

# City of Mercer Island

## Parks and Recreation Commission

### Department Report

September 7, 2023



# City Hall Closure

- Staff are preparing a comprehensive update on the City Hall closure for the City Council meeting on **October 3**.

## Short-Term Planning Work:

- **Hybrid Meetings:** Pursuing technology upgrades to the Slater Room at the Community Center to accommodate hybrid meetings. A scope of work and appropriations request is anticipated for the September 19 City Council meeting.
- **Temporary Office Spaces:** Our highest priority is securing functional space for all our work teams displaced by the City Hall closure, with accommodations for the Police Department and the Municipal Court at the top of the list.

## Long-Term Planning Work:

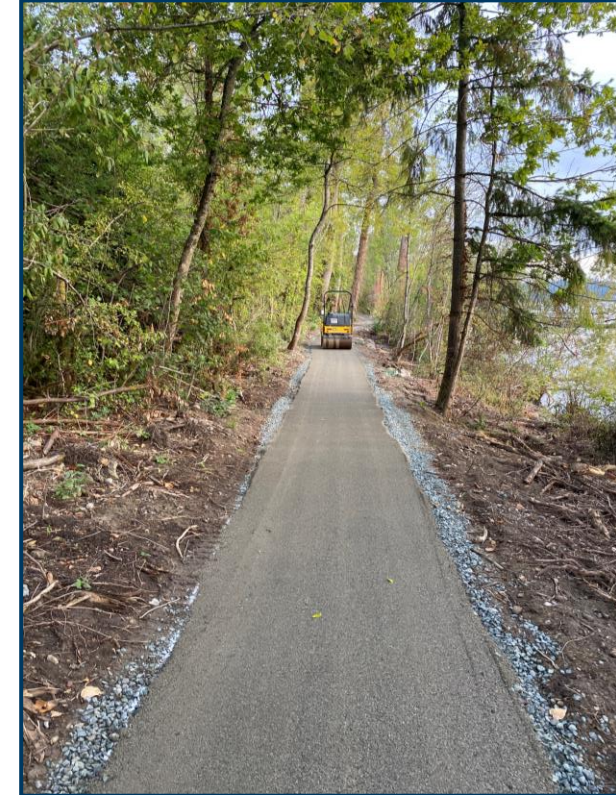
- Staff are continuing to work with the consulting teams in preparation for long-term planning discussions related to the replacement of City Hall later this year.





# Project Update: Luther Burbank South Shoreline Improvements

- The Luther Burbank South Shoreline Restoration Project is designed to improve waterfront access and the trail along the lake.
- The City's contractor began work in April and has made significant progress over the last several weeks.
- Large logs were moved into place along the shoreline project to enhance aquatic habitat and shoreline stability.
- The contractor also installed most of the final crushed rock trail surfacing last week.
- **The trail will reopen to the public by the end of September.**
- Replanting of the areas adjacent to the new trail will occur this fall and winter.
- Visit the Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation project page for more information: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbdock>



# Project Update: Mercer Island Medallions

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- The City hired local artist Marsha Rollinger to create new public art for the Luther Burbank Park waterfront plaza.
  - Public engagement occurred over the summer:
    - Summer Celebration
    - Mostly Music In the Park
    - Mercer Island Farmers Market
    - And ongoing through Let's Talk.
  - The artist is using the input she received to develop the designs of the medallions.
  - The Arts Council will discuss approval and funding for the design package in October to be recommended to the City Council.
  - Visit the Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation project page for more information: <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbdock>
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# Project Update: Bike Skills Area

- We're waiting on one final piece for permitting; once we receive it, we will update Let's Talk with the construction schedule.
- Work on early site prep continues. If you haven't visited the site in a while, you should check it out! It looks great.
- ICP Trail counts will continue later this month, including adding a Saturday count.
  - If anyone is interested assisting in the data collection effort please contact Sarah Bluvus at [sarah.bluvus@mercerisland.gov](mailto:sarah.bluvus@mercerisland.gov).





