



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST REGULAR HYBRID MEETING

Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 5:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Hillary Ethe

Vice Chair: Carol Lynn Berseth

Secretary: Marie Bender

Board Members: Geraldine Poor,
Thomas Hildebrandt, Brian Gaspar, and Daniel Becker

LOCATION & CONTACT

Mercer Island Community & Event Center and Zoom

8236 SE 24th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040

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 206.275.7874 or by emailing sam.harb@mercerisland.gov

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 staff at **206.275.7861** and leave a message or [email](#) before 4 PM on the day of the meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 5:00 PM: Call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **853 2331 6198** and Password **316105** when prompted.

Join by Internet at 5:00 PM: To watch the meeting, or speak under appearances, 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 **853 2331 6198**; Enter Password **316105**

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL – 5:00 PM

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. **Open Space Conservancy Trust July 17, 2025 Minutes**
Recommended Action: Approve minutes
2. **2026 Meeting Schedule and Draft work plan**
Recommended Action: Confirm meeting schedule
3. **Pioneer Signage Inventory and Update**
Recommended Action: Receive presentation

OTHER BUSINESS

4. [Department Update](#)
5. [Quadrant](#) Reports
6. Topics for Future Discussion
7. [Next](#) Scheduled Meeting – November 12, 2025 Special Joint OSCT/PRC Hybrid Meeting

ADJOURNMENT



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MINUTES July 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Space Conservancy Trust meeting was called to order by Chair Poor at 5:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Chair Geraldine Poor, Vice Chair Hillary Ethe, Secretary Marie Bender, and Trustees Thomas Hildebrandt, Carol Lynn Berseth, Brian Gaspar, and Council Liaison Daniel Becker were present.

Parks Operations Manager Sam Harb, Natural Resources Program Manager Lizzy Stone, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

APPEARANCES

No public appearances

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April 29, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Berseth; seconded by Bender to:

Approve the minutes from April 29, 2025 Special Meeting.

Passed: 6 – 1

2. Election of Officers

Hildebrandt nominated Ethe for Chair. There were no further nominations.

Vote:

Passed: 7 – 0

Vice Chair Ethe was elected Chair.

Upon election, Chair Ethe took the chair.

Bender nominated Berseth for Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations.

Vote:

Passed: 7 – 0

Trustee Berseth was elected Vice-Chair.

Poor nominated Bender for Secretary. There were no further nominations.

Vote:

Passed: 7 – 0

Secretary Bender was re-elected Secretary.

3. 2024 Herbicide Application Report

Natural Resources Program Manager Lizzy Stone presented. Trustees asked questions, engaged in discussion, and provided feedback.

4. Off Leash Dog Evaluation

Parks Operations Manager Sam Harb presented. Trustees received report.

5. Pioneer Signage Inventory and Update

Parks Operations Manager Sam Harb presented. Trustees received report and engaged in discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

6. Department Report

Parks Operations Manager Sam Harb presented. Trustees received report and asked questions.

7. Quadrant Reports

Northwest quadrant – Hildebrandt & Bender reported.

Northeast quadrant – Gaspar & Berseth reported.

Southeast quadrant – Poor & Ethe reported.

New quadrant assignments were established and effective immediately:

Northwest quadrant – Berseth & Gaspar

Northeast quadrant – Ethe & Poor

Southeast quadrant – Bender & Hildebrandt

8. Topics for future discussion

Trustees shared their recommendations for future discussion.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:09 PM



Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust

DRAFT 2026 Work Plan

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
January 15	Annual Report to Council: The Trust is required in its bylaws to report to City Council each year on the status of Trust properties.
	OSCT Work Plan: The Trust develops a list of topics that it intends to address during the year (this document). This work plan is submitted to City Council with the Annual Report as a courtesy.
	STQRY Project Update: Educational signage update in the park
	Quadrant Reports (ongoing item): Trustees will report on the condition of certain quadrants at Trust board meetings.
April TBD	Trail Work Plan: City staff report to the Trust its intended maintenance activities in the spring of each year, and recap work completed in the previous year. This report includes status of recently decommissioned social trails on Trust properties.
	Restoration Work Plan: City staff report to the Trust its planned restoration activities, and recap work completed in the previous year.
	Letterboxing starting
	Forest Health Survey update
July 16	Election of Officers: The Trust is required by its bylaws to elect officers at its July meeting each year.
	Herbicide application report: City staff will report on the use of herbicides on Trust properties each year, in accordance with the Herbicide Use Protocol.
	Hold- Signage
October 15	Off-leash dogs: The Trust will evaluate success of education measures over the past year and discuss possible changes.
	OSCT Schedule 2027: Per the Bylaws, the calendar of meetings shall be set by the Board at the last meeting of the calendar year
	Letterboxing recognition
	Scout Project recognition: The Trust will recognize scout projects that have benefitted Trust Properties.

Note: The listing of an item under a particular month indicates that the item will be introduced at that meeting. There may be follow-up discussions and decisions at subsequent meetings, as directed by the Chair.

Pioneer Park Sign Inventory 2025

NE Quadrant

1. Dogs Must Be On Lease
No Harvesting
Empty Guide Box
2. Dogs Must Be On Leash
No Harvesting
3. Entrance Sign
4. Map Sign
Dog Owners Guide Box
Dogs Must Be On Leash
No Harvesting
5. Dogs Must Be On Leash
No Harvesting

SE Quadrant

1. Attention Dog Owners (Voice/Signal Control)
No Harvesting
2. Attention Dog Owners (Voice/Signal Control)
3. Map Sign
Dog Owners Guide Box
Tobacco-Free
4. No Horses Permitted

