



Parks Maintenance & Operations Levy Renewal

AB6105



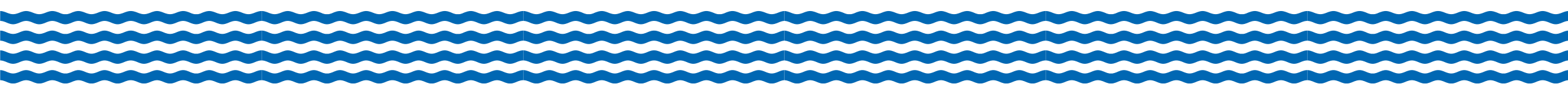
Agenda

- Parks Levy Background
- Follow-up from June 7, 2022 City Council meeting
- Parks Levy Options:
 - Option 1: Playground Replacement Funding
 - Option 2: Increasing Funding for Pioneer Park
- Parks Levy Scenarios
- Election Logistics and Next Steps
- **City Council Direction to prepare Ballot Measure Ordinance**
- **Note:** This PPT slide deck will be added to the City Council packet after the meeting.



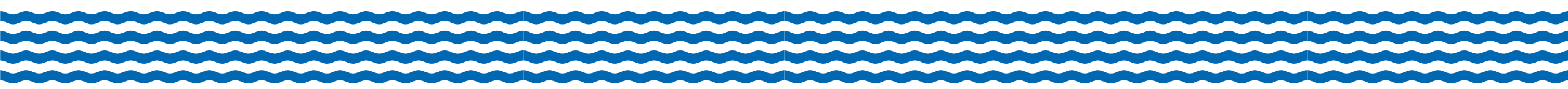
Presentation Overview

- Seeking direction from the City Council to place the parks levy renewal on the **November 8, 2022 ballot**, a full year ahead of the expiration of the current parks levy.
- Changed the proposed parks levy length to **16-years** and updated the corresponding levy amounts.
- Should the levy pass in November, City Council action will be required to **end the current levy one year early**.



Presentation Overview

- The parks levy renewal recommendation includes the following:
 - **Base levy:** Maintains the current parks levy amount and levy categories. The 2023 proposed base levy amount is \$989,923 and includes a 1% annual increase from 2022.
 - **Option 1:** Proposes additional capital funding for **ongoing playground replacements**, the alternatives vary from funding 25% of the estimated playground replacement costs (about \$100,000 annually) over the life of the levy to fully funding the replacement costs (over \$400,000 annually).
 - **Option 2:** Proposes increasing the annual capital funding for **Pioneer Park** to fund the restoration projects identified in the **Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan**. The funding alternatives range from \$36,000 to over \$400,000 annually with the latter representing fully funding all of the projects identified in the Forest Management Plan.





Parks Levy History: 2001-2008



Mercer Island Parks Levy History (2001-2002)

- In 2001, King County approached Mercer Island about transferring long-term ownership and operation of **Luther Burbank Park** to the City.
- The transfer of the park property was finalized in 2002.



Mercer Island Parks Levy History (2003)

- In 2003, the Mercer Island community approved a **six-year parks levy** to fund the operations and maintenance of Luther Burbank Park.
- **The \$415,000 annual parks levy passed with 55% voter approval.**

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PROPOSITION NO. __

LEVY FOR LUTHER BURBANK PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

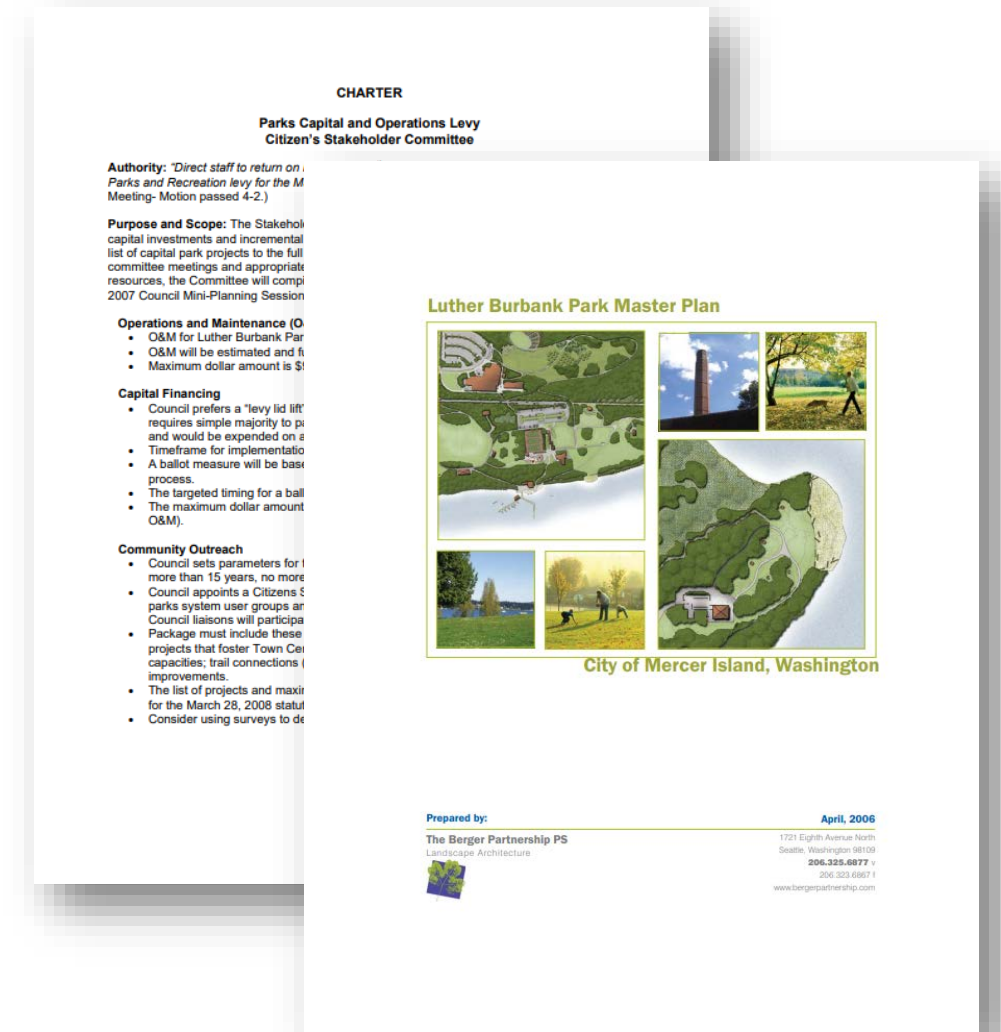
The City Council of the City of Mercer Island presents this proposition concerning annual increases in the City's regular property tax levy to pay costs of operating and maintaining Luther Burbank Park formerly owned by King County. This proposition authorizes annual increases in the City's levy for six consecutive years for this purpose. The levy shall be increased in year one above the limit set by RCW 84.55.010 by \$0.0662 per \$1,000 of assessed value to collect \$415,000. The levy may increase in years two through six by the June Seattle-Tacoma CPI-W. Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

Mercer Island Parks Levy History (2004 – 2007)

- The **Luther Burbank Park Master Plan was adopted in 2006** and established the long-term vision for the park, including providing the framework for future capital investments.
- In 2007, a Citizen's Stakeholder Committee was formed to prepare a recommendation on a parks levy ballot measure (to replace/renew the 2003 parks levy).
- **The Stakeholder Committee recommended that the parks levy should be expanded to support system-wide parks maintenance and operations in addition to funding Luther Burbank Park.**



Mercer Island Parks Levy History (2008)

- In 2008, the Mercer Island community approved a **15-year parks levy**.
- The scope of the parks levy included funding to continue operating Luther Burbank Park and to support operations at all city parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities.
- **The \$900,000 annual parks levy passed with 54% voter approval and began in 2009.**
- While the parks levy passed, the companion capital bond measure did not, having received only 53% approval. Bond measures require 60% approval.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
PROPOSITION NO. 2

LEVY FOR PARK OPERATIONS
AND MAINTENANCE

The City Council of the City of Mercer Island adopted Ordinance No. 08-08 concerning property taxes to maintain and operate park and recreational facilities. This proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy by \$900,000 to a total authorized rate of up to \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2009 and increase the levy as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW for each of the 14 succeeding years to continue operating Luther Burbank Park, improve forest and vegetative health of open spaces, and operate and maintain park and recreation-related facilities and services. Should this proposition be:

APPROVED?.....



REJECTED?.....



2009 Parks Levy



2009 Parks Levy

- The 2008 ballot language was general and included funding to continue operating Luther Burbank Park and to support operations at all city parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities.
- The City Council allocated parks levy funding to specific categories for budgeting purposes. (See table at right.)
- **The final amount levied in 2009 was \$882,000, establishing the basis for the current 15-year parks levy.**

2009 Parks Levy	
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$370,000
Park Maintenance (O&M)	\$260,000
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000
Total	\$882,000

Comparing the 2009 and 2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocations

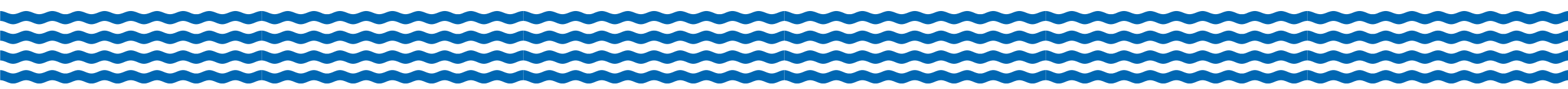
- The table at the right reflects the 2022 parks levy budget allocation, compared to 2009.
- The 1% statutorily allowed increase was taken in all but two years over the life of the parks levy.
- **The 1% increase was applied to the O&M categories, while the capital funding categories remained flat.**

2009 vs. 2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocations		
	2009 Allocation	2022 Allocation
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$370,000	\$373,007
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$260,000	\$355,115
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$110,000
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,000
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,000
Total	\$882,000	\$980,122

Comparing the 2009 and 2022 Parks Levies

- The 2009 Parks Levy budget allocation was:
 - \$630,000 to Operations & Maintenance
 - \$252,000 to Capital Projects
- The 2022 Parks Levy budget allocation is:
 - **\$728,122 to Operations & Maintenance**
 - \$252,000 to Capital Projects

2009 vs. 2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocations		
	2009 Allocation	2022 Allocation
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$370,000	\$373,007
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$260,000	\$355,115
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$110,000
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,000
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,000
Total	\$882,000	\$980,122



2022 Park Operations & Maintenance General Fund - Revenues

- In 2022, the parks levy contributes **\$728,122** to parks operations and maintenance, which is **31% of the funding for Mercer Island parks**.
- Other sources of revenue for parks operations and maintenance include General Fund Revenue such as Property Tax, Sales Tax, & B&O Tax.
- The City also receives funding from WSDOT for the maintenance of Aubrey Davis Park.

2022 Parks Operation & Maintenance Revenue		
Revenue Category	Amount	%
Sales/B&O/Other Property Taxes*	\$842,447	36%
Parks Levy	\$728,122	31%
WSDOT (Aubrey Davis Park)	\$570,596	24%
User Fees	\$198,966	9%
Total	\$2,340,131	

*The tax revenue amounts are estimated and represent the parks operations and maintenance proportionate share of the total tax revenue received in the General Fund.

2022 Park Operations & Maintenance General Fund - Expenditures

- In 2022, the parks operations and maintenance budget is **\$2.34 million.**

2022 Parks Operations & Maintenance Expenditures		
Expenditure Category	Amount	%
Park Maintenance	\$876,591	37%
Aubrey Davis Park Maintenance	\$530,778	23%
Luther Burbank Park Maintenance	\$373,007	16%
Athletic Field Maintenance	\$294,223	13%
Park Maintenance School Fields	\$195,842	8%
Trails Maintenance	\$69,690	3%
Total	\$2,340,131	

Why renew the parks levy?



Why renew the parks levy?

Mercer Islanders LOVE their parks and open space!

From the 2020 PROS Plan Survey:

- 99% of respondents feel public parks and recreation opportunities are **essential to quality of life on Mercer Island.**
- 94% of respondents are very or somewhat satisfied with the value they receive from Mercer Island Parks & Recreation.
- **68% of respondents visit a park at least once a week.**



Why renew the parks levy?

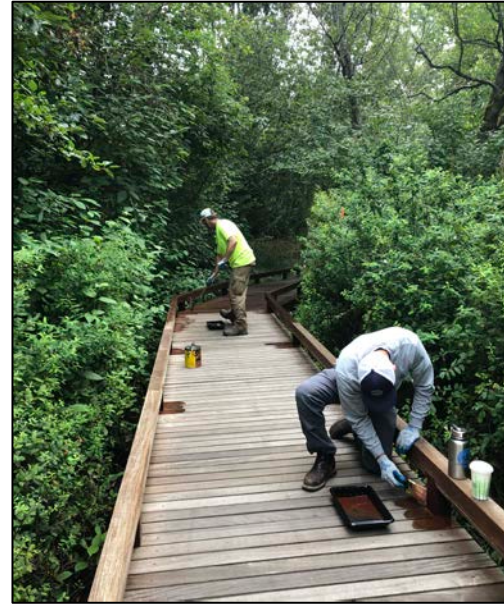
From the 2021 PROS Plan Survey:

- **95% of respondents** stated they were **somewhat to very satisfied** with the value they receive from Mercer Island Parks & Recreation.
- **75% of residents visit a parks & recreation facility at least once a week.**
- Half of respondents indicated an increase in usage of parks, trails, and open spaces since the start of pandemic.



Why renew the parks levy?

- **Preserve and protect Mercer Island parks, trails, open space and recreation facilities for current and future generations.**
- Continue funding capital reinvestment projects to extend the useful life of parks and open space assets.
- Provide a safe environment for park visitors.
- Have fun! Get outside! Escape! Enjoy!



Follow-Up Items from the June 7, 2022 City Council Meeting



Fire Station & Fire Truck Levy

- During the prior City Council discussion, a question was raised about the status of the fire station levy.
- The 2012 Fire Station levy was collected for the full 9-years (2013 thru 2021). It was not levied in the 2022 tax year.
- **In 2021, the levy collected \$693,013.**
- The 2021 levy rate was \$0.0453 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- **Using 2021 estimates, a homeowner with a home valued at \$2,132,000 would have paid about \$8.00 per month for this levy.**



Length of the Parks Levy

- A suggestion was made at the prior City Council meeting to change the levy length from 15-years to 16-years.
- **This will align the parks levy with the biennial budget cycle** and potentially* put the next parks levy renewal off-cycle from a City Council election year.
- The 16-year recommendation was incorporated into the following parks levy scenarios.
- If approved, the 16-year parks levy will commence on January 1, 2023, and end on December 31, 2038.

*The King County Council is considering a ballot measure that will move elections to even-numbered years.



One Levy vs. Multiple Levies

- A question was raised about the possibility of splitting the parks levy into three separate ballot measures.
- Although possible, the multi-levy scenario poses significant challenges and risk of voter confusion.
- **State law requires that each individual levy on the ballot consider the tax impact of all the other levies on the ballot.**
- This means that the ballot language for each levy will need to include the maximum tax rate of the three levies combined.
- Ballot titles are limited to 75 words, making it difficult to explain to voters the nuances of a multi-levy scenario.



Levy Implementation



Timing of Parks Levy Vote

Recommendation:

- **Pursue November 8, 2022 election for the parks levy renewal.**
- Requires City Council to take action on a ballot ordinance by July.
- Additional options for election in February, April, August or November of 2023.
- Worth considering potential overlap with MISD and King County ballot measures in 2023.

