



City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Report
February 6, 2025



Project Updates



Lawn/Turf Damage

- European Chafer beetle
https://letstalk.mercergov.org/wildlife-on-merc-island/news_feed/invasive-beetle-the-european-chafer
- Food source for racoons and birds.
- Common on public and private property.
- Water restrictions in 2024 contributed to the expanded impact of the larva.



Lawn/Turf Damage

- Rehab will start this month and continue throughout the spring.
- Starting with South Mercer Playfields and other athletic areas.
- Best practices are frequent watering and maintaining healthy turf.



Staff Recognition

- Staff were recognized by Open Space Conservancy Trust for their storm response.
- MI Reporter 1/22/25 article:
<https://www.mi-reporter.com/news/city-staff-recognized-for-dedication-to-parks/>



Clarke & Groveland Beach Joint Planning Process

- **On March 18**, staff and the Berger team will seek City Council direction for next steps in the joint planning process for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks.
- Discussion will include:
 - Review of existing conditions identified through technical assessments conducted in 2023-2024
 - Summary of input received through background survey on current community uses and needs conducted in Fall 2024
 - Request for City Council feedback and direction to inform the next steps of the project, including plans for public engagement.
- Agenda Packet materials and meeting information will be posted on the project's Let's Talk page on March 12.

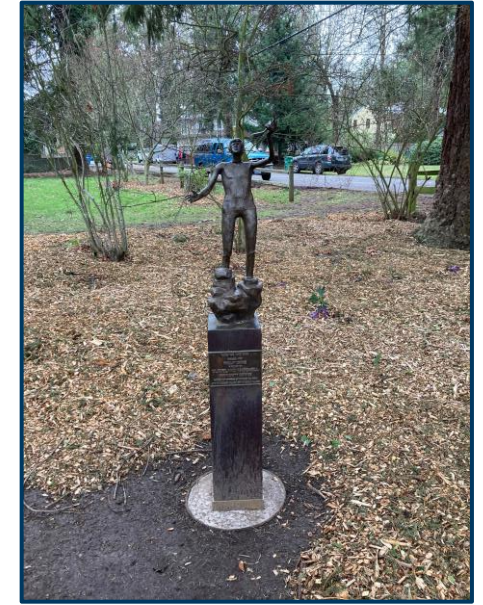


www.mercerisland.gov/cgmp



Playground Replacements

- **Roanoke Park:** Last week, City staff and the contractors held the pre-construction meeting. Construction begins later this month and will last 3-4 months.
- **First Hill Park:** Good news! Last month the City repaired the damaged treehouse structure and reinstalled *Now We Are One* at the park. Staff submitted for permits for the playground replacement, and new equipment is scheduled to be delivered to the Public Works Yard next week.
- **Deane's Children's Park:** On March 18, staff and the Berger team will present the project scope and public engagement plan to the City Council for approval. The Let's Talk page will go live at the beginning of March. Early planning for a town hall event for this project is also underway along with initial engagement with the Friends of Dragon Park. More details coming soon!



www.mercerisland.gov/playgroundreplacements



Bench Donation Program

- Benches continue to be a desired asset for donations.
- Donations are accepted year-round.
- Installations occur between September-March.

For more information on this program:

<https://www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/park-enhancement-donations>



*Newly installed bench at Clarke Beach.



Good News



Happy Lunar New Year!



- On Sunday, February 2, the City partnered with The Mercer Island Chinese Association (MICA) to bring a Lunar New Year celebration to the Community Center!
- With two different time slots, over 1,000 people attended with pre-registration (leaving 700 on the waitlist!)
- Activities included live entertainment, vendor booths, kid's activities and more!
- Thank you, MICA for a wonderful event!



What's good in the garden? P-Patch Update:

- In 2024- we hosted 50 gardeners in the program.
- Over the last 6 months staff have been connecting with participants on what to expect and measuring and mapping every plot! Seeking ways to align with program guidelines and to increase access to those on the waitlist.
- Staff have divided vacant plots and addressed “mega” plots to increase access in an equitable way.
- In 2025 we will host 64 plot locations varying in size from 180 sqft. to 1000 sqft which will accommodate approximately 20 of the 28 “waitlisters” into the program.
- Next steps:
 - Cleaning vacant plots
 - Removing plastics and site debris
 - Offering spaces to those on the waitlist



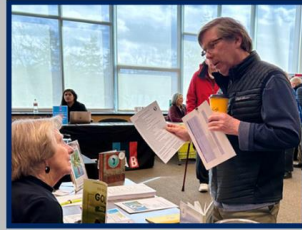


The City of Mercer Island Presents:

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

MARCH 1, 2025 | 10AM - 12PM

Mercer Island Community & Event Center



Attention Mercer Island Seniors!

The Mercer Island Senior Resource Fair returns to the Mercer Island Community & Event Center this March!

A free event for Island seniors, their care partners, and families with information on staying active, health and safety, support and respite services, mental health care, volunteer opportunities, and social connections.

- Informational booths from local and regional senior resources
- Connect with experts in senior issues and aging
- Refreshments and seated social areas

Mercer Island Community & Event Center | 8236 SE 24th St.
206.275.7609 | miparks@mercerisland.gov

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THE FINEST SENIOR LIVING
COMING SOON TO BELLEVUE

VINEYARD
Park
OF MERCER ISLAND
A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

The Senior Resource Fair returns this March 1st!

- Visit over 40 vendors specializing in senior resources from health and safety, staying active, support and respite services, and social connections.
- We'll have live entertainment, refreshments, and time for socializing with friends.
- Special thanks to our sponsors: **Aljoya, Northwest Parkinson's Foundation, Visiting Angels of King County, NM Entertainment, Belle Harbour, and Vineyard Park**



Snow Response



Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

March 6

- Park Zone (cont.)

April 3

- TBD

May 1

- Recreation Division Annual Report
- MICEC Fee Waiver Policy

June 6

- PRC Chair/Vice Chair Elections
- KCLS Annual Update
- MICEC Fee Waiver Policy
- Bylaws Review



Thank You