



City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Report
September 4, 2025



Project Updates



Roanoke Playground is Ready for Play!

- This renovation was funded by the 2022 Parks Levy which:
 - Replaced aging **play equipment**;
 - improved **accessibility**;
 - and **enhanced drainage** infrastructure at the park.
- **Thanks to the community for engaging** with staff on the design through two surveys and a virtual meeting.
- City staff will put **finishing touches** on the play area through the fall.
- Watch Let's Talk for additional updates!



letstalk.mercergov.org/roanoke-park-playground-replacement



Luther Burbank Park Sport Courts are OPEN!

- The courts were closed in early June to finish painting and restore the mural *Summer in the Wetlands*.
- The courts are OPEN and busy!
- Over the summer staff has been very engaged with users- received numerous ideas and requests for enhancements.
- Overcrowding and access have been issues at certain times.
- Mercer Island Rotary Club hosted the first event on the courts over Aug. 22-24.
- Staff will be returning to the PRC later this fall to discuss usage and reservation policies for the courts.

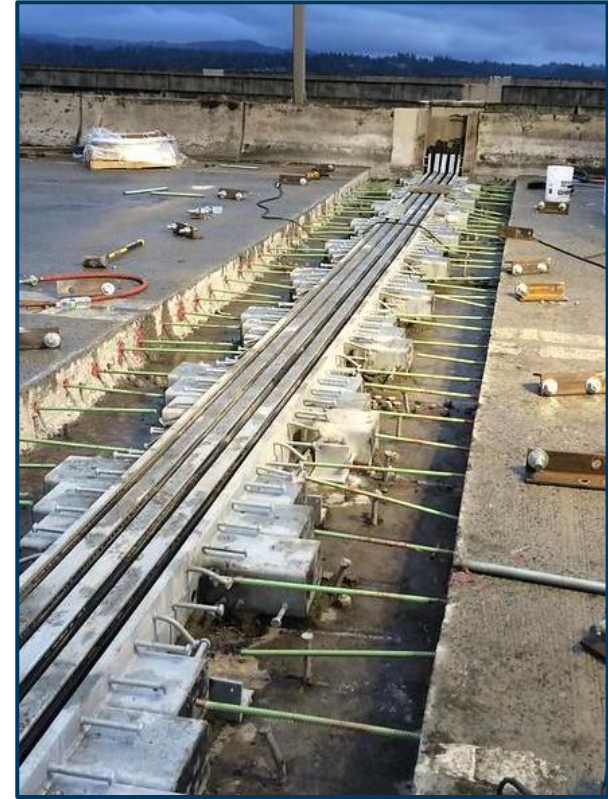


www.mercerisland.gov/lbpcourts



WSDOT I-90 Expansion Joint Replacement

- WSDOT crews will close the I-90 Eastbound on-ramp at East Mercer Way and the HOV on-ramp at 80th Ave SE **beginning Thursday, Sept. 18**, to complete essential roadway repairs and replace failing expansion joints on the East Channel Bridge.
 - The closure of the East Mercer Way on-ramp to I-90 Eastbound is expected to last 6 to 8 days.
 - The closure of the HOV on-ramp at 80th Ave SE to I-90 Eastbound is expected to **last 16 days**.
 - Additionally, one lane of traffic on I-90 Eastbound leading to the East Channel Bridge will be closed.
- The full project is anticipated to **last 16 days**, with access to all on-ramps slated to open on October 5.
- **IMPORTANT:** Expect major delays, as this closure by WSDOT is expected to be highly disruptive!



Summer Recap





Summer Camp Success

- Recreation staff experienced a **strong summer camp season**, teaming up with local organizations to offer a wide variety of camps for the community.
- This year's summer camps saw more than **1,300 kids** participating in **10 different camps** hosted at the MICEC and multiple parks across the island.
- We welcomed 5 returning camp partners and introduced five new ones. Our returning LEGO Camp experienced remarkable growth, nearly doubling from **38 participants last year to 89 this summer**.





SUMMER CELEBRATION RECAP

- 2025 Summer Celebration was a blast! Very well attended with tons of smiles and fun!
- Over thirty-seven groups plus City of Mercer Island vehicles joined the parade to kick off Saturday's festivities with crowds lining 78th Ave SE from Sunset Hwy to Mercerdale Park.
- A huge thank you to everyone who came out, contributed, and helped make this day so special. From start to finish, it was a beautiful reminder of the power of community, connection, and celebration.



SC Daytime Festivities

- After the parade, crowds moved into Mercerdale Park and along 77th Ave SE and SE 32nd Street where they enjoyed:
 - Over 70 booths for vendors, sponsors, and community groups
 - Multiple food vendors
 - City booths and Touch-a-Truck
 - Foam party and live bands
- City staff in multiple booths spent time engaging with the community and sharing information.
- We turned the Community Center into a paid parking lot again this year and brought in over \$5550 in sales, which directly supports the event.



SC Evening Festivities

- Crowds moved to Luther Burbank Park for more food, fun, entertainment, and fireworks.
- A huge thank you to all the staff who worked hard to make this an enjoyable, memorable day and to our event sponsors:

Mercer Island Community Fund, MI Martial Arts, Belle Harbour, John L. Scott, Windermere, The Mercer, Parent Map, Puget Sound Energy, Mercer Island City Lifestyle, Mercer Island School District, Friends of Mercer Island Library, and Dave & Busters.