Upcoming King County Election Dates and Deadlines

Election Date	Ballot Materials Submission Deadline
November 8, 2022	August 2, 2022
February 14, 2023*	December 16, 2022*
April 25, 2023*	February 24, 2023*
August 1, 2023*	May 12, 2023*
November 7, 2023*	August 1, 2023*

*Preliminary, subject to confirmation by the Washington Secretary of State.

Parks Levy Implementation Timeline

- State law requires a voted levy to be enacted within 12-months of the election.
- Should the City Council move forward with the November 2022 election date, and should the parks levy pass, the City Council will need to take action to enact the new levy this year.
- This involves ending the current parks levy one year early and replacing it with the newly approved parks levy.
- This will occur as part of the biennial budget process.

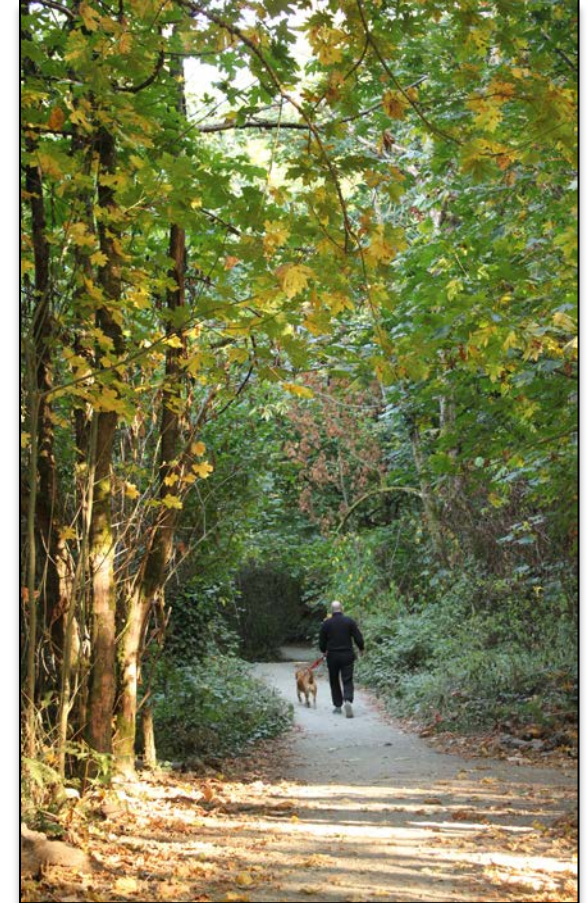


2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Overview



Parks Levy Renewal Overview

- Staff have prepared several parks levy renewal options for consideration by the City Council.
- This includes a **base parks levy renewal** proposal, which essentially replaces the current parks levy and two options:
 - **Option 1:** Proposes new capital resources to fund for **ongoing playground replacements.**
 - **Option 2:** The second option proposes increasing the annual funding amount for **Pioneer Park.**



2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Base Levy



Proposed 2022 Parks Levy Renewal – Base Levy

- **Maintains current parks levy and funding categories.**
- Assumes a 1% increase in 2023.
- November 8, 2022 General Election:
 - Upon approval, the new parks levy would **take effect on January 1, 2023.**
 - The current parks levy would be retired a year early.
- **16-Year Term**, one year longer than the current levy.

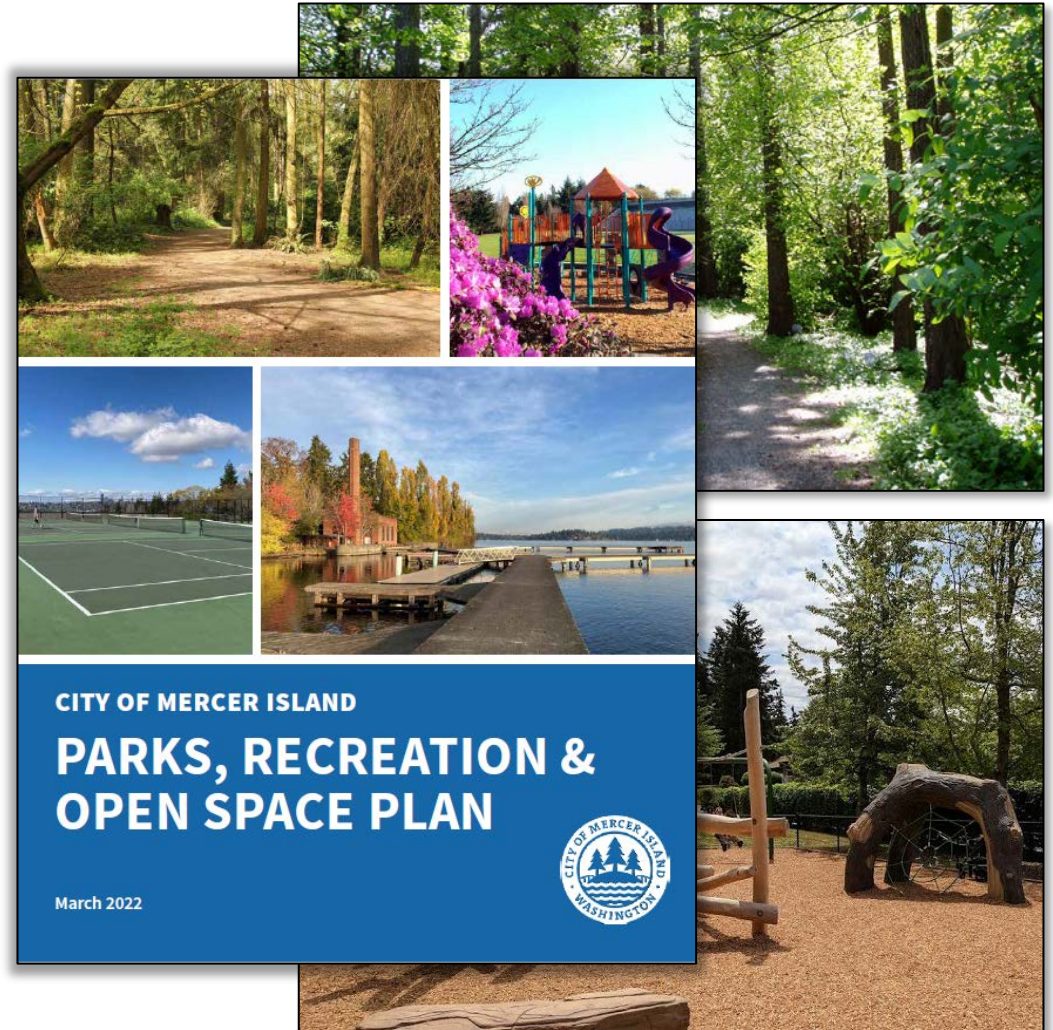
Proposed Parks Levy Budget Allocations	Current Parks Levy	2023 Proposed Parks Levy Renewal
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$373,007	\$376,737
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$355,115	\$358,666
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$111,100
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,770
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,650
Total	\$980,112	\$989,923

2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Options



Proposed 2022 Parks Levy Renewal - Levy Options

- The City recently adopted the **2022 Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Plan**.
- The PROS Plan identified **\$40 Million** in parks, open space, trails, and recreation facility capital projects over the next six years.
- There is an estimated **\$24 Million capital project funding gap** over that same time period.
- The following two levy options were developed based on the six-year parks capital project list, the PROS Plan, and the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan.





2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Option 1 – Playground Replacements



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements

Given the length of the PowerPoint presentation this evening, staff will not present all of the background slides on the playground replacement option.

A video recording of the full presentation on the playground replacement option and the PPT slide deck will be appended to the City Council packet materials and added to the Let's Talk Page on the Parks Levy Renewal tomorrow (6/22/22).

Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements

- Manufactured play equipment has a typical useful service life of 15 to 20 years, depending on play equipment condition, wear, and usage.
- **All Mercer Island playground structures (except for Mercerdale Park and the Dragon at Deane’s Children’s Park) will need to be replaced over the next 16-years.**
(Corrected from previous presentation.)
- This is a total of 15 playground structure replacements over a 16-year period.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements

- The 2023-2028 Parks CIP (adopted on March 1, 2022) planned for five playground structure replacements to occur over the next six years.
 - Deane’s Children Park (Castle/Swings/Climbing Rock)
 - Aubrey Davis Park Lid B
 - Secret Park
 - Roanoke Park
 - First Hill Park
- **Most Mercer Island playgrounds do not meet ADA or universal accessibility standards** and will be evaluated for ADA upgrades as they are replaced.
- The 2023-2028 Parks CIP, the 20-Year Parks Capital Facilities Plan and the playground maintenance and inspection records were used to develop a **16-year playground structure replacement schedule.**



16-Year Playground Replacement Schedule (Exhibit 2)

- Two-year project timeline for each project.
- Playground structure replacements spread out over the 16-year levy period.
- At least one playground structure is replaced each biennium, except for 2031-2032.
- Combined playground structure replacements at park sites, where possible.
- Anticipate that adjustments will need to be made over time.

#	Park	Playground Structure	Year Installed	Estimated Replacement Year	Estimated Replacement Cost*	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	
1	Aubrey Davis	Lid A Playground	2011	2030	\$ 432,410							Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction									
2	Aubrey Davis	Lid B Playground	2007	2027	\$ 633,000				Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction												
3	Deane's Children's	Castle Playground	2005	2023	\$ 267,000	Construction																
4	Deane's Children's	Dragon	2018	2048	Not in scope of levy																	
5	Deane's Children's	Platform Playground	2012	2037	\$ 1,156,400														Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction		
6	First Hill	Playground	2007	2026	\$ 405,000			Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction													
7	Groveland Beach	Playground	2012	2036	\$ 495,410														Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction		
8	Homestead	Playground	2012	2034	\$ 508,320											Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction					
9	Luther Burbank	Fire Engine & Spring Toys	2014	2033	\$ 1,723,150										Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction						
10	Luther Burbank	Main Playground, Slide & Zip	2013	2033	Included in #9										Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction						
11	Luther Burbank	Swings & Spring Toys	2013	2033	Included in #9										Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction						
12	Mercerdale	Playground	2022	2042	Not in scope of levy																	
13	Mercerdale	Train	2022	2042	Not in scope of levy																	
14	MICEC	Playground	2010	2030	\$ 247,100							Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction									
15	Roanoke	Boat Composite Structure	2004	2024	\$ 436,000	Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction															
16	Roanoke	Spinami & Swings	2012	2024	Included in #15	Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction															
17	Secret Park	Playground	2007	2028	\$ 552,000					Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction											
18	South Mercer	Playground	2018	2038	\$ 295,100																Public Engagement, Design & Permitting	Construction

*Replacement costs include design and construction. Costs were estimated in 2021 and include a 3% annual inflation factor based on the estimated timing of replacement.

Slide Revised 6-22-22 with correct version of Exhibit 2.

Public Engagement, Design & Permitting
 Construction

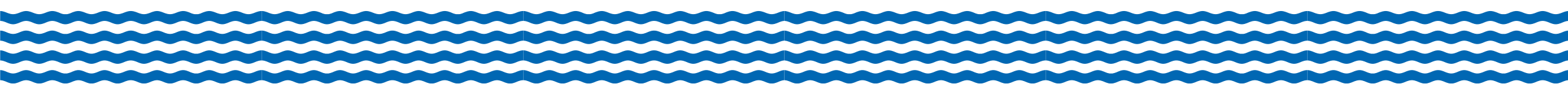
Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements

- Four playground replacement funding scenarios for consideration, ranging from 25% to fully funding the playground replacement costs over the life of the levy.
- The table has been updated since the June 7, 2022 City Council meeting to:
 - Reflect the change from a 15-year parks levy to a 16-year parks levy.
 - Incorporate the assumptions in the 16-year playground replacement schedule.
- **Total estimated playground replacement costs over the next 16-years is \$7,150,890.**

Options	Playground Replacement Funding Levels (Updated 6-21-22)*	2023 Estimated Annual Amount
1A	25% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$103,589
1B	50% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$207,178
1C	75% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$310,767
1D	100% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$414,355

*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.

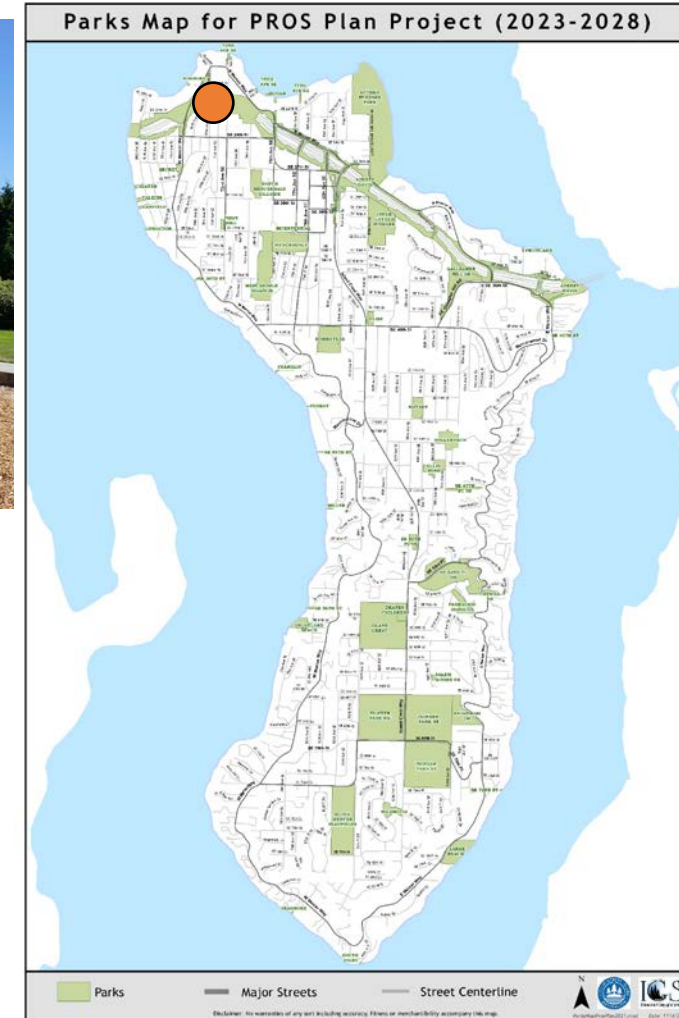
**Assumes a 1% increase annually over the life of the levy.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #1 – Aubrey Davis Park Lid A

- Installed: **2011**
- Estimated Replacement: **2030**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$432,410***
- Considerations:
 - This playground structure is not a good candidate for ADA upgrades due to limited nearby ADA parking.
 - The nearby playground at Lid B will be a candidate for ADA accessible improvements.
 - Coordinate with nearby playground replacements to diversify play opportunities.

