



City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Report
January 13, 2026



Project Updates



Gateway Installation Damage

- The art installation at 77th Ave SE & Sunset Highway was damaged in vehicle collision in October 2025
- City filed insurance claim and is developing a restoration plan for the concrete wall and *Gateway* figures
- Once restoration is underway, staff will coordinate reinstallation with the Arts Council
- For Updates about the restoration project will be shared on www.mercerisland.gov/publicart



First Hill Park Playground is Ready for Play!

- This is the 2nd playground renovation completed under the 2022 Parks Levy
- New features include a 20-foot-tall climbing structure with two slides, now the tallest play structure in the playground system!
- Additional equipment includes swings, a log tunnel, mushroom steppers, and acorn seats
- Final touches will be completed over the coming months
- Thanks to the community for engaging with staff on the design through two surveys
- Watch Let's Talk for updates on future work!



Deane's Children's Park Site Plan

- Progress continues on refining the preferred site plan and report
- City staff and consultant reviewed the preferred design at a workshop in January
- Project team met with Outdoors for All, a nonprofit specializing in adaptive and inclusive recreation programs, to gather inclusive design input for the park
- The preferred site plan and report will be presented at the **2/5/26 PRC meeting**



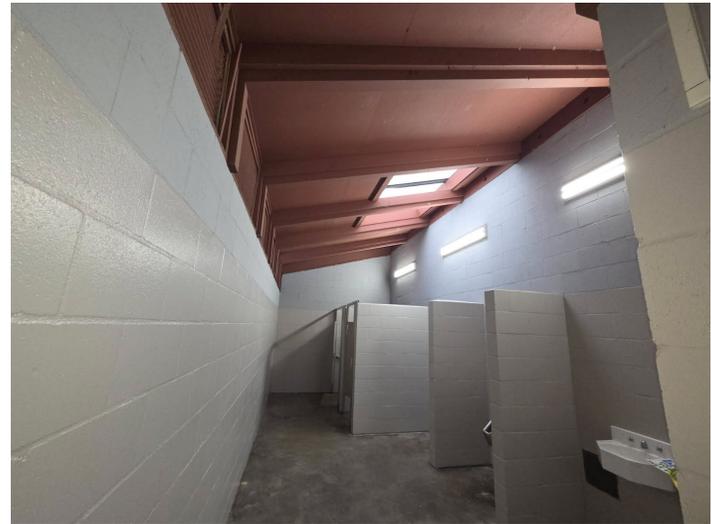
Clarke & Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan

- Progress continues on the joint infrastructure plan for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks
- City staff and consultant reviewed community survey feedback (182 responses) at a workshop in December
- Concepts are being refined into preferred plans, to be shared with the PRC in March
- Youth engagement is ongoing. Staff presented to Islander Middle School in December, and students provided input that will be incorporated into the preferred plans
- The preferred plan will include opportunities for future youth and teen collaboration



Parks Maintenance

- Flooding cleanup of debris in Lake Washington continues with Marine Patrol. This work will continue through the spring more months. *Expect periodic closures of boat ramp
- Winter projects underway, restroom painting (pictured at SMP), trail clearing/repairs, drinking fountain replacements
- Spring/summer preparation of fields for the sports season is starting soon. The Parks and Recreation teams have been collaborating on ways to both maximize access and ensure needed maintenance.





2025 VOLUNTEER YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2025 we held:

**74 EVENTS
IN 15
PARKS**



Hosted

1,000+ VOLUNTEERS
for
2,000+ HOURS



Removing

44,000 SQ FT OF WEEDS

Spreading

54 CUBIC YRDS OF MULCH



Planting

**1,000+ NATIVE TREES
AND SHRUBS**



**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**



Programs/Events





December Events!

- We finished the year strong with some wonderful community events!
- The Tree Lighting ceremony was held with the amazing talent of the MIHS Choir and Creation Dance Studio...it even “snowed” that night!
- Other events included:
 - Holiday Makers Market, with Chamber of Commerce
 - Community Holiday Party
 - Argosy Ships at Luther Burbank
 - Menorah Lighting with Chabad MI
 - Toy Drives with Vineyard Park and the MI Girl Scouts
- Fantastic turnouts and a huge thank you to all who supported.



