



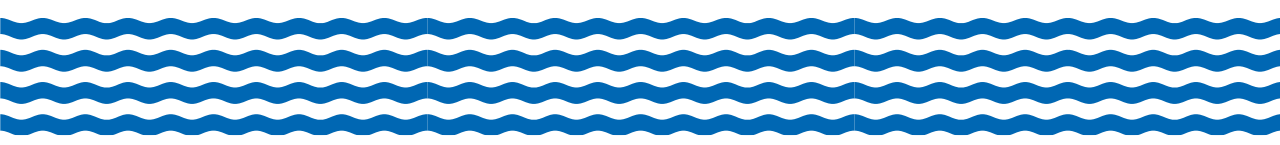
# Overview of Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks Joint Infrastructure Plan

PRC 25-05 | May 1, 2025



# Agenda

- Project Overview
- Preliminary Site Assessments
  - Clarke Beach
  - Groveland Beach
- Background Survey on Community Use
- Next Steps for Planning Effort







# Project Overview



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- The map displays the Groveland Beach Park area, which is highlighted in green and outlined in red. The park is situated between SE 56th St and SE 58th St, and between Northbrook Ln and SE 60th St. The map shows a grid of streets including SE 56th St, SE 57th St, SE 58th St, SE 59th St, SE 60th St, Northbrook Ln, and W Mercer Way. Numerous individual lots are shown with their addresses. An inset map in the top left corner shows the location of the area within the city of Jacksonville.

# Approved Planning Approach

Based on the analysis of existing conditions, the City Council approved staff's recommendation to develop a **Joint Park Infrastructure Plan** for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks.

The Infrastructure Plan will prioritize:

- Repair/replacement of overwater structures
- Shoreline erosion control and stabilization
- Accessibility improvements

Other amenities, such as restrooms, wayfinding/signage, and parking, may be addressed if resources allow.

# What is a Park Infrastructure Plan?

	Park Master Plan	Park Infrastructure Plan
Planning Horizon	Long-term (20+ years)	Near-term (10-12 years)
Scope	Provides a broad and high-level framework to guide park projects.	Identifies and prioritizes specific park renovations/repairs for immediate implementation.
Focus of Community Input	Visionary – <i>What should the park be in the future?</i>	Practical and focused on needs for existing infrastructure and uses.  <i>What does the park need now?</i>
Output	Conceptual designs and goals for future project development.	Schematic design and cost estimate to initiate design development.



# Challenges of Renovating Waterfront

1. Balancing recreational offerings and beach uses.
2. Navigating a strict regulatory environment.
3. Costs for reinvestment in waterfront infrastructure.