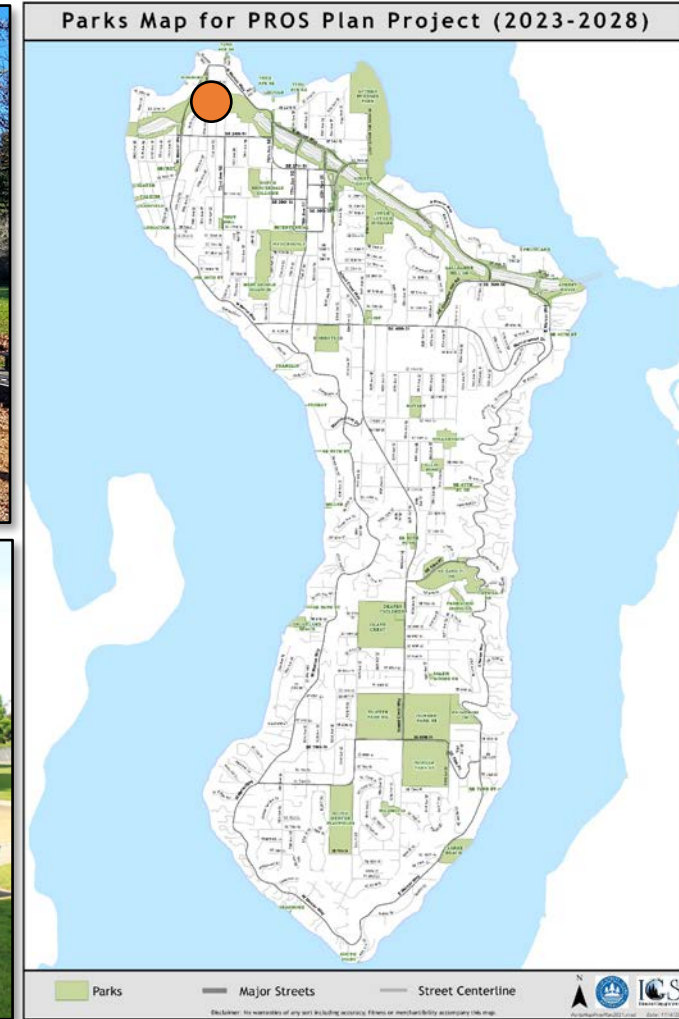
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #2 – Aubrey Davis Park Lid B

- Installed: **2007**
- Estimated Replacement: **2027**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$633,000***
- Considerations:
 - This playground structure is a good candidate for ADA upgrades and will be included as part of a larger parks CIP project that will include the addition of ADA parking spaces.
 - May be a contender for grant funding.
 - A restroom is proposed to be added to this section of Aubrey Davis Park to support a variety of park uses, including the nearby sports field and trail users.

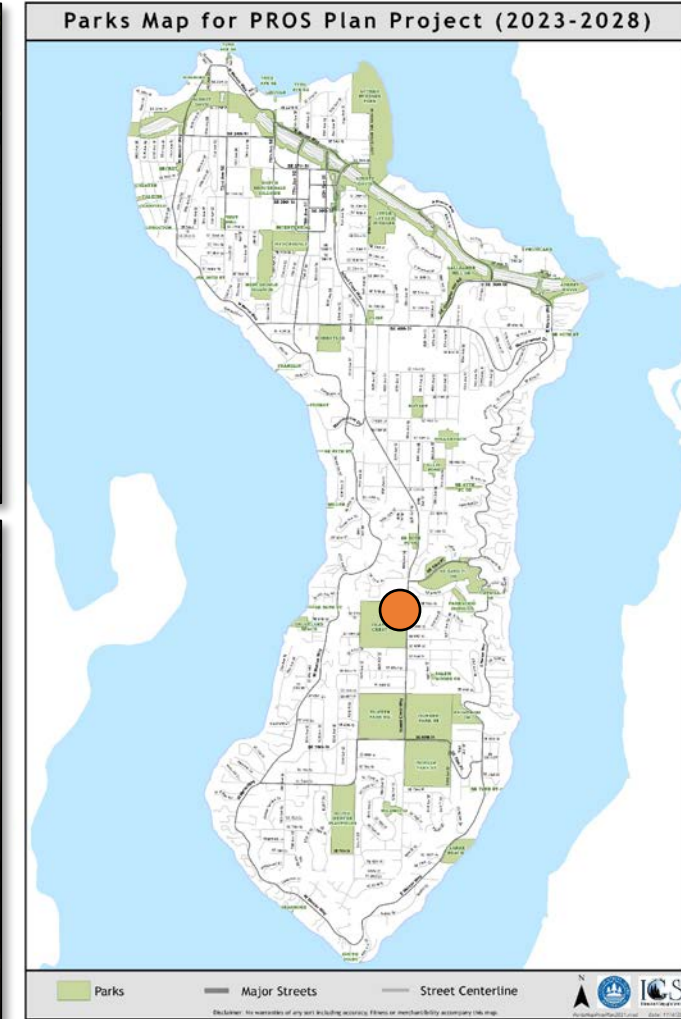
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #3 – Deane’s Children’s Park Castle Playground

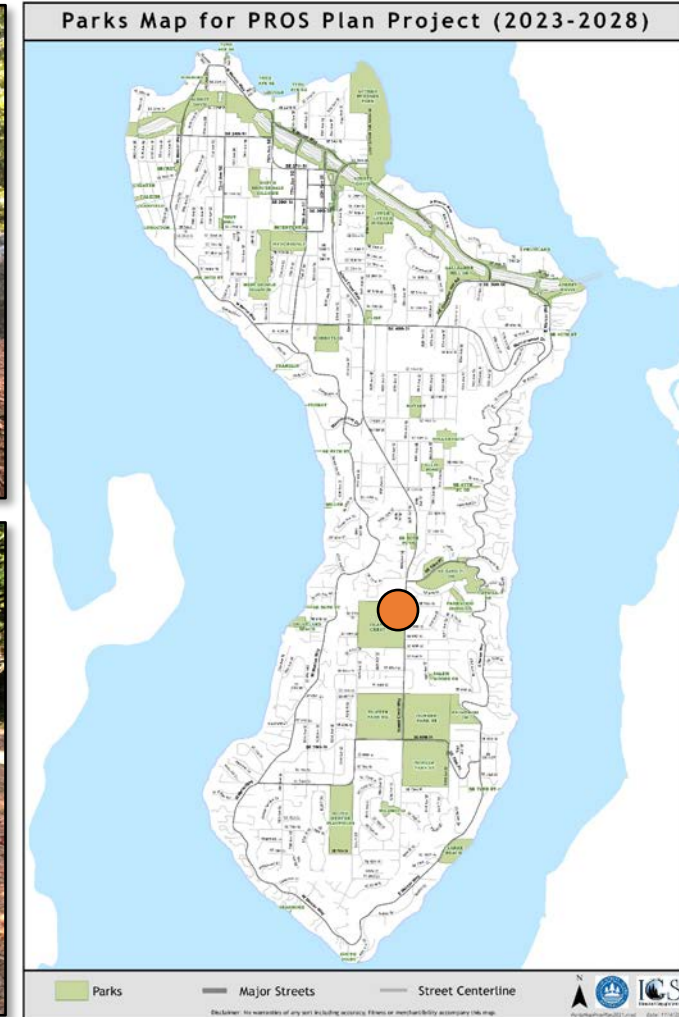
- Installed: **2005**
- Estimated Replacement: **2023**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$267,000***
- Considerations:
 - Potential to align playground structure replacement project with the Bike Skills Area improvements, if approved.
 - This site and the playground structure is a good candidate for an ADA Accessibility upgrade.
 - There are multiple playground structures at this park site – the replacement plan will include the opportunity to diversify play types.

*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #4 – Deane’s Children’s Park Dragon

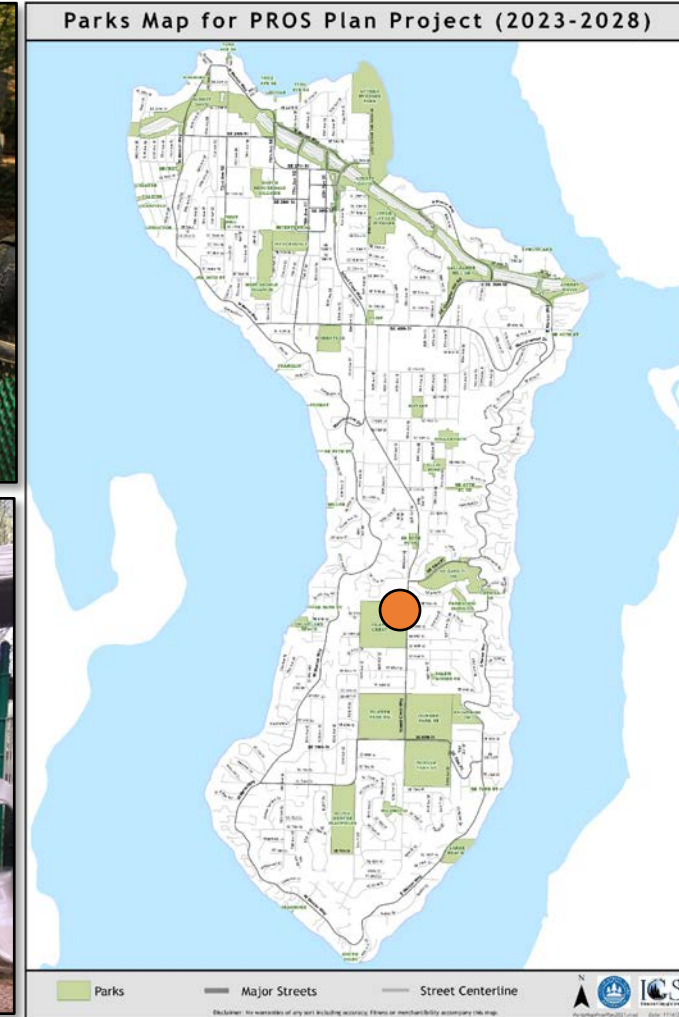
- Installed: **2018**
- Estimated Replacement: **2048**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **Not in scope of levy**
- Considerations:
 - Currently estimate the life of this concrete structure at about 30-years.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #5 – Deane’s Children’s Park Platform Playground

- Installed: **2012**
- Estimated Replacement: **2037**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$1,156,400***
- Considerations:
 - This playground structure is aging well, therefore the replacement cycle is currently anticipated at 25-years.
 - This site and the playground structure will be evaluated for an ADA Accessibility upgrade.
 - There are multiple playground structures at this park site – the replacement plan will include the opportunity to diversify play types.

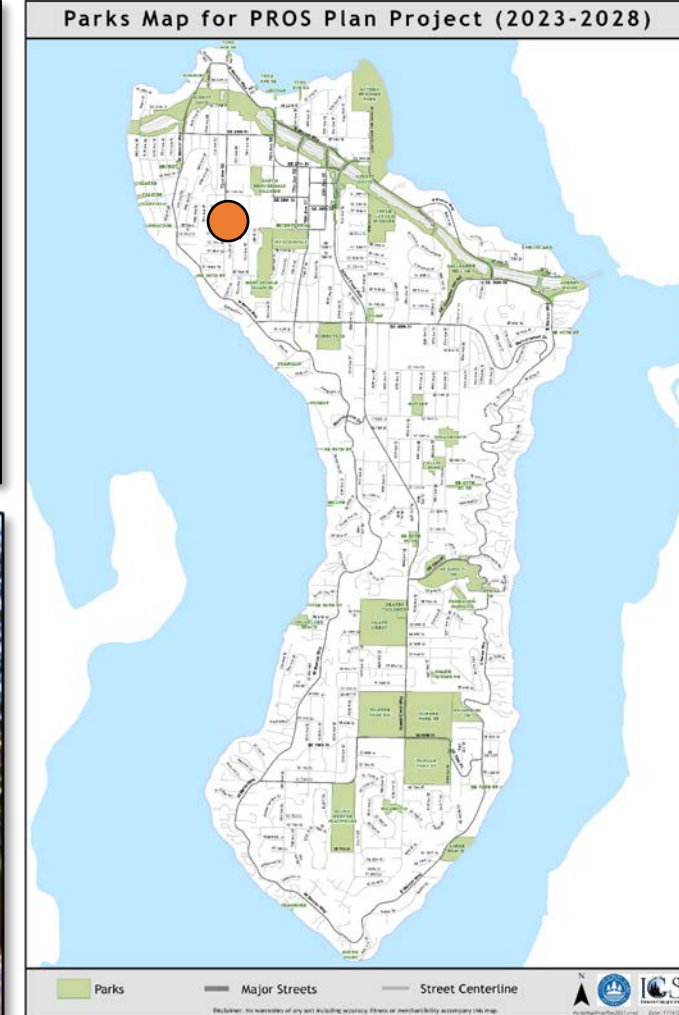
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #6 – First Hill Playground

- Installed: **2007**
- Estimated Replacement: **2026**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$405,000***
- Considerations:
 - This playground structure is recommended for a replacement ahead of the 20-year life cycle.
 - The project also includes resurfacing of the nearby sports court.
 - This playground has the potential to be upgraded for ADA accessibility, but the replacement will need to factor in adjacent ADA parking.

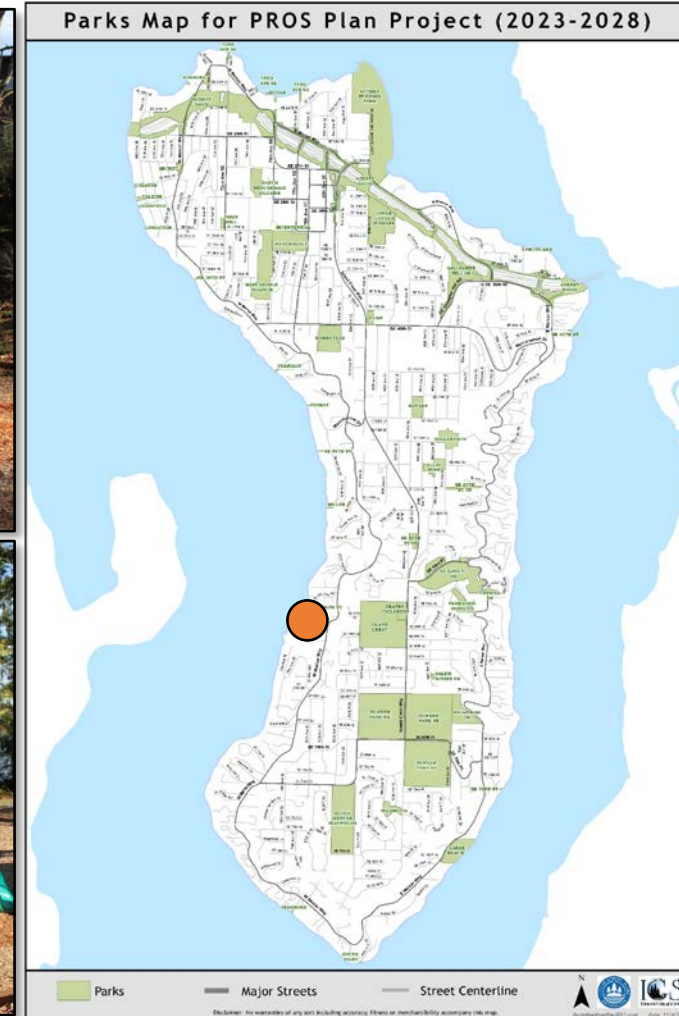
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #7 – Groveland Beach Playground

- Installed: **2012**
- Estimated Replacement: **2036**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$495,410***
- Considerations:
 - This playground structure is not a good candidate for ADA upgrades due to the grade and topography challenges at the park site.
 - This playground structure is aging well, therefore the replacement cycle is currently anticipated at 24-years.