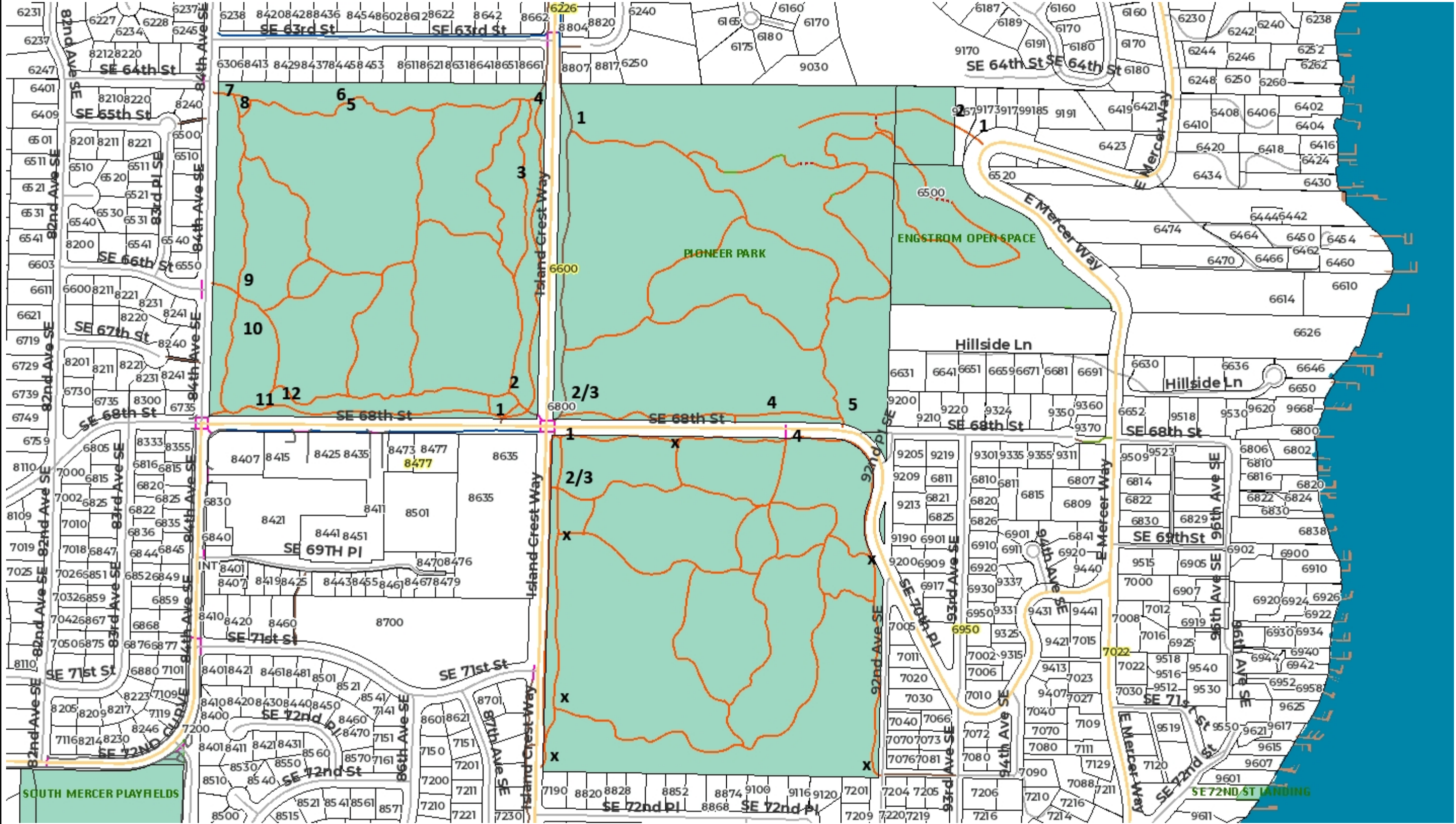
NW Quadrant

1. City Vehicles Only
No Parking Tow Zone
2. Map Kiosk
Map Sign
Dog Owners Guide Box
Volunteer Guide Box
No Harvesting
Tobacco-Free
Certified Wildlife Habitat
Attention Dog Owners (City Code MICC 7.04)
City Of Mercer Island Dog Rules
3. Earth To Sky
4. Map sign
Equestrian Symbol With Arrow
Tobacco-Free
No Harvesting
Dog Owners Guide Box
Attention Dog Owners (City Code MICC 7.04)

- Entrance Sign
- 5. Recycling In Nature
- 6. Attention Dog Owners (City Code MICC 7.04)
- 7. Map Sign
 - Dog Owners Guide Box
 - No Harvesting
- 8. Attention Dog Owners (City Code MICC 7.04)
 - City Of Mercer Island Dog Rules
- 9. Attention Dog Owners (City Code MICC 7.04)
- 10. Forest Succession
- 11. Map Sign
 - No Harvesting
 - Tobacco-Free
 - Attention Dog Owners (City Code MICC 7.04)
- 12. Attention Dog Owners (City Code MICC 7.04)
 - No Harvesting

Engstrom

- 1. Map Sign
 - Dogs must be on leash
 - No Harvesting
- 2. Stay on Trail



- Legend**
- Address
 - Parcels
 - Docks
 - Shoreline
 - Major Roads
 - Street Centerline
 - Trails
 - Boardwalk
 - Bridge
 - Crosswalk
 - Path
 - Sidewalk
 - Stairs
 - Trail
 - Walkway
 - Parks

1: 4,496



573.2 0 286.59 573.2 Feet

Disclaimer: These maps were developed by the City of Mercer Island and are intended to be a general purpose digital reference tool. These maps are not an accepted legal instrument for describing, establishing, recording or maintaining descriptions for property concerns or boundaries. The City makes no representation or warranty with respect to the accuracy or currency of these data sets, especially in regard to labeling of surveyed dimensions, or agreement with official sources such as records of survey, or mapped locations of features.



