



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6236
March 7, 2023
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6236: Bike Skills Area 30% Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the 30% design and authorize staff to complete the project.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Director Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	1. Bike Skills Area 30% Design 2. Summary of Community Outreach for 30% Design Development
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 75,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 75,000
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 0

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to present the 30% Design for a new Bike Skills Area facility at Deane’s Children’s Park (Exhibit 1) and to seek authorization for completing the design and proceeding with construction.

- On July 19, 2022, the City Council appropriated \$75,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to support the design of a new Bike Skills Area facility at Deane’s Children’s Park ([AB 6120](#)).
- The City retained American Ramp Company to develop the 30% design, which was informed by community feedback gathered through two community meetings, two online surveys, three Parks & Recreation Commission meetings, and Let’s Talk.
- The Parks & Recreation Commission approved the 30% design on February 2, 2023. **On March 2, 2023, the PRC endorsed the west trail as the preferred option to access the Bike Skills Area.**
- The City Council approved a \$302,500 project budget in the 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program to construct the new bike skills area (PA0165). Staff anticipate construction will be completed Q3 of 2023.
- On Tuesday, staff will seek the City Council’s approval of the 30% design and authorization to complete the design and proceed with construction.

BACKGROUND

The Bike Skills Area (BSA), formerly known as the BMX park, was originally created by neighborhood riders in the 1970s in the Upper Luther Burbank Park area. Over the years, increased use and unauthorized expansion of the facility caused damage and degradation to the surrounding hillsides and vegetation. The City closed the BSA in October 2021 to restore vegetation and evaluate whether Upper Luther Burbank Park could safely and sustainably serve as a BSA location.

Through July 2022 staff and the Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) engaged the community in determining the best path forward for a BSA facility. The City completed a site assessment of the Upper Luther Burbank Park area, and the community provided input via an active Let's Talk page, two community surveys, a public meeting, and other methods. After discussing the issue over the course of three regular PRC meetings and several subcommittee meetings, the PRC recommended that Deane's Children's Park be selected as the site for a new BSA facility.

On July 19, 2022, the City Council accepted the PRC's recommendation and appropriated \$75,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to design a new BSA facility at Deane's. (More background details provided in [AB 6120](#) and on [Let's Talk](#).)

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

In October 2022, American Ramp Company was retained to lead the public engagement process and develop the 30% design for a new BSA facility at Deane's Children's Park. Community members were invited to provide feedback throughout the 30% design process through a variety of channels, including:

- Two digital community surveys (369 total responses)
- One on-site community meeting (50+ participants)
- One virtual community meeting (26 participants)
- Let's Talk (2,200 total page visits, October 2022-present)

A summary of community outreach methods and findings is provided as Exhibit 2.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The PRC discussed the 30% design for a BSA over three meetings, paying close attention to how the design would mitigate impacts on trees and vegetation; prevent park user conflicts and trail congestion in Island Crest Park and surrounding neighborhoods; and, provide rider and spectator safety through a mix of built features, signage, and education. On February 2, 2023, the PRC received the final draft of the 30% design and voted to recommend (3-2, 2 absences) the concept to the City Council for approval.

At the March 2, 2020 PRC meeting, the Commission voted to endorse the west trail as the preferred access to the Bike Skills Area.

On Tuesday, staff will present the recommended 30% design to the City Council and seek authorization to complete the project with construction anticipated later this summer/fall.

NEXT STEPS

During the next stages of the design process, a few elements will continue to be studied and fine-tuned. These include selecting the preferred location for the BSA entrance path and identifying additional measures to mitigate user conflicts on the surrounding trails in Island Crest Park. Staff will continue to engage the community in resolving these design elements and will publish future opportunities to comment on Let's Talk. This project is tentatively scheduled to commence construction in late summer/early fall 2023. The design team is also identifying ways to engage community volunteers to assist with building elements of the final design.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the 30% design of the Bike Skills Area at Deane's Children's Park and authorize staff to complete the project.