

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.

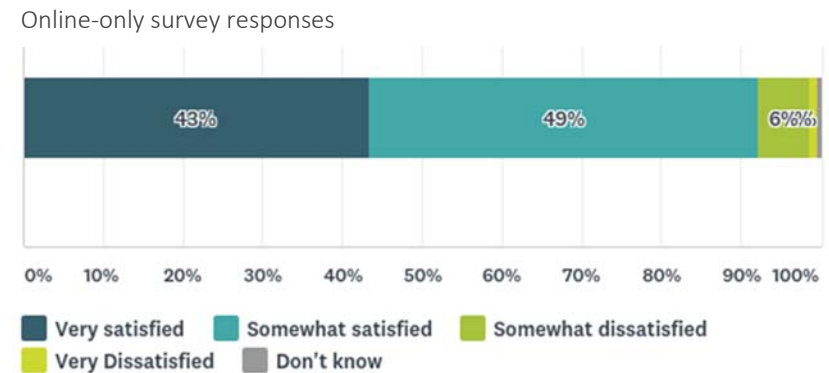
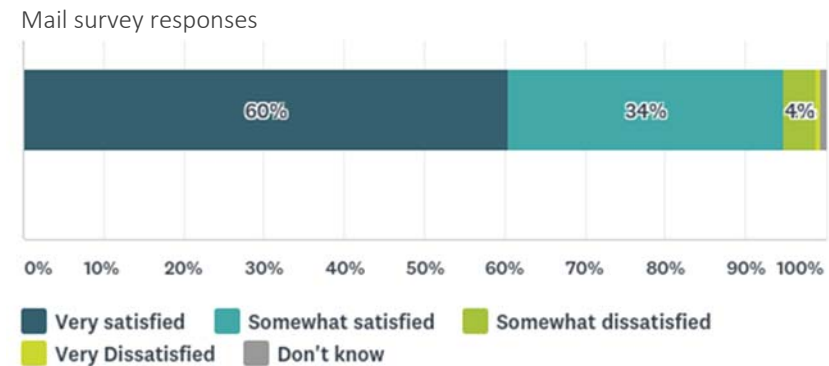
1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Mercer Island, would you say that public parks and recreation opportunities are...

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.

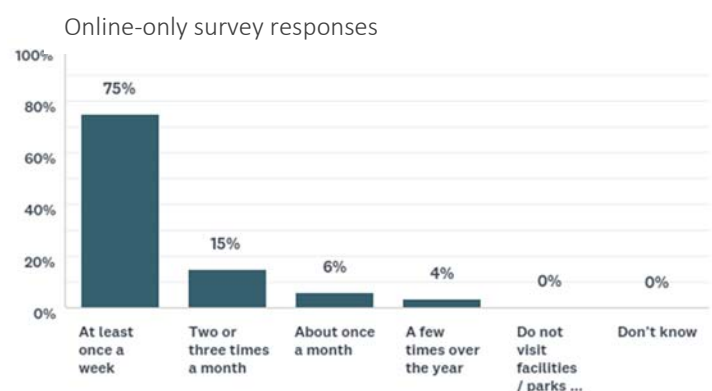
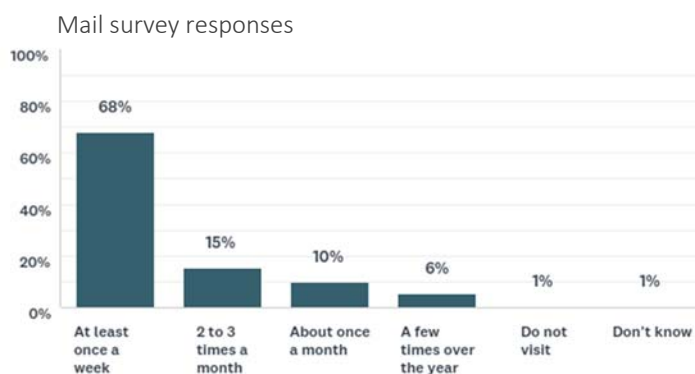


How often do residents use Mercer Island parks & recreation facilities?

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.