Department Report October 16th, 2025

Open Space
Conservancy Trust



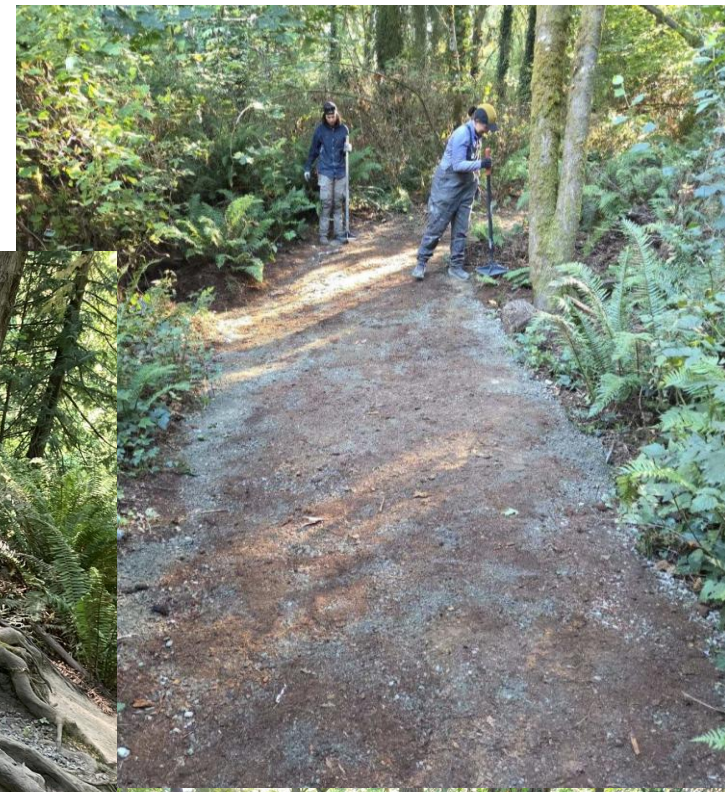
Letterboxing Update

- Program ran from June through September.
- 31 completed booklets turned in to MICEC.
- All completed booklets received a certificate and prize.



Summer Trail Projects

- Added rock steps and gravel to PPNE root section (lower left photo).
- Added non-skids surfacing and railing to PPNE stairs.
- Decommissioned redundant PPNW trail.
- Installed drain rock and gravel on muddy section of PPNW (upper right photo).
- In progress: Installing check steps in PPSE. (lower right photo).





