



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR HYBRID MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 5:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS

Chair: Ashley Hay
Vice Chair: Sara Marxen
Commissioners: Peter Struck, Don Cohen,
Mar Brettmann, Jason Sanio and Damon Jacobson

LOCATION

MICEC – Slater Room Council Chambers
and via Zoom
8236 SE 24th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7609 | www.mercerisland.gov

We strive to create an inclusive and accessible experience. Those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Deputy City Clerk's Office 3 days prior to the meeting at (206) 275-7796 or by emailing cityclerk@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 the Deputy City Clerk at **206.275.7796** and leave a message or email cityclerk@mercerisland.gov before 4 PM on the day of the Commission meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join the meeting at 5:00 PM (Appearances will start sometime after 5:00 PM) by:

- 1) **Telephone:** Call 253.215.8782 and enter Webinar ID **825 9108 6996** and Password **896196**.
- 2) **Zoom:** Click [this link](#) (Webinar ID **825 9108 6996** and Password **896196**)
- 3) **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

APPEARANCES

This is the opportunity for anyone to speak to the Commission about issues of concern.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. Staff Liaison Report and Planning Schedule

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Recommended Action: Approve the September 3, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes.
3. PRC26-13: 2026 Summer Recap
Recommended Action: Receive report.

OTHER BUSINESS

4. Absences and Commissioner Reports

ADJOURNMENT



City of Mercer Island
Parks and Recreation
Commission

Department Report
October 1, 2026



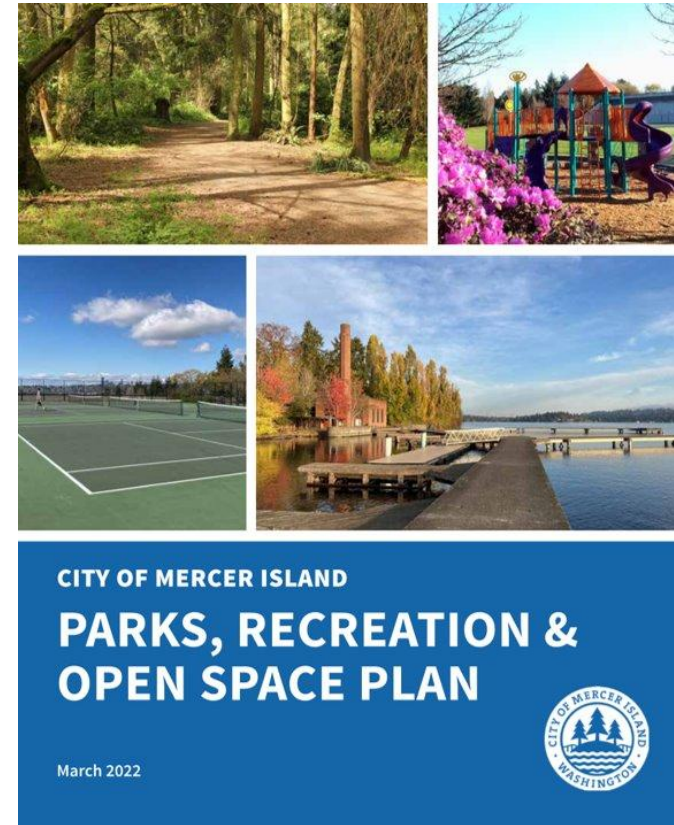
Project Updates



2028 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan

Item 1.

- City Council approved the PROS Plan scope of work on September 15, 2026 ([AB6990](#)).
- The planning process will be limited in scope and build on comprehensive planning effort from 2022 PROS Plan.
- PRC has been designated as the lead Commission for planning process.
- Consultant solicitation currently underway.
- Project kick-off with PRC, Arts Council, and Open Space Conservancy Trust is anticipated in December 2026.
- A Let's Talk project website is currently being developed.
- The PROS Plan is required to be adopted by March 1, 2028.



