

Mercer Island PROS 2021

Community Survey #2 - DRAFT

Intro

The City of Mercer Island began the process of updating the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan in early 2020. The PROS Plan will help inform parks and recreation priorities for the next 6 to 10 years. Work on the plan was suspended in in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and resumed in early 2021. For more information on the PROS Plan, please visit the [Mercer Island Let's Talk Page](#).

In early 2020 the City of Mercer Island facilitated a community survey on parks and recreation and the results are available [here](#). The City is now conducting a second PROS Plan survey to better understand local priorities for improvements to the parks system. We understand that COVID-19 may have impacted your ability to visit parks and trails this past year. We ask that you consider the future orientation of the parks plan as you evaluate needs and priorities for the parks and recreation system.

The survey consists of ___ questions regarding priorities for future improvements. It takes about 15 minutes to complete, and residents of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Thank you in advance for participating!

1. In the past year, how often did you visit or use Mercer Island parks, trails, or open space areas?

- At least once a week
- 2 to 3 times a month
- About once a month
- A few times over the year
- Do not visit
- Don't know

2. Rate your household's overall satisfaction with the City of Mercer Island parks, trails, and open space areas.

- Very Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied
- Don't Know

[Staff Note: Recommendation is to run question #2 again to benchmark it against the responses we received as part of the previous PROS survey.]

3. How did the COVID-19 Pandemic impact your use of Mercer Island parks, trails, and open space areas?

- Use increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Use decreased during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Use was about the same during the COVID-19 Pandemic

4. The City of Mercer Island must prioritize limited funding to address park system needs. For each of the following, please indicate whether you think it is a High Priority, Medium Priority, Low Priority, or Not a Priority for your household.

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Not a Priority	Not Sure
Maintaining existing parks, trails, and open space areas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving/upgrading parks, trails, and open space areas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety improvements at parks, trails, and open space areas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquiring new land for parks, trails, and open space areas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building new parks and trails.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Please indicate whether you think the City of Mercer Island should spend more, spend less, or is spending the right amount for each of the items listed below.

	Spend More	Spending is the Right Amount	Spend Less	Not sure
Natural areas/open space areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pocket parks or small neighborhood parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/jogging trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public beaches, waterfronts, and docks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic areas/picnic shelters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biking trails and paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic or sports fields (soccer, baseball/softball, football, lacrosse)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sport Courts (tennis, pickleball, baseball)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-Leash Dog Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skateparks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. How important are each of the following parks, trails, or open space amenities to your household?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not Sure
Picnic shelters/covered picnic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/jogging trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open space and natural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Synthetic/artificial turf athletic fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pocket parks/small neighborhood parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BMX/mountain biking facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike lanes or bike paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor fitness equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spray park/splash pad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-leash dog areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating / water sport facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[Staff note: Question #6 (see previous page) is similar to question #7 asked during the first survey, but is asked slightly differently and includes the amenities that have surfaced lately as priorities through the public process.]

6a. Select your top three park amenity priorities from the list above.

7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:

The City of Mercer Island has enough land for parks, trails, and open space to meet community needs, now and in the future.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not Sure

8. If the City of Mercer Island were to acquire additional park land, please rank your land acquisition priorities from 1 (highest priority) to 6 (lowest priority). Select each priority only once.

	Select each priority ONLY ONCE . Highest priority —————>Lowest priority						Don't know
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	
Acquire land for new or expanded waterfront access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquire land to preserve habitat and open space areas that can