

# Parks & Recreation Commission



## Department Report

December 3, 2020

# Department Report

- **PROS Plan- Restart**
- **Recreation Recovery Planning**
- **Aubrey Davis Tree Removal**
- **Illuminate MI & Holiday Lights Map**
- **Thrift Shop Remodel Update**
- **2021-2020 City Budget Adopted**
- **Commission Work Plan Projections 2021**



# Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS)



## Update:

- The Consultant has provided an updated DRAFT scope and project timeline. Staff is currently reviewing and assembling a work group to move the process forward.
- Staff will be engaging the Commission beginning in January and including agenda items at each subsequent meeting through completion of the Plan.
- February-May will include a robust community engagement strategy.
- Our goal is to deliver a draft Plan to City Council for review in Mid-June and July.

# Parks & Recreation Recovery Planning

- A staff team has been working with Consultant Emily Moon to create a “Reset” plan for the City’s recreation programs and services which were eliminated due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The team is approaching the development of this plan by breaking it in to (2) major steps.
  1. Immediate Action Plan (IAP): This is a plan that will evaluate immediate and time sensitive needs ahead of wide-spread Covid-19 vaccine distribution and entering Phase 4 of the Safe Start Plan. The IAP requires rapid and immediate implementation to successfully launch programs by Summer 2021.
  2. Longer-Term Action Plan: Through engagement with the P&R Commission for review and contribution, this plan will develop long-term cost recovery and resource allocation strategies. It will provide a multi-year road map to assist the City in identifying its future recreation, arts, and MICEC programs and services.
- Staff intends to engage with the Commission on this planning process beginning in January.



# Park Maintenance

## Tree removals in Aubrey Davis Park

- Starting in the coming weeks, the City will begin removing a number of dead trees along the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail and other high use trails in Aubrey Davis Park.
- All of the trees planned for removal have been evaluated by a qualified Tree Risk Assessor.
- Removals will help prevent unexpected blowdowns during the winter and protect the safety of all park users.
- Trail signage and detours will be implemented where necessary.
- In 2021, the City will plant replacement trees in areas not impacted by the King County sewer line replacement project.
- Contact Alaine Sommargren ([alaine.sommargren@mercerisland.gov](mailto:alaine.sommargren@mercerisland.gov)) with questions.



# Illuminate MI Installation Update

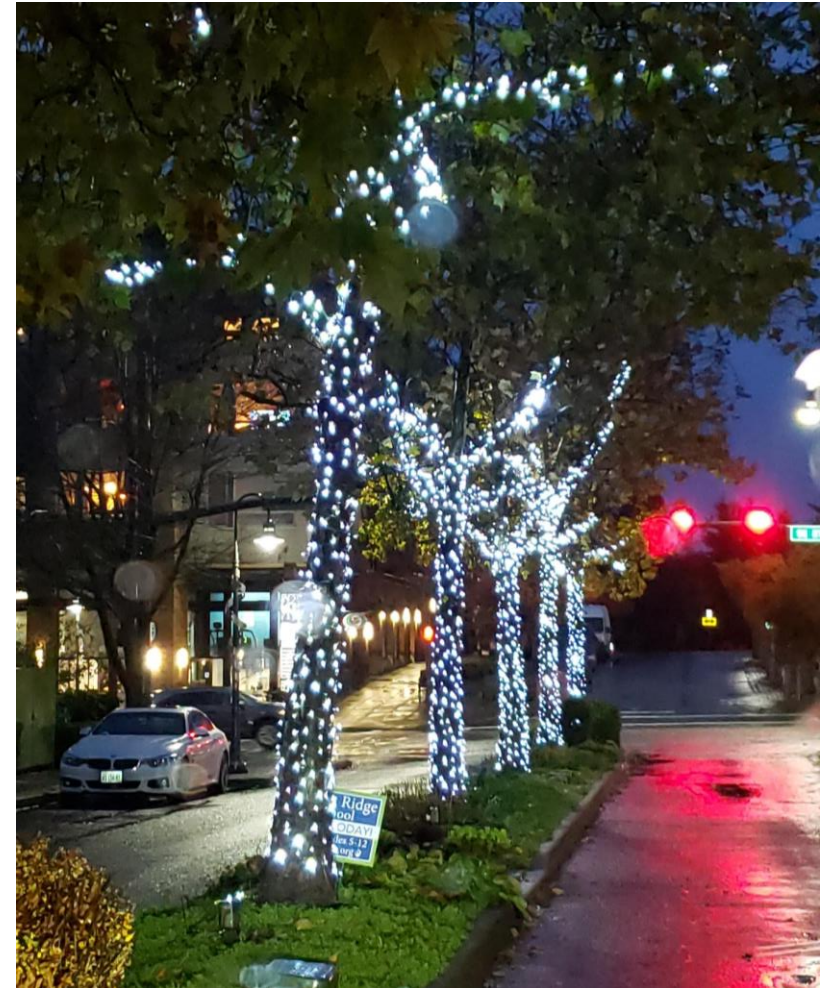
- Our elves (Public Works Crew) have installed lights:
  - On the median trees down 78th Ave SE
  - On the pedestrian crossing on 27th Ave SE near the Drive-Thru Starbucks.
  - Mercerdale Park: Sequoia Tree, Pergola, and Hedges
- **Over 90K lights in total will be part of the Illuminate MI installation!**
- Staff continues to coordinate with an artist for the install of lights in the Sculpture Gallery (expected install in the coming weeks)