PARKS MAINTENANCE

- Taking advantage of recent clear fall weather and reduced daytime park usage, Parks Operations completed key outdoor maintenance tasks across the city. Staff refreshed parking lot striping at Island Crest Park, Homestead Field, and South Mercer Playfields, ensuring these facilities are well-maintained and ready for use next season.
- The City recently hosted a volunteer park cleanup focused on removing heavy infestations of invasive English ivy and Himalayan blackberries at Slater Park.
- Thanks to the joint efforts of community volunteers and Parks staff, native plants now have room to thrive.



TAKING CARE OF OUR TURF!



- New synthetic turf sweeper is here! We can now groom and clear debris from the city's athletic fields with ease.
- This upgraded maintenance device delivers a safe, consistent playing surface for athletes while extending the lifespan of the turf.

Programs/Events



Mid-Autumn Festival 2026

- The Mercer Island Chinese Association (MICA), in partnership with the City of Mercer Island, welcomed the community to celebrate this year's Mid-Autumn Festival on Sunday, September 20, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center.
- This year's event was another tremendous success, featuring family-friendly activities, cultural programming, and meaningful opportunities for attendees to connect and learn more about Mid-Autumn Festival traditions.
- Thank you to the MICA volunteers, MICEC staff, and all the participants who helped make the celebration possible!



Spooky Season Approaches

- October is here, and the Recreation Team is gearing up for the Town Center Trick-or-Treat event! Local business registrations are steadily rolling in alongside activity prep and decoration planning.
- Community Coffee will feature seasonal highlights in mid-October, including Pumpkin Spice Week and fall treats.



SENIOR SEMINARS

- September’s Senior Social Seminar was a huge success, bringing out 60 community members!
- October will mark our final seminar of the year, and we are already gearing up for 2027!



SENIOR SOCIAL SEMINARS

Seminar Series, rotating monthly, consisting of informative and engaging topics in a supportive and social setting.

 Last Tuesday of the month (April - November)

 Presentations begin at 10:00am, FREE

 Complimentary Coffee, Tea & Light Snack

 Mercer Island Community & Event Center

More Information at:

www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/recreation-programs



The City of Mercer Island does not endorse organizations, products, or services presented in these seminars.

SCHEDULE

APRIL 28TH
Your Senior Tech
Digital Safety & How to Spot a Scam

MAY 26TH
Neil Kelly Company
Multigenerational Housing, Building Community, ADUs & DADUs.

JUNE 30TH
AARP Washington
DECLUTTERING WORKSHOP

JULY 28TH
Your Senior Tech
Digital Safety & How to Spot a Scam

AUGUST 25TH
End of Life Washington
End of Life Ready: An Intro to Advance Planning and your End-of-Life Options

SEPTEMBER 29TH
MOLLY RAPOZO, MS, RDN
Pacific Neuroscience Institute
Food, Mood & Function

OCTOBER 27TH
Silver Age Senior Living Advisors
Planning Ahead: Navigating Senior Living and Care Options with Confidence



BLUE FRIDAYS

- Every Friday, we offer a small celebration at MICEC to send the Seahawks off to their weekend game, including games, treats, and activities.
- Keep an eye out for upcoming events as we cheer on our Seahawks, we are all the 12th Man!