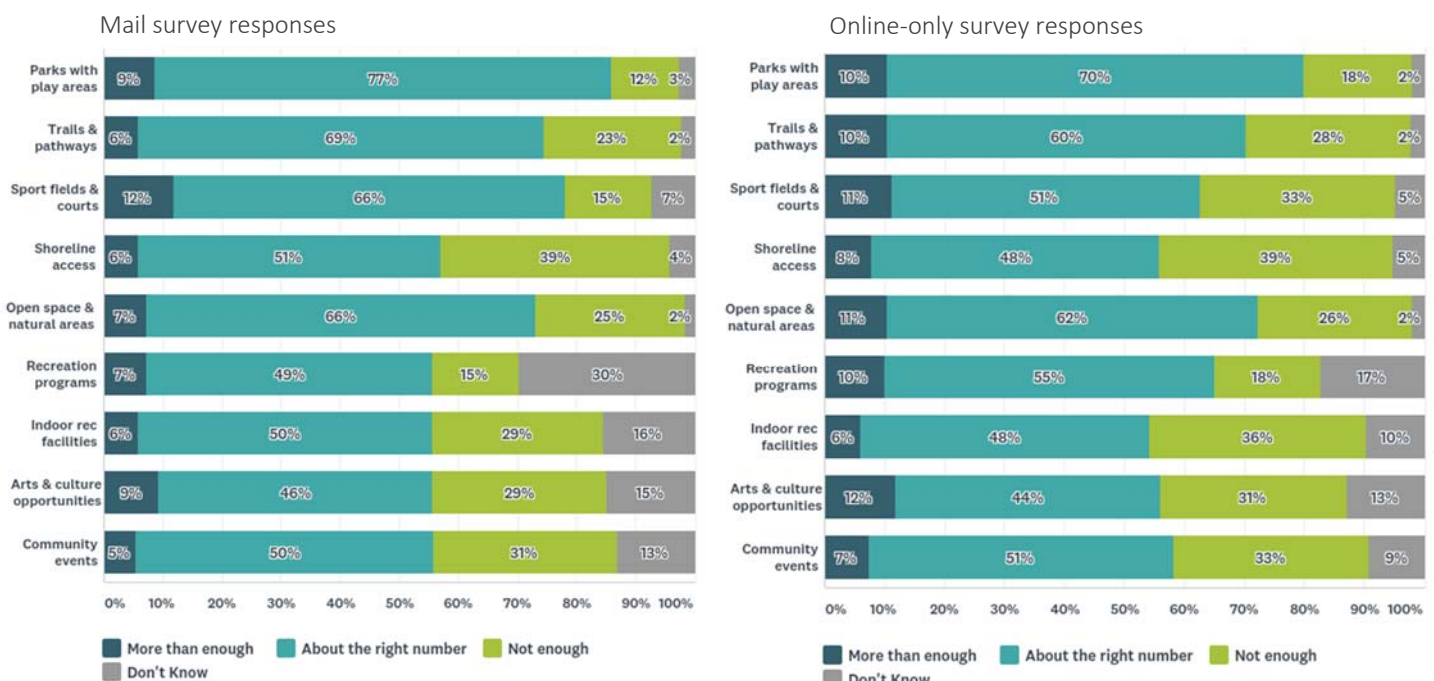
Reason	Mail	Online
None / Does not apply to me	53%	48%
Not enough parking	13%	11%
Use parks or facilities provided by another city or organization	11%	9%
Not enough restrooms	11%	11%
Too busy to go to parks and facilities	9%	8%
Concerns about conflicts with other users	8%	9%
I do not know what is offered	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)
Pedestrian trails Mail: 50% / 56% Online: 55% / 51%	- 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%	- 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.