Mostly Music in the Park

- We had **six weeks** of FANTASTIC concerts at Mercerdale Park this summer!
- Music ranged from a Beatles tribute to 80's New Wave, and crowds grew estimated between 400 – 600.
- Thank you to our sponsors: Mercer Island Community Fund, Seattle Airstream Adventures, Mercer Island Visual Arts League, Covenant Living, King County 4Culture, Mercer Island City Lifestyle Magazine, The Crawlspace Gastropub, and Neil Kelly Interiors.
- See you next year!



Summer Events

- **Shakespeare in the Park** held 15 shows at Luther Burbank Park in July/August, with crowds reaching up to **300 attendees!** Special thanks to the Mercer Island Community Fund for their sponsorship, along with King County 4Culture.
- **Juneteenth** was celebrated in Mercerdale Park with the partnership of the MIHS Black Student Union. It was a great day, with music from Island resident, Simon Okelo and his band.
- **Pride in the Park** was held before the August 7th Mostly Music in the Park. We had an amazing turn out of attendees, who enjoyed hands-on art activities hosted by the Mercer Island Visual Arts League, plus a host of community booths offering resources and connection opportunities.



Upcoming Events



Art Uncorked – Sept. 6

- The Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce is ramping up for its annual Art Uncorked event on Saturday, September 6 from 3-7 PM.
- Enjoy music, artisan booths, delicious food, and wine tasting with family and friends!



Title Sponsor

THE MERCER
APARTMENT HOMES

Presented by Mercer Island Chamber

Mercer Island
Art 2025
UnCorked

Music
Art
Food
Wine
Tasting

Saturday, September 6th
3:00pm-7:00pm

21+ Event Only
20+ Wineries, Food Trucks, Artisan Booths, Music, Photo Booth, Games and More!



Community Photography Show

- Recreation staff, in partnership with MIVAL, are excited to present the latest art show at the MICEC, showcasing the work of Mercer Island photographers.
- The exhibit runs from August 25 – October 17.
- Artists Reception took place yesterday September 3 from 5–7 PM at the MICEC.



© B. Stafford



© D. Carlson



© S. Aly



© M. Abel

Community Photography Show

August 25 - October 17, 2025

Mercer Island Community & Event Center

Reception, Wednesday, Sept. 3rd, 5 - 7 PM

Community Center Hours:

9 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday

9 AM - 5 PM Friday & Saturday

Location:

8236 SE 24th Street

Mercer Island



Autumn Programs

For our younger kiddos

Music Together with Mrs. Chrisi

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday (AM & PM), Saturday (PM)

Class Times & Register at: <https://www.musictogetherwithmrschrisi.com>

More than just a music class. Music Together is about connecting-- with music, with your child, and with other families in your community.

SuperTots Sports

Tuesday AM & Thursday AM

Class Times & Register at: <https://skyhawks.com/supertots>

Led by Skyhawks Instructors, children ages 18 months to 6 years use multi-sport activities to develop motor skills, physical fitness and instill a love for sports.

Art & Us

Thursday AM & Saturday AM

Class Times & Register at: <https://www.petalsartclub.com>

Designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years and their grown-ups to explore and create together. Join Becca and Bailey from Petals Art Club each week for rotating art stations and crafts.

Sing With Our Kids

Fridays, 10:30am, no registration needed

More info at: <https://singwithourkids.com>

A community project providing free songs and activities for kids up to 5 years. Come join Nancy Stewart and sing along.

Pre-Ballet

Friday PM

Class Times & Register at: <https://emeraldballet-theatre.org>

Led by instructors from Emerald Ballet Theatre, children ages 4-6 years use this joyful introduction to ballet, movement, and music to develop creativity and confidence.

Autumn Events

Mid-Autumn Festival

Sunday, October 5th, 2025 - 10am-2pm, Mercer Island Community & Event Center

In partnership with & hosted by the Mercer Island Chinese Association

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to honor one of the most cherished Chinese traditions.

Town Center Trick or Treating

Friday, October 31st, 2025 - 3:30pm-5:30pm, Town Center Business District

In partnership with the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce

Grab your costume and join the community in haunting your way through town center.

Holiday Events (Save the dates)

Holiday Tree Lighting

Thursday, December 4th, 2025 - 5:30pm, Mercerdale Park

Sponsored by Mercer Island City Lifestyle Magazine

Join the City of Mercer Island lighting our Holiday Tree. Bring the whole family out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the High School Choir and Creation Dance Studio performances.

Holiday Makers Market

Saturday, December 6th, 2025 - 10am-3pm, Mercer Island Community & Event Center

In partnership with the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce

75+ Vendors, kids activities, and holiday treats.

Argosy Christmas Ships

Friday December 19th, 2025 - 8:30pm-9pm, Luther Burbank Park Beach

Argosy Cruises Christmas Ship™ Festival is a ship-to-shore holiday celebration that has been a Northwest tradition since 1949. The Spirit of Seattle™, the Official Christmas Ship™, is decorated with hundreds of shimmering white lights and sails to different Puget Sound waterfront communities – around 40 in all. Choirs on board the Christmas Ship™ perform to guests aboard, to follow boats, and to communities gathered on shore.

Performance will occur at 8:40pm and viewed from the Luther Burbank Beach. Parking available at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.



Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

October (DATE TBD)

- Clarke and Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan
- Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy (Intro)

November 6

- Deane's Children's Park Site Plan - Design Concepts Discussion
- Athletic Court Allocation/Usage Policy

December 4

- Intro to the Parks Code (*may be moved*)

January (DATE TBD)

- Deane's Children's Park Site Plan: Preferred Site Plan Discussion



Thank you!

