BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5854
May 4, 2021
Study Session

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5854: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Services in the City	☒ Discussion Only ☐ Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report.	☐ Motion ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Information and Geographic Services
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Leah Llamas, GIS Coordinator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. GIS PowerPoint Presentation
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	$ n/a

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Study Session is to present an overview of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) services at the City of Mercer Island and share the various ways GIS is applied to support department activities and core business systems in the City.

BACKGROUND

A geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of geographical data. The key to this technology is the science of geography – so a large part of the data is spatial. This means that the data is referenced to locations on the earth.

Coupled with this data is tabular data known as attribute data. Attribute data is defined as additional information about each of the spatial features. Using parks as an example, the location of the park is the spatial data. The park name, park size, and park type (developed v. open space) make up the attribute data.

Combining these two data types enables GIS to be an effective problem-solving tool through spatial analysis. GIS is more than just software. People and methods are combined with spatial software and tools, to enable analysis, and manage large datasets which is then presented in a visual form such as maps or graphics.

MERCER ISLAND GIS

Nearly everything the City of Mercer Island owns, maintains, does, responds to, and plans for happens at a location. Crime, Fire or EMS incidents, land use applications, potholes, water or sewer mains, watercourses, recreation opportunities, and Town Center design requirements, are just a few of the City services that are based in GIS.

The City of Mercer Island is fortunate to have a robust GIS program to support strategic decision making as well as everyday City operations. In addition, having the support of the City Council and City leadership ensures that the GIS program has the most innovative tools and technologies integrated into all City services.

GIS technology is critical to successful public infrastructure management and planning efforts. The GIS team works with an internal steering committee known as the GIS Think Tank to educate and interact with City staff to ensure GIS is configured and utilized to its full potential throughout the organization. The GIS team provides a variety of services including maps, spatial analysis, applications, reports, data, documents, file archive review, and research to ensure high map confidence.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report. No action necessary.