



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR VIDEO MEETING

Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 5:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS:

Chair Peter Struck
Vice Chair Paul Burstein
Commissioners: Jodi McCarthy,
Don Cohen, Sara Marxen,
Rory Westberg, Ashley Hay

LOCATION & CONTACT

Zoom Meeting
Phone: 206.275.7600 | www.mercerisland.gov

We strive to create an inclusive and accessible experience. Those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison's Office 3 days prior to the meeting at 206.275.7870 or by emailing ryan.daly@mercerisland.gov.

Virtual Meeting Notice

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

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances will need to register their request with the staff liaison at **206.275.7861** or [email](#) and leave a message before 4 PM on the day of the Commission meeting. Please reference "Appearances" on your correspondence and state if you would like to speak either in person at Mercer Island Community & Event Center or remotely using Zoom. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 5:00 PM: To listen to the meeting via telephone, please call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **825 9108 6996** and Password **896196** when prompted.

Join by Internet at 5:00 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 **825 9108 6996** and Password **896196**

Join in person at Mercer Island Community & Event Center at 5:00 PM: Mercer Island Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th Street.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - 5:00 PM

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

REGULAR BUSINESS [HYPERLINK "appIS80d34e03b253455db0ca10b38419e40a"](#)

1. [Review of draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy](#)
Recommended Action: [Recommend the draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy to the City Council for consideration.](#)
2. [Approve the minutes of the July 6, 2023 Regular Meeting](#)
Recommended Action: [Approve minutes.](#)
3. [Community Garden: P-Patch Program Objectives](#)
Recommended Action: [Receive presentation and provide feedback on P-Patch program purpose and objectives.](#)

DEPARTMENT REPORT

4. [Department Report](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

5. [PRC 2023 Planning Schedule Update](#)
6. [Commissioner Reports](#)

ADJOURN



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Item 1
September 7, 2023
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Review of draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Recommend the draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy to the City Council for consideration.	

STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Cassidy Berlin, Management Analyst Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	Draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy - Clean Draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy - Markup

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek the Parks and Recreation Commission’s recommendation of the draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy (see Exhibit 1) to the City Council for consideration.

Background

Naming policies are a standard municipal tool that guide the selection of names consistent with public values. The City of Mercer Island does not currently have a naming policy for parks or similar assets.

At the [June 1st](#) Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission discussed sections “2.0 Naming Criteria” and “3.0 Disqualifying Criteria” to further guide the development of a draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy.

Discussion

This draft policy has been revised by staff based on Commission input from the June 1st PRC Meeting. A redlined version has been provided to illustrate the changes from the previous meeting (see Exhibit 2).

The procedures for naming a property or asset will vary considerably and therefore it is not practical to develop written procedures to address every possible naming scenario. For example, a land donation may come with a naming requirement negotiated as part of the real estate transaction. The intent of this policy is to provide City Council with a list of criteria to guide the selection of a name if an opportunity to name or rename a Park Area arises.

Next Steps

Following the Parks and Recreation Commission’s recommendation of this policy for City Council consideration, staff will place the policy in the designated template and present the recommendation to the City Council. The date for this policy to be considered by the City Council is not yet confirmed due to other Council priorities. The City Manager anticipates the draft policy will be presented to the City Council no later than Q1 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the draft City Council Park Area Naming Policy to the City Council for consideration.

PARK AREA NAMING POLICY

Purpose

This policy establishes the criteria for the naming of City of Mercer Island owned park and recreation facilities, parks, park features, trails, open space areas, and select right-of-way spaces (collectively, “Park Areas.”)

Definitions

Open space areas: areas purposefully left predominantly in a vegetated space to create urban separators and greenbelts and to: 1) sustain native ecosystems, connect and increase protective buffers for environmentally critical areas; or 2) provide a visual contrast to continuous development, reinforce community identity and aesthetics; or 3) provide links between important environmental or recreational resources.

Park and Recreation Facilities: buildings that are maintained by the Parks or Recreation division of the City.

Park Areas: Park and Recreation facilities, Park Features, Open Space Areas, Right-of-Way Spaces, and Trails as defined in this policy.

Park Features: sub-areas of parks that may be suitable for naming, including batting cages, courts, dog parks, galleries, gardens, pavilions, playfields, playgrounds, pools, p-patches, shelters, skate parks, stages, theaters, walking paths, etc.

Parks: without limitation, any public area created, established, designated, maintained, provided, or set aside by the City for the purposes of public rest, play, recreation, enjoyment, or assembly, and all buildings, facilities, and structures located thereon or therein, as well as all associated areas, including but not limited to parking lots.

Right-of-way spaces: public land areas zoned for right-of-way use. This policy applies to right-of-way spaces that have been designated for public recreation use and as such may benefit from a common name that can be used by City staff and residents.

Trail: a marked or established path or route meant primarily for recreational and/or educational use.

Policy

1.0 General Policy

The selection and approval of the name for a City owned Park Area shall be the function of the City Council. The City Council may choose to commence a community engagement process to solicit suggestions for a Park Area name.