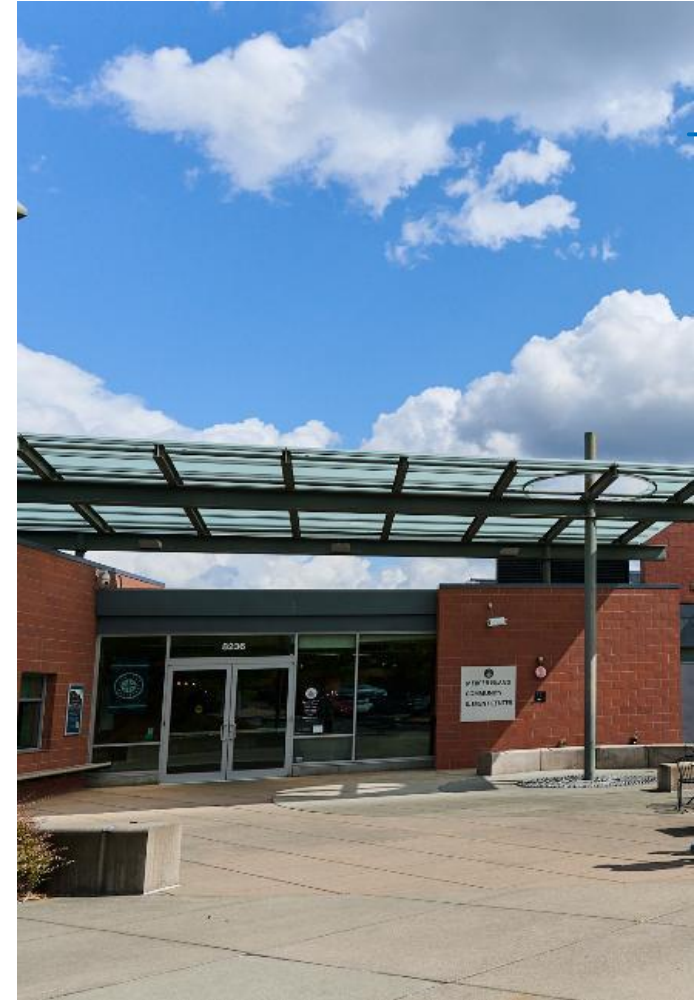


Item 1.



Planning Commission Recruitment Underway

- A recruitment for the Planning Commission is now underway through October 9, 2026.
- We are looking for a volunteer to fill a vacant position.
- Learn more and apply at www.mercerisland.gov/bc.



Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

Item 1.

- **Oct 29 SPECIAL MEETING**

- Joint PRC/OSCT: E-Bikes in Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces
Community Outreach Campaign Findings

- **Nov 5**

- Bylaws Review
- Parks Capital Project Update

- **Dec 7 SPECIAL MEETING**

- Joint PRC/OSCT/Arts Council: PROS Plan Kick off Meeting



Thank you!



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

2026 PLANNING SCHEDULE

Items are not listed in any particular order.
Agenda items & meeting dates are subject to change.

REMINDER: NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

OCT TBD- SPECIAL JOINT-MEETING 5:00 PM Absences:		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	PRC 26-14: E-Bikes in Parks	Ryan Daly / Amelia Tjaden	

NOV 5, 5:00 PM Absences:		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	PRC 26-XX: Bylaws Review	Ryan Daly	
	PRC 26-XX: Parks Capital Project Update	Kellye Hilde	

DEC. TBD-RESCHEDULE AS JOINT-MEETING WITH ARTS COUNCIL & OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST Absences:		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	PRC 26-XX: PROS Plan Update- Intro	Shelby Perrault	

Pending:

Project - Proposal for Year-round programming at Luther Burbank (2026)
PRC 26-XX: MICEC Fee Waiver Policy (Tentative- may move to 2027)

ANNUAL AGENDA ITEMS

KCLS - Mercer Island Branch Operations Update (May)
Annual PRC Chair/Vice-Chair Elections (June)
Annual Bylaws Review (June)
Recreation Division Annual Report



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MINUTES September 3, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Hay at 5:03 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chair Ashley Hay, and Commissioners Peter Struck, Don Cohen, Mar Brettmann, Jason Sanio, and Damon Jacobson were present. City Council Liaison Craig Reynolds was present.

Vice Chair Sara Marxen was absent.

Interim Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Director Ryan Daly, and Deputy City Clerk Raven Gillis were present.