# Illuminate MI

## Donations Update

- Throughout a period of 4 weeks, **over \$21,000 in donations were received!**
  - **Griswold level donors (\$3,000+)**
    - Mercer Island Community Fund
    - Rotary Club of Mercer Island
    - Ryan Companies
  - **Buddy the Elf level donors (\$500-\$2,999)**
    - Evergreen Church
    - Mercer Island Firefighters – IAFF Local 1762
    - The Mercer Apartments
    - Mercer Island Radio Operators (MIRO)



# Illuminate MI

## Donations Update

- A large number of private donations were received, many for substantial amounts. Thank you!
- THANK YOU to the **Mercer Island Community Fund**, not only for their considerable donation but they also provided in-kind donation acceptance services.
  - Treasurer Betsy O'Connell dedicated many hours of volunteer service to this project. Thank you!
- We've also heard rumors that Santa may be planning on a stroll through Town Center in the coming weeks. Way to bring the holiday spirit, Mercer Island!





# MI Holiday Lights Driving Route

- Can't get enough holiday lights?!? Us either!
- The Mercer Island Preschool Association has created a digital driving route tracking homes that are decked out for the holidays, and a scavenger hunt for the community. The map will go live on December 11.
- If you have decked out your house with lights, make sure to email [MIHolidayLights@gmail.com](mailto:MIHolidayLights@gmail.com) so your home can be added to the map.
- If you want to purchase a map for \$10 (proceeds benefit MIYFS) visit [www.MIHolidayLightsMap.com](http://www.MIHolidayLightsMap.com).
- Thank you to everyone involved for helping make this season a joyous one!



# Thrift Shop Remodel Project

- At the last Council Meeting (11/17), the City Council suspended work on the Thrift Shop Remodel Project and directed staff to conduct a public engagement process.
- Staff have launched a Let's Talk page with background information, videos of presentations during past Council meetings, and more.
- The City is seeking suggestions on alternative donations processing site locations and general feedback on the project.
- Visit <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/thriftshop> to get started.
- The Let's Talk Page will remain open for public comment until January 10. **Please encourage community feedback.**



# 2021~2022 Budget ADOPTED!

On Dec. 1, the City Council adopted the 2021-2022 Biannual Budget.

## What this means for the Parks & Recreation Department:

- Reinstatement of Park Maintenance Casual Labor and Town Center beatification.
- Funding to “restart” recreation programming and MICEC operations.
- Implementation of Temporary “Transition Team” positions and several other FTE positions (across various departments) that were discussed at the previous commission meeting.



# Commission Work Plan at a Glance

**Early in 2021 the Commission and staff will discuss finalizing the annual work plan and will layout a monthly planning schedule.**

## **Key Items for 2021:**

- PROs Plan: Q1-Q3 (6 meetings)
- Recreation Division Recovery Plan: Q1 (4 meetings)
- ADP Trail Safety Improvements: Q1 (1 or 2 meetings)
- Luther Burbank Docks: Q1-Q2 (2-4 meetings)
- Policy advisement: Q2 – 2022
  - Anticipated policy recommendations from the PROs Plan and Recovery Plan.
  - MISD Interlocal Agreement



\*Given the volume of time sensitive work required early in 2021, the Commission may request additional meetings or a Commission weekend workshop.

Happy Holidays

**Thank You**