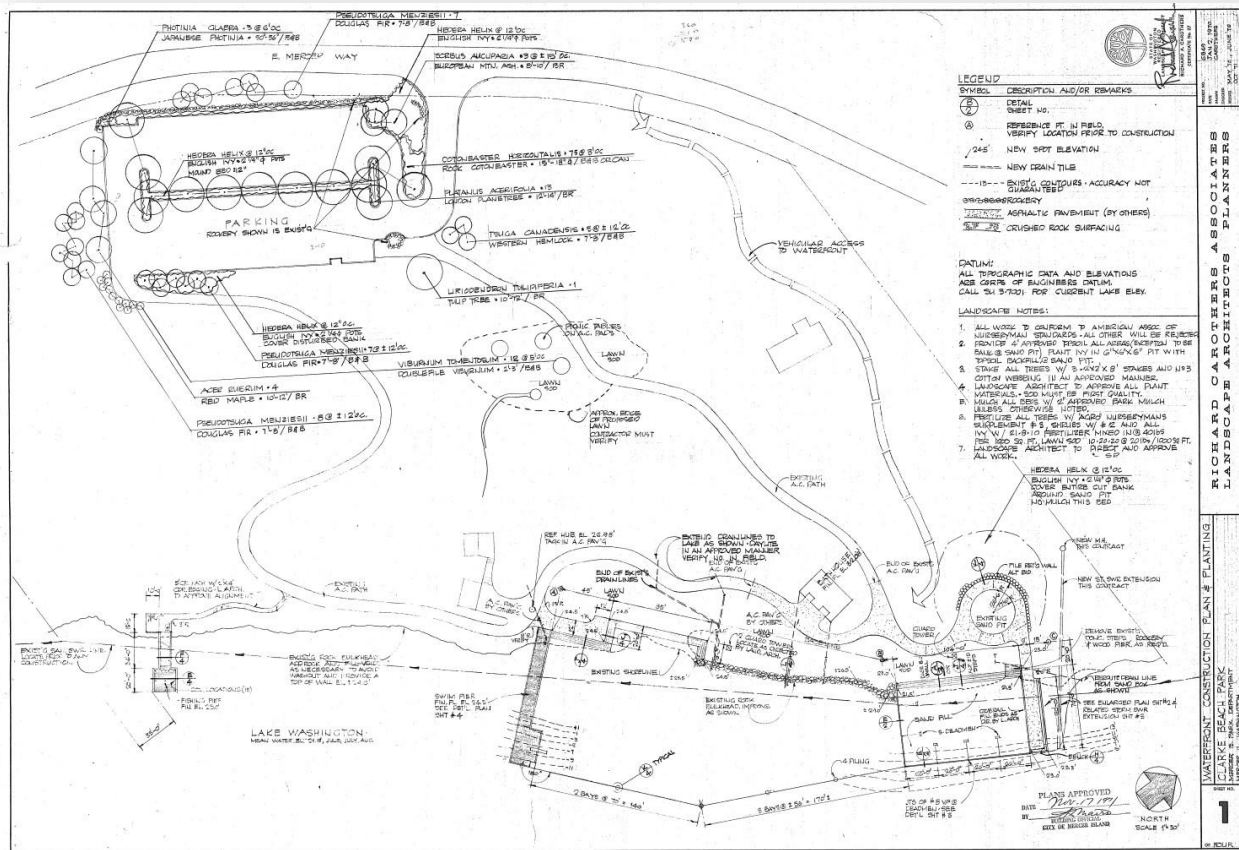
# Anticipated Permitting Requirements

Agency	Environmental Policy / Approval
City of Mercer Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Environmental Policy Act Review (SEPA)</li><li>• Critical Areas Review (Likely Level 2)</li><li>• Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, Shoreline Conditional Use Permit, and Shoreline Variance</li><li>• Compliance with MICC 19.10 Trees (as part of Building Permit)</li><li>• Other City approvals</li></ul>
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)	Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)
Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)	Section 404/10 Clean Water Act Authorizations
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC)</li><li>• Coastal Zone Management Consistency (CZM)</li><li>• National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit</li></ul>
Tribes	Tribes may comment on the project via the SEPA, Corps, Ecology permits, or HPA.



# Analysis of Existing Conditions

- Topographic and bathymetric surveys and delineation of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM)
- Condition assessments of in-water structures, including docks, swim enclosures, and concrete bulkheads
- Critical area reconnaissance and geotechnical data review
- Accessibility audit of restroom facilities