Maintenance Updates

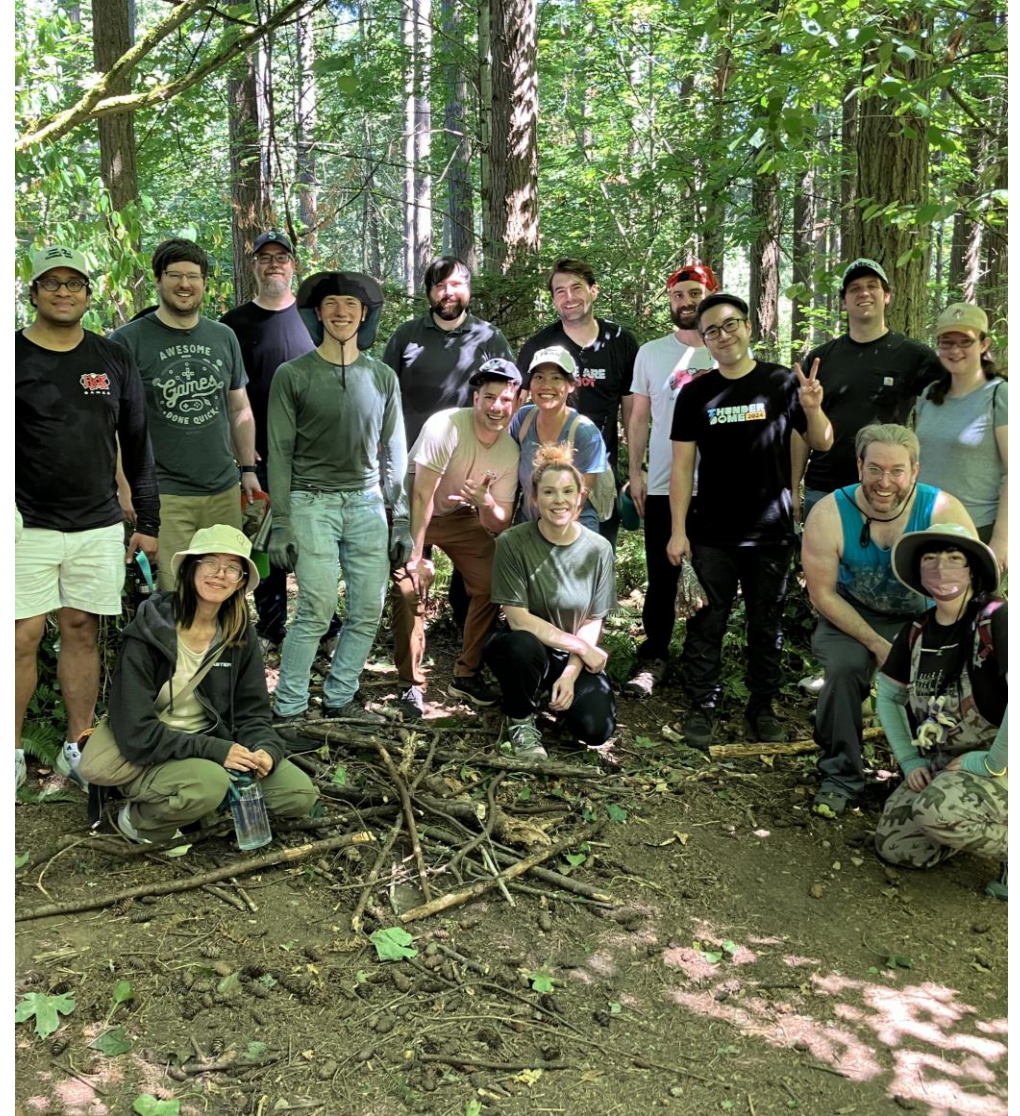
- New donation bench in NE quadrant
- Crew winterizing irrigation across the park system
- Leaf cleanup
- Fall planting
- Finishing concrete and asphalt repairs

Roanoke playground



Volunteer Events

- 10/18 Work Party- Pioneer Park
- 10/21 Mindfulness Walk- Pioneer Park
- **10/25 Arbor Day Celebration- Clarke Beach Park**
- 10/26 Planting- Ellis Pond
- 11/1 Wetland Work Party- Luther Burbank
- [Mercerisland.gov/calendar](https://mercerisland.gov/calendar)



Trick-or-Treating

- Town Center Trick-or-Treating is right around the corner! Join us on Halloween, October 31, from 3:30-5:30 PM.
- Check out www.mercerisland.gov/halloween for a growing list of participating businesses and trick or treat map.
- Did somebody say **candy tractor**? Be on the lookout for friendly faces from the Recreation, Right-of-Way, Police, and Youth and Family Services teams- all gearing up to bring the fun Halloween spirit to downtown!
- City staff are excited to bring the community together for one central Halloween celebration, designed to offer a safe, festive, and memorable experience for families.



OSCT Schedule

- 11/12/2025 Special Joint PRC/OSCT Meeting
- 1/15/2026 Regular OSCT Meeting
- 4/16/2026 Regular OSCT Meeting
- 7/16/2025 Regular OSCT Meeting
- 10/15/2025 Regular OSCT Meeting
- Quarterly regular meetings held on the third Thursday of the month. Meetings will take place from 5pm-7pm.