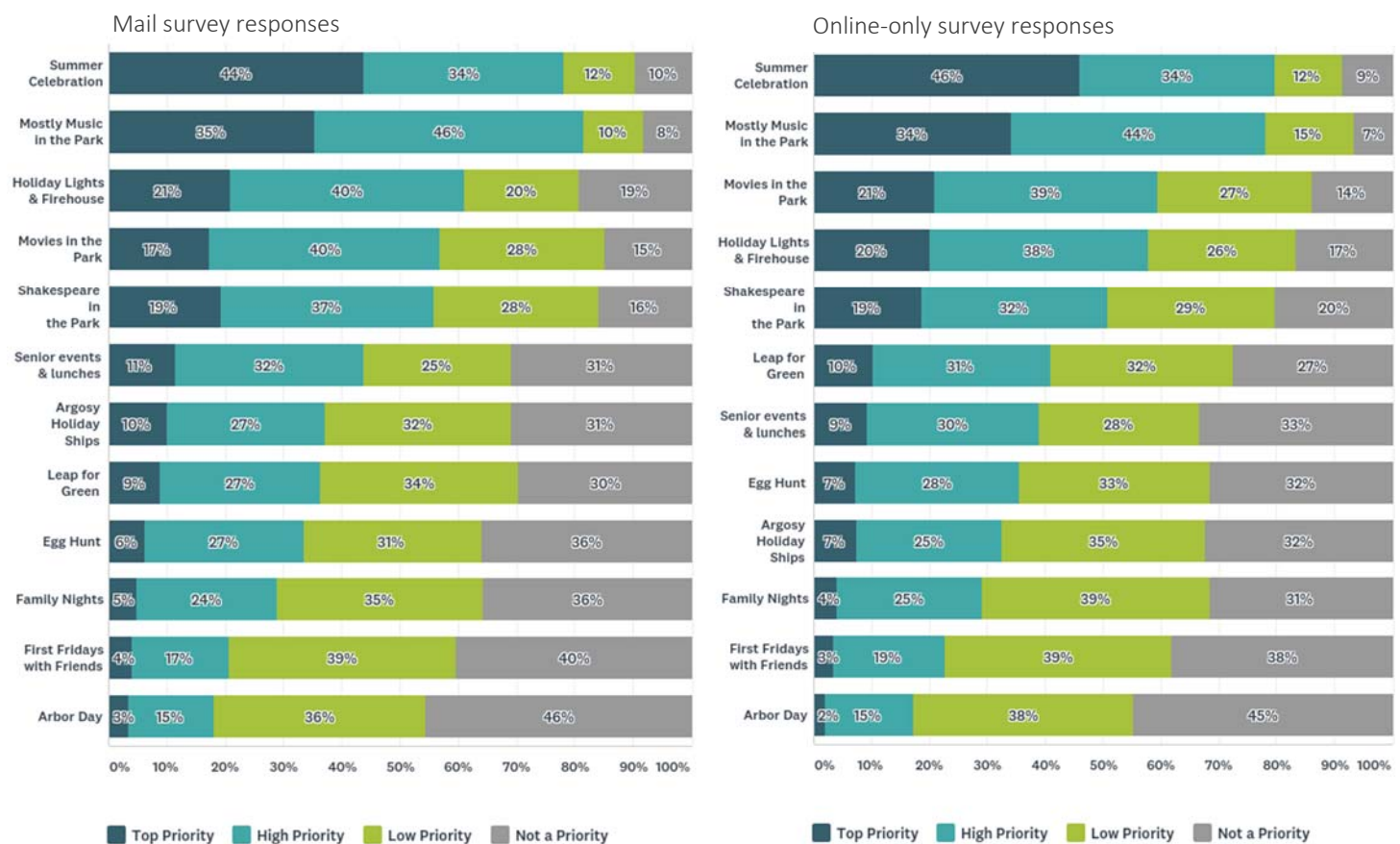
8. Please indicate how will your household needs are met locally for each of the existing **programs and activities** and indicate if you have an interest in each...

Higher interest but well met (% who need more / % well met or n/a)	Moderate interest and well met (% who need more / % well met or n/a)	Lower interest and well met (% who need more / % well met or n/a)
- 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%	- 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%	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.