APPEARANCES

Lauren Alexander addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club
 Sarah Gunnels addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club
 Sheamin Kim addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club
 Erik Brand addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club
 Heidi Mills addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club
 Shannon Leversedge addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club
 Jessica Apodaca addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club
 Karina Bickle addressed the PRC regarding the Mercer Island Rowing Club

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. Staff Liaison Report & Planning Schedule Update

Interim Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Director Ryan Daly reported on the following:

- Project Updates
 - E-Bikes in Parks & Open Spaces
 - Luther Burbank Park Dock and Waterfront Improvements Bid Award
- Programs/Events
 - Summer Recap
 - MICA Mid-Autumn Festival at the MICEC
 - MIVAL Art Workshop
- Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 4, 2026, Regular Hybrid Meeting were presented.

It was moved by Sanio; seconded by Brettmann to:

Approve the minutes from June 4, 2026, Regular Hybrid Meeting.

Passed: 6 – 0

4. PRC 26-12: King County Library System Mercer Island Branch – Annual Update

Interim Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Director Ryan Daly and KCLS Staff presented. Commissioners received the report, offered feedback, and asked questions.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Absences and Commissioner Reports

Chair Hay asked for a motion to excuse Vice Chair Marxen's absence.

It was moved by Struck; seconded by Brettmann to:

Excuse Vice Chair Marxen's absence from the meeting.

Passed: 6 – 0

ADJOURNMENT at 6:10 pm



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC26-13
October 1, 2026
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC26-13: 2026 Summer Recap	☒ Discussion Only ☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive Report	

STAFF:	Katie Herzog, Interim Recreation Manager
EXHIBITS:	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) with a summary of the 2026 summer season and an update regarding recreation camps, programs, special events, ballfield and park use, and MICEC facility rentals.

BACKGROUND

The summer season represents one of the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department's busiest periods of the year. The City of Mercer Island provides a wide range of recreation programs, camps, community events, facility rentals, and services designed to meet the needs and interests of residents of all ages. The season also brings increased participation and facility use, requiring significant coordination among staff to ensure programs, events, and services are delivered safely, efficiently, and successfully.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Tonight staff will provide a presentation on outcomes of the 2026 summer season. The presentation will include an overview of program participation and facility utilization, as well as highlights from recreation programs, camps, special events, and other seasonal activities. Staff will also share key accomplishments and examples of community engagement throughout the summer.

This recap provides an opportunity to reflect on the Department's summer operations and overall community participation, while highlighting the breadth of programs and services offered during one of the Department's most active seasons. Staff will highlight key activities and outcomes from the summer including:

- Summer Camps: Served approximately 1,172 participants through 11 different camp providers.
- Programs: Summer programs included Letterboxing in Pioneer Park and The Legend of the Sinking Island Treasure Hunt through Luther Burbank Park, Sing with Our Kids, Music Together, Open Art Studio, MIVAL Gallery & Reception, MIVAL art classes, Community Coffee Celebrates, and Senior Social Seminars, in addition to drop-in activities
- Community special events: The City's coordinated events included Summer Celebration, 5 weeks of Mostly Music in the Park, Pride in the Park, 14 Shakespeare performances, and Arts on the Island weekend. Events brought residents together, provided family-friendly activities, and strengthened community engagement.
- Ballfield rentals: City ballfields supported approximately 2,400 bookings or 7,946 rental hours (April – August) for local leagues, teams, tournaments, and community groups.

- Picnics and Permits: Over the summer, the City supported 145 picnic rentals in designated picnic areas, along with 55 special event permits. These permits included private gatherings, City-sponsored activities, and public events held within City parks, reflecting continued community use of park spaces for a variety of events and activities.
- Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) facility rentals: MICEC hosted approximately 926 facility rentals, which included a wide range of celebrations, meetings, and events and another 97 City meeting bookings (April – August). Together that accounted for 4,008 rental hours at the facility.

Rowing Club- Pilot Program

The Mercer Island Rowing Club partnered with the City of Mercer Island to provide a pilot-program in Luther Burbank Park. This program was offered on a seasonal agreement in the same format as other summer camp programs. Overall, this summer program was a success with the program operating from 5:00am – 10:00am, when park use is generally lower, helping reduce conflicts with other recreational activities and preserve public access during peak-use periods.

