



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

**AB 6908
April 21, 2026
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6908: Revised 2026 Fee Schedule Adoption (Resolution No. 1693)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Resolution No. 1693, adopting the Revised 2026 Fee Schedule, effective May 1, 2026.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Robbie Cunningham Adams, Senior Management Analyst Amelia Tjaden, Management Analyst II
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Resolution No. 1693, including Exhibit A – Revised 2026 Fee Schedule
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to revise the City’s 2026 Fee Schedule.

- In November 2025, the City Council passed Resolution No. 1685 adopting a Fee Schedule for the City for 2026.
- In May 2025, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25C-03 ([AB 6678](#)), establishing that rates for all public parking fees will be set by resolution in the fee schedule.
- Proposed Resolution No. 1693 adopts the Revised 2026 Fee Schedule which includes the addition of special event parking rates at City facilities and sets a maximum event parking rate of \$100
- The proposed Revised 2026 Fee Schedule also includes verbiage under Parks and Recreation Fees, which allows for promotional and seasonal fee reductions as determined by the Department Director.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, the City Council established a Citywide fee schedule to bring all set and published fees into one location to make it easier for the public to locate specific fees. The fees included in the schedule are either set by Mercer Island City Code, resolutions of the City Council, administratively by departments, or by an outside agency with which the City contracts. In addition, fees are calculated and adjusted in varying ways. This

centralized fee schedule benefits residents by providing simple, transparent access to City fees and benefits the City by creating a process for annual review of all fees by staff and the City Manager.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Parking In & Around Town Center

In May 2025, City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25C-03 ([AB 6678](#)), establishing that rates for all public parking fees will be set by resolution in the fee schedule.

Town Center Parking Area

In July 2025, the City opened the Town Center Parking Area, located at the end of East Sunset Highway. Thirty-three parking stalls are available for all-day parking. Users are required to register their vehicle with ParkMobile to use the lot. Parking is free for the first two hours, \$2.50 per hour thereafter up to a daily maximum of \$12.50. These regulations are in effect from 8:00AM to 10:00PM seven days per week.

Mercer Island Park & Ride

Owned and operated by Sound Transit, the Mercer Island Park & Ride is just north of Town Center and adjacent to the Transit Center. 447 parking stalls are available for free on a first-come first-served basis. Staff have conducted occupancy counts at the Park & Ride over the last two years, with the most recent counts occurring in February and April 2026. The table below shows the occupancy rates for these counts. During both counts, the Park & Ride was fully occupied at noon on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the only spaces available being load/unload spaces and motorcycle spaces.

FEBRUARY 2026	9AM	Noon
Tuesday 2/3	80%	98%
Wednesday 2/4	81%	98%
APRIL 2026	9AM	Noon
Tuesday 4/7	93%	98%
Wednesday 4/8	93%	98%

Mercer Island Community & Event Center and Luther Burbank Park

The Mercer Island Community & Event Center (MICEC), northeast of Town Center and the Sound Transit Light Rail Station, has 220 parking spaces. Typically, the parking at MICEC is only used for community center participants and City vehicles. During regional events, like Summer Celebration and SeaFair, MICEC may sell special event parking passes to the community.

Regional Event Parking

Staff's research into parking fees for off-street parking spaces in Seattle during large regional events found the following:

- The rates for privately owned parking garages surrounding the Northgate Light Rail Station in Seattle range from \$15-25 for event parking.
- During the 2023 Taylor Swift concert in Seattle, parking rates for reservable spots started at \$65 for garages within a half mile of Lumen Field, with some garages charging \$100+.
- In 2023, Seattle conducted a [Center City Off-Street Parking Study](#), which included a study of the rates for off-street parking areas surrounding Climate Pledge Arena during a large concert. The average flat-rate event parking fee was \$32.16, and rates ranged from \$20 to \$60.