2.0 Naming Criteria

The following criteria are recommended for the City Council’s consideration when evaluating potential naming proposals:

- a. Context, location, and features: Names may be based on location or distinctive, predominant, and defining natural, geological, or other feature.
- b. Historical significance: Naming proposals with historical significance should be associated with the lives of persons of citywide significance, an existing or proposed historic property or building, or an event of historic significance on Mercer Island.
- c. Public service: Naming proposals may be considered for individuals or organizations who have enhanced the quality of life for Mercer Island residents through outstanding public service including exceptional contributions to the parks system.
- d. Donations: Naming proposals may be considered for individuals or organizations that make a significant direct property or monetary contribution to the City of Mercer Island and the naming is a stipulation of the donation. The naming and acceptance of property is subject to all other applicable policies of the City.

3.0 Disqualifying Criteria

Any names that fall under the following criteria will not be considered:

- a. Names too similar to existing names of Mercer Island Park Areas, including parks or facilities in neighboring jurisdictions.
- b. Names of public officials who currently hold office or staff currently employed by the City.
- c. A name that by contemporary community standards is derogatory, offensive, distasteful, or is culturally or socially inappropriate.
- d. Names of other public entities, including names of cities, towns, and governmental agencies, unless the entity contributes significantly to the establishment or maintenance of the park or facility.

4.0 Duration of Name

The naming of Park Areas shall be approached with the intention that names are permanent unless they fall under a time-limited sponsorship agreement or for other reasons as determined by the City Council. The City Manager may assign a temporary name to a Park Area until the time at which a permanent name is selected.

5.0 Renaming

The City Council may elect to rename a Park Area if the name fails to meet the criteria set forth by this policy. The process for renaming a Park Area will adhere to the same criteria established herein and will occur at the direction of the City Council.

PARK AREA NAMING POLICY

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This policy establishes the criteria for the naming of City of Mercer Island owned park and recreation facilities, parks, park features, trails, open space areas, and select right-of-way spaces (collectively, “Park Areas.”)

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Open space areas: areas purposefully left predominantly in a vegetated space to create urban separators and greenbelts and to: 1) sustain native ecosystems, connect and increase protective buffers for environmentally critical areas; or 2) provide a visual contrast to continuous development, reinforce community identity and aesthetics; or 3) provide links between important environmental or recreational resources.

Park and Recreation Facilities: buildings that are maintained by the Parks or Recreation division of the City.

[Park Areas: Park and Recreation facilities, Park Features, Open Space Areas, Right-of-Way Spaces, and Trails as defined in this policy.](#)

Park Features: sub-areas of parks that may be suitable for naming, including batting cages, courts, dog parks, galleries, gardens, pavilions, playfields, playgrounds, pools, p-patches, shelters, skate parks, stages, theaters, walking paths, etc.

Parks: without limitation, any public area created, established, designated, maintained, provided, or set aside by the City for the purposes of public rest, play, recreation, enjoyment, or assembly, and all buildings, facilities, and structures located thereon or therein, as well as all associated areas, including but not limited to parking lots.

Right-of-way spaces: public land areas zoned for right-of-way use. This policy applies to right-of-way spaces that have been designated for public recreation use and as such may benefit from a common name that can be used by City staff and residents.

Trail: a marked or established path or route meant primarily for recreational and/or educational use.

Policy

1.0 General Policy

The selection and approval of the name for a City owned Park Area shall be the function of the City Council. [The City Council may choose to commence a community engagement process to solicit suggestions for a Park Area name.](#)

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- c. Public service: Naming proposals may be considered for individuals or organizations who have enhanced the quality of life for Mercer Island residents through outstanding public service including exceptional contributions to the parks system.
- d. Donations: Naming proposals may be considered for individuals or organizations that make a significant direct property or monetary contribution to the City of Mercer Island and the naming is a stipulation of the donation. The naming and acceptance of property is subject to all other applicable policies of the City.

The name for a Park Area should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a. ~~geographical identification (neighborhood, boundary road, etc.)~~
- b. ~~natural/geologic features~~
- c. ~~historic or cultural significance~~
- d. ~~individual, living, or deceased (donor who stipulates name as condition of donation)~~
- e. ~~Individual, living, or deceased (outstanding public service or community contribution)~~
- f. ~~Individual, deceased at least three (3) years, who made a significant contribution/lasting impact to the City's parks~~
- g. ~~Descriptive name (building/property purpose)~~
- h. ~~City identity and image~~
- i. ~~Names that lend dignity to the property~~
- j. ~~Names that represent enduring values or merit (rather than passing popularity or notoriety)~~

3.0 Disqualifying Criteria

Any names that fall under the following criteria will not be considered:

- a. Names too similar to existing names of ~~Mercer Island current~~ Park Areas, including parks or facilities in neighboring jurisdictions.
- b. Names of public officials who currently hold office or staff currently employed by the City.
- c. A name that by contemporary community standards is derogatory, offensive, distasteful, ~~or in violation of generally accepted moral standards~~ or is culturally or socially inappropriate.
- a-d. Names of other public entities, including names of cities, towns, and governmental agencies, unless the entity contributes significantly to the establishment or maintenance of the park or facility.