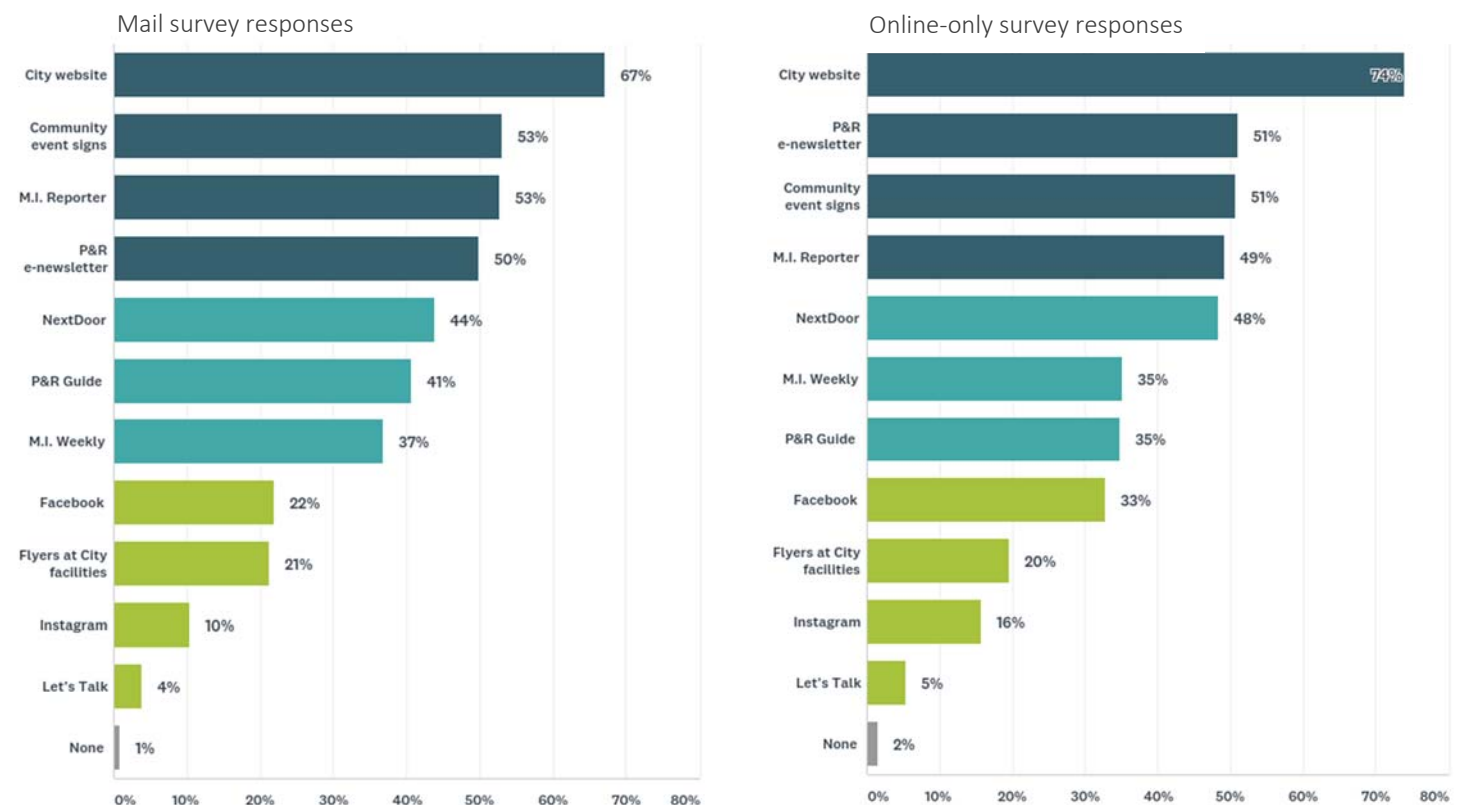


How do residents want to hear about Mercer Island's parks, facilities, and events?