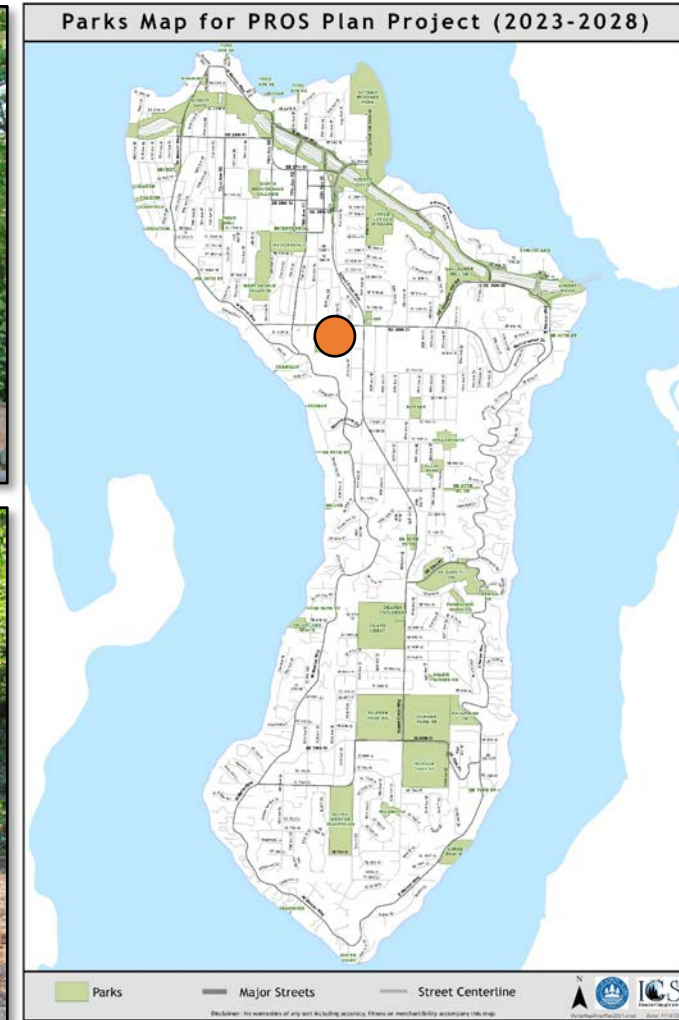
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #8 – Homestead Park Playground

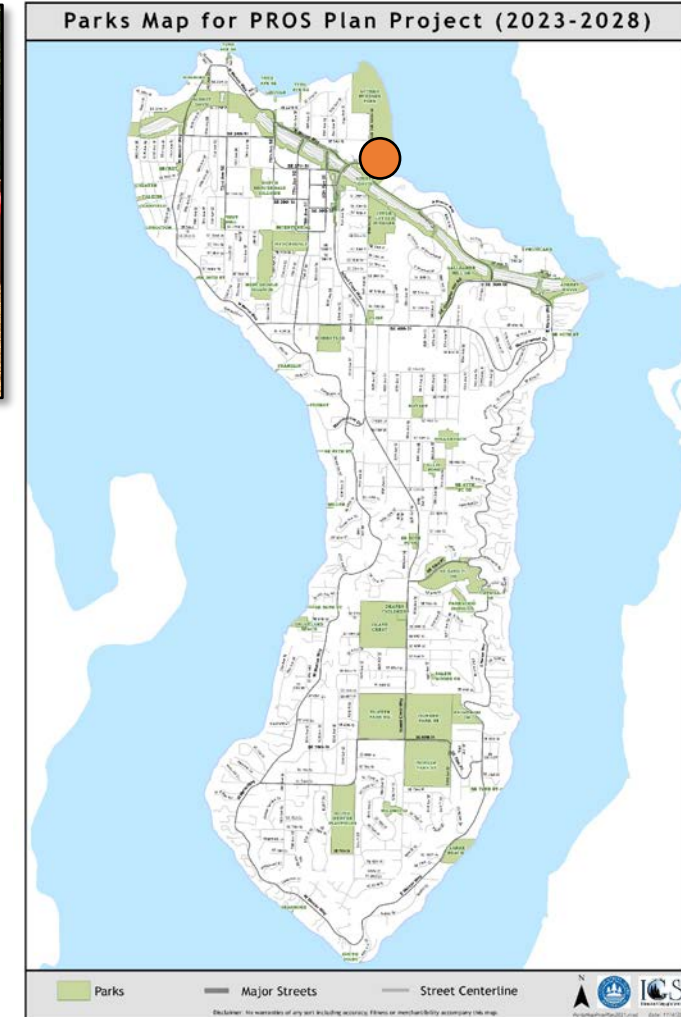
- Installed: **2012**
- Estimated Replacement: **2034**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$508,320***
- Considerations:
 - This playground structure is not a good candidate for ADA upgrades due to the grade and topography challenges at the park site.
 - Located adjacent to West Mercer Elementary School, which has a large playground structure.
 - This playground structure is aging well, therefore the replacement cycle is currently anticipated at 22-years.

*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #9 – Luther Burbank Fire Engine & Spring Toys

- Installed: **2014**
- Estimated Replacement: **2033**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$1,723,150***
(Combined estimated cost of playground structures #9, #10 & #11)
- Considerations:
 - These playground structures are adjacent to the swim beach area.
 - This playground structure will be evaluated for an ADA Accessibility upgrade.
 - Goal is to align the playground structure replacements in the same year, hence proposing to replace this structure at 19-years.

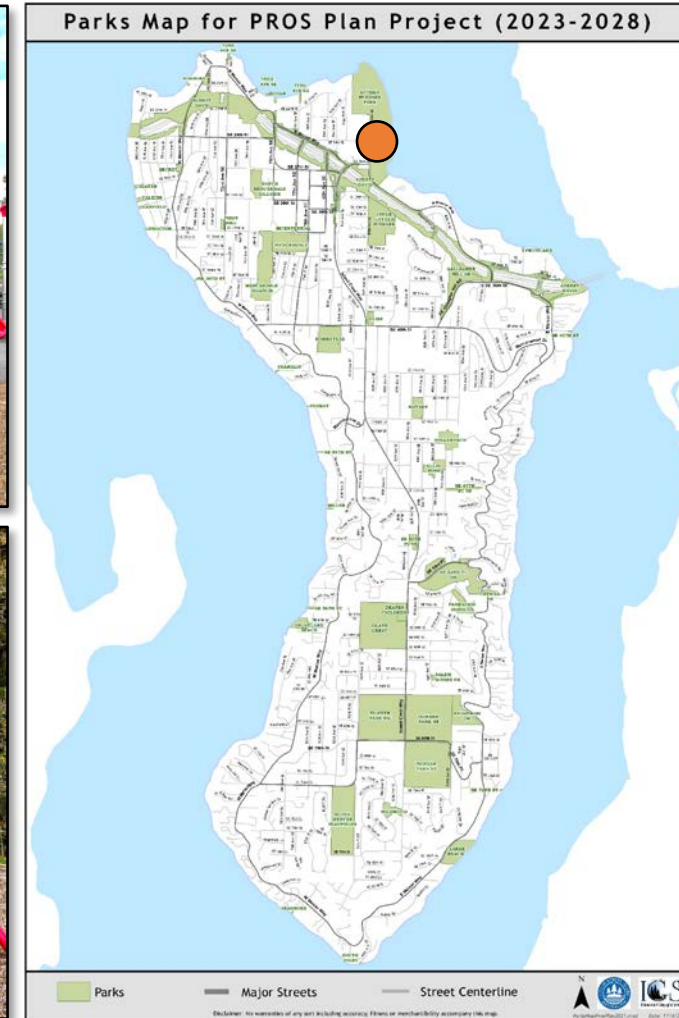


*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.

Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #10 – Luther Burbank Main Playground & Zip Line

- Installed: **2013**
- Estimated Replacement: **2033**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$1,723,150***
(Combined estimated cost of playground structures #9, #10 & #11)
- Considerations:
 - This is the main playground structure at Luther Burbank Park.
 - It is one of the largest playgrounds in the Mercer Island parks system and a highly used playground.
 - This playground structure will be evaluated for an ADA Accessibility upgrade.

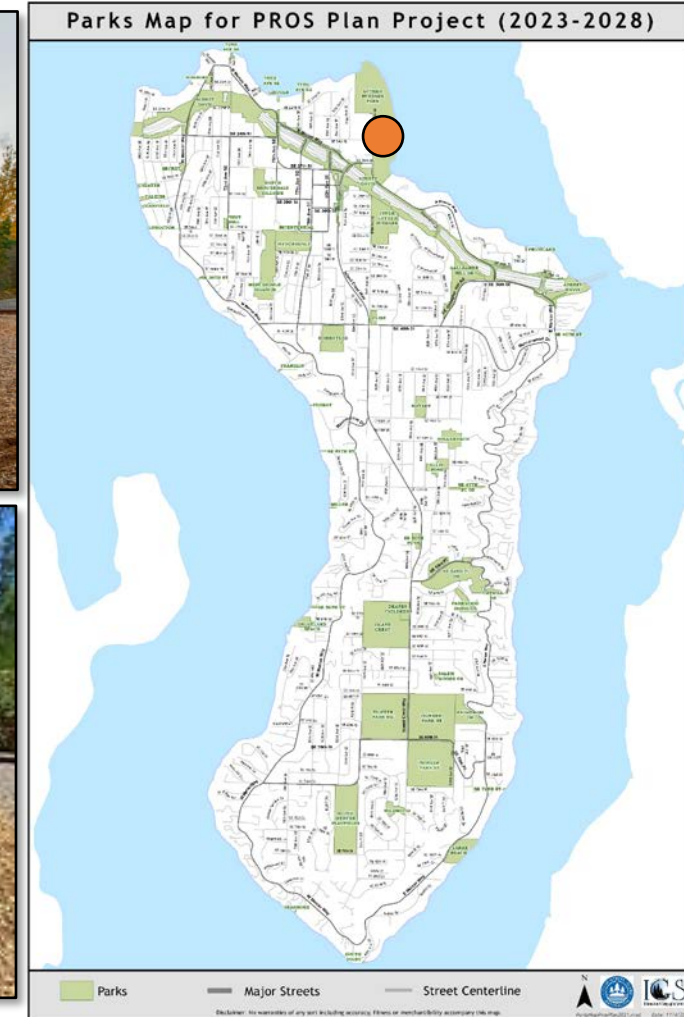
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #11 – Luther Burbank Swings & Spring Toys

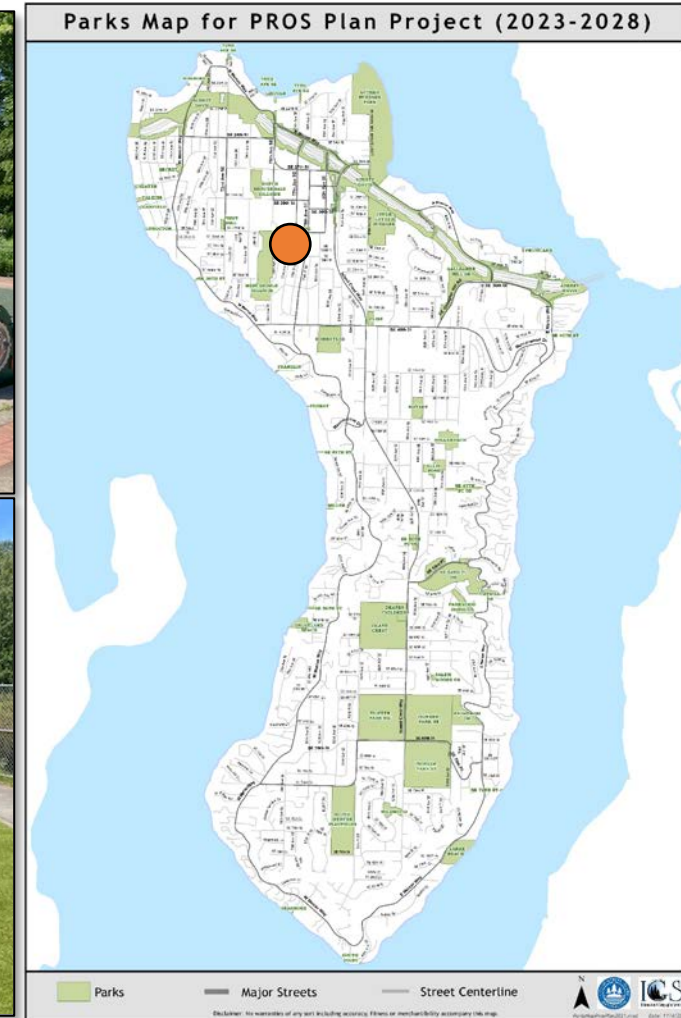
- Installed: **2013**
- Estimated Replacement: **2033**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$1,723,150***
(Combined estimated cost of playground structures #9, #10 & #11)
- Considerations:
 - The spring toys and swings are adjacent to the main playground structure at Luther Burbank Park.
 - This playground structure will be evaluated for an ADA Accessibility upgrade.

*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #12 & 13 – Mercerdale Park Playground

- Installed: **2022**
- Estimated Replacement: **2042**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **Not in Scope of Levy**
- Considerations:
 - We are so close!
 - Opening soon!
 - Almost ready to go!
 - We finally got sunshine!
 - The replacement cycle for the main playground structure and the train structure is currently estimated at 20-years.

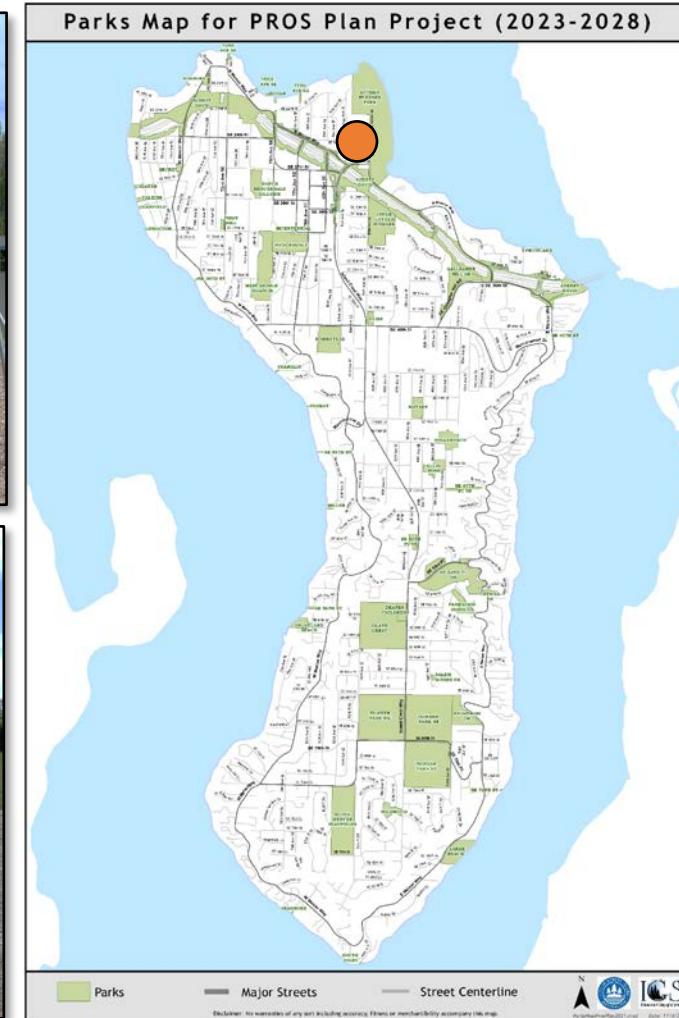


Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements

#14 – MICEC Playground

- Installed: **2010**
- Estimated Replacement: **2030**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$247,100***
- Considerations:
 - Small playground structure located behind MICEC.
 - This playground structure will be evaluated for an ADA Accessibility upgrade.
 - Also need to evaluate play type and need to align the future playground structure with MICEC program needs and MICEC Annex tenant needs.

