



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

**AB 5904
July 6, 2021
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5904: Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation No. 274	<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:	Mayor Wong proclaims July 2021 as Parks and Recreation Month on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ryan Daly, Operations & Transition Team Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson
EXHIBITS:	1. Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

National Parks and Recreation Month was originally celebrated in the month of June through the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). In July of 1985, the NRPA wanted to engage and accommodate more children with differing school schedules. With the support and endorsement of then Vice-President George H.W. Bush and NFL Hall of Fame running back Walter Payton, NRPA formally recognized the month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month.

In 2009, with bipartisan support, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.Res.288 designating July as National Parks and Recreation Month while acknowledging the societal value of parks and recreation and honoring the vital contributions of employees and volunteers within parks and recreation.

PARKS & RECREATION ON MERCER ISLAND

In 2020 and 2021 the COVID-19 Global Pandemic significantly impacted the lives of all Mercer Islanders. During this period, Island residents sought refuge in their parks, many finding new experiences and relishing the opportunity to be active during such a trying time. Year-round park usage increased, as did the appreciation for Mercer Island’s unique parks and open spaces.

"The Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Division takes pride in providing the highest quality facilities and services in partnership with the community to enhance livability on Mercer Island."

The Parks and Recreation Division now a part of the Public Works Department, assumes a major role in developing a sense of community and enhancing Mercer Island residents’ quality of life by providing recreation and social opportunities to people of all ages. Fundamental to this mission is providing affordable

and ready access to parks, facilities, programs, events, and other social opportunities. The City of Mercer Island has offered nearly 200 recreation programs and events annually and is responsible for operating and maintaining the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), a 42,000 square foot facility, over 475 acres of parks and open space, and more than 30 miles of trails. Partnerships with community agencies, businesses, and other community groups are actively solicited to enhance and support offerings to ensure the largest number of identified community needs are met.

July 2021 will be a restart for the Division after a year of limited activity due to the Pandemic. Summer camps are back, with over 1,100 participants, and the public is now accessing the MICEC, and the Arts Council is planning for the Mostly Music in the Park concert series later this summer - with so much more on the horizon. Most importantly, our parks, trails, playgrounds, ballfields, picnic shelters, open spaces, and beaches are open and being fully utilized by Islanders.

RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Wong proclaims July 2021 as Parks and Recreation Month on Mercer Island.