4.0 Duration of Name

The naming of Park Areas shall be approached with the intention that names are permanent unless they fall under a time-limited sponsorship agreement or for other reasons as determined by the City Council. The City Manager may assign a temporary name to a Park Area until the time at which a permanent name is selected.

a. ~~Temporary Name~~

~~The City Manager may assign a temporary name to a Park Area until the time at which a permanent name is selected.~~

b. ~~Permanent Name~~

1. ~~The City Council may establish a name selecting process or independently select a name for a Park Area consistent with the criteria above.~~

2. ~~The City Council may also choose to commence a community engagement process to solicit suggestions for a Park Area name. The City Council will direct the City Manager to conduct the process and identify parameters they wish to include in the process. The City Council may also designate a board or commission to serve in an advisory capacity for the solicitation and recommendation of a Park Area name.~~

5.0 Renaming

~~The renaming~~ The City Council may elect to rename a Park Area if the name fails to meet the criteria set forth by this policy of Park Areas should be avoided unless the current name has been determined by the City Council to misrepresent the values or character of the City of Mercer Island. The process for renaming a Park Area will adhere to the same criteria established herein and will occur at the direction of the City Council.



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES July 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Struck called the meeting to order at 5:00pm via Zoom Online meeting.

ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Peter Struck, and Commissioners Rory Westberg, Don Cohen, Paul Burstein, Sarah Marxen and Ashley Hay were present for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Absent: Chair Jodi McCarthy

Staff present were Recreation Manager Ryan Daly, CIP Project Manager Sarah Bluvas, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis.

APPEARANCES

No public appearances

DEPARTMENT REPORT

1. Recreation Manager Ryan Daly reported on the following items:

- Boards & Commissions Recruitment
- City Hall Closure
- July- Parks and Recreation Month
- USA Pickleball Ambassador of the Month – Jessica Prince
- Mercer Island Farmers Market
- Summer Camps
- MIVAL Jr. Art Show
- Mostly Music in the Park
- Library – Extended Hours
- Summer Celebration July 15
- *Mercer Island Medallions* Engagement Opportunities

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June 1, 2023 Regular Meeting were presented.

It was moved by Hay; seconded by Cohen to:

Approve the minutes from the June 1, 2023 meeting

Passed: 6 – 0

3. Commission Officer Elections

Westberg nominated Struck for Chair
There were no further nominations.

Vote:

Passed: 6 – 0

Vice Chair Struck was elected Chair.

Hay nominated Burstein for Vice-Chair

There were no further nominations.

Vote:

Passed: 6 – 0

Commissioner Burstein was elected Vice-Chair.

4. Luther Burbank Park Sport Courts Renovation: Court Configuration

Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, presented. Commissioners reviewed the presentation, asked questions, engaged in discussion, and provided feedback.

It was moved by Burstein; seconded by Westberg to:

Recommend the preferred configuration for the pickleball courts as reflected in Exhibit 1 as part of the Luther Burbank Sports Courts Renovation capital project

Passed: 6 – 0

OTHER BUSINESS**5. 2023 Planning Schedule Update**

Recreation Manager Ryan Daly provided an update.

6. Commissioner Reports / Work Plan Update

Commissioner Cohen reported having a couple of great wildlife experiences in 2 different parks since the last PRC meeting. One was, while he was walking around Luther Burbank Park and the Community Center, and he turned around to discover a deer right in front of him. The experience was pretty amazing for him! And then a couple of weeks later, while he was fishing with his grandsons down at Clarke Beach, they saw an osprey, a great blue heron, and an eagle came down and flew right over them on the fishing pier. It made their day!

Commissioner Hay reported that earlier in the day she and her 3 kids attended a volunteer park clean up event happening at the Island Crest Park, and she was really surprised at how much her kids enjoyed it! There are 6 more of these events happening this summer and she plans on attending more! She invited others to attend!

Vice Chair Burstein reported that he went to the Riley Cove Dedication last month and learned a lot about Huston (Hu) Riley – what an amazing person with an amazing life, and a beautiful spot worth visiting! He encouraged others to visit!

Chair Struck shared that he ran into Jessica Prince last week and the first thing she said to him was that he needs to get down to those pickleball courts! Chair Struck concurred that Jessica is a great ambassador for the sport of Pickleball and for Mercer Island, and her recent national award and recognition as noted in the Recreation Department Report is well deserved.

ADJOURNMENT at 5:51pm



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Item 3
September 7, 2023
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Community Garden: P-Patch Program Objectives	<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:	Receive presentation and provide feedback on P-Patch program purpose and objectives.	

STAFF:	Dave Setterlund, Recreation Coordinator Katie Herzog, Recreation Supervisor Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current P-Patch Guidelines 2. Draft P-Patch Objectives

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek feedback from the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) on the P-Patch Guidelines (Exhibit 1) and P-Patch Purpose and Objectives (Exhibit 2). Staff will utilize this input to revise these documents and present to the PRC for review and endorsement at a future meeting.