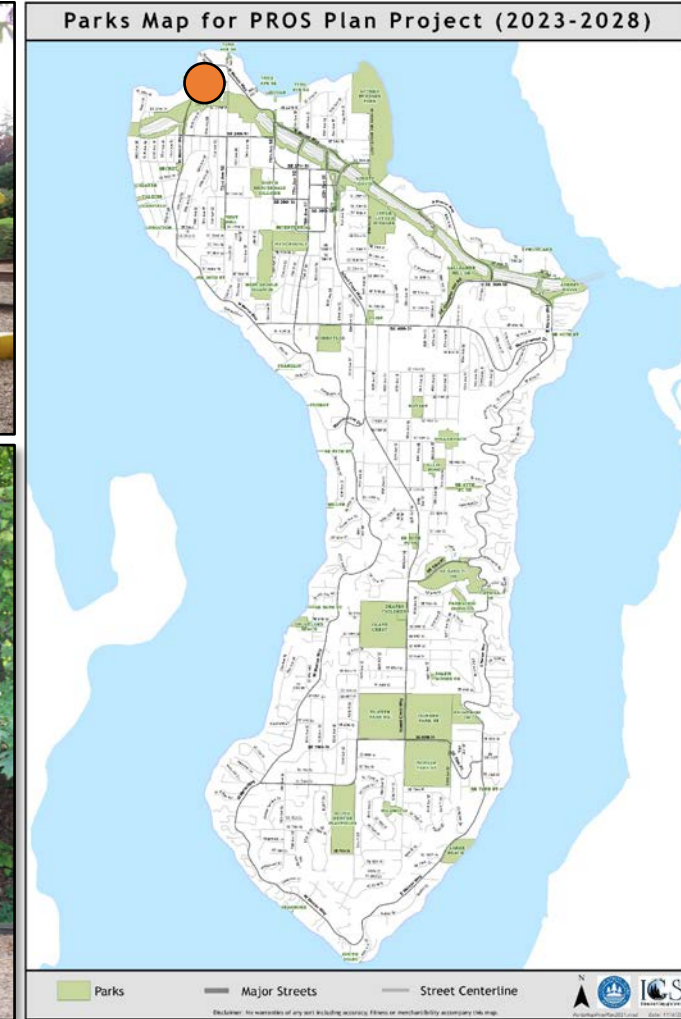
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #15 & 16 – Roanoke Park

- Installed: **2004 & 2012**
- Estimated Replacement: **2024**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$436,000***
- Considerations:
 - The primary playground boat structure was installed in 2004. The spinami and swings were installed in 2012.
 - Goal is to align the playground structure replacements in the same year.
 - This playground structure will be evaluated for an ADA Accessibility upgrade. Will need to consider Aubrey Davis Park Lid B improvements, which are nearby.

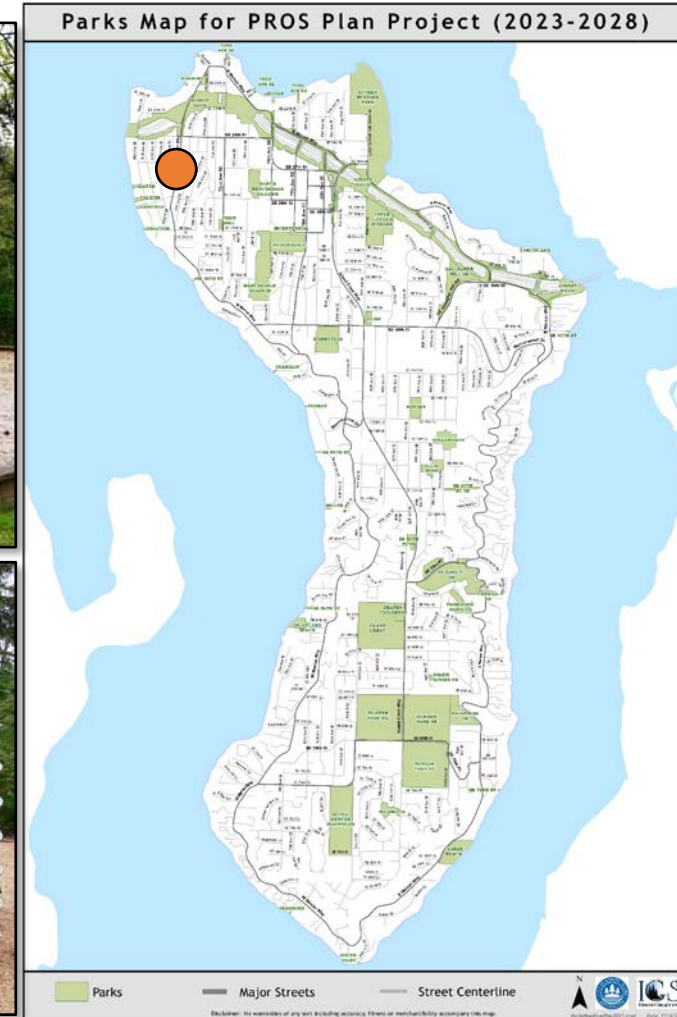
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #17 – Secret Park Playground

- Installed: **2007**
- Estimated Replacement: **2028**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$552,000***
- Considerations:
 - The playgrounds includes a main structure, a spinner, and swings.
 - This playground structure is not a good candidate for ADA upgrades due to the grade and topography challenges at the park site.
 - This playground structure is aging well, therefore the replacement cycle is currently anticipated at 21-years.

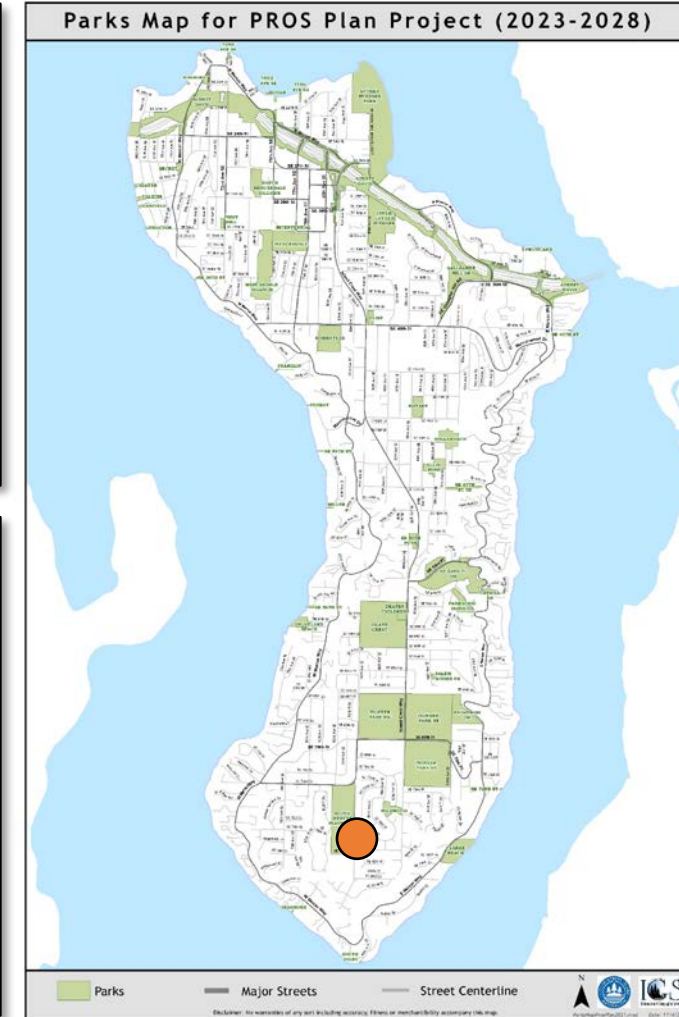
*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements #18 – South Mercer Playground

- Installed: **2018**
- Estimated Replacement: **2038**
- Estimated Replacement Cost: **\$295,100***
- Considerations:
 - Small playground structure located at the South Mercer Playfields.
 - Across the street from Lakeridge Elementary School, which has a large playground structure.
 - This playground structure will be evaluated for an ADA Accessibility upgrade.

*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.



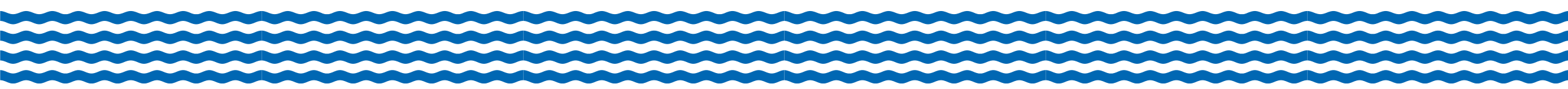
Levy Renewal Option 1 – Playground Replacements

- Four playground replacement funding scenarios for consideration, ranging from 25% to fully funding the playground replacement costs over the life of the levy.
- The table has been updated since the June 7, 2022 City Council meeting to :
 - Reflect the change from a 15-year parks levy to a 16-year parks levy.
 - Incorporate the assumptions in the 16-year playground replacement schedule.
- **Total estimated playground replacement costs over the next 16-years is \$7,150,890.**

Options	Playground Replacement Funding Levels (Updated 6-21-22)*	2023 Estimated Annual Amount
1A	25% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$103,589
1B	50% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$207,178
1C	75% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$310,767
1D	100% Annual Funding for Playground Replacements	\$414,355

*Playground replacement costs were estimated in 2021 as part of the 2022 PROS Plan update process. Cost estimates include a 3% annual escalator to address inflation.

**Assumes a 1% increase annually over the life of the levy.



2022 Parks Levy Renewal: Option 2 – Pioneer Park



Levy Renewal Option 2 – Pioneer Park

Given the length of the PowerPoint presentation this evening, staff will not present all of the background slides on the Pioneer Park funding option.

A video recording of the full presentation on the Pioneer Park funding option and the PPT slide deck will be appended to the City Council packet materials and added to the Let's Talk Page on the Parks Levy Renewal tomorrow (6/22/22).

Pioneer Park: Background



Pioneer Park Background:

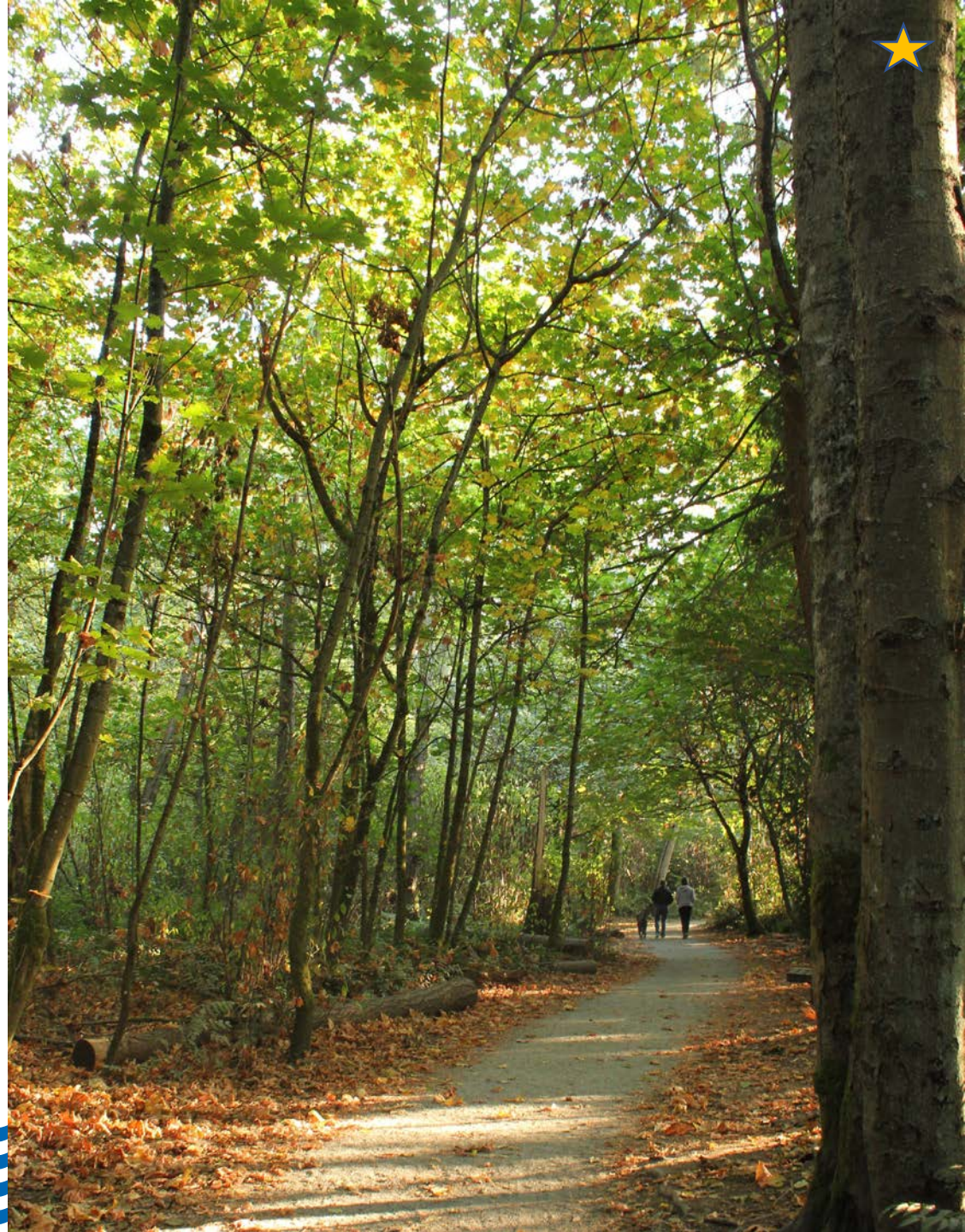
- **1964** – City takes ownership of Pioneer Park (113.5 acres).
- **1992** – Open Space Conservancy Trust created to ‘protect, maintain, preserve’ Pioneer Park.
- **2010** – City acquired Engstrom Open Space (8.5 acres).
- Many studies have been undertaken to document Pioneer Park forest conditions, including analyses of tree canopy, soils, and tree diseases.



Pioneer Park: Forest Management Plan

- **The Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan was adopted in 2003.**
- The Forest Management Plan provides overarching priorities and direction for management of the Pioneer Park forest.
- The Plan also describes the forest health challenges facing Pioneer Park and identifies the need for active restoration work.

Report can be found at <https://www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/completed-plans-studies>



Forest Health Survey and Plan (2009)

- In 2008, the City Council authorized funding to conduct a full vegetation survey of Pioneer Park.
- The goals were to establish baseline information about the vegetation, assess the effectiveness of forest restoration efforts to date, and to create a vegetation management plan to guide future work.
- The Pioneer Park Forest Health Survey was completed in 2008.