Parks and Recreation Fees

The [Strategy for Mercer Island Community and Event Center and Recreation Programs and Services](#) provides a framework for aligning Parks and Recreation fees with community priorities, financial sustainability, and equitable access. It emphasizes cost recovery, market alignment, and inclusivity, while promoting tiered pricing and maximizing use of facilities like the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) to help offset program costs.

Over the past four years, staff have focused on increasing facility rentals to generate revenue and support subsidized programs, with strong results from promotions and seasonal specials at MICEC and athletic fields.

A key example is the 2024 “Winter-Web Special,” a pilot online booking promotion that successfully increased winter field use - doubling synthetic turf reservations compared to the prior year. This growth has continued, and by 2026, athletic field bookings are nearing capacity. Additionally, promotions are frequently used by the MICEC related to wedding promotions and even gym rentals to drive additional usage.

2026 Fee Schedule Revisions

Proposed Resolution No. 1693 (see Exhibit 1) would adopt a Revised 2026 Fee Schedule including the following staff recommendations:

1. Add special event parking rates. Special events in 2026 include the FIFA World Cup, Summer Celebration, and SeaFair Weekend.
2. Set a maximum event parking rate of \$100. By providing a maximum fee, staff will be able to adjust the pricing for parking based on the demand or popularity of an event.
3. Amend the Parks and Recreation Fees section to transparently demonstrate that fees may be reduced through promotional and seasonal reductions to maximize facility and program use and access.

Adding the rates for special event parking at the Town Center Parking Area and at the MICEC will expand the capacity of the parking system in and around Town Center during several large special events in 2026 including the FIFA World Cup, Summer Celebration and SeaFair Weekend.

Additionally, allowing promotional and seasonal fee reductions for parks and recreation fees (as determined by the Department Director) will provide flexibility during off-peak season to drive additional usage and generate revenue.

Below are the proposed changes:

4. PARKING FEES

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Town Center Parking Area (East End of Sunset Highway/Former Tully’s Site)

A vehicle will receive two consecutive hours of free parking per day at the Town Center Parking Area, except during special events, upon registration with a parking payment device.

PARKING BEYOND THE FIRST TWO FREE HOURS (except during special events)	\$2.50 per hour
MAXIMUM DAILY RATE FOR PARKING (except during special events)	\$12.50 per day
<u>SPECIAL EVENT* PARKING</u>	<u>up to \$100 per day</u>

**Special events and associated parking fees are determined by the City Manager or designee*

7. PARKS AND RECREATION FEES

Promotional and seasonal fee reductions may be implemented as determined by the Department Director. Additional information can be found at: www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec.

A. MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER (MICEC) RENTAL FEES AND CHARGES

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Extended Building Hours

Hourly in addition to rental fee \$60

Parking **Per Day Rate**

Special Event* Parking Fee (per space) up to \$100

Parking Lot <u>Rental Fees</u> (for non-community center events —per day rates)	
Spot Rental Tier 1 (70 spots)	\$350
Spot Rental Tier 2 (66 spots)	\$330
Spot Rental Tier 3 (50 spots)	\$250
Spot Rental Tier 4 (25 spots)	\$125
Full Parking Lot Rental (Tiers 1, 2, 3, & 4 – 211 spots)	\$1,500

*Special events and associated parking fees are determined by the City Manager or designee

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NEXT STEPS

Following City Council approval of Resolution No. 1693 and prior to the effective date of May 1, 2026, staff will update the 2026 Fee Schedule on the City’s website with the revised version.

Staff will use the maximum rates for special event parking, as set by the City Council, to determine the parking rates for regional and City events. Staff will return to Council in May 2026 to provide an update on the City’s planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Staff are currently developing a parking management plan that may include opening special-event parking at MICEC on match days. This plan would be first come, first served all day parking that is free for Islanders who provide proof of residency, and paid parking for non-Islanders. Staff will adjust the paid parking rate based on anticipated match attendance demand and based on usage data of previous match days.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Resolution No. 1693 adopting the Revised 2026 Fee Schedule, effective May 1, 2026.