BACKGROUND

The City of Mercer Island P-Patch was established behind the former Mercer View Elementary School in alignment with the Earth Day Movement of 1977. Now located behind the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), the current P-Patch occupies approximately 49,000 sq. ft. (1.1 acre) of park space. The P-Patch includes 50 plots that vary in size, slope, and visual appearance.

Individual P-Patch plots are delineated by stakes in the ground. Most of the plots are surrounded by participant-constructed fencing to keep wildlife out. These fences have been created utilizing a variety of methods and materials. Participants also have access to communal water spickets, tools, and wheelbarrows.

Mercer Island Parks and Recreation staff are responsible for coordination and management of the P-Patch program, which includes establishing guidelines, assigning plots, communicating with participants, collecting program fees, and performing routine area maintenance such as delivering wood chips, providing access to irrigation, trash and debris removal, and maintaining pathways.

The P-Patch program utilizes a current set of guidelines (see Exhibit 1), which address plot allocation, maintenance responsibilities, acceptable gardening practices, and safety measures. These guidelines were developed by staff in consultation with program participants and have been revised over the years. Each season participants are provided the guidelines and new gardeners are given an introductory tour by the program coordinator.

In 2023, all fifty (50) available plots were assigned and occupied. Annually there is a waitlist of about 20 people. This year, staff were able to sub-divide some vacated spaces, making several smaller plots available to gardeners, which accommodated more individuals from the waitlist. Some of those on the waitlist had been awaiting a plot designation for five years. Participants in the program are predominantly Mercer Island residents, though there is no current requirement for residency.

Staff maintain regular communication with gardeners throughout the season, receiving feedback and input on operations and guidelines.

Gardeners received two notifications about the PRC discussion and were invited to participate. Staff will also provide the gardeners with a copy of the agenda packet.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this agenda item is to seek feedback from the PRC on the P-Patch Guidelines (Exhibit 1) and P-Patch Purpose and Objectives (Exhibit 2).

The following questions were developed to help guide the discussion:

- Should participation in the P-Patch program be: open to all, prioritized by residency, or exclusive to Mercer Island residents?
- Should participants be permitted to have multiple plots?
- Should temporary structures be permitted within plots- if so, to what degree? (Fences, sheds, cabinets, trellises, raised beds, enclosed areas)
- Should plots be permitted to display signage (messaging or verbiage)? Should decorations, or items not associated with gardening or plot cultivation be permitted?
- Should only organic-gardening products be allowed in the P-Patch area?
- Should plots be required to maintain a standard of care? (Weed free, use of standard materials, fence in upright position, etc.)

Next Steps:

Following tonight's meeting, staff will utilize the input gathered to draft revised P-Patch Guidelines which will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at a future meeting for review and endorsement.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive presentation and provide feedback on the P-Patch Guidelines (Exhibit 1) and P-Patch Purpose and Objectives (Exhibit 2).

City of Mercer Island P-Patch Community Garden Program Guidelines

Gardener’s Responsibilities



1. Being a Considerate Community Gardener:

- P-Patches are public spaces. Respectfully welcome visitors to the garden.
- Refer to the P-Patch Program Code of Conduct for a list of prohibited behaviors.
- Do not take produce from other garden spaces without permission.
- No Smoking or vaping within P-Patch garden.
- Well-mannered, leashed dogs are allowed within your own garden space, unless complaints are received.
 - Please scoop and remove feces. Follow WA rules on scooping animal feces and managing your pet (WAC 332-52-140)
- Use common courtesies and direct communication to resolve differences in a timely and neighborly way.
 - To resolve problems with fellow gardeners, please speak directly with each other before contacting City Staff. Be polite and listen carefully, usually a solution is within reached. Refer to the P-Patch program grievance procedure if you are unable to resolve differences.

2. Use of individual Plot Space, Gardening and Maintenance

- Strictly employ organic gardening methods and inputs.
 - No synthetic chemicals including pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, weed killers, and fertilizers.
 - Organic fertilizers are allowed (compost, fish meal, composted manure, lime, etc.)
- Year – round gardening and maintenance of the assigned garden space is the plot holder’s responsibility. Garden space is defined as a garden plot and the 2 feet of adjacent pathway that surrounds the plot
 - Garden space must be weeded and planted within 2 weeks of plot assignment if assigned between April 1 – October 31
 - Planting season check-in

APRIL 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-in • Must show effort

May 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-in • Must Show Progress

May 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Progress will be removed From garden

- Active gardening reflects seasonality (I.e., winterization by October 31, spring weeding and fall cleanup, summer maintenance harvesting, etc.)
- Arrange for care by a substitute if unable to tend to plot due to vacations or other circumstances, following P-Patch standards.
- Monitoring plot use: P-Patch staff and volunteers sites leaders monitor plots throughout the year. When a garden space is untended, the plot holder will be contacted. If P-Patch staff and or volunteer site leaders contact a plot holder about an untended garden space twice in one your and it becomes untended a third time, staff will reassign the garden space.
- Do not expand your garden space beyond its designated area.
- The P-patch garden cannot be used to conduct personal commerce. The sale of produce, flowers, is not permitted.