1971 As-Built for Clarke Beach Park



# Preliminary Site Assessments

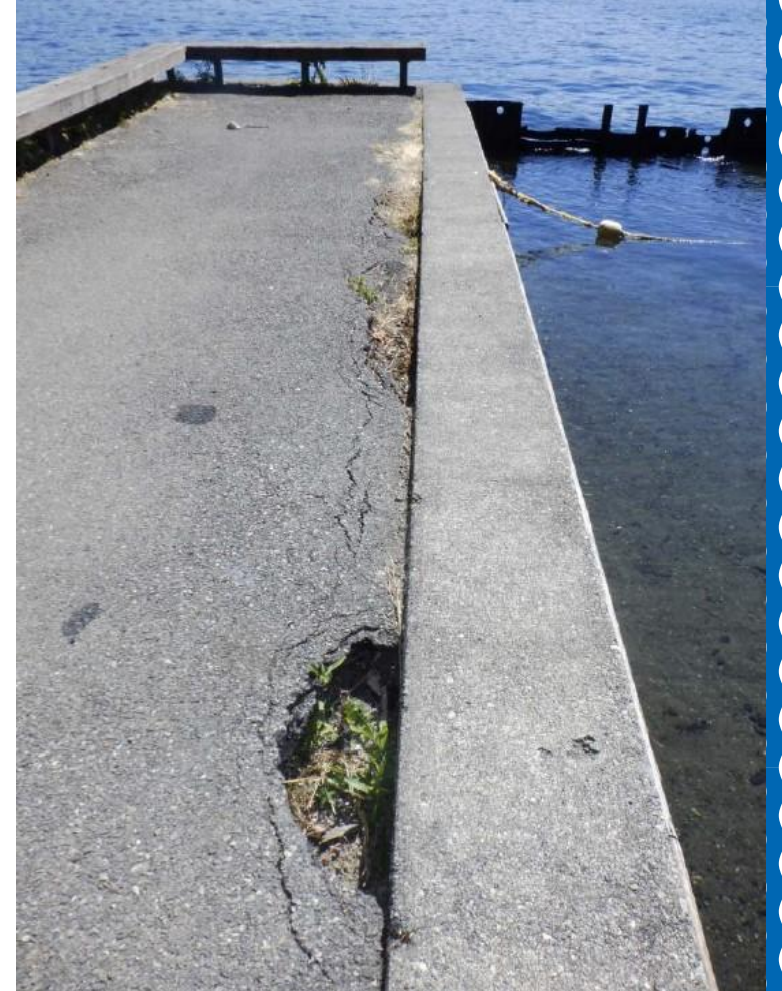


# In-Water Conditions at Clarke Beach

- In-water structures include:
  - Enclosed Swim Area – concrete stairs, concrete and timber pier, sheet pile wall
  - Open Swimming Area – mooring piles for buoy line, timber pier, concrete stairs
- Structures have reached the end of their useful life, including degradation of the concrete stairs, timber piles, and sheet pile wall.
  - Timber: fungal decay and degradation
  - Concrete: spalling, undermining, and voiding compromise structural integrity
  - Steel components: strength likely impacted by corrosion



# In-Water Conditions at Clarke Beach



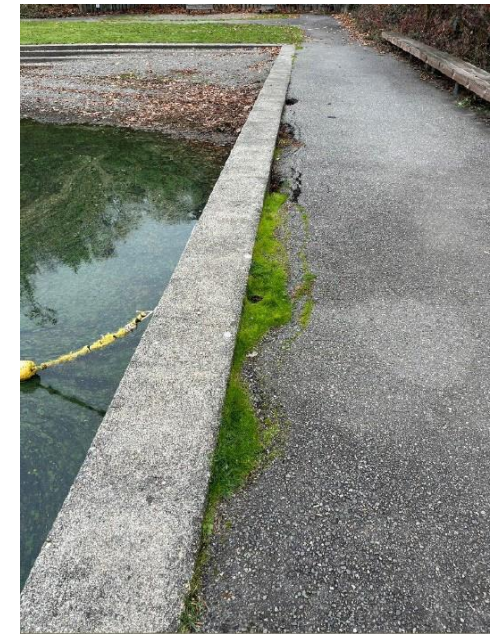


# Clarke Geotechnical + Critical Areas Review

- Primary concerns include:
  - Surficial soil settlement across the slope causes asphalt cracking
  - Waterfront erosion causes asphalt settling and sinkholes
- No wetlands or non-piped watercourses at the site
- Mapped as a hazardous area, which will require additional geotechnical study



Soil creep throughout steep slopes causes asphalt cracking that must be routinely repaired.



Soil washout behind the sheet pile wall at the Enclosed Swim Area erodes the subgrade supporting the pier.



Erosion at the concrete stairs in the Open Swim Area causes significant settling and creates sinkholes.

# In-Water Conditions at Groveland Beach Park

- In-water structures include:
  - Timber pier and bulkhead
  - Concrete bulkhead
  - Camel log wave attenuator
- The overall condition of the in-water structures is fair, but degradation is evident and should be monitored/managed to preserve them.
  - Pier: fair to good condition, localized damage to timber piles and deterioration of concrete decking requires attention
  - Timber bulkhead: heavy degradation in curbing and exposed fill behind the wall
  - Concrete bulkhead: cracking, spalling, and undermining



# Groveland In-Water Conditions





# Groveland Geotechnical + Critical Areas Review

- Primary concerns include:
  - Surficial soil creep along the slope causes asphalt cracking and settling near the playground
  - Beach area settlement causes a stormwater pipe to rupture
- No wetlands or non-piped watercourses at the site
- Mapped as a hazardous area, which will require additional geotechnical study



Surficial soil creep along the slope causes the western edge of the playground to settle.



