



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6958  
July 7, 2026  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6958: Resolution authorizing a grant application to be submitted for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program for the Deane’s Children’s Park Phase I Improvements (Resolution No. 1697)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Adopt Resolution No. 1697.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>STAFF:</b>	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Kellye Hilde, Public Works Deputy Director Shelby Perrault, Interim Capital Division Manager
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Resolution No. 1697 2. Deane’s Children’s Park Location Map 3. Phase I Improvements Overview
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	3. Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize staff to submit a grant application to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) via the state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for the Deane’s Children’s Park Phase I Improvements project.

- RCO requires a City Council resolution (Exhibit 1) authorizing staff to submit grant applications for the Deane’s Children’s Park Phase I Improvements project. Upon authorization, staff will finalize the grant application and submit it by the July 15, 2026, deadline.
- On March 18, 2025, the City Council authorized staff to proceed with developing a Site Plan for Deane’s Children’s Park ([AB 6641](#)). Deane’s Children’s Park is located next to Island Crest Park (see Exhibit 2).
- The decision to pursue a Site Plan (which is similar to a Park Master Plan) was made to comprehensively plan for replacement of aging equipment, meet ADA accessibility requirements, and to improve circulation and overall park functionality ([AB 6902](#)).
- The Site Plan provides a long-term vision to address improvements at the park over the next 10 to 20 years. The Site Plan includes a new layout, inclusive play area design, a recommended phasing

schedule, preliminary cost estimates, and a targeted funding strategy. It prioritizes ADA accessibility through inclusive design and focuses on serving all ages and abilities.

- The City Council allocated \$1,500,000 in the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Program for the planning, design, and construction of these improvements, including the development of the Site Plan. A portion of this funding is from the voter-approved 2022 Parks Levy dedicated to playground equipment replacement.
- On April 7, 2026, the City Council adopted the Deane’s Children’s Park Site Plan ([AB 6902](#), see [Resolution No. 1692](#)).
- The Deane’s Children’s Park Phase I Improvements project addresses foundational accessibility, safety, and infrastructure improvements and advances the long-term vision for an inclusive play environment (see Exhibit 3). The preliminary scope of work includes:
  - Constructing an ADA-compliant pathway connecting the parking lot to Island Park Elementary.
  - Installing an ages 5-12+ play area, a swing set combination, and a ground-level spinner.
  - Providing ADA-accessible routes to play equipment.
  - Installing new water, sanitary sewer, and electrical utility infrastructure to support a future restroom connection.
  - Removing invasive plants and restoring areas with native plantings.
  - Replacing the south perimeter fencing.
  - Expanding ADA parking stalls.
  - Installing new site furnishings.

## BACKGROUND

### PARK FORMATION

In 1962, the Mercer Island Preschool Association (MIPA) proposed a children’s park at Island Crest Park, which was owned and operated by King County. After the plan was approved, MIPA solicited support from local organizations to purchase equipment and enlisted community volunteers to build the children’s play area. In 1968, the City acquired Island Crest Park and renamed the play area Deane’s Children’s Park later in 1985, in honor of Lola and Phil Deane, Mercer Island residents who were instrumental in the park’s creation. MIPA has continued to partner with the City to improve Deane’s, including park upgrades in 2005.

### SITE PLAN OVERVIEW

In 2025, the City initiated development of a Site Plan for Deane’s Children’s Park to establish a long-term vision and strategic planning framework for park improvements over the next 10 to 20-years. Informed by existing site conditions and community input, the Site Plan identifies desired park amenities, the general layout, and the spatial relationships between features. It is intended to guide phased implementation, capital investment decisions, and future grant funding strategies.

The Site Plan was developed through a public engagement process and was adopted by the City Council on April 7, 2026 ([AB 6902](#), see [Resolution No. 1692](#)). As a planning-level document, it serves as the guiding framework for future project development, sequencing, and financial planning.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

### PRELIMINARY SCOPE OF WORK

The Deane's Children's Park Phase I Improvements project represents the first phase of implementation of the Deane's Children's Park Site Plan adopted by City Council on April 7, 2026. As illustrated in Exhibit 3, Phase I focuses on foundational ADA accessibility, safety, utility infrastructure, and playground improvements that establish the infrastructure necessary to support future phases of park development. The preliminary scope of work includes the following key elements:

- Improve accessibility by constructing an ADA-compliant pathway connecting the parking lot to Island Park Elementary, as well as to the play areas.
- Construct the ages 5-12+ play area, including a climbing structure.
- Construct a portion of the central play zone, including a swing set combination and ground-level spinner.
- Install water, sanitary sewer, and electrical service lines to support a future restroom facility.
- Remove invasive vegetation and restore disturbed areas with native plantings.
- Enhance user safety by replacing the south perimeter fencing and installing self-latching gates at both park entrances.
- Reconstruct surfacing to provide additional ADA-compliant parking stalls within the existing parking lot footprint.
- Install site furnishings, including benches and bike racks, to support park users and improve site functionality.

Staff completed the preliminary grant application. Once the resolution is approved, staff will submit the final application prior to the July 15, 2026, deadline.

### OVERVIEW OF GRANT

The Deane's Children's Park Phase I Improvements project qualifies for funding through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Among the grant programs currently accepting applications, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Local Parks category is the appropriate funding opportunity for this project. The RCO grant cycle generally occurs every two years, making the current application period an important opportunity to pursue state funding for the project. While this project qualifies for other grant programs administered by RCO, those programs are not currently open for applications in 2026.

If selected for funding, the City will be required to certify the availability of matching funds by May 2027. A total of \$960,000 from the 2022 Parks Levy is tentatively committed in the 2027-2028 proposed capital budget, scheduled for City Council review later this fall. Grant awards are anticipated in June or July 2027.