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

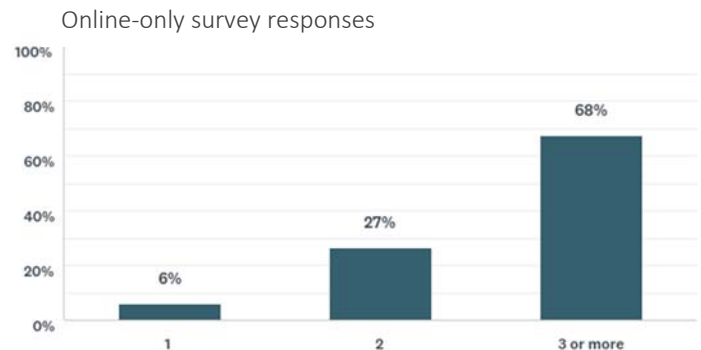
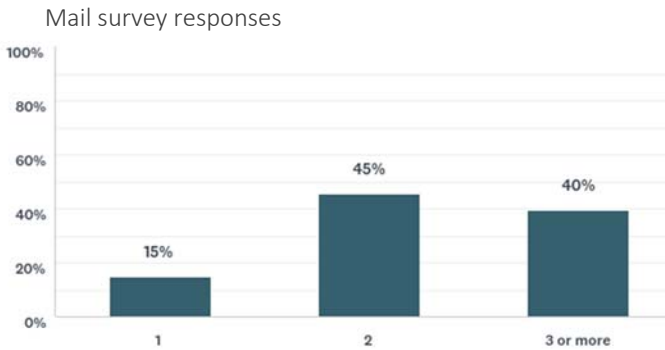
The survey provided respondents with two opportunities to share their ideas and suggestions via open-ended responses. Common themes from these comments include:

- 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

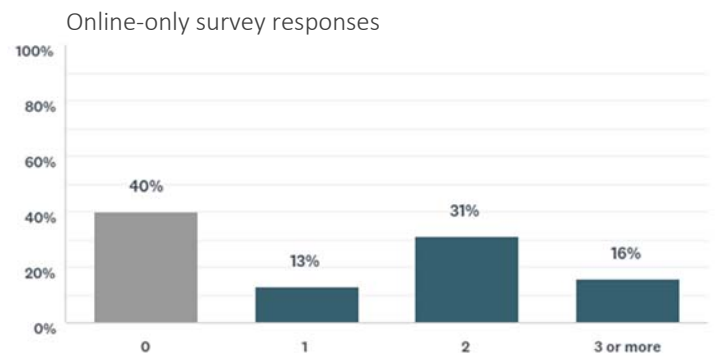
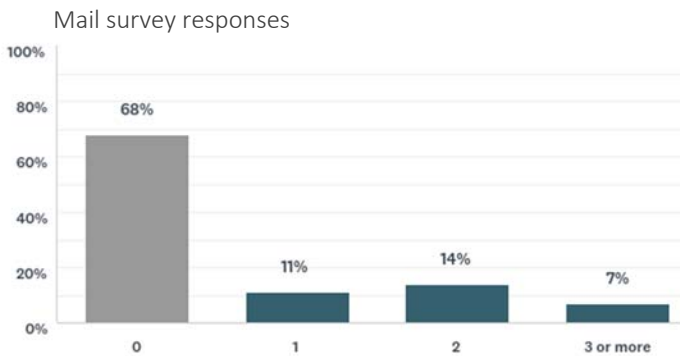
Number of People in Household

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.



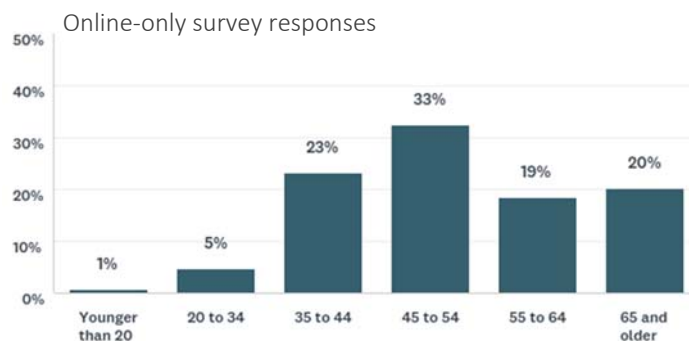
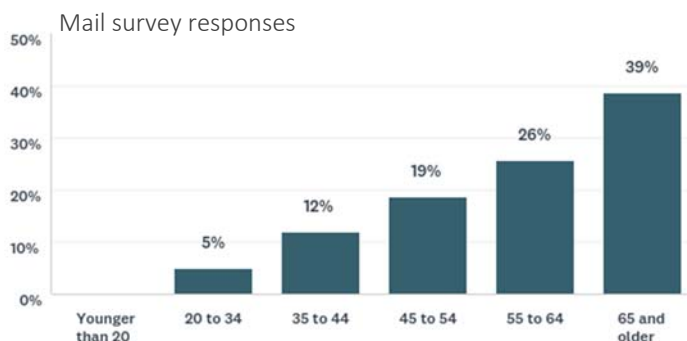
Number of Children in Household

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.