# Project Update: Luther Burbank Pickleball Courts

- An unexpected permitting hurdle came up last month related to construction access.
  - This relates to the need to add an access road south of the courts through the hill.
- Staff and the designer are working with the Community Planning and Development Department to identify the best path forward.
- We still anticipate project completion next spring, and are refining next steps of the project to maintain progress.
- We'll update Let's Talk once we have more information!

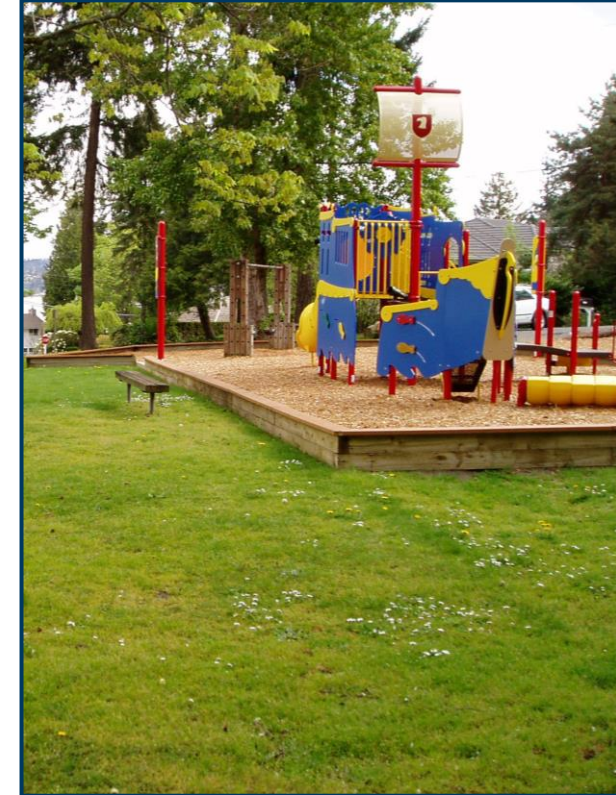
<https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbp-sport-courts-renovation-pickleball>





# Playground Replacements

- The City has contracted with Berger Partnership to lead a variety of park planning needs, including coordinating the design process for playground replacements at Deane's Children's Park and Roanoke Park.
- Staff are working with the Berger Team on a public engagement process.
- Playground replacement projects are funded through the Parks Levy.
- Stay tuned for details!





# Seafair @ Groveland Recap

- Due to previous years of overcrowding, traffic impacts, and safety concerns a capacity of 500 patrons was placed on Groveland Beach for Seafair Weekend.
- Once capacity was reached staff limited access to the facility.
- This worked GREAT! Neighbors were extremely pleased, and patrons appreciated the more comfortable atmosphere.
- The park did fill each day, and Recreation Staff were on hand to provide communication.





# Parks and Natural Resources Updates

- Welcome to our new Parks Maintenance Team Member Andrew Cook!
- Trails and Natural Resources Crew have been doing tread repairs in Island Crest Park (pictured), brushing trails, completing knotweed treatments.
- Contractors and volunteers have completed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year comprehensive weed removal across 17.5 acres of Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.
- Parks Maintenance Crew working on Bike Skills Area site prep, irrigation repairs and planning for fall sports and supporting a variety of special events.





# Parks Volunteers

- As of August 31st, the City has hosted 54 volunteer events with a total of 629 volunteers and 1403 hours of work in 2023
- Forest Stewards tabled the Farmers Market this past weekend (pictured), we have 12 active Forest Stewards who have contributed an additional 335 hours of volunteer work
- Volunteers worked in twelve different locations this year: Pioneer Park, Clarke Beach, Luther Burbank, Upper Luther Burbank, Homestead, Gallagher Hill, 62<sup>nd</sup> Street trail, Mercerdale, Wildwood, Ellis Pond, First Hill and Island Crest Park
- Arbor Day planting event at Luther Burbank Shoreline led by Mountains to Sound Greenway October 21, 2023.