The WWRP provides state funding for a broad range of conservation and outdoor recreation projects, including local and state parks, trails, water access facilities, and the conservation and restoration of state land. The program was established to help acquire and protect valuable recreation and habitat lands while supporting the development of recreation facilities for Washington's growing population.

The table on the next page summarizes key information related to the grant opportunity.

Grant Program	Source of Funds	Grant Limit	Estimated Request	Match
Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	State	\$500,000	\$500,000	50%*

*\* To meet the 50% match requirement, several options are available, including city labor, equipment, materials, budget appropriations, 2022 Parks Levy funds, donations, and other public or private grants.*

**COMPETITION**

The WWRP grant program is highly competitive. Following the preliminary application deadline for the 2026 grant cycle, RCO received a total of 227 applications in the recreation category, including 60 applications in the local parks category. These applications comprise the full applicant pool for the 2026 grant cycle. Applicants requested approximately \$223M in funding overall, with nearly \$30M requested within the local parks category. Based on current estimates, approximately \$54M in grant funding is anticipated to be available through the WWRP program, with roughly 30% of those funds typically allocated to local park projects; however, final funding levels are subject to legislative appropriations and program priorities. Despite the competitive nature of the program, the City’s grant application is well positioned for funding consideration due to its strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusive playground design opportunities.

**GRANT PROGRAM TENURE REQUIREMENTS**

Property developed with WWRP funds must be kept and maintained for public outdoor recreation for at least fifty years. Long-term obligations for structures or facilities for outdoor recreation will be tied to a reasonable, agreed upon service life for the structure or facility. Over the past decade, the City has successfully administered a variety of RCO-funded projects and is familiar with the agency’s long-term stewardship and compliance requirements, including through RCO-funded improvements at Island Crest Park and Luther Burbank Park. Deane’s Children’s Park has served as a public park for more than 60 years and is planned to continue operating as a public park into the future. Accordingly, the City does not anticipate any challenges in meeting the program requirements.

**BUDGET**

The total preliminary planning level cost estimate for the Deane’s Children’s Park Phase I Improvements project is \$2,925,000. This is a conceptual level estimate, based on the adopted Site Plan. Costs may vary as the project details are further defined. The estimate includes construction of Phase I Improvements, as well as design, engineering, and permitting for Phase I Improvements.

While the Phase I Improvements are presented as a single project for planning and design purposes to ensure a cohesive implementation strategy, they can be constructed over time as funding becomes available. During design development, opportunities to further break Phase I into smaller, implementable construction phases will be identified to support efficient project delivery and align with available funding.

Advancing design beyond the initial construction scope will establish a coordinated approach to implementing the Site Plan, inform site-wide considerations such as grading, stormwater, accessibility, and circulation, and ensure that future improvements can be implemented efficiently without requiring significant redesign of completed work. Completing this work will also position the City to respond quickly to future grant and private funding opportunities as they become available.

If awarded the grant, the City could receive up to \$500,000, although the actual award amount may be lower. This grant can be used to reimburse project costs. The table below outlines the conceptual level cost estimate for the overall project costs associated with the development of Phase I Improvements.

Description	Planning Level Cost Estimate
Site Studies, Design and Engineering, Project Administration, and Permitting	\$600,000
General Site Preparation (Demolition, Mobilization, Surveying, Traffic Control)	\$120,000
Pedestrian Circulation	\$180,000
Play Equipment and Safety Surfacing	\$1,650,000
Utilities (Water, Sanitary Sewer, Stormwater, Electrical)	\$250,000
Parking Lot Improvements	\$40,000
Landscaping and Restoration	\$50,000
Fencing and Site Furnishings	\$35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,925,000</b>

This project is included in the draft 2027-2032 Parks Capital Improvement Program. Phase I Improvements were prioritized based on community input, construction sequencing, and anticipated funding; however, available funding is not sufficient to deliver all Phase I elements at one time. As a result, Phase I will be further refined during design development and broken into smaller, implementable construction phases to align project scope with available resources and to identify the most effective sequencing.

The City anticipates pursuing multiple grant opportunities over the next two to three years, in addition to other outside funding sources, to support implementation of Phase I. If the grant is not awarded, staff will continue to pursue alternative funding opportunities, including additional grants and philanthropic contributions, and will evaluate adjustments to project phasing, scope, and schedule as needed to align with available funding.

The City is also working in partnership with Friends of Dragon Park to support community engagement and fundraising efforts. Friends of Dragon Park is assisting with outreach and supporting the City’s efforts to pursue private donations. Additionally, they are helping to gather letters of support for the WWRP grant application.

**RESOLUTION**

RCO requires City Council authorization by resolution (Exhibit 1) to accompany the grant application. The language in the body of the resolution is verbatim as requested by RCO and includes the following provisions:

- Authorize City staff to serve in specific roles on behalf of the City for this grant application.
- Acknowledge the conditions included in a future grant agreement between the City of Mercer Island and RCO.
- Acknowledge the timing for certifying the availability of matching funds.

**NEXT STEPS**

The total amount of grant funds requested from the Washington State Wildlife and Recreation Program is \$500,000. If awarded, the grants require a 50% percent local match, which is contingent on future City Council budget approval.

The grant application deadline is July 15, 2026. The application materials will be submitted after receiving City Council approval for this resolution. Project rankings for the grant programs will be made public in October 2026. If awarded, funding will be available in July 2027.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Adopt Resolution No. 1697 authorizing the application for grant funds in the amount of \$500,000 from the Washington State Wildlife and Recreation Program, subject to conditions described in Resolution No. 1697 for the Deane's Children's Park Phase I Improvements project.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to apply for the grant and accept the grant and conditions of the grant, if awarded.