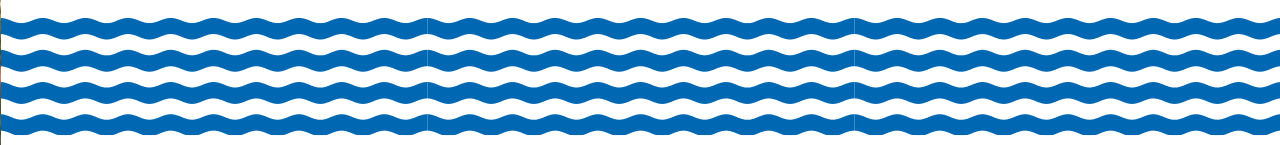
A stormwater pipe located in the beach area has been repaired twice after rupturing due to surface settlement.



A photograph of a small, single-story blue restroom building with a red roof. The building is situated in a wooded area with many trees and a ground covered in fallen autumn leaves. The building has several blue doors and a small sign on the wall. A green utility box is visible on the side of the building.

# Restroom Facilities Assessment

Restroom facilities at both parks are functional but are non-compliant with several ADA guidelines, including:

- Insufficient maneuvering and turning space
  - No accessible water closet compartments
  - Inaccessible reach heights and water fountains
  - Incorrect tactile signage placement
  - Inadequate accessible routes to buildings
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal, wavy blue lines on a white background, located at the bottom right of the slide.





# Background Survey on Community Use



# Background Survey Stats

- Hosted on Let's Talk Sept. 27-Oct. 31, 2024
- 229 total responses
- Supported promoted via:
  - Posters on-site and at MICEC
  - MI Weekly and social media posts
  - Postcard mailer to park neighbors (500ft radius, 400 households)
  - *Mercer Island Reporter* coverage (Oct. 4)



The poster features a photograph of a wooden dock extending into a body of water with a forested shoreline in the background. A yellow banner at the top left reads "SURVEY EXTENDED! Provide input through October 31." and includes the City of Mercer Island logo. The bottom half of the poster has a dark blue background with white and yellow text. It includes a QR code and the website URL.

**SURVEY EXTENDED!**  
Provide input through October 31.

**COMMUNITY SURVEY OPPORTUNITY**  
How do you use  
**Clarke & Groveland Beach Parks?**

In 2025, the City will conduct a joint planning process for Clarke & Groveland Beach Parks.

Help shape the planning process by taking a brief survey about how you currently use these waterfront parks.

Scan to take the survey through October 31.

[WWW.MERCERISLAND.GOV/CGMP](http://WWW.MERCERISLAND.GOV/CGMP)



# Key Takeaways

- **Access:** Most people reach the parks by car, but many also walk or bike to the parks.
- **Reasons for Visiting:** Beach access ranked highest for both parks.
  - At Clarke, strolling/walking ranked second and swimming third.
  - At Groveland, swimming ranked second and strolling/walking ranked third.
  - Picnicking ranked as fourth for both parks.
- **Biggest Concerns:**
  - Accessibility: steep trails, beach & water access, wayfinding
  - Park Maintenance: worn amenities, litter, pet droppings, overgrown planting
  - Amenities: insufficient picnic areas, BBQs, shade, trash bins, play features
  - Safety: swim conditions, water quality, visitor behavior, off-leash dogs

# Other Input for Clarke Beach

## Concerns

1. Steep park entrance trail
2. Parking lot function/use
3. Off-leash dogs
4. General park sanitation
5. Dock in poor condition
6. Swimming area in poor condition
7. Restroom maintenance/availability

