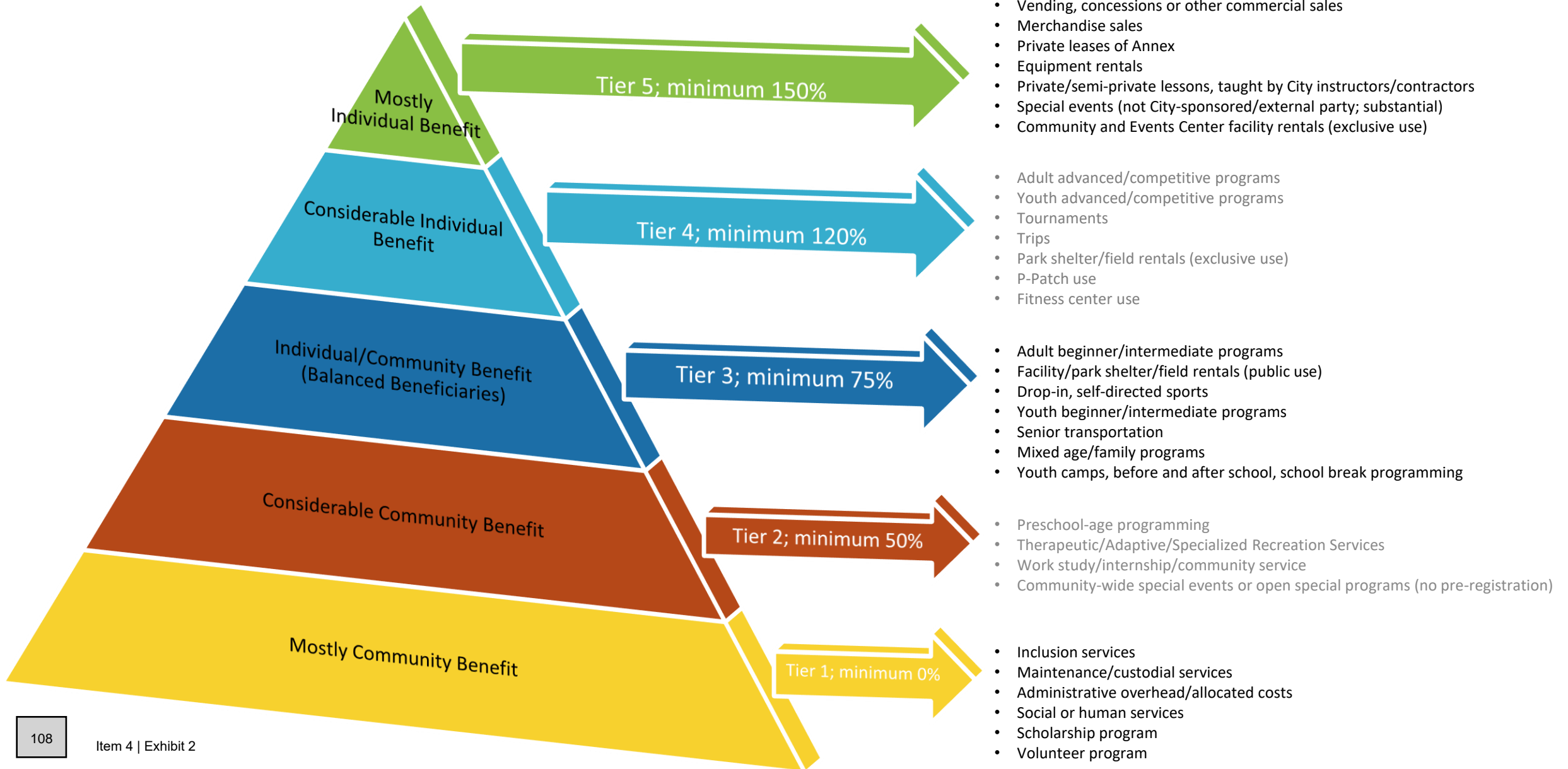


Next workshop is likely to focus on.... sharing survey results, fee study findings, preliminary offerings beginning Fall 2021, resource needs