Upcoming events: <https://www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/volunteer-merc-island-parks>







# Mostly Music in the Park

- The Mostly Music in the Park series kicked off on Thursday, July 13!
- The community enjoyed six weeks of outdoor concerts at Mercerdale Park, from children's classic piano to rock 'n roll!
- Our thanks for the support from 4Culture, The Mercer Island Community Fund, Classic Pianos, Island Treats – who sold s'mores onsite and MIVAL, who provided arts and crafts for kids of all ages!
- It was a fantastic 2023 season!







# Shakespeare in the Park

- Shakespeare in the Park returned to the Luther Burbank Amphitheater this summer with 12 shows and amazing crowds throughout July and August.
- This is a long standing partnering between Wooden O, through Seattle Shakespeare Company and we look forward to their return in 2024!





# Summer Celebration!

- Summer Celebration returned on July 15 – and fun was had by all!
- The day kicked off with the Community Parade, brought to you in partnership with Island Books, John L. Scott, & Island Treats.
- Activities throughout the afternoon included: live entertainment, food trucks, arts and craft vendors, non-profit and sponsor booths, City department booths, kids activities and entertainers and LOTS of sunshine!







# Summer Celebration!

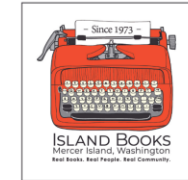
- The evening activities were held at Luther Burbank Park – with live entertainment, food trucks, kid’s activities and ended with the fireworks show!
- Special thanks to the Mercer Island School District, who provided shuttles to and from the park. There was also paid parking available at the Community Center, all proceeds benefiting the event.





# THANK YOU

# SUMMER CELEBRATION SPONSORS!



- Summer Celebration was a great success, and we thank everyone who participated and to the many people, organizations, and businesses who made it possible!
- HUGE thanks to our event sponsors!





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# Summer Camps



- Summer Camp season comes to an end! We offered **15** different types of camps through community partnerships over 10 weeks which included paddle camps, sport camps, Lego, Advantage Basketball Camp, Chess Wizards, IncrediFlix, Kids Run Club, Youth Theatre NW, and Seattle Shakespeare Company.
- Approximately 1,600 kids were enrolled throughout the summer. We will be debriefing outcomes soon and are already planning for summer of 2024!





# Senior Programs



We partnered with Belle Harbour and had a great “British Invasion” lunch and conversation. Over 60 seniors were in attendance!

Ongoing programs at the MICEC consist of:

- OSHER Lifelong Learning
- Senior Golf
- Community Coffee – 2 days/week
- Various drop-in activities
- MIVAL Art Gallery & Receptions
- Tai Chi, Kendo, Jazzercise and Naginata



# Upcoming

**COMMUNITY COFFEE  
CELEBRATES!**



**BLUE FRIDAY!**

**SEPT 8**

**9:30AM - 11:30AM**

**WEAR YOUR FAVORITE  
SEAHAWKS GEAR & KICK  
OFF THE SEASON WITH US!**

Enjoy coffee, tea, and snacks!

Play NFL Bingo 11am-12pm

**WIN PRIZES!**

MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER

8236 SE 24th Street

Mercer Island, WA 98040



**CATCH THE  
SEAHAWKS AT THE  
CENTER!**



Week	Date	Team	Kickoff
1	Sun, 9/10	vs. Rams	1:25 PM
2	Sun, 9/17	@ Lions	10:00 AM
3	Sun 9/24	vs. Panthers	1:05 PM
4	Mon, 10/2	@ Giants	5:15 PM

**We'll have the game on, light refreshments &  
popcorn popping!**

MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER

8236 SE 24th Street

Mercer Island, WA 98040



Presented by Mercer Island Chamber

Mercer Island  
**Art 2023  
UnCorked**

Friday, September 8th, 2023

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

21+ Event

[www.mercerislandartuncorked.com](http://www.mercerislandartuncorked.com)

Title Sponsor



**THE MERCER**  
APARTMENT HOMES

**MIVAL**  
MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE



**Belle Harbour**  
THE FINEST SENIOR LIVING

**Pogacha**  
RESTAURANT & BAR



**PUGET  
SOUND  
ENERGY**

**UMPQUA BANK**

**KING INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**YOGASIX**



**WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE**

**island**  
animal hospital



**Thank you!**