Pioneer Park: Forest Health Survey



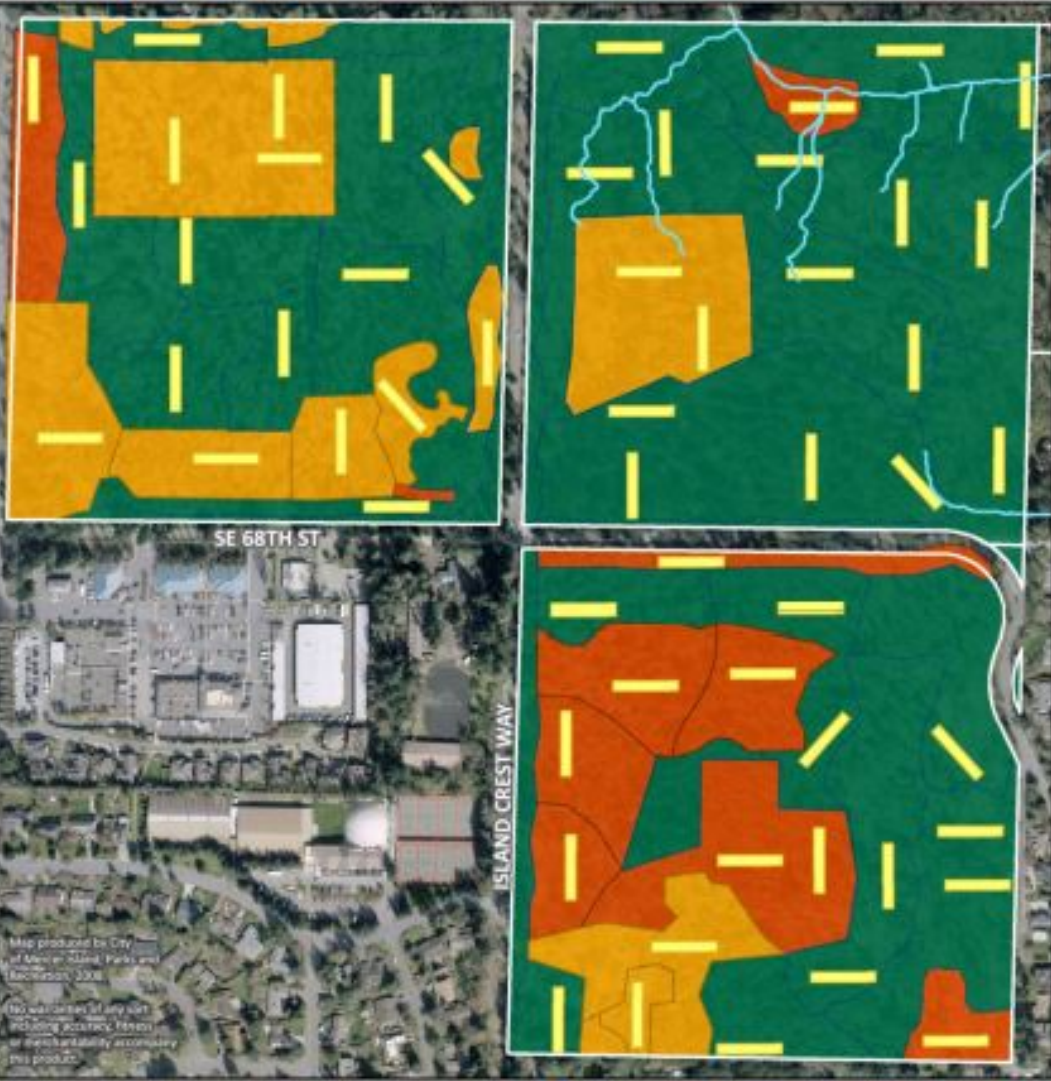
Pioneer Park, Mercer Island

Management Areas & Sample Plot Locations

- Park Boundary
- Stream
- Sample Plot
- Management Type
 - Comprehensive Treatment
 - Selective Treatment
 - Control (no treatment)



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Feet



Pioneer Park: Forest Health Survey

- Staff established **56 permanent plots** in Pioneer Park and collected data on all trees, plant species, soils, and downed wood.
- The data was analyzed and compared to other urban and wildland forests.
- Based on these findings, recommendations were made to change the way Pioneer Park was managed in order to tackle the most pressing ecological issues first.
- The recommendations from the Forest Health Survey were adopted as an **amendment to the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan in 2009.**

Report can be found at <https://www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/completed-plans-studies>



Forest Healthy Survey: Primary Issues Identified

The primary issues identified in the Pioneer Park Forest Health Survey included:

1. High invasive tree regeneration
2. Very low native tree regeneration
3. Increasing invasive species cover in the forest understory
4. Degradation of canopy trees

A new Pioneer Park management strategy was needed to address these issues park-wide instead of in select areas.





Forest Health Survey: Recommendations

The Pioneer Park Forest Health Survey recommendations included:

- **Establishing short-, medium-, and long-term tasks essential for returning Pioneer Park to a native-dominated, diverse, and resilient forest.**
- Creating benchmarks for each task and assigning a timeline and acreage goals to be accomplished over a 25-year period.





Pioneer Park: Forest Management Plan (2009 Update)





Pioneer Park Work Plan: Short-Term Tasks

The short-term tasks are essential for addressing issues that have significant detrimental effects on the health of the Pioneer Park forest into the future. These tasks include:

- Treating invasive tree species
- Creating ivy survival rings
- Planting native trees (1st phase)





Pioneer Park Work Plan: Medium-Term Tasks

The medium-term tasks are critical for “resetting” the health of the understory and establishing quality habitat for wildlife in Pioneer Park. These tasks include:

- Removing ground ivy and herbaceous invasive species
- Monitoring sensitive areas (streams, wetlands) and park boundaries for new invasive species





Pioneer Park Work Plan: Long-Term Task

One long-term task identified:

- A 2nd phase of tree planting, which would ideally occur 20 to 30 years after the first phase.
- Plan calls for two phases of tree planting.
- The first phase of planting began in 2009 and continues today.
- **The second planting is important for establishing structural diversity and forest resilience in Pioneer Park.**





Pioneer Park Work Plan: Maintenance is required!

- Successful forest restoration work includes a combination of treatment and maintenance.
- The Pioneer Park Forest Management plan identifies the need for ongoing maintenance to address continuous invasive species introductions.
- **Ongoing maintenance is essential to establishing new healthy vegetation and trees to “reset” forest conditions after many years of degradation.**





Pioneer Park: Adaptive Management Strategy



Pioneer Park Work Plan: Adaptive Management

- Adaptive Management is central to the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan.
- The strategy includes:
 - Adaptive decision-making to ensure that the City's management practices are responsive to changing conditions and unforeseen challenges.
 - Reflects the evolution of industry best management practices.
 - Uses resources as efficiently as possible to achieve forest management goals.



Pioneer Park: Adapting to Changing Needs

- Since the Plan was adopted, staff have modified restoration practices to meet changing needs, including:
 - **New plantings are now watered** throughout the summer following planting, in response to mortality resulting from drought and increased summer temperatures.
 - Ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal receives **two years of follow-up maintenance** and then is on 4-year maintenance cycles. This is an increase in the amount of follow-up maintenance.
- These adaptive management changes have **improved the success and efficiency of restoration work** and increased the survival of new plants in Pioneer Park.





Pioneer Park: Engstrom Open Space Added



Pioneer Park: Engstrom Open Space



- **In July 2010, Engstrom Open Space (8.5 acres) was added to the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board's oversight.**
- The OSCT updated the forest management strategy and practices to align with Pioneer Park.
- With the addition of the Engstrom Open Space, the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan covers the stewardship of 122 acres of forest on Mercer Island.



Pioneer Park: Progress to Date





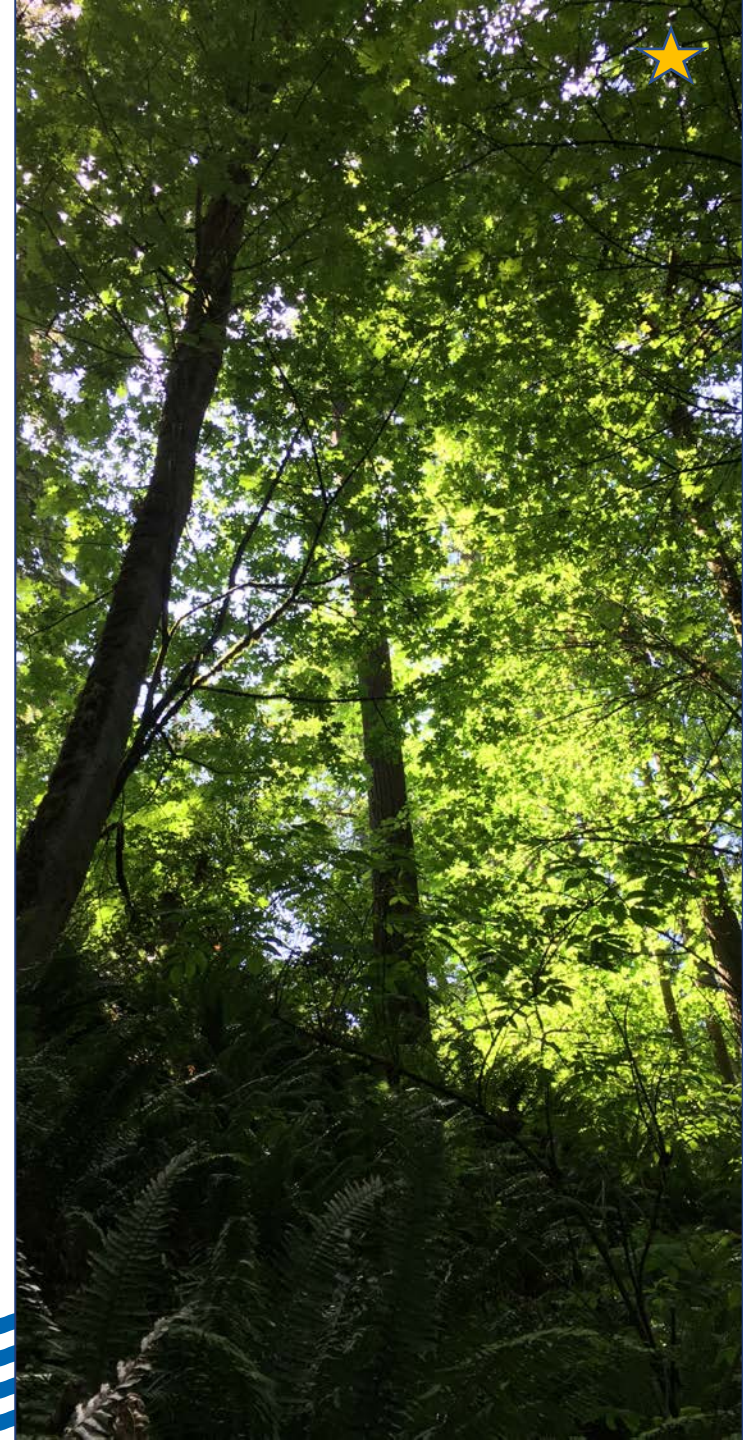
Pioneer Park: Progress to Date

- With funding from the current parks levy and the Capital Improvement Fund over the last 14 years, the City has made considerable progress on the tasks outlined in the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan.



Pioneer Park: Progress to Date

- Tackled persistent infestation of **holly and other weedy trees** across 100 acres that had invaded the forest's understory. This work has reduced competition for existing plants and allowed native shrubs and small trees to establish. (Short-term task)
- Created **ivy survival rings** on mature trees on 80 acres. (Short-term task)
- Planted over **15,000 native trees and shrubs** across 75 acres. These trees will replace the aging canopy and become the future forest generations to come. (Short-term task, first phase of tree planting)





Pioneer Park: What still needs to be done?

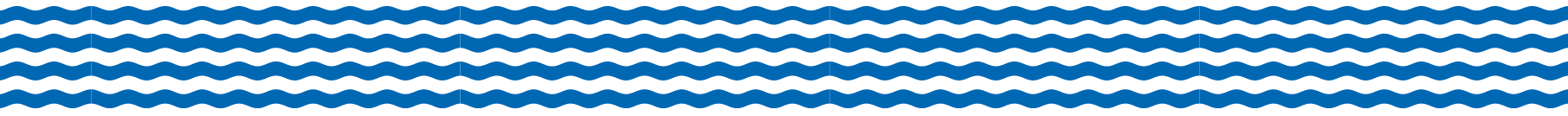




Pioneer Park: What still needs to be done?

Category	Work Item	Acreage
Short-Term	Ivy Ring Creation	20 acres
Short-Term	Periodic Invasive Tree Treatment and Maintenance	Entire park/ 122 acres
Short-Term	Tree Planting (1 st phase)	25 acres
Medium-Term	Ivy and Herbaceous Weed Removal	90 acres
Medium-Term	Monitor Sensitive and Boundary Areas for Invasive Species	27 acres
Long-Term	Tree Planting (2 nd phase)	Entire park/ 122 acres

These remaining tasks were used to inform the parks levy renewal options developed for Pioneer Park.





Pioneer Park: Park Levy Renewal Options



Proposed 2022 Parks Levy Renewal - Levy Options – Pioneer Park

- Completing the remaining tasks in the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan is vital to the forest's long-term health, by improving its resilience to the effects of climate change and reducing the risk of wildfire.
- Significant progress on the Forest Management Plan requires an estimated annual capital investment of about \$700,000.
- **The biennial budget allocates about \$191,000 in annual capital funding for Pioneer Park, of which \$77,000 is derived from the current parks levy.**
- The estimated annual capital funding gap for the Forest Management Plan is about \$400,000 annually.





Levy Options: Funding Increases

- **Option 2A:** Catch-up funding to restore capital investment to where it was in 2009.
- **Option 2B:** Funds 50% of remaining work (excludes second phase planting)
- **Option 2C:** Funds all remaining work (excludes second phase planting)
- **Option 2D:** Funds all remaining work



Proposed 2022 Parks Levy Renewal - Levy Options – Pioneer Park

Options	Optional Funding Increase for Pioneer Park	2023 Annual Estimated Increase
2A	Catch-up funding to bring capital investment up to where it was in 2009	\$36,000
2B	Fund <u>50%</u> of all Forest Management projects except for second phase of tree planting	\$105,577
2C	Fund <u>all</u> Forest Management Plan projects except for second phase of tree planting	\$225,054
2D	Fully fund the Forest Management Plan projects	\$403,748

Parks Levy Renewal: Pioneer Park - Option 2A

Provides funding to bring capital investment to same level as 2009.

- Provides the additional funding needed to maintain the level of service that voters approved in the 2009 parks levy.
- Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan funding derived from the parks levy has remained flat over the course of the current levy.
- This work primarily includes continuation of short-term tasks: invasive tree treatment, ivy ring creation, and tree planting (1st phase).



Parks Levy Renewal: Pioneer Park - Option 2B

Fund 50% of the remaining projects in the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan, excluding the second phase of planting.