3. Pathways

Maintain garden pathways adjacent to your plot: keep them sage, level, clear and weed-free within a 2-foot radius. Beware of hoses as tripping hazards.

4. Plot Turnover

- Annual renewal: plot holders in good standing can renew their garden space annually (Every Feb. Payment due Feb. 28)
- A plot holder cannot give garden space to others (there is an established waitlist)
 - Co-gardeners are allowed. However, they can only become the primary plot holder if they have been co-gardening long enough to be assigned a plot from the interest list.
- When the plot holder no longer wants the plot:
 - They must notify coordinator and establish a timeline for turnover with City Staff.
 - They need to leave the garden space in reasonable condition. They must remove all structures and other non-plant materials unless arrangements are made with garden leaders.
- Plot holders are not allowed to permanently work other peoples' plots.

5. Structures (fences, raised beds, trellises, etc.)

- You build it, you remove it. Prior to designing, purchasing, and implementing individual plot construction, please check with staff and garden leadership to ensure your project is feasible (no permanent structures).
- The P-Patch program discourages plot structures. If the plot holder feels there are conditions that warrant fence, raised bed, trellis etc., the plot holder must adhere to the following criteria:
 - The height limit for premier plot fencing is 6 ft
 - For the safety of gardeners, visitors, and wildlife the structure must be:
 - Placed within the perimeter of the plot
 - Securely and safely built, without infringing upon any pathway or neighboring plot
 - Be safely secured and must not shade neighboring plot
 - Must not pose potential harm to others.
 - No permanent or fixed lighting fixtures including string, flood, or similar installations.
 - Temporary plant supports and trellises must be taken down for winter by October 31
- Locks: anything that gives the visual impression of a lock on your fence or in your plot is not allowed.
- Tires, railroad ties, plastic ground covering, and treated/painted lumber are not allowed.

6. Plants

- Tall plants and trellises that support them must not shade neighboring plots.
- No trees (including fruit) or large shrubs are allowed in plots.
- Keep invasive, vining and spreading plants confined to pots.

7. Water

- Service is turned off and drained by November 1. It remains off for the winter months and is turned back on in the spring after March 1 (pending weather forecast).
 - Water responsibly – always check hose attachment for leaks
 - Report water leaks to garden leadership and City Staff.
 - Sprinklers and drip:
 - The gardener must be present while water is running.
 - The system must not affect other gardening space or a gardener's access to water.
 - Never water others' garden space without permission.

Signature _____ Date _____

A Plot holder in good standing is a gardener who has had no outstanding plot compliance issues during the previous year.

Mercer Island P-Patch Community Garden**Location:** Luther Burbank Park**(DRAFT) Purpose Statement:**

“The Mercer Island P-Patch is a community garden program coordinated by the City of Mercer Island and cultivated by local gardeners who take pleasure in nurturing their own harvests through environmentally sustainable practices. The P-Patch program enables participants to grow food and ornamental plantings in individual plots which provides opportunities for connections within the community, provides increased food security, and supports improved mental health for visitors and participants alike”.

(DRAFT) Program Objectives:

- *Provide and allocate designated plot areas for community gardening activities.*
- *Enable gardening and gathering opportunities which improve both mental and physical health.*
- *Align participation with maintaining the natural character of the park and minimize unnatural physical and visual impacts to the surrounding park and neighborhood area.*
- *Provide an environment that enables participants of different ages and demographics to come together, interact, and cultivate meaningful relationships through gardening.*
- *Utilize garden plots and the surrounding area to enhance biodiversity and contribute to the preservation of the environment.*



P-Patch Discussion

Parks & Recreation Commission

September 7, 2023

Tonight's Discussion

Background of Program

Current process

Determine Objective and Goals of Program

Next Steps



Background

- The Mercer Island P-Patch was established in 1977, behind the former Mercer View Elementary School.
- Located behind the MICEC, it currently occupies approx. 49,000 square feet (1.1 acre) of park space.
- Includes 50 plots, varying in size, slop, and visual appearance.
- Consistent waitlist of 20 people.
- Most plots are surrounded by participant-constructed fencing to keep wildlife out, using various methods and materials.



Current Process

Mercer Island Parks & Recreation staff are responsible for coordination and management of the P-Patch program, which includes:

- Establishing guidelines
- Assigning plots
- Communicating with participants
- Collecting program fees
- Performing routine area maintenance (wood chips, access to irrigations, trash and debris removal, maintaining pathways)



The program utilizes a current set of guidelines, which address plot allocation, maintenance responsibilities, acceptable gardening practices, and safety measures.



Pros Plan Goals

- **Goals 3 – Environment & Sustainability:** Provide a high quality, diversified open space system that preserves and enhances urban forests, critical habitat, and other environmental resources. Incorporate sustainability practices into operations, maintenance, and planning.
- **Goal 5 – Recreation Facilities & Programming:** Provide a variety of recreation programs, services, and facilities that promote the health and wellbeing of residents of all ages and abilities.
- **Goal 6 – Arts & Culture:** Facilitate and promote comprehensive and engaging arts and culture experiences.
- **Goal 8 – Administration & Fiscal Sustainability:** Provide leadership and sufficient resources to maintain and operate a welcoming, efficient, safe, and sustainable parks and recreation system.



