

Parks & Recreation Commission



Department Report
November 4, 2021

Hallo~Weekend (Recap)

- It was a Happy Hallow-Weekend here in Mercer Island!
- Businesses took part in a trick-or-treat event in Town Center along with live music sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Thanks to all of the businesses who participated and families who turned out!



Drop~in Attendance is BOOMING!

DAILY VISITS BY ACTIVITY EACH MONTH						
Month	Pickleball	Basketball	Volleyball	Badminton	Art Exhibit	Total
August	67	27	91	45	0	230
September	169	16	142	182	0	509
Sept vs. Aug	152%	-41%	56%	304%		121%
October	399	154	266	258	27	1104
Oct vs. Sept	136%	863%	87%	42%		117%
November	36	14	15	9	0	74
December						0
2021	671	211	514	494	27	1917

- The updated play schedule is a direct result of customer feedback.
- Staff is developing schedules for 2022.
- Visit www.mercerisland.gov/playsafe for details about the drop-in schedule.

MICEC Health and Safety Requirements

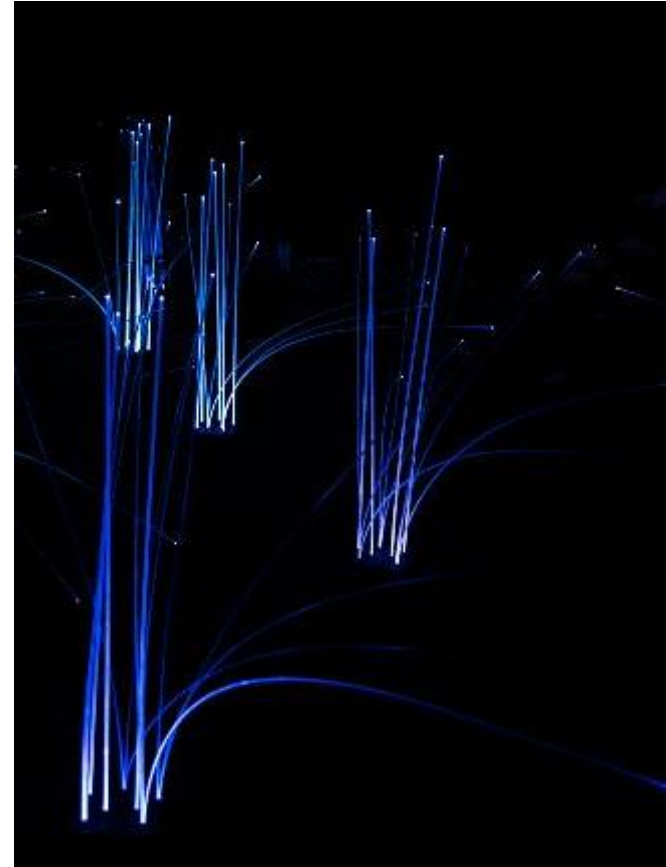
- In accordance with the King County business vaccine verification requirement, **patrons must be prepared to show proof of full vaccination status or proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test** within the last 72 hours.
- Individuals under **12 years of age**, are not yet required to be tested for entry.
- Documentation will need to be provided **each time** you attend an MICEC program or access the facility. The City will not save vaccination status/records.



Prairie of Possibilities

- See **Mercerdale Park** transform into an enchanted landscape of light and music this week with *The Prairie of Possibilities*, a temporary light art installation by The Moonlight Collective.
- Walk through a field of thousands of glowing fiber-optic “prairie grasses”, all animated by music.
- Rain or shine, and masks are required.
- More details at <https://www.moonlightcollective.studio/>
- Thanks to 4Culture and the Mercer Island Arts Council for supporting this light art “event.”

Friday-Sunday, November 5-7, from 6-10pm.



Illuminate MI 2021

The lights will return to Town Center and in coordination with local businesses and event partners this month!

- **Lights have started to be installed in Town Center and will be finished by Thanksgiving weekend. New in 2021 - lighting to the Outdoor Sculpture Gallery and the Thrift Store this year!**
- **Events taking place throughout the month of December include:**
 - An Island Scavenger Hunt,
 - Storybook Walk in Mercerdale Park,
 - YFS Foundation Tree Lot,
 - Letters to Santa,
 - Menorah lighting,
 - JCC Lit Up,
 - MIHS Choir performance,
 - Girl Scout's Toys for Tots collection
 - Ongoing weekend entertainment



Illuminate MI 2021 (Cont).

We need your help!

- The City is soliciting MI businesses, non-profits, organizations, and clubs to participate.
- Have questions or ideas? Contact Katie Herzog at Katie.Herzog@merceraisland.gov
- Interested in donating? Visit www.micommunityfund.org/donatenow

HUGE THANK YOU to our early sponsors:

- **John L. Scott:** \$3,000
- **Island Books:** \$3000
- **The JCC:** \$1,000
- **The Mercer Island Community Fund:** \$1,500...and supporting donation processing.



Upper Luther Bike Skills Area

- Bike Skills Area closed temporarily on October 7th (approx. 6 months).
 - Significant negative impact to the area by unauthorized expansion.
 - Damage to soils and vegetation
 - Construction of jumps exceeding park rules.
- Mike McIntyre, Principal at Action Sports Design, visited the site on Oct 12th to perform site assessment; his assessment included mapping, drone footage, tour of surrounding area/trails
- City arborist has performed tree assessment for site
- Surveying crew is performing full topographic survey of Bike Skills Area this week
- Public engagement will occur during the closure at **(26 comments to date)** <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/bike-skills-area-at-upper-luther-burbank-park>
- Launched survey for course riders on October 25th; have had great engagement (currently 85 responses); survey closes tonight at midnight
- Next up: Public meeting on Monday, November 15th at 4 pm. Zoom link is posted on Let's Talk page.



Board & Commission Code of Ethics Training

- All Commissioners should have received an email from City Manager Bon regarding the revised code of ethics and the associated training requirement.
- We have the following code of ethics trainings currently scheduled:
 - ~~Tuesday, October 12 – Utility Board at 5:00 pm~~
 - ~~Wednesday, October 13 – Arts Council at 6:30 pm~~
 - ~~Wednesday, October 20 – Planning Commission at 6:00 pm~~
 - ~~Thursday, October 28 – Design Commission at 6:00 pm~~
 - Thursday, November 18 – Open Space Conservancy Trust at 5:00 pm
- Staff will be coordinating with each of you individually to add you to one of the scheduled trainings. We will be limiting each meeting to a max. of 3 Commission members.

Preparing for 2022

- On Nov. 1 the City Council reviewed 2022 budget proposals.
- Staff proposed the a 2022 Recreation Division budget of:
 - \$1.8M expenditures / \$977K in Revenues (53% Cost Recovery)
 - Additionally, a proposal for the return of Summer Celebration was included at \$110K
- This proposal maintains 2021 services and programs, while also significantly expanding access to the MICEC through rentals and drop-in activities.
- City Council expressed support for the proposal. Staff will return to the Council at a future meeting with the proposed amendments to the 2021-2022 biennial budget.

Mercer Island Parks & Recreation

Thank You!