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND'S PUBLIC ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW



Three Boats, Anne Foundral



I-90 on Mercer Island, Florence Palmer

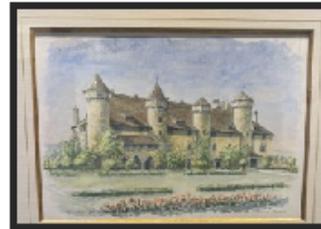


Raven, Ron Reeder

JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 27, 2026



Jeff Reid Photography



Chateau De Ripaille, Henry Arlen



Jeff Reid Photography

RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 5:30 - 7:30PM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR HORS D'OEUVRES, REFRESHMENTS

ART IN THIS COLLECTION IS NOT FOR SALE

LOCATION:

MICEC GALLERY

MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER

8236 SE 24TH STREET, MERCER ISLAND

GALLERY HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 9AM - 7PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 9AM - 5PM



MIVAL
MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE



WINTER PROGRAMS

For our younger kiddos

January - March

Music Together with Mrs. Chrisi

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday (AM & PM), Saturday (PM)

Class Times & Register at: <https://www.musictogetherwithmrschrisi.com>

More than just a music class. Music Together is about connecting-- with music, with your child, and with other families in your community. Classes range from 0-5 years and from 5-8 years.

SuperTots Sports

Tuesday AM & Thursday AM

Class Times & Register at: <https://skyhawks.com/supertots>

Led by Skyhawks Instructors, children ages 18 months to 4 years use multi-sport activities to develop motor skills, physical fitness and instill a love for sports.

Art & Us

Thursday AM & Saturday AM

Class Times & Register at: <https://www.petalsartclub.com>

Designed for children ages 2 - 5 years and their grown-ups to explore and create together. Join Becca and Bailey from Petals Art Club each week for rotating art stations and crafts.

Sing With Our Kids

Fridays, 10:30am, no registration needed

More info at: <https://singwithourkids.com>

A community project providing free songs and activities for kids up to 5 years. Come join Nancy Stewart and sing along.

Pre-Ballet

Friday PM

Class Times & Register at: <https://belartsballet.org>

Led by instructors from BelArts Ballet (Formerly Emerald Ballet Theatre), children ages 4-6 years use this joyful introduction to ballet, movement, and music to develop creativity and confidence.



All Programs located at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040



NANCY STEWART'S SING WITH OUR KIDS

FREE GUITAR CLASSES



FOR PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS,
TEACHERS TO LEARN
SIMPLE KID'S SONGS!



THURSDAY, JAN 15, 22, 29: 6:00 - 7:00PM
OR SATURDAY, JAN 24: 1:00 - 3:00PM

- LOCATION: MI COMMUNITY AND EVENT CENTER
- FREE LOANER GUITARS
- COURSE MATERIALS INCLUDED
- ANOTHER FREE SING WITH OUR KIDS EVENT!



REGISTER NOW, EMAIL: NANCY@NANCYMUSIC.COM





E-Bike Regulations for Parks

- The PRC/OSCT have hosted (2) joint special meetings to discuss e-bike regulations in parks. (November 12 / January 8)
- The boards received 22 written public comments and 6 in person comments.
- A draft policy was provided to the respective boards in January, and received substantial input.
- **Next Steps:** Staff will be coordinating with the board chairs to determine how to move forward, and will also be informing the City Manager this week of current progress.
- Staff is working on information desired by the boards and anticipates providing an updated meeting schedules later this month.

Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

February 5

- Deane's Children's Park Site Plan: Preferred Site Plan Discussion
- E-bikes in Parks (tentative)

February **TBD** (*Special Meeting w/ Open Space Conservancy Trust*)

- E-bike Regulations in Parks

March 5

- Clarke and Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan: Project Update
- Parks Capital Projects Update
- Parks Minor Capital Project Update

April **TBD** (*Passover on April 2-9*)

- Athletic Fields Use and Allocation Policy Update Recommendation

May

- Recreation Division Annual Report
- KCLS-Mercer Island Branch Update
- MICEC Fee Waiver Policy Discussion



Thank you and....
GO SEAHAWKS!