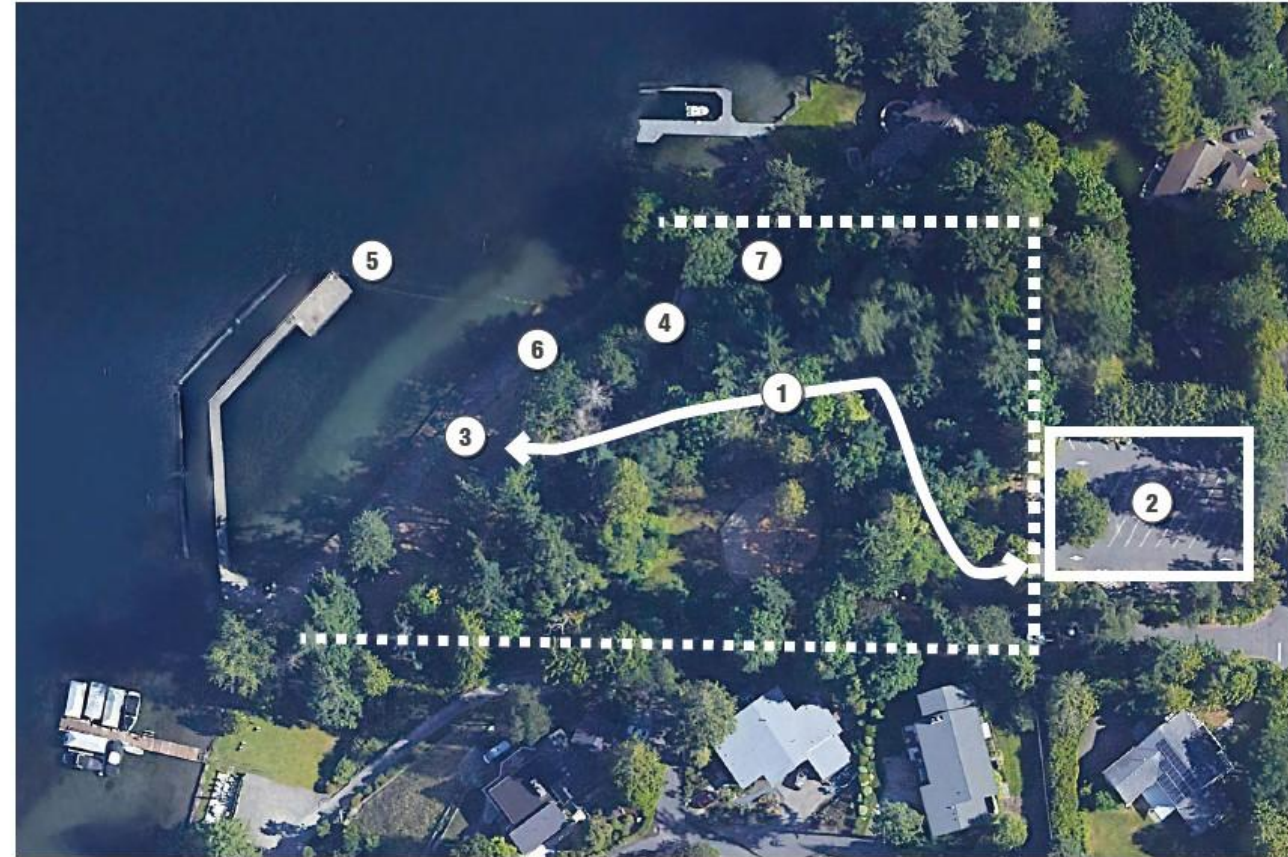




# Other Input for Groveland Beach

## Concerns

1. Steep park entrance trail
2. Vandalism, underage alcohol use
3. Landscape maintenance
4. General park sanitation
5. Dock in poor condition
6. Swimming area in poor condition
7. Restroom maintenance/availability







# Next Steps for the Planning Effort





# Infrastructure Plan Focus Areas

## **Top Priorities**

- Dock/swimming area safety and improvements
- Shoreline erosion control and stabilization/beachfront improvements
- Accessibility improvements

## **Other Amenities to Address as Resources Allow**

- Wayfinding/signage
- Gathering spaces (seating, shade, picnicking, etc.)
- Existing recreational opportunities (volleyball court, play areas, etc.)
- Parking

# Approved Community Engagement Plan

## Online Surveys

- Up to two surveys.
- Share details about the project.
- Gather community input on design alternatives and preferred options.

## Open House

- One public meeting/event.
- May be in-person or virtual.
- Share project information.
- Present design alternatives for community input.

## PRC Meetings

- Two staff-led meetings.
- Gather feedback on design alternatives and prepare a final recommendation for the preferred Infrastructure Plan.
- Additional updates will be provided via the Department Report in between check-ins.