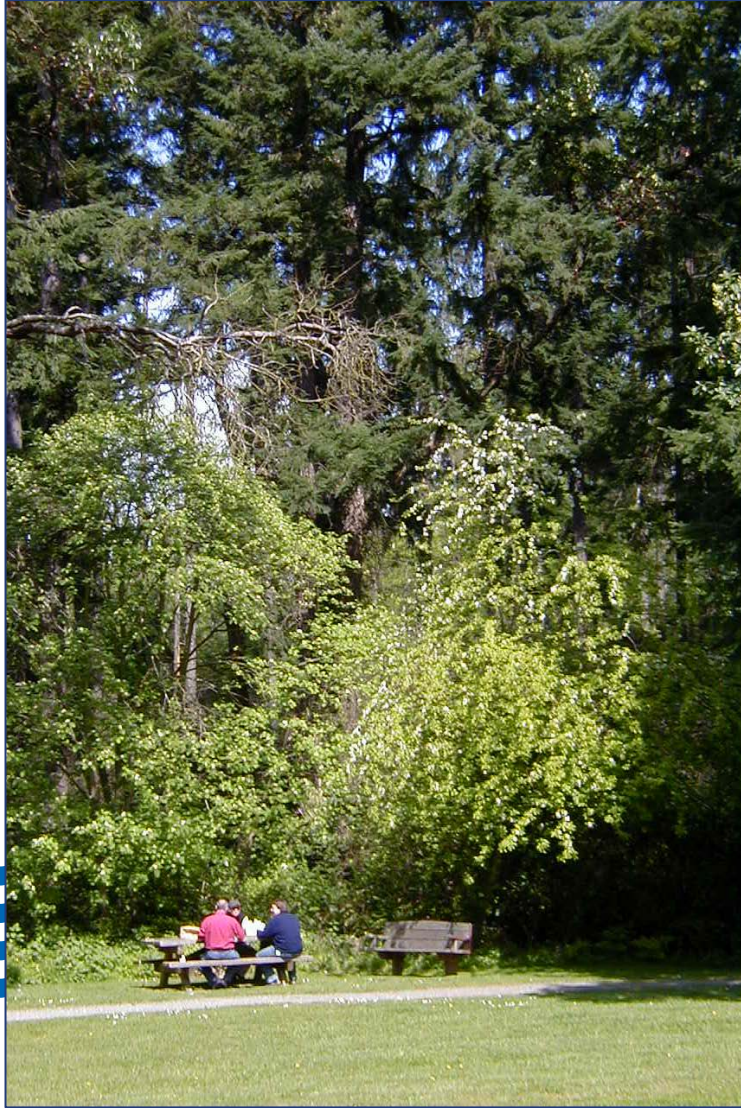
- Perform ongoing management of invasive trees on 55 acres. (Short-term task)
- Remove ivy from the trees on 20 acres, completing the initial removal stage. (Short-term task)
- **Plant 25 acres** with native trees, completing the initial phase of tree planting. (Short-term task)
- Remove ivy and herbaceous weeds from **35 of the remaining 90 acres**. (Medium-term task)
- Monitor all sensitive and boundary areas (27 acres) for invasive species. (Medium-term task)



Parks Levy Renewal: Pioneer Park - Option 2B

Considerations:

- This option extends the timeline for completion of the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan tasks.
- The extended time increases the cumulative restoration costs due to increased need for ongoing maintenance of restoration areas.



Parks Levy Renewal: Pioneer Park - Option 2C

Funds 100% of the remaining projects in the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan, excluding the second phase planting.

Funds the work in Option 2B and also includes:

- Ongoing management of invasive trees on **entire park**. (Short-term task)
- Ongoing maintenance of ivy rings across **entire park**. (Short-term task)
- Removal of ivy and herbaceous weeds from **all of the remaining 90 acres** in need of this work. (Medium-term task)
- Includes periodic maintenance for all invasive removal work. (Short and medium-term tasks)



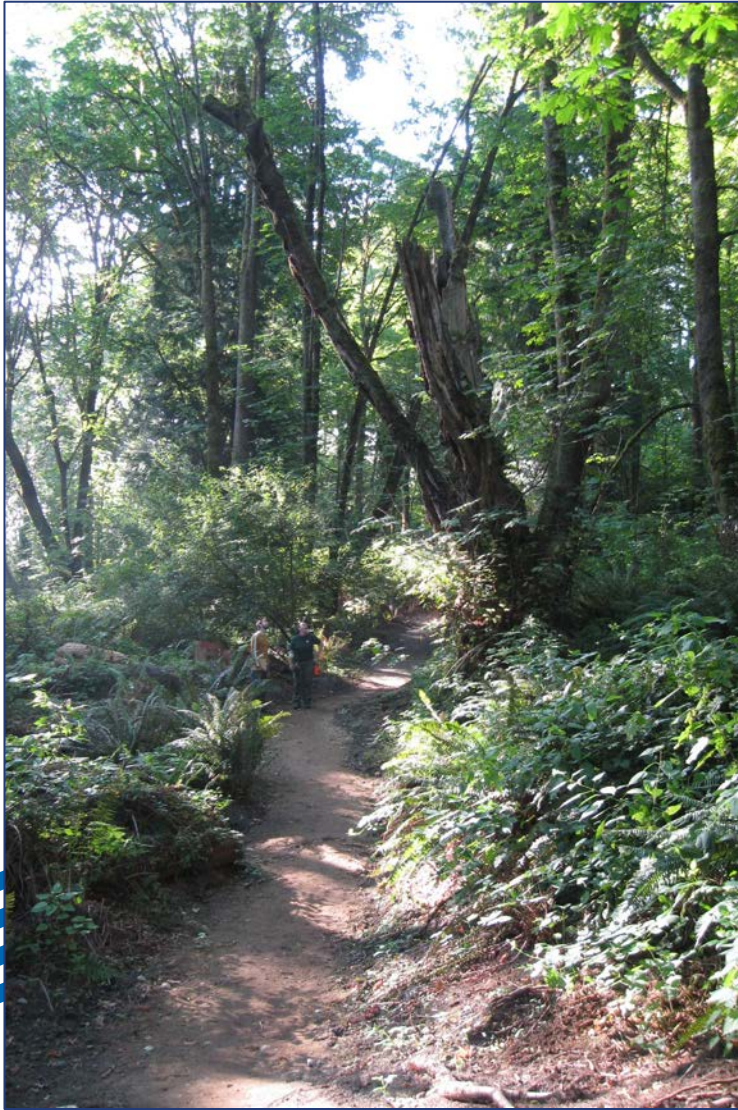
Parks Levy Renewal: Pioneer Park - Option 2C

Considerations:

- Completion of these tasks will move Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space out of the “**active restoration**” phase and into the “**maintenance phase.**”
- Will require significantly lower maintenance efforts than were previously needed.



Parks Levy Renewal: Pioneer Park - Option 2D



Fully fund ALL remaining projects in the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan.

- This option will complete all work identified in Option 2C and includes the **second phase of tree planting**. (Long-term task)
- The second phase of tree planting will provide age and species diversity to the existing forest stands.
- Completing all of the tasks identified in the Forest Management Plan will allow Pioneer Park to develop into a healthy, diverse urban forest.

Proposed 2022 Parks Levy Renewal - Levy Options – Pioneer Park

Options	Optional Funding Increase for Pioneer Park	2023 Annual Estimated Increase
2A	Catch-up funding to bring capital investment up to where it was in 2009	\$36,000
2B	Fund <u>50%</u> of all Forest Management projects except for second phase of tree planting	\$105,577
2C	Fund <u>all</u> Forest Management Plan projects except for second phase of tree planting	\$225,054
2D	Fully fund the Forest Management Plan projects	\$403,748

Parks Levy Renewal Scenarios



Base Parks Levy: Maintain Current Parks Levy Funding Levels

- The 2023 proposed parks levy renewal maintains the current funding levels and the same categories as the current parks levy.
- The 2023 funding amounts reflect a 1% annual increase applied uniformly to all levy categories.

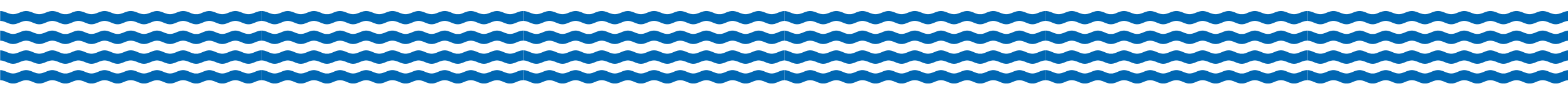
Base Parks Levy: Maintain Current Funding Levels		
	2022 (Current Levy)	2023 (Proposed Levy)
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$373,007	\$376,737
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$355,115	\$358,666
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$111,100
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,770
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,650
Total	\$980,122	\$989,923

Base Parks Levy: Maintain Current Parks Levy Funding Levels

Estimated 2023 Property Tax Impact: Base Parks Levy		
Total Base Parks Levy:		\$989,923
Property Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value		\$0.05537
Estimated Home Value	Estimated Monthly Cost for Homeowner	Estimated Monthly Increase from 2022 Parks Levy
\$1,375,000	\$6.34	\$0.06
\$1,875,000	\$8.65	\$0.09
\$2,375,000	\$10.96	\$0.11
\$2,875,000	\$13.26	\$0.13
\$3,375,000	\$15.57	\$0.15

*The 2023 total assessed value of Mercer Island properties is estimated at \$17,879,904,111, which is a 5% increase from 2022.

**The median market value of a Mercer Island home in 2023 is currently estimated at \$2,375,000. The table above includes estimated monthly tax impacts for a range of home values above and below the median in addition to the estimated monthly property tax increase compared to 2022.



Alternative A: Base Parks Levy + Option 1B & 2B

- This alternative includes the base levy plus:
 - Funding 50% of the playground replacement costs (Option 1B).
 - 50% of all Pioneer Park Forest Management projects, except for the second phase of tree planting (Option 2B).

Base Parks Levy + Alternative A		
	2022 (Current Levy)	2023 (Proposed Levy)
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$373,007	\$376,737
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$355,115	\$358,666
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$111,100
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,770
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,650
Alternative A:		
Option 1B: Fund 50% of Playground Replacement Costs	-	\$207,178
Option 2B: Fund 50% of all Forest Management projects except for the second phase of tree planting	-	\$105,577
Total	\$980,122	\$1,302,608

Alternative A: Base Parks Levy + Option 1B & 2B

Estimated 2023 Property Tax Impact: Base Parks Levy + Alternative A		
Total Base Parks Levy + Alternative A:		\$1,302,608
Property Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value		\$0.07285
Estimated Home Value	Estimated Monthly Cost for Homeowner	Estimated Monthly Increase from 2022 Parks Levy
\$1,375,000	\$8.35	\$2.07
\$1,875,000	\$11.38	\$2.82
\$2,375,000	\$14.42	\$3.57
\$2,875,000	\$17.45	\$4.32
\$3,375,000	\$20.49	\$5.07

*The 2023 total assessed value of Mercer Island properties is estimated at \$17,879,904,111, which is a 5% increase from 2022.

**The median market value of a Mercer Island home in 2023 is currently estimated at \$2,375,000. The table above includes estimated monthly tax impacts for a range of home values above and below the median in addition to the estimated monthly property tax increase compared to 2022.

Alternative B: Base Parks Levy + Option 1D & 2C

- This alternative includes the base levy plus:
 - Fully Funding the cost of playground replacements (Option 1D).
 - Funding all of the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan projects, except for the second phase of tree planting (Option 2C).

Base Parks Levy + Alternative B		
	2022 (Current Levy)	2023 (Proposed Levy)
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$373,007	\$376,737
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$355,115	\$358,666
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$111,100
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,770
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,650
Alternative B:		
Option 1D: Fund 100% of Playground Replacement Costs	-	\$414,355
Option 2C: Fund all Forest Management projects except for the second phase of tree planting	-	\$225,054
Total	\$980,122	\$1,629,262

Alternative B: Base Parks Levy + Option 1D & 2C

Estimated 2023 Property Tax Impact: Base Parks Levy + Alternative B		
Total Base Parks Levy + Alternative B:		\$1,629,262
Property Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value		\$0.09112
Estimated Home Value	Estimated Monthly Cost for Homeowner	Estimated Monthly Increase from 2022 Parks Levy
\$1,375,000	\$10.44	\$4.16
\$1,875,000	\$14.24	\$5.67
\$2,375,000	\$18.03	\$7.19
\$2,875,000	\$21.83	\$8.70
\$3,375,000	\$25.63	\$10.21

*The 2023 total assessed value of Mercer Island properties is estimated at \$17,879,904,111, which is a 5% increase from 2022

**The median market value of a Mercer Island home in 2023 is currently estimated at \$2,375,000. The table below includes estimated monthly tax impacts for a range of home values above and below the median in addition to the estimated monthly property tax increase compared to 2022.

Alternative C: Base Parks Levy + Option 1D & 2D

- This alternative includes the base levy plus:
 - Fully Funding the cost for playground replacements (Option 1D)
 - Funding all of the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan projects including the second phase of tree planting (Option 2D)

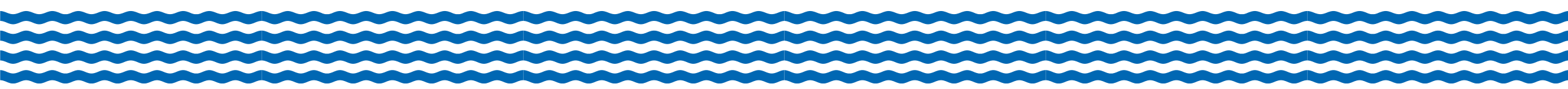
Base Parks Levy + Alternative C		
	2022 (Current Levy)	2023 (Proposed Levy)
Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$373,007	\$376,737
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$355,115	\$358,666
Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000	\$111,100
Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000	\$77,770
Open Space/Vegetation Management (Capital)	\$65,000	\$65,650
Alternative C:		
Option 1D: Fund 100% of Playground Replacement Costs	-	\$414,355
Option 2D: Fund all Forest Management projects including the second phase of tree planting	-	\$403,748
Total	\$980,122	\$1,807,956

Alternative C: Base Parks Levy + Option 1D & 2D

Estimated 2023 Property Tax Impact: Base Parks Levy + Alternative C		
Total Base Parks Levy + Alternative C:		\$1,807,956
Property Tax Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value		\$0.10112
Estimated Home Value	Estimated Monthly Cost for Homeowner	Estimated Monthly Increase from 2022 Parks Levy
\$1,375,000	\$11.59	\$5.31
\$1,875,000	\$15.80	\$7.23
\$2,375,000	\$20.01	\$9.16
\$2,875,000	\$24.23	\$11.09
\$3,375,000	\$28.44	\$13.02

*The 2023 total assessed value of Mercer Island properties is estimated at \$17,879,904,111, which is a 5% increase from 2022.

**The median market value of a Mercer Island home in 2023 is currently estimated at \$2,375,000. The table above includes estimated monthly tax impacts for a range of home values above and below the median in addition to the estimated monthly property tax increase compared to 2022.



Staff Recommendation: Alternative B

- Staff recommend Alternative B:
 - Base Parks Levy
 - Fully funding playground replacements (**Option 2D**)
 - Funding all of the projects in the Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan, except the final phase of tree planting (**Option 2C**).
- Staff anticipate there are upcoming opportunities to fund the second phase of tree planting in Pioneer Park including strategies that may be identified in the Climate Action Plan.
- The ideal sequencing of the second phase of tree planting likely puts this work at the end of the 16-year parks levy and into the next levy renewal cycle.



Election Logistics and Next Steps



Development of Ballot Measure Ordinance

- Upon receiving direction from the City Council on the components of the parks levy renewal, staff and legal counsel will prepare a final ballot measure ordinance.
- **The first reading of the ordinance is planned for July 5, 2022 and the second reading is planned for July 19, 2022.**



Pro and Con Committee

- The entity placing a measure on the ballot typically facilitates the formation of a Pro and Con committee to prepare respective statements (and rebuttals) for inclusion in the election guidebook.
- Upon direction to proceed with a November 8 ballot measure, staff will begin recruitment for these committees.
- The applications will be presented to the City Council for appointment at a subsequent meeting.
- For the November 8, 2022 election, Pro and Con Statements are due to King County by August 9, 2022 and Rebuttals are due by August 11, 2022.