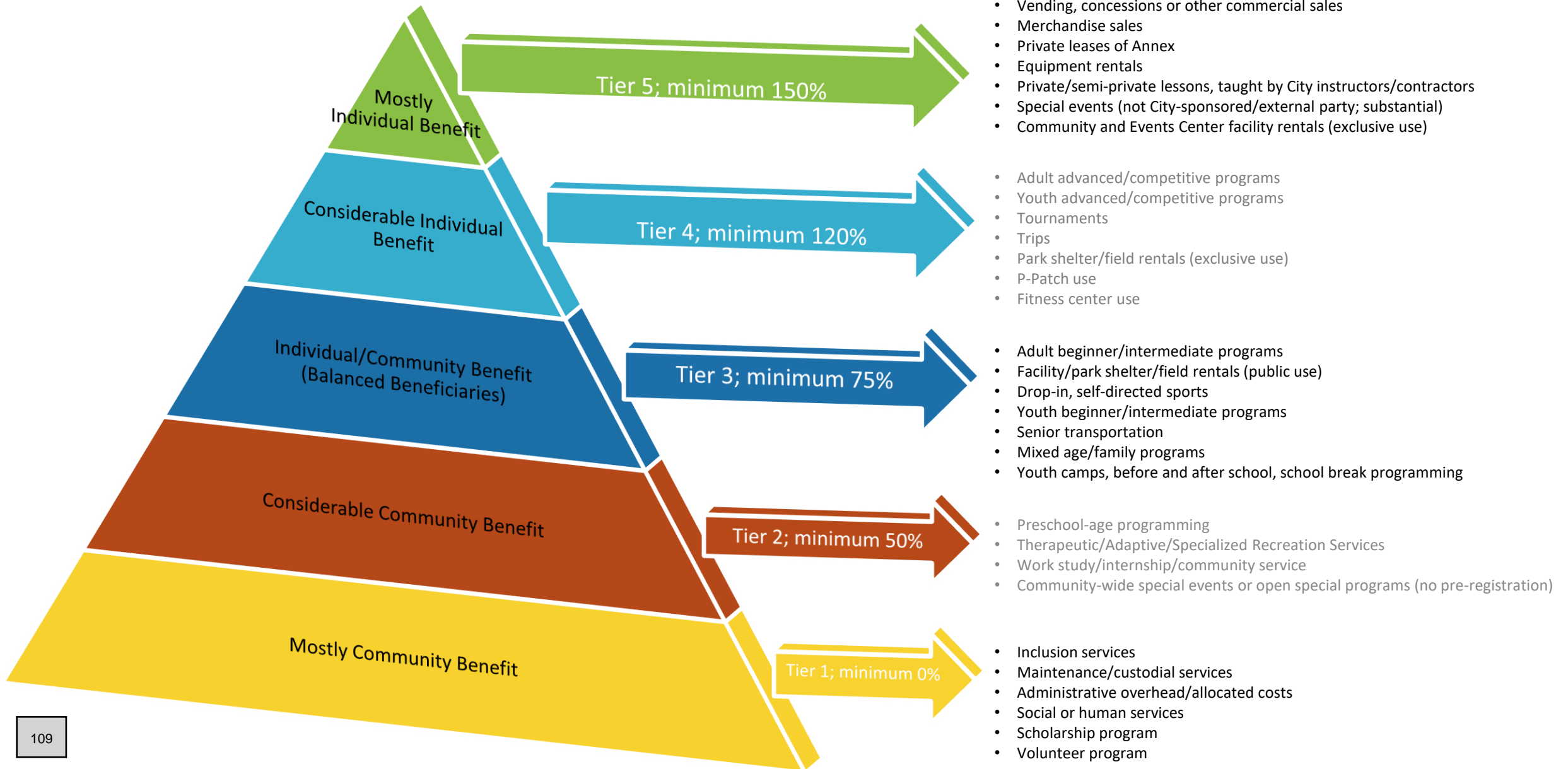


Thanks!