Recreation staff are currently completing a review of the program and will be evaluating possible future program offerings in the same format as 2026.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will present the 2026 Annual Report to the PRC in Q1 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

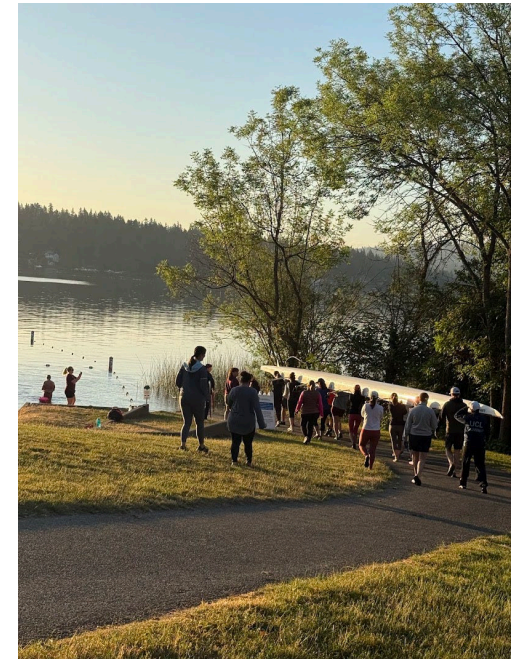
Receive Report



2026 SUMMER RECAP

SUMMER CAMPS

- 11 PARTNERED CAMPS
 - 7 RETURNING FROM 2025; 4 NEW FOR 2026
- 1,172 CAMPERS REGISTERED
- EXCEED THE \$60,000 REVENUE GOAL BY \$19,066!



SUMMER CAMPS

MICEC Rooms used for camps

Average of 2 rooms used every week for 9 weeks for camps and 4 weeks of Gym

Park Spaces used for camps

- Aubrey Davis A - 5 weeks
- Luther Burbank Beach (Rowing) - 10 weeks
- Homestead Tennis Courts - 8 weeks
- Homestead South Field - 7 weeks
- SMP 2 - 3 weeks
- SMP 3 - 2 weeks
- SMP Batting Cages - 2 weeks
- SMP Turf East - 2 weeks
- IMS Track & Turf - 1 week

Challenges /Successes

ROWING CAMP- Pilot Program

Item 3.

Built with staff coordination, clear operating guidelines, and low-impact footprint for park users.

Staff Coordination

- Site review, operational planning, and internal coordination for permits
- Program design and safety planning
- Instructor alignment, communications, logistics
- On-site meetings, monitoring

Location & Timing

- Luther Burbank Swim Beach
- Camp Hours: Monday – Friday, 5 – 10AM
- Scheduled to avoid peak passive-use periods at the park and beach area

Guidelines & Requirements

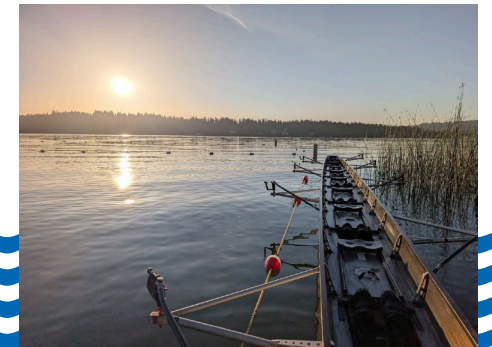
- Defined participant capacity and supervised activity
- Required safety procedures, equipment, and emergency protocols
- Clear setup/breakdown expectations and site stewardship

Successful Pilot: The rowing camp pilot was successfully implemented, demonstrating that the program can operate effectively within the park setting.

Ready to Continue: We have the staffing and operational resources to offer the program again next year in the same capacity.

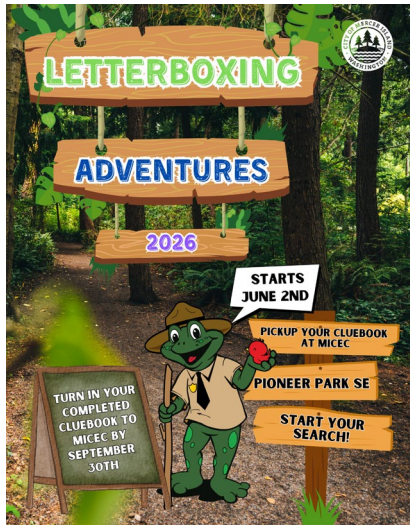
Responsive to Park Planning: Future offerings will consider the long-term vision and planned improvements for Luther Burbank Park.

Park-Wide Perspective: Decisions about the program will be made in the context of how the park functions as a whole, including recreation, open space, access, and passive park use.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

- Letterboxing & Legend of the Sinking Island
- MIVAL Gallery & Reception
- MIVAL Art Classes
- Community Coffee
- Sing With Our Kids
- Music Together
- Open Art Studio
- Senior Social Seminars
- Morning Mahjong Club



P-Patch

- 63 current plot participants
 - 10 new participants were added this year, off the waitlist
 - Currently, there are 3 vacant spots
-
- ❖ *Riot Games delivers used espresso grounds to boost and support gardener's soil.*
 - ❖ *Two new hose reels were replaced to maintain water access throughout the garden.*
 - ❖ *16 people remain on the waitlist*
 - ❖ *Plastic fencing must be removed by end of the year as per the program guidelines*
 - ❖ *Staff is working on updates to program guidelines for the next season*



SPECIAL EVENTS

Item 3.

- SUMMER CELEBRATION
- SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK
- MMIP & PRIDE IN THE PARK
- ARTS ON THE ISLAND WEEKEND



SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Strong Attendance:** Events attracted high participation and consistent community interest throughout the summer.
- **Positive Community Feedback:** Participants shared enthusiastic feedback about the quality, variety, and overall experience of the events.
- **Smooth Execution:** Events were delivered successfully with effective planning, coordination, and on-site management.
- **Seafair Support:** Staff supported Seafair operations by staffing Groveland Beach to accommodate overflow activity and help ensure a safe, well-managed experience for visitors.
- **FIFA Match Day Operations:** To support FIFA match days in Seattle, no programs, events, or rentals were scheduled on match days, helping reduce additional activity and traffic impacts.
 - **Community Parking:** The MICEC parking lot was designated as **free parking for residents** and **paid parking for non-residents** on match days. We made \$XX in parking fees.
 - **Staff Support:** Staff managed parking operations at the MICEC lot on match days, helping coordinate access, parking, and the overall visitor experience.



Item 3.



FIELD BOOKINGS

Item 3.

April–August Field Rentals

- 2,400 bookings
- 7,946.25 rental hours
- + 145 Picnic Rentals
- + 55 Special Event Permits Issued

Athletic Fields 2026 20% Summer Discount

Used 179 times across 75 unique contracts

- Usage increased 20% compared with 2025

Non-city camps?

New renters?

Resident groups?



MICEC

Item 3.

April–August MICEC Rentals

926 rental bookings + 97 additional City meeting bookings
3,663.25 rental hours + 345.5 additional City meeting hours

MICEC 2026 20% Summer Discount

Applied 167 times

- Usage increased 23% compared with 2025
- Renters, Residents?
- How many weddings, etc. special things



Drop-Ins & Fitness Room

Item 3.

Participation

- April–August participation: 9,540
- Current average participation: 84 participants per day
- 68% of all Drop-In Sports and Fitness Room participants are residents

Fitness Room

- Most utilized individual activity
- Represents approximately 35% of all recorded Drop-In Sports and Fitness Room participation

Drop-In Sports

- Pickleball, Volleyball, and SAIL are essentially the three highest-participation activities
- Together, they represent approximately 66% of all non-Fitness Room drop-in participation

SAIL

- Represents approximately 22% of attendance excluding the Fitness Room
- 88% of SAIL participants are residents



Teamwork!

Item 3.