Questions for Discussion

- Should participation in the P-Patch: be open to all, prioritized by residency, or exclusive to Mercer Island residents?
- Should participants be permitted to have multiple plots?
- Should temporary structures be permitted within plots – if so to what degree? (fences, sheds, cabinets, trellises, raised beds, enclosed areas)
- Should plots be permitted to display signage? Should decorations, or items not associated with gardening or plot cultivation be permitted?
- Should only organic- gardening products be allowed in the P-Patch?
- Should plots be required to maintain a standard of care? (weed free, use of standard material, fence in upright position, etc.)



Purpose Statement

Proposed Purpose Statement:

- *The Mercer Island P-Patch is a community garden program coordinated by the City of Mercer Island and cultivated by local gardeners who take pleasure in nurturing their own harvests through environmentally sustainable practices. The P-Patch program enables food and ornamental plantings in individual plots which provides opportunities for connection within the community, provides increased food security, and supports improved mental health for visitors and participants alike.*



Proposed Program Objectives

- *Provide and allocate designate plot areas for community gardening.*
- *Enable gardening and gathering opportunities which improve both mental and physical health.*
- *Align participation with maintaining the natural character of the park and minimize unnatural physical and visual impacts to the surrounding park and neighborhood area.*
- *Provide an environment that enable participants of different ages and demographics to come together, interact, and cultivate meaningful relationship through gardening.*
- *Utilize garden plots and the surrounding area to enhance biodiversity and contribute to the preservation of the environment.*



Next Steps

- Staff will utilize the input gathered tonight and return to a future PRC meeting with revised P-Patch Guidelines for endorsement.



City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Report
September 7, 2023



City Hall Closure

- Staff are preparing a comprehensive update on the City Hall closure for the City Council meeting on **October 3**.

Short-Term Planning Work:

- **Hybrid Meetings:** Pursuing technology upgrades to the Slater Room at the Community Center to accommodate hybrid meetings. A scope of work and appropriations request is anticipated for the September 19 City Council meeting.
- **Temporary Office Spaces:** Our highest priority is securing functional space for all our work teams displaced by the City Hall closure, with accommodations for the Police Department and the Municipal Court at the top of the list.

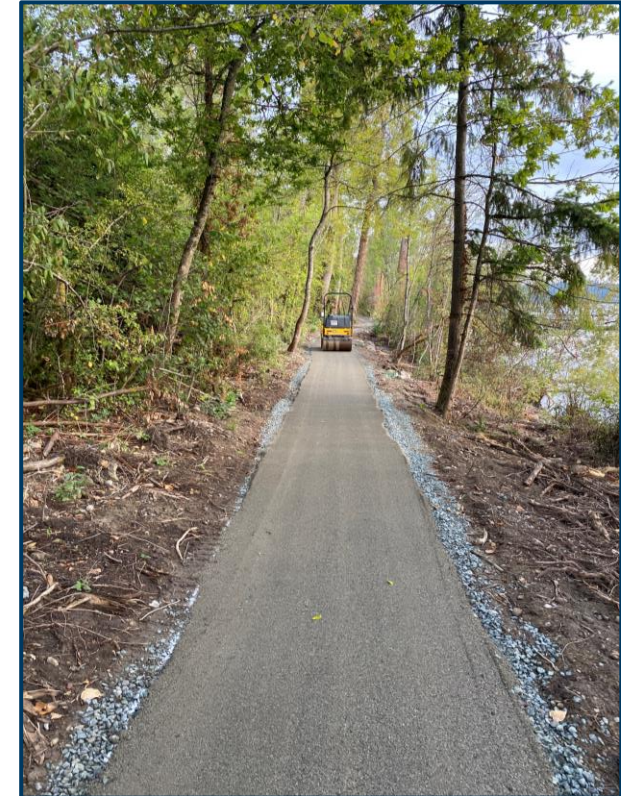
Long-Term Planning Work:

- Staff are continuing to work with the consulting teams in preparation for long-term planning discussions related to the replacement of City Hall later this year.



Project Update: Luther Burbank South Shoreline Improvements

- The Luther Burbank South Shoreline Restoration Project is designed to improve waterfront access and the trail along the lake.
- The City’s contractor began work in April and has made significant progress over the last several weeks.
- Large logs were moved into place along the shoreline project to enhance aquatic habitat and shoreline stability.
- The contractor also installed most of the final crushed rock trail surfacing last week.
- **The trail will reopen to the public by the end of September.**
- Replanting of the areas adjacent to the new trail will occur this fall and winter.
- Visit the Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation project page for more information: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbdock>



Project Update: Mercer Island Medallions

- The City hired local artist Marsha Rollinger to create new public art for the Luther Burbank Park waterfront plaza.
- Public engagement occurred over the summer:
 - Summer Celebration
 - Mostly Music In the Park
 - Mercer Island Farmers Market
 - And ongoing through Let's Talk.
- The artist is using the input she received to develop the designs of the medallions.
- The Arts Council will discuss approval and funding for the design package in October to be recommended to the City Council.
- Visit the Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation project page for more information: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbdock>



Item 4.