PRC's Draft Cost Recovery Pyramid



PRC's Draft Cost Recovery Pyramid



Examples of Cost Recovery Targets



Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Jurisdiction
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<i>Minimum 0%</i>	<i>Minimum 50%</i>	<i>Minimum 75%</i>	<i>Minimum 120%</i>	<i>Minimum 150%</i>	<i>Mercer Island, WA!</i>

- ~ Representative
- Includes indirect and capital costs
- ! For discussion

Next steps

Parks and Recreation Commission workshop #2 on February 25

Anticipated agenda:

- Sharing the Let's Talk survey results, and possibly identifying programs and services as public good/social core, business sustainability core or non-essential desirables
- Introducing the fee study data and resource allocation recommendations
- Discussing ideas for program and service offerings that may begin in the Fall of 2021
- Disclosing resource needs for future service delivery
- Reviewing a list of policies and procedures that require attention and possibly adjustment to implement the cost recovery and resource allocation philosophy and future service delivery.



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Item 5
February 4, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project Framework Recommendation to City Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the recommended framework and authorize the chair to transmit it to the City Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

STAFF:	Ryan Daly, Paul West
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson
EXHIBITS:	Exhibit 1: Draft Memo Exhibit 2: 2019 Legislative Capital Request Form

SUMMARY

The Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission has consulted with the City Manager about transmitting the Commission’s recommendations on the Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvements (ADTS) project. The Chair has determined in consultation with the City Manager that the recommendations should be transmitted in a memo form that clearly indicates the lines of communication and provides City Council with additional relevant context. The Chair is seeking the Commission’s approval of the final communication to City Council, shown here as **Exhibit 1**.

BACKGROUND

At the December 3, 2020 meeting Parks and Recreation Commission meeting voted unanimously to approve the final scope of work for the ADTS project and authorized the Chair and Vice Chair to finalize the language. Upon further consultation with City staff, it was decided the final product should not go to City Council in the form as previously approved by the Commission.

Over the years, City boards and commissions have communicated with City Council in many different ways. There has been a lack of consistency, leading to confusion at the Council and public level. Currently, the City Manager is facilitating the transition for all boards and commissions to adopt a memo form as the standard instrument for communicating recommendations to City Council. This form includes several features:

- The Chair is the proponent of the memo.
- The entire Council is the recipient.
- The memo provides policy and procedural context.
- The memo provides a clear indication of what it is being asked to do.
- The memo lays out what steps will follow from Council’s action and when Council will next be engaged.

The Chair and Vice Chair agreed this change was in the best interest of the Commission. They worked with staff to incorporate the approved scope of work into the memo format shown in **Exhibit 1**.

The Scope of Work becomes The Project Framework

In early 2019, the City of Mercer Island applied for a \$2.3 million appropriation from the Washington State Legislature to fund trail improvements in Aubrey Davis Park. See **Exhibit 2**. The application included a funding request for trail widening and safety improvements and was submitted during the early stages of developing the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan.

At the end of 2019, the Master Plan was completed. At that time, the City received notification that a \$500,000 Department of Commerce grant had been awarded for the Aubrey Davis Park Trail Improvement Project. The “trail widening” project component was not in alignment with the adopted Master Plan. The Department of Commerce requested the City submit a revised project scope for review and approval by the State legislature and WSDOT.

The City Council directed the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop a scope of work consistent with the policy directives in the Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission engaged with the task and developed very detailed project parameters and a context framework to justify its recommendations. The Commission’s product was renamed the “project framework” to distinguish it from the project scope required for the grant.

The grant resubmittal now requires approval by the City Council, the State Legislature, and WSDOT before work may proceed. Project approval is anticipated in 2021, with design to follow, and construction anticipated in 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the recommended project framework memo and authorize the chair to transmit it to the Mercer Island City Council.



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON**

9611 SE 36th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040-3732
(206) 275-7793 | www.mercergov.org

DATE: **Insert Date**
TO: City Council
FROM: Rory Westberg, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair
SUBJECT: Recommendation on Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project Framework

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission I am pleased to present our recommendation on the project framework for the Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project.

The Parks and Recreation Commission commenced review of this matter on January 8, 2020 and discussed this topic over four meetings. We have consulted the adopted [Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan](#) (Master Plan) and received feedback from the community and used that to inform our recommendation.

The recommended project framework, further detailed below, provides general project guidance for trail safety improvements in the section of trail from 60th Ave SE to 76th Avenue SE (see attached map) - this is the westernmost portion of Aubrey Davis Park.