City of Mercer Island

Official Ballot Title	Explanatory Statement
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">City of Mercer Island Proposition No. 2 Levy for Park Operations and Maintenance</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">The City Council of the City of Mercer Island adopted Ordinance No. 08-08 concerning property taxes to maintain and operate park and recreational facilities. This proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy by \$900,000 to a total authorized rate of up to \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2009 and increase the levy as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW for each of the 15 succeeding years to continue operating Luther Burbank Park, improve forest and vegetative health of open spaces, and operate and maintain park and recreation-related facilities and services. Should this proposition be:</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"> <input type="radio"/> APPROVED <input type="radio"/> REJECTED </p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">If approved by voters, this proposition would increase the City's regular property tax levy to pay for open space and forest restoration at Pioneer Park and other areas and school-related park and recreation activities. An additional measure on the November 2008 ballot is a Parks Bond. If the Parks Bond is approved by voters, the Parks Operations & Maintenance Levy would provide funding for maintenance costs associated with Parks Bond projects. The Parks Operations & Maintenance Levy would also replace the current levy which pays for operations and maintenance of Luther Burbank Park. Mercer Island City Council agreed to accept transfer of Luther Burbank from King County in 2003 and later that year voters approved a six-year maintenance and operations levy for the park which expires in 2009.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">The City's regular property tax levy would increase by up to 10.2 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (to a total rate not to exceed \$1.25 per \$1,000 assessed valuation) for collection in 2009 and increase the levy as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. For the owner of an average valued Mercer Island home of \$1 million, the estimated annual cost is \$113.68 for the Operations & Maintenance Levy. The property tax increase would be in effect for 15 years.</p>
<p style="background-color: #eee; padding: 2px;">Statement for</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">The character of Mercer Island is enhanced by well maintained parks, open spaces and recreational facilities. Prime among these is Luther Burbank Park which was transferred from King County to Mercer Island in 2003. Islanders endorsed a 6 year levy, expiring in 2009, to operate and maintain this park. Before you now is a levy which provides for the future maintenance both of Luther Burbank Park and of the additional and improved park, open space and recreational facilities included in the separately described Capital Park Bond. This levy will pay primarily for future Luther Burbank Park maintenance, for forest restoration at Pioneer Park and for the upkeep of city and school related park and recreation activities. At a time when there is growing environmental awareness and an increasing need for recreational and sporting facilities we must maintain the limited assets we have. This levy will increase the annual property tax by \$113.68 for a \$1 million home but given the expiration of the current Luther Burbank Park levy will result in a net annual increase of \$54.29 for the same home. We urge your strong continuing support for the parks and recreational facilities of Mercer Island.</p> <p style="background-color: #eee; padding: 2px;">Rebuttal of statement against</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">The opposition focuses on Luther Burbank Park without fully recognizing the extent to which this proposition funds growing operational and maintenance needs for parks throughout the Island. The expiration of the Luther Burbank Levy in 2009 leaves the City with inadequate funds to appropriately maintain our parks. Recently Mercer Islanders showed they valued parks and open space by strongly supporting the funding of off-island King County parks. Let us now support our own.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><i>STATEMENT PREPARED BY: Joe Wallis, Bryan Cairns, Julie Crow</i></p>	<p style="background-color: #eee; padding: 2px;">Statement against</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Five years ago, we warned that if Islanders passed the one-time limited Luther Burbank operations levy, the City Council would definitely be back for more.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">They're back!</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">In the past, when we acquired a park, operations were funded in the current budget. King County spent a little over \$200,000 maintaining Luther Burbank. Five years ago, the City Council nearly doubled that to over \$400,000. The Council's statement in the 2003 voters pamphlet claimed that without the levy "there will be insufficient funds to maintain and operate" Luther Burbank, even though we had over \$1 million a year in surplus then and in the five years since then.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">In the Luther Burbank master planning process, the public provided strong direction that operations funding for Luther Burbank should come from the general fund as it does for all other parks. The City Council is ignoring that direction.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">The Council is not only coming back, but <u>coming back for more</u>, expanding the levy from \$400,000 to \$900,000 a year and the duration from 6 years to 15 years.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">There are funds in the budget to maintain all our parks. This levy feeds up those funds for less popular City Council projects. Vote NO.</p> <p style="background-color: #eee; padding: 2px;">Rebuttal of statement for</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Levy supporters wrote in the 2003 Voters Pamphlet, "By limiting the levy to six years, the City Council has stayed true to its promise of examining alternate revenue sources rather than relying only on a permanent levy." <u>This 15-year levy breaks that Council promise.</u> For the first time in Island history, the Council is expanding taxes by imposing continuing levies. Our parks can be maintained within the budget. For documentation and additional details visit www.livewithinbudget.org.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><i>STATEMENT PREPARED BY: Marty Gale, Ira Appelman, Thornon Gale</i></p>

98 King County Elections is not authorized to edit statements, nor is it responsible for the contents therein. The complete text of this proposition is available at the Elections Office or visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Recommended Motion

Direct the City Manager to bring for the City Council's consideration a draft ordinance for a November 8, 2022 special election for the renewal of the parks levy to include the base parks levy [and _____].



Appendix





2009 Parks Levy: 14 Years of Reinvestment



Luther Burbank Park – Operations & Maintenance



2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocation

Luther Burbank Park (O&M)	\$373,007
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- Maintenance of landscaping including the planter beds, lawn upkeep, tree care and pruning, litter pick-up, and garbage.
- Maintenance of recreation facilities in the park including two playgrounds, tennis/pickleball courts, the off-leash dog area, and the swim beach.
- Maintenance of trails, open space areas, the parking lots, and the picnic areas.
- Maintenance of the Luther Burbank Administration Building.

Luther Burbank Park – Capital Projects

14 Years of Reinvestment

- Over the past 14 years, the parks levy supported over \$1.5 million in capital reinvestments in Luther Burbank Park.
- Capital project work included:
 - Park improvement projects
 - Trail improvement projects
 - Facility projects
 - Major landscaping projects & habitat restoration
 - Utilities and drainage projects
 - Critical planning and design projects, such as the dock replacement project

2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocation

Luther Burbank Small Capital Projects (Capital)	\$110,000
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Luther Burbank Park – Capital Projects

14 Years of Reinvestment

Park Improvement Projects

- Floating dock for entry/exit of small unmotorized watercraft
- Playground parts, toys, and repairs
- Milfoil removal from the swim beach
- New/replacement park entrance sign
- Tennis court repairs

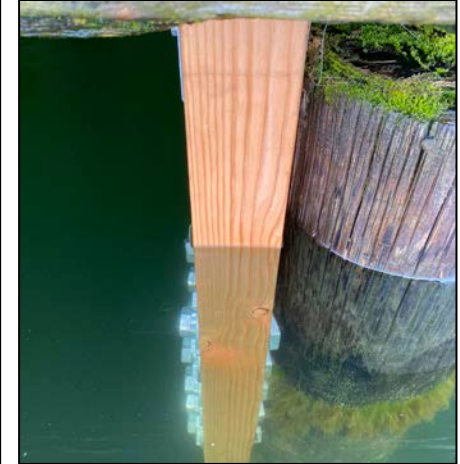


Luther Burbank Park – Capital Projects

14 Years of Reinvestment

Park Improvement Projects

- Swim beach piling removal/new buoys
- Repair rotting pilings underneath docks
- Reconstruct and strengthen eroding shoreline at off-leash area with rockery and terracing
- Add additional picnic tables at Area B
- Add new fire truck playground structure

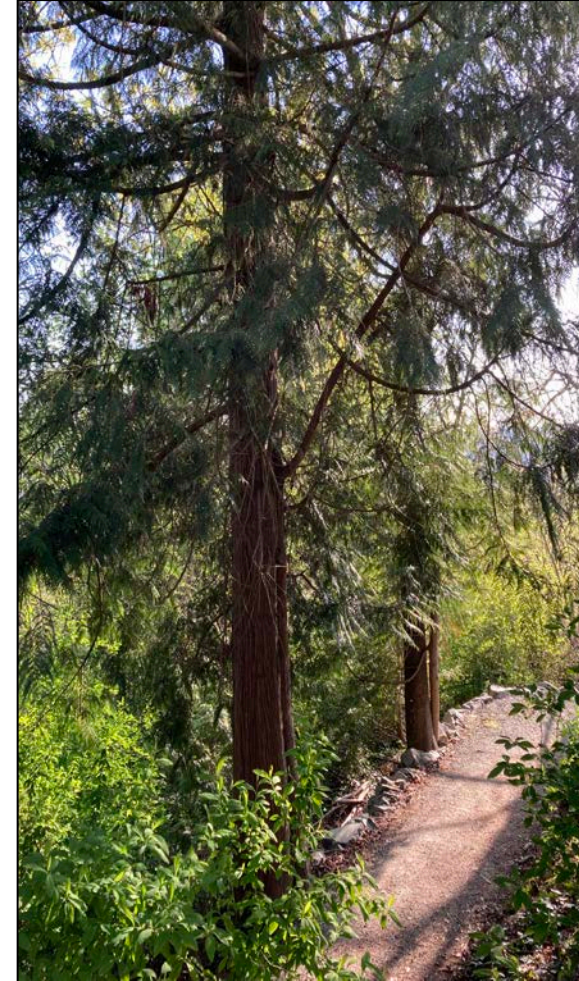


Luther Burbank Park – Capital Projects

14 Years of Reinvestment

Trail Improvement Projects

- ADA walkway improvements at playground
- Park-wide cedar split-rail fence repairs
- Added new Hawthorn Trail
- Added new trail off 84th Ave trail
- Trail asphalt patching



Luther Burbank Park – Capital Projects

14 Years of Reinvestment

Facility and Building Projects

- Replacement of failed Boiler Building drainage system
- Replacement of failing Boiler Building windows with new low-maintenance windows
- Expanded caretaker's yard for native plant nursery
- Installation of automated gate for Administration Building access
- Playground restroom roof repair
- Pergola roof replacement
- Caretaker's house asbestos abatement
- Replace rotted wood wall with concrete wall at boiler building annex



Luther Burbank Park – Capital Projects

14 Years of Reinvestments

Major Landscaping & Habitat Restoration Projects

- Administration building slope planting with native vegetation
- Replace dying and decaying trees with new trees
- Replanting 84th Ave hillside with native trees and shrubs

Other:

- Repair of bricks surrounding *Handsome Bollard*



Luther Burbank Park – Capital Projects

14 Years of Reinvestments

Parking Lot, Utilities, Drainage & Other Projects

- New meadow drainage system to reduce standing water in meadow
- Repaired sewer for restrooms by the dock
- Upgrade outdoor lighting to energy efficient LEDs
- Emergency storm drainage repair to mitigate parking lot flooding
- Reseal and restripe parking lot



Park Maintenance

14 Years of Reinvestment



2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocation	
Parks Maintenance (O&M)	\$355,115

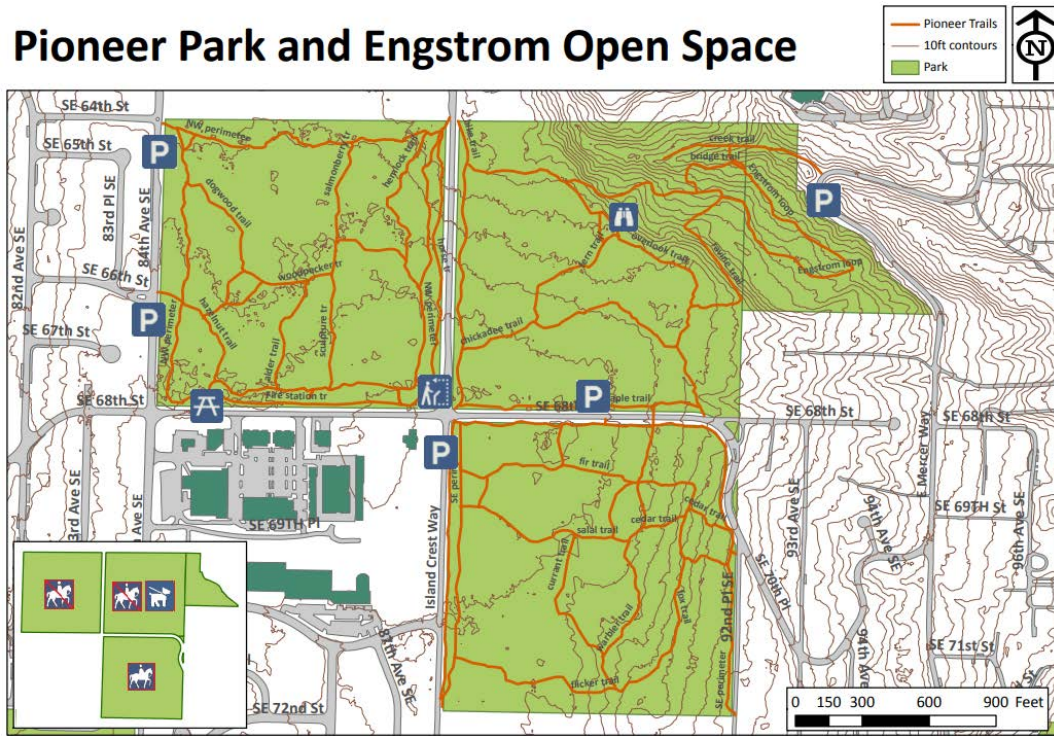
Overview

- Parks levy funding supports operations and maintenance on over **200 acres of park land**.*
- Landscaping and lawn care, maintenance of restrooms, sport courts, and picnic shelters and preservation of shorelines.
- 28 miles of walking paths and trails, 14 Playgrounds.*
- Supports the maintenance and operation of athletic fields across the Island including Island Crest Park, the South Mercer Playfields, and Homestead fields.

*Figure does not include open space areas, Pioneer Park, or Luther Burbank Park.

Pioneer Park Forest Management 14 Years of Reinvestment

Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space

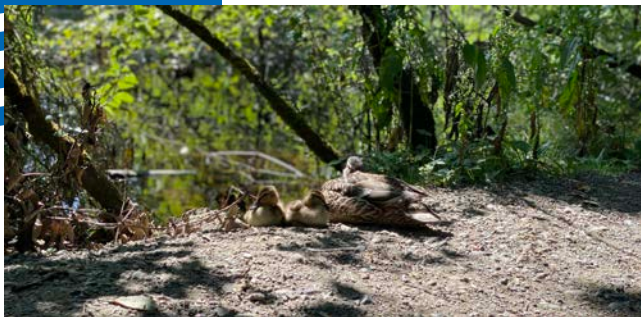


2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocation

Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000
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Overview

- Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space provide **122 acres of forested open space**, comprising 43% of the open space in the City.
- Management of these properties is guided by adopted vegetation management plans.
 - 2003 Pioneer Park Forest Management Plan.
 - 2009 Forest Health Survey.
 - These plans focus on canopy regeneration, invasive tree removal, and ivy management as the key steps towards achieving a healthier and more resilient forest.



Pioneer Park Forest Management

14 Years of Reinvestment



2022 Parks Levy Budget Allocation

Pioneer Park Forest Management (Capital)	\$77,000
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Project Overview

- Mitigation of holly and other weedy tree infestation of forest understory.
- **Planting of over 15,000 native trees and shrubs in nearly 75 acres of Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.**
- New trees will replace aging canopy and become the future forest for next generations.

Open Space / Vegetation Management

14 Years of Reinvestment



2022 Parks Levy Pioneer Park / Open Space Funding

Open Space/Vegetation
Management

\$65,000

- **164 acres of open space** throughout Mercer Island in addition to Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space
- The Open Space Vegetation Plan, adopted in 2004 and updated in 2014, guides stewardship and restoration in these open spaces
- Parks levy funds ivy removal from the base of existing tree canopy across 95 acres of forest and the planting of nearly 16,000 native trees and shrubs