Project Update: Bike Skills Area

- We're waiting on one final piece for permitting; once we receive it, we will update Let's Talk with the construction schedule.
- Work on early site prep continues. If you haven't visited the site in a while, you should check it out! It looks great.
- ICP Trail counts will continue later this month, including adding a Saturday count.
 - If anyone is interested assisting in the data collection effort please contact Sarah Bluvus at sarah.bluvus@mercerisland.gov.



Project Update: Luther Burbank Pickleball Courts

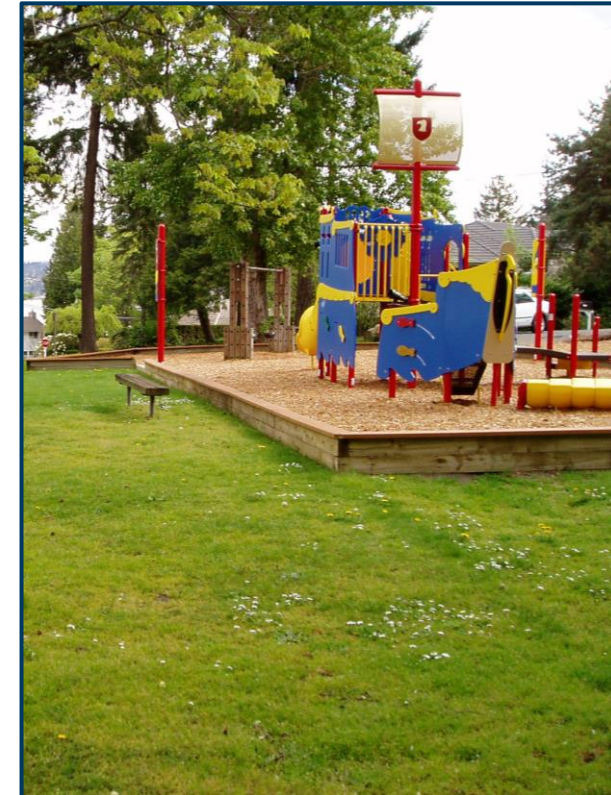
- An unexpected permitting hurdle came up last month related to construction access.
 - This relates to the need to add an access road south of the courts through the hill.
- Staff and the designer are working with the Community Planning and Development Department to identify the best path forward.
- We still anticipate project completion next spring, and are refining next steps of the project to maintain progress.
- We'll update Let's Talk once we have more information!

<https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbp-sport-courts-renovation-pickleball>



Playground Replacements

- The City has contracted with Berger Partnership to lead a variety of park planning needs, including coordinating the design process for playground replacements at Deane’s Children’s Park and Roanoke Park.
- Staff are working with the Berger Team on a public engagement process.
- Playground replacement projects are funded through the Parks Levy.
- Stay tuned for details!



Seafair @ Groveland Recap

- Due to previous years of overcrowding, traffic impacts, and safety concerns a capacity of 500 patrons was placed on Groveland Beach for Seafair Weekend.
- Once capacity was reached staff limited access to the facility.
- This worked GREAT! Neighbors were extremely pleased, and patrons appreciated the more comfortable atmosphere.
- The park did fill each day, and Recreation Staff were on hand to provide communication.



Parks and Natural Resources Updates

- Welcome to our new Parks Maintenance Team Member Andrew Cook!
- Trails and Natural Resources Crew have been doing tread repairs in Island Crest Park (pictured), brushing trails, completing knotweed treatments.
- Contractors and volunteers have completed 1st and 2nd year comprehensive weed removal across 17.5 acres of Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.
- Parks Maintenance Crew working on Bike Skills Area site prep, irrigation repairs and planning for fall sports and supporting a variety of special events.



Parks Volunteers

- As of August 31st, the City has hosted 54 volunteer events with a total of 629 volunteers and 1403 hours of work in 2023
- Forest Stewards tabled the Farmers Market this past weekend (pictured), we have 12 active Forest Stewards who have contributed an additional 335 hours of volunteer work
- Volunteers worked in twelve different locations this year: Pioneer Park, Clarke Beach, Luther Burbank, Upper Luther Burbank, Homestead, Gallagher Hill, 62nd Street trail, Mercerdale, Wildwood, Ellis Pond, First Hill and Island Crest Park
- Arbor Day planting event at Luther Burbank Shoreline led by Mountains to Sound Greenway October 21, 2023.

Upcoming events: <https://www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/volunteer-merc-island-parks>



Mostly Music in the Park

- The Mostly Music in the Park series kicked off on Thursday, July 13!
- The community enjoyed six weeks of outdoor concerts at Mercerdale Park, from children's classic piano to rock 'n roll!
- Our thanks for the support from 4Culture, The Mercer Island Community Fund, Classic Pianos, Island Treats – who sold s'mores onsite and MIVAL, who provided arts and crafts for kids of all ages!
- It was a fantastic 2023 season!