## Let's Talk

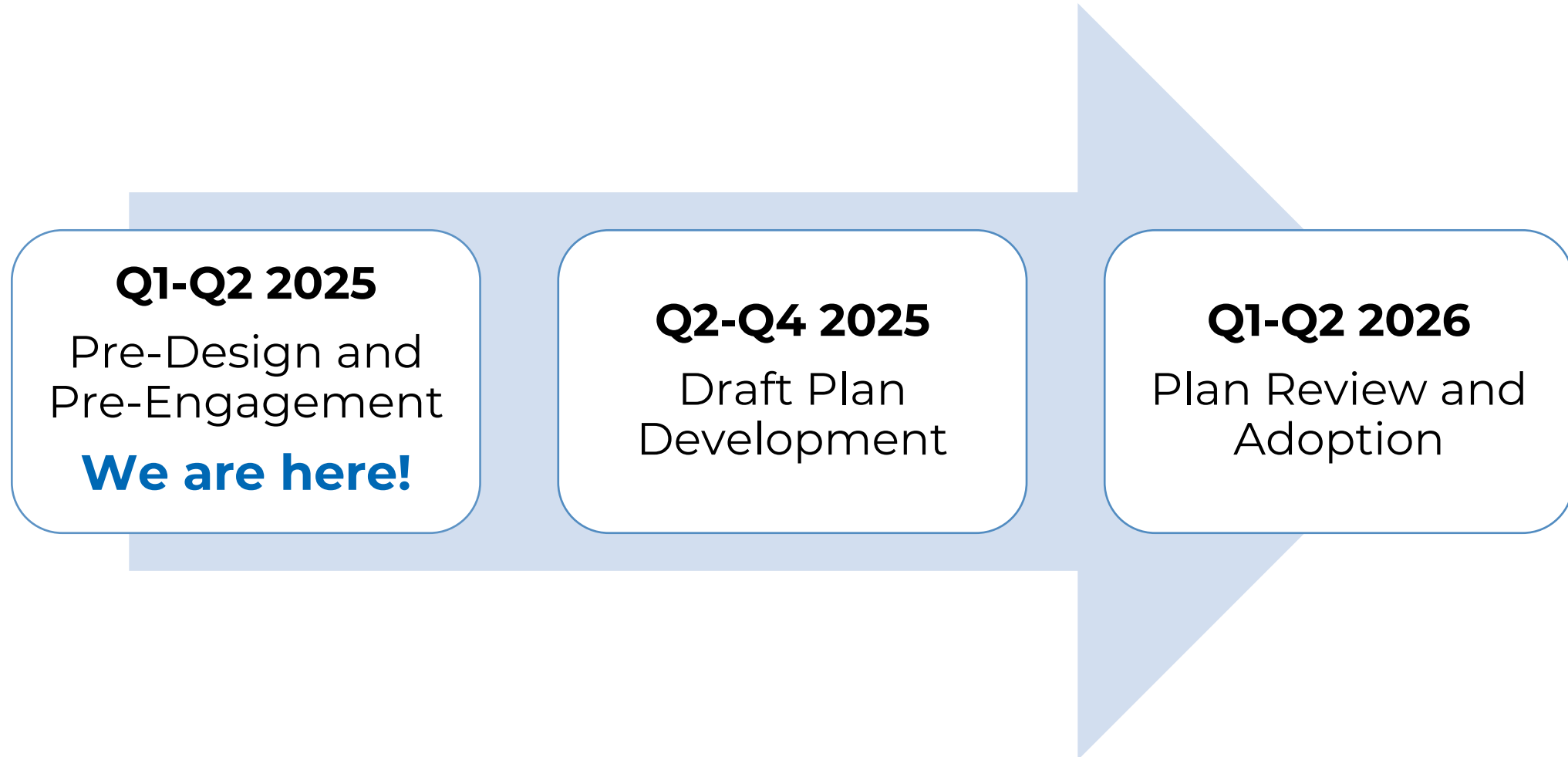
- Hub for project information, key dates, surveys, and other details.
- May use additional tools such as Quick Polls for ongoing engagement.

## Other Opportunities

- Engagement with park neighbors and community groups.
- Share project info, promote community engagement opportunities, and seek feedback on the Plan.



# High-Level Project Schedule



Project information available at [www.mercerisland.gov/cgip](http://www.mercerisland.gov/cgip).