We recommend a number of “low-impact” trail improvements consistent with the adopted Master Plan, such as separation of uses, street bypass routes, speed limits, signage, trail markings, and restoration of trail shoulders where needed. In the area near the restroom (adjacent to the Gary Feroglia playfields), we recommend a traffic calming project to address this high congestion area.

This recommendation is based on general concepts only and will need to be further refined as design commences.

We recommend the City Council approve the project framework and authorize staff to submit the revised project framework to the Department of Commerce (for approval by the State Legislature) and to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for approval. Once approved by the respective State agencies we understand staff will proceed to 30% design using the approved project framework as their guide. Upon completion of the 30% design, we strongly recommend the Parks and Recreation Commission be directed to solicit public input on the 30% design and prepare a final recommendation to the City Council.

Background:

In early 2019, the City of Mercer Island applied for a \$2.3 million appropriation from the Washington State Legislature to fund trail improvements in Aubrey Davis Park (see the Local Community Project request form attached). The application included a funding request for trail widening and safety improvements and was submitted during the early stages of developing the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan.

At the end of 2019, the Master Plan was completed. At that time, the City received notification that a \$500,000 Department of Commerce grant had been awarded for the Aubrey Davis Park Trail Improvement Project. The “trail widening” project component was not in alignment with the adopted Master Plan. The Department of Commerce requested the City submit a revised project scope for review and approval by the State legislature and WSDOT.

The City Council directed the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop a scope of work consistent with the policy directives in the Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission engaged with the task and developed very detailed project parameters and a context framework to justify its recommendations. The Commission’s product was renamed the “project framework” to distinguish it from the project scope required for the grant.

The grant resubmittal now requires approval by the City Council, the State Legislature, and WSDOT before work may proceed. Project approval is anticipated in 2021, with design to follow, and construction anticipated in 2022.

Project Overview:

A segment of the Mountains to Sound Regional Trail (I-90 trail) crosses the width of Mercer Island through Aubrey Davis Park. It is one of two primary transportation connectors for bicycle traffic from Seattle to the Eastside and is heavily used by runners, pedestrians, and bicyclists. This use is expected to increase due to population growth and improved access to public transportation connections along the trail corridor.

While much of the trail across Mercer Island is relatively flat with good sight lines, the 0.8 mile section of the Mountains to Sound Regional Trail from 60th Avenue SE to 76th Avenue SE has several steep grades with limited sight lines that can result in speeds in excess of 20 mph by wheeled trail users. This segment of trail also travels through an urban park setting that contains many recreational facilities, including sports fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic areas and connecting spur trails. Park users on foot cross the trail in multiple locations. The concentration of users in a relatively small area and the hilly nature of the terrain creates a potential for user conflicts. The trail currently does not segregate users, nor does it have notable features that regulate speed or control traffic flow other than limited center striping, bollards, and “keep right” signs.

The Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan, adopted in December 2019, explored high-level trail planning issues such as trail width, bypass routes, and key intersections. The Master Plan, did not, however, include final design recommendations for trail improvement projects. .

Proposed Project Framework:

The overarching theme of the Master Plan was to preserve the open space and natural character of the Aubrey Davis Park, which includes limiting or avoiding new impervious surfaces as improvement projects

are contemplated. The goal of the Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project is to improve safety and create a more enjoyable experience for all trail and park users, while maintaining the existing character of the Park.

We recommend the project framework focus on “low impact” approaches in a coordinated trail plan for the trail section from 60th Ave SE to 76th Ave SE. We specifically recommend the following **low impact approaches** be included for consideration as part of the project framework and serve as a guide in developing the 30% design:

- Traffic calming measures
- Traffic separation on the trail
- Street bypass routes for high-speed cyclists
- Trail speed limits
- Restore trail shoulders as needed
- Manage existing vegetation along the corridor to avoid encroachment and maintain sightlines
- Barriers to channel cross-trail traffic in targeted areas
- Traffic signage and pavement markings
- Wayfinding and park rules signs
- Public education
- Art and placemaking elements

As noted previously, in the area near the restroom (adjacent to the Gary Feroglia playfields), we recommend a traffic calming project to address this high congestion area. This project was identified as one of the highest priorities in the Master Plan (see page 52). We recommend the footprint of the project be limited to the area in front of the restroom (see Master Plan page 40, Option #1) and do not support construction of a trail bypass behind the restroom (see Master Plan page 40, Option #2).