Shakespeare in the Park

- Shakespeare in the Park returned to the Luther Burbank Amphitheater this summer with 12 shows and amazing crowds throughout July and August.
- This is a long standing partnering between Wooden O, through Seattle Shakespeare Company and we look forward to their return in 2024!



Summer Celebration!

- Summer Celebration returned on July 15 – and fun was had by all!
- The day kicked off with the Community Parade, brought to you in partnership with Island Books, John L. Scott, & Island Treats.
- Activities throughout the afternoon included: live entertainment, food trucks, arts and craft vendors, non-profit and sponsor booths, City department booths, kids activities and entertainers and LOTS of sunshine!



Summer Celebration!



- The evening activities were held at Luther Burbank Park – with live entertainment, food trucks, kid’s activities and ended with the fireworks show!
- Special thanks to the Mercer Island School District, who provided shuttles to and from the park. There was also paid parking available at the Community Center, all proceeds benefiting the event.



- Summer Celebration was a great success, and we thank everyone who participated and to the many people, organizations, and businesses who made it possible!
- HUGE thanks to our event sponsors!

Summer Camps



- Summer Camp season comes to an end! We offered **15** different types of camps through community partnerships over 10 weeks which included paddle camps, sport camps, Lego, Advantage Basketball Camp, Chess Wizards, IncrediFlix, Kids Run Club, Youth Theatre NW, and Seattle Shakespeare Company.
- Approximately 1,600 kids were enrolled throughout the summer. We will be debriefing outcomes soon and are already planning for summer of 2024!

Senior Programs

We partnered with Belle Harbour and had a great “British Invasion” lunch and conversation. Over 60 seniors were in attendance!

Ongoing programs at the MICEC consist of:

- OSHER Lifelong Learning
- Senior Golf
- Community Coffee – 2 days/week
- Various drop-in activities
- MIVAL Art Gallery & Receptions
- Tai Chi, Kendo, Jazzercise and Naginata



Upcoming

Item 4.

COMMUNITY COFFEE CELEBRATES!



BLUE FRIDAY!

SEPT 8
9:30AM - 11:30AM

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE SEAHAWKS GEAR & KICK OFF THE SEASON WITH US!

Enjoy coffee, tea, and snacks!
 Play NFL Bingo 11am-12pm

WIN PRIZES!

MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER
 8236 SE 24th Street
 Mercer Island, WA 98040



CATCH THE SEAHAWKS AT THE CENTER!



Week	Date	Team	Kickoff
1	Sun, 9/10	vs. Rams	1:25 PM
2	Sun, 9/17	@ Lions	10:00 AM
3	Sun 9/24	vs. Panthers	1:05 PM
4	Mon, 10/2	@ Giants	5:15 PM

We'll have the game on, light refreshments & popcorn popping!

MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER
 8236 SE 24th Street
 Mercer Island, WA 98040




Presented by Mercer Island Chamber

Mercer Island Art 2023 UnCorked

Friday, September 8th, 2023
 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

21+ Event
www.mercerislandartuncorked.com

Title Sponsor















Thank you!



Parks & Recreation Commission

2023 Planning Schedule



1st Thursday of Month- Regular Meetings

Updated: 9.1.23

Date	Meeting Type	Agenda Item
5-Jan	Regular	ADTS Improvement Project 30% Design Recommendation
		Bike Skills Area Conceptual Design Update
2-Feb	Regular	2023 CIP Projects Update
		Bike Skills Area Design Update
2-Mar	Regular	ADTS Improvement Project 30% Design Update
		LB Pickleball Court- Exclusivity Discussion
April Cancelled	Regular	
4-May	Regular	Mercer Island Library- Annual Update
		ADTS 30% and Memo
1-Jun	Regular	Park Area Naming Policy
		*2022 Recreation Division Annual Report (Memo)
6-Jul	Regular	Chair/Vice-Chair Elections
		Luther Burbank Court Configuration
August		No Meetings Summer Break
7-Sep	Regular	P-Patch Guidelines
		Park Area Naming Policy
5-Oct	Regular	Sponsorship Policy
		Bylaws Review
2-Nov	Regular	Sponsorship Policy
		Park Code Update- Intro
Dec. TBD	Regular	Work Plan Progress and CIP Progress Update
		Recreation Policy Implementation Status Update (Memo)
		Gift Acceptance Policy *update*

Item Type	Items to be scheduled
Policy	Park Code/Rules Updates- signage in parks, appropriate uses of space, etc. <i>(as needed)</i>
Policy	Park Zoning - Planning Commission/CPD
Policy	Recreation Sponsorship

Policy	Recreation Service Scholarship
Project	Mercerdale/Groveland & Clarke Master Plan Kick-off
Project	Luther Docks Project (<i>Periodic touch points</i>)
Project	Aubrey Davis Trail Safety Project (<i>Periodic touch points</i>)
Project	Bike Skills Area (<i>Periodic Touch points</i>)
Annual Agenda Items	
KCLS- Mercer Island Branch Operations Update (March)	
Annual PRC Chair/Vice-Chair Elections (May)	
Annual Bylaws Review (July)	
Various CIP Recommendations (TBD)	
Annual Year-End Report	