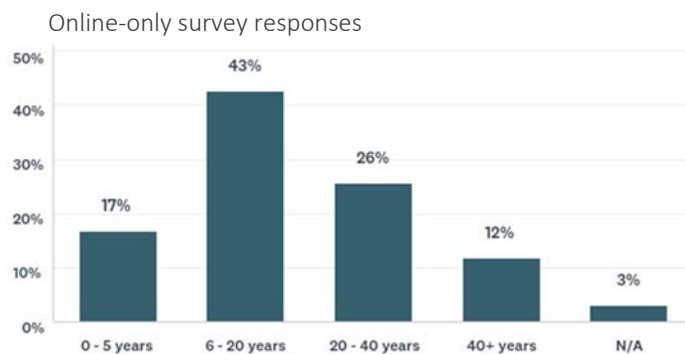
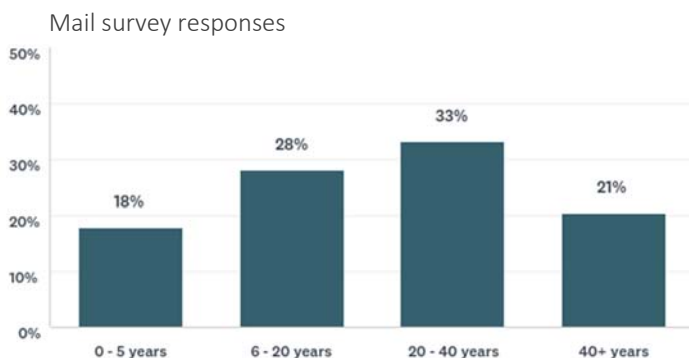
Age

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.



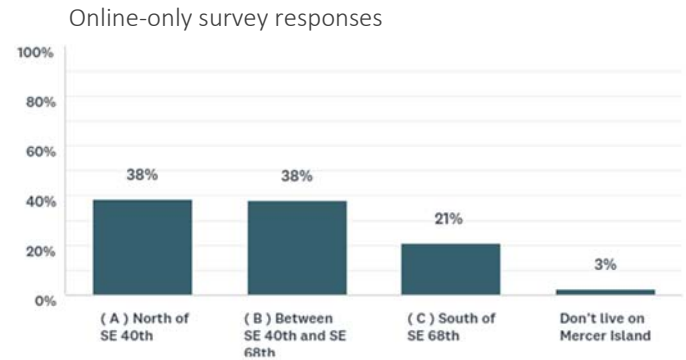
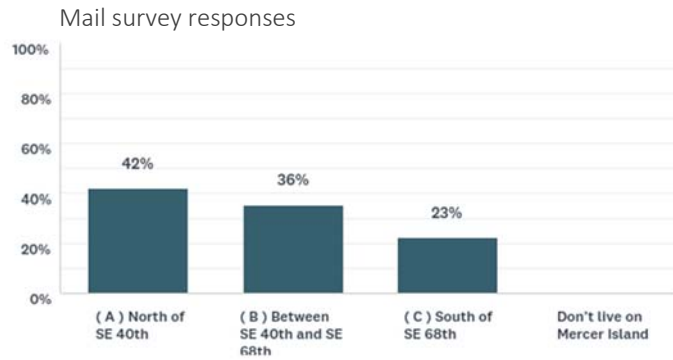
Length of Residence

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.