Finally, we recommend the project framework include the removal of bollards and replacement with traffic control measures where needed on all parts of the trail as recommended in the [Master Plan \(see pages 42-44 and Appendix F\)](#).

Next Steps – Public Engagement at 30% Design:

Once approval of the revised grant application is obtained from the City Council, the State Legislature, and WSDOT, we strongly recommend the Parks and Recreation commission facilitate another public input process to review the 30% design. Given that this recommendation is for the “project framework” only we feel strongly that the community needs an opportunity to review and provide input on the details of the 30% design before the final design is completed. The Parks and Recreation Commission will work with staff to facilitate this process and provide a final recommendation on the 30% design to the City Council.

Trail Safety Project Location in Aubrey Davis Park





2019 Senate Democratic Caucus

Date Received	<input type="text"/>
Senator Frockt	<input type="text"/>
Budget Staff	<input type="text"/>

Item 5.

Member Requested Local Community Project Information Form

This request must be submitted to Senator David Frockt by February 15th 2019.

Project Name: I-90 Mercer Island Aubrey Davis Park Multiuse Trail Upgrade

Physical Location of Project

Address of Project Site: 2030 72nd Ave SE
 District: Mercer Island, WA 98040

Legislative Sponsor:

 Amount Requested:

I. Project Contact Information

Name(s): Julie Underwood
 Title: City Manager
 Organization: City of Mercer Island
 Organization's Website: www.mercergov.org
 Phone: (206) 275-7660
 E-Mail: julie.underwood@mercergov.org
 Mailing Address: 9611 SE 36th St
 Mercer Island, WA 98040

II. Organization Information

- (1) Is this organization registered with the state as a non-profit organization? Y N
- (2) Is there a current or pending 501(c)(3) IRS registration? Y N
- (3) If answered NO to either of the above, is applicant a local government? Y N

III. Project Description *Please include the phase of the overall project for which funds are requested.*

The existing I-90 Trail (aka Mountains to Sound trail) on Mercer Island was constructed in 1990. It is 10 feet wide with no shoulders. It does not meet any current standards. The Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan is proposing a schematic 14 foot trail cross section with 2 foot shoulders to accommodate current and future use. This project would design a trail that achieves this cross section where feasible. It would construct upgrades on priority sections of the trail to meet Master Plan goals. This would provide trail capacity and usability similar to that of the SR 520 trail, the Eastside Rail Corridor and other current or recent regional trail projects.

NOTE: This form is prepared for the use of the Capital Budget Chair, Senator Frockt. He may elect to submit this form for filing in the Capital Budget Committee records. In addition, if the proposed request is funded in the enacted capital budget bill, the form may be filed with the agency that distributes funding for the project. If so filed, this form will become a legislative record subject to public disclosure and will be archived consistent with Chapter 40.14 RCW.

IV. Project Details

1) What is the Primary Project Objective? (Please check only one.)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Economic Development | <input type="radio"/> Health Care | <input type="radio"/> Environment |
| <input type="radio"/> Social Services | <input type="radio"/> Historic Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Housing |
| <input type="radio"/> Education | <input type="radio"/> Parks & Recreation | <input type="radio"/> Other (describe) |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Infrastructure | <input type="radio"/> Arts and Culture | <input type="text"/> |

Start Date **Completion Date**

2) Eligible Project Type or Phase. (Please check all that apply to this request and insert requested amount.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Land Acquisition	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition and Site Preparation	<input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design	\$ 200,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> New Construction	<input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renovation	\$ 2,100,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total Request	\$ 2,300,000.00

3) Is this a joint project? Y N

If yes, please list the partners:

WSDOT Northwest Region, King County

4) Is the site owned? Y N

5) Is it optioned for purchase? Y N

6) Is it under a lease of 5 years or more with renewal options that total at least 10 years? Y N

7) Has project applied (or will apply) for other sources of state funding? Y N

If yes, please provide program and details:

The Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan received a WSDOT Local Programs grant of \$100,000 in 2018.

8) Has the applicant initiated a fundraising campaign?

If yes, what percentage of matching funds have been secured?

[Empty box for percentage of matching funds]

What other sources of matching funds are available?

