

# 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.)

## *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 <sup>st</sup> – December 31 <sup>st</sup>

# 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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Reconfigure Project

- 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 to 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 78<sup>th</sup> Ave median will remain lit through **mid-March**
- Mercerdale hedges, tree, and the blue/green lights in the 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:publicworks@mercerisland.gov)





# Mercer Island Parks & Recreation

**Thank You!**