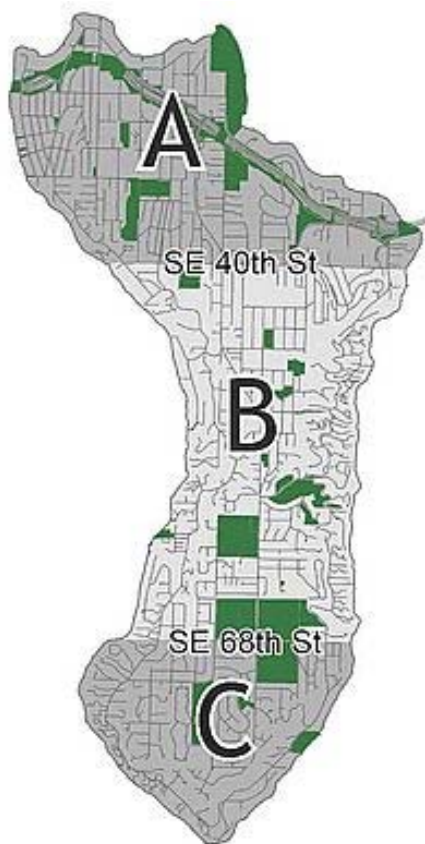


Location of Residence

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	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trails & pathways	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sport fields & sport courts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shoreline access	☐	☐	☐	☐
Open space & natural areas	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recreation programs (camps & classes)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Indoor recreation facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Arts & culture opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Community events	☐	☐	☐	☐

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: _____ |

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.

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

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Very Satisfied | ☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied |
| ☐ Somewhat Satisfied | ☐ Very Dissatisfied |
| | ☐ 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)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Picnic shelters / small gathering spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Boating / watersports facilities (docks, boat launch, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Basketball courts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Paddle / racquet sport courts (tennis, pickleball)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor fitness equipment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bike trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pedestrian trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Off-leash dog areas (enclosed dog parks)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Skate park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sport fields for baseball, softball	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sport fields for soccer, football, lacrosse	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lighted sport fields	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Synthetic turf fields	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer or softball	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Boating programs, such as sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding or rowing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Children's activities, such as after-school programs or summer day camps	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety or health	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outdoor classes, such as fishing, environmental or orienteering	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Performing arts, such as community theater or concerts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips or health	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Programs for youth, teens and young adults with special needs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Swimming & water safety, such as classes or for fitness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Teen activities, such as drop-in, trips or camps during school breaks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts or crafts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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	☐	☐	☐	☐
Argosy Holiday Ships	☐	☐	☐	☐
Egg Hunt	☐	☐	☐	☐
Family Nights at the Community Center (Around the World, Hoedown, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐
First Fridays with Friends	☐	☐	☐	☐
Holiday Lights & Firehouse Munch	☐	☐	☐	☐
Leap for Green Sustainability Fair	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mostly Music in the Park concerts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Movies in the Park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Senior events & lunches	☐	☐	☐	☐
Shakespeare in the Park	☐	☐	☐	☐
Summer Celebration Festival	☐	☐	☐	☐

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ City website | ☐ Mercer Island Reporter |
| ☐ Community event signs | ☐ Mercer Island Weekly (City e-news) |
| ☐ Facebook | ☐ NextDoor |
| ☐ Flyers at City facilities | ☐ Parks & Recreation e-newsletter |
| ☐ Instagram | ☐ Parks & Recreation Guide publication |
| ☐ Let's Talk | ☐ 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 | ☐ 2 |
| ☐ 1 | ☐ 3 or more |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ 0 | ☐ 2 |
| ☐ 1 | ☐ 3 or more |

15. What is your age?

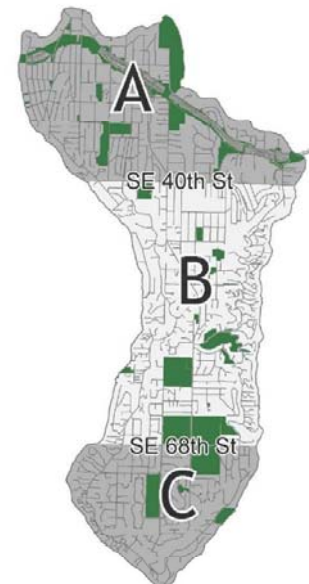
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Younger than 20 | ☐ 45 to 54 |
| ☐ 20 to 34 | ☐ 55 to 64 |
| ☐ 35 to 44 | ☐ 65 and older |

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

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

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ (A) North of SE 40th | ☐ (C) South of SE 68th |
| ☐ (B) Between SE 40th and 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

- 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

- 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/lightail. 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

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.

- 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.

- 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

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!

- 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're 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 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 wear 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 waste, 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 host 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.

- 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.