[Empty box for other sources of matching funds]

What source(s) of non-state funds exist for completion of the project and its ongoing maintenance and operation?

The City is also exploring trail upgrades as part of King County Wastewater Division's North Mercer Sewer Interceptor project. This project will rebuild almost half of the I-90 trail on Mercer Island. The ongoing maintenance of the trail is funded primarily through an agreement between WSDOT and the City of Mercer Island. The City supplements WSDOT reimbursements to provide the current level of service.

V. Public Benefit

(1) Please describe public benefit of the project.

Implementing current standards on the I-90 trail will provide trail users with a safer and more enjoyable trail experience. It will provide access to a wide range of users including pedestrians, bicycle commuters, recreational cyclists, e-bike users, and non-bike wheeled users. Having a safer, more usable trail for a wide range of users will encourage more people to use this and other regional trails.

(2) Please list the measurable objectives of this benefit:

Trail use will increase.
Trail use satisfaction will increase.
Complaints of user conflicts on the trail will decrease.

(3) Please describe the measurement process:

Trail use will be measured by permanent and temporary trail counters.
Trail user satisfaction will be measured by surveys and interviews with trail user groups.
Trail user complaints will be tracked in a public engagement database.



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Parks & Recreation Commission



Department Report

February 4, 2021

BMX Course

Upper Luther Burbank Park

The Parks & Recreation Commission serves in a policy advisory capacity to the City Council (as assigned).

- Serving as community ambassadors and helping to promote parks and recreation activities within the City of Mercer Island. This includes supporting cooperative relationships with community partners and other organizations.
- Providing a forum for the community to express their views on parks, recreation, and other community services.
- Staff continue to coordinate with stakeholders to address operational concerns and encourage the community to remain engaged, and to actively convey recreational needs.
 - The PROS Plan and Recreation Restart/Recovery Plan are great opportunities for engagement.



BMX Course (cont.)

Upper Luther Burbank Park

- The BMX Course in Upper Luther Burbank has been in existence since King County owned the park. It was created/developed by young neighbors to the area.
- The Parks & Recreation Department allows BMX/mountain bike usage in this area, but **prohibits expansion of trails, digging into existing soils and increasing jump height over 4ft.**
 - The BMX Course (bike track) is recognized in the Luther Burbank Master Plan (pg. 5).
 - When expansion occurs or jumps grow too big, City staff replaces boundary markers and reduces jump size.
 - Staff offer limited maintenance to the specific track and collaborate with community members.
- The track has had varying levels of usage over the years, and thus differing levels of impact. 2020/21 has seen significant usage and expansion.
- This area provides a unique recreational opportunity to the Community.



BMX Course (cont.)

Item 6.

Upper Luther Burbank Park

January Site Visit- Kim Frappier (Natural Resources Coordinator)

Some challenges being addressed by staff:

- **Soil Excavation-** At least four locations where the slope at the edge of the course has now been “undercut” and the course impacts are slowly expanding. Tree and plant roots have been exposed in some cases.
- **Tree Health-** Digging activity and jump building, along with soil compaction is having negative effect on trees bordering.
- **Tools left out-** These items are permitted for use by users to groom and maintain trails- but also for excavation- with isn't allowed. Staff is reviewing whether tools should be allowed to be left on site.



Photo: Sue Stewart, Friends of Luther Burbank Park

City Reports Sculpture Theft

- Over the weekend, the City received reports of the disappearance of *Counterpoint*, a sculpture on view in the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery.
- It appears the heavy bronze sculpture was forcibly removed from its metal base and dragged away.
- MIPD is investigating and asks community members to contact the anonymous crime tip line with leads: **206-275-7955**.
- Out and about on a walk? Visit works in the public art collection and help us keep a watchful eye on these important community assets!



Updating Boat Launch Fee Structure

- Work plan item identified in 2020 to improve cost recovery of boat launch operations.
- Staff identified similar facilities that serve Lake Washington for comparison.
- Statistics show that out of about 130+ passes sold on an annual basis, 40% were purchased from 98040 zip codes and 60% were from all other zip codes.
- Based on this analysis, the City has implemented a **new fee structure**:

Pass Options	Price	Notes
Daily Pass	\$15.00	Good for day use (5:00am – 10:30pm)
Monthly Pass	\$50.00	Good for 30 calendar days (from day of purchase)
Yearly Pass	\$120.00	Good January. 1 st – December 31 st

Updating Boat Launch Pricing Structure

- Notification emails were sent to past boat launch patrons notifying them of the changes.
 - **Yearly passes** (\$120) are now available to purchase online.
 - **Monthly passes** (\$50) will be available for purchase via PayByPhone beginning in April.
 - **Daily passes** (\$15) are available for purchase at the kiosk until PayByPhone launches.
- For more information or to purchase a pass visit www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/boat-launch



City Summer Camps are BACK!

- Katie Herzog (*Recreation & Operations Coordinator*) is currently coordinating summer day camp options for a variety of ages. Both full and half Day.
- Camps will include outdoors, sports, and active recreation.
- The Community Center will host 1-2 programs per week, with most of programs held outdoors.
- All camps will be offered by 3rd party providers through a recreation services agreement.
 - Staff is also working with other providers wishing to rent facility space in parks to provide various summer programming options to the Community.
- Information on camp offerings will be available soon!



Luther Burbank Dock Repair and Reconfiguration Project Item 6.

- The Docks Subcommittee held its first meeting with the design team on Wednesday, Jan. 27 via Zoom and is viewable to the public.
 - Viewable on the City's YouTube Channel
- This initial meeting focused on the Commissioner's expressed positions and questions on aspects of the project.
 - Flexibility of incorporating various design elements
 - Priorities of usage and access- impacts to park
 - Amount of overwater coverage
- The design team will bring revised concepts to the next subcommittee meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Public input is available through the following:

- Let's Talk Page: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbdock>
- Submit written comments to Commissioners or on Let's Talk.
- Public comment at PRC Regular Meetings.



Automated Locks at Park Restrooms

- New restroom locking system has been installed in high-use parks.
- **Restrooms at the following parks will lock automatically between 10 pm and 6 am:**
 - Aubrey Davis Park
 - Luther Burbank Park (main playground)
 - Mercerdale/Bicentennial Park
 - Homestead Park
 - Island Crest Park
 - Deane’s Children’s Park
- Automated system allows users to exit facility when locked.
- Expected to reduce vandalism and damages to restroom facilities, saving staff time and materials.



Mercerdale Park Playground

- Playground at Mercerdale Park is currently **closed** due failing drainage and flooding. Construction Fencing/signage is in place.
- City staff have engaged Northwest Playground Equipment to develop the project.
- Staff met with members of the MI Preschool Assoc. board to provide an overview and solicit input on the project.
- Staff will hold a public meeting via Zoom on Monday, Feb. 8 to explain the project and receive input on options for new equipment.
- There is a lot of interest in the community for creating a facility that is inclusive for children with a wide range of abilities.



Illuminate MI

Lights update.....

- The Mercerdale Pergola, Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery, and trees down 78th Ave median will remain lit through **mid-March**
- Mercerdale hedges, tree, and the blue/green lights in the 27th Ave pedestrian crossing will be removed over the coming weeks.

THANK YOU

SUPPORTERS!

- Private Donors
- Mercer Island Community Fund
- Rotary Club of Mercer Island
- Ryan Companies
- Evergreen Church
- Mercer Island Firefighters – IAFF Local 1762
- The Mercer Apartments
- Mercer Island Radio Operators (MIRO)



Windstorm Clean-Up

- Notable impacts to parks:
 - Large cottonwood fell at Groveland Beach Park shoreline
 - Large maple hit swing set at Deane's Children's Park
 - Two large trees fell in Luther Burbank Park
 - Many trees across trails in open space areas
- Parks team has put more than 100 hours into parks clean-up work so far:
 - Clearing debris from trails
 - Clearing fallen trees and branches in developed parks
 - Blowing parking lots, access roads and driveways



Windstorm Clean-Up

- **Staff highlight**
 - Andrew Prince spent more than 24 hours clearing trails
 - Most of that time went to clearing 32 trail obstructions in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space
 - Big kudos to Andy for getting the trails open again so quickly!

- We continue to see a small number of post-storm tree falls – if you encounter any issues, please send them to publicworks@mercerisland.gov



Mercer Island Parks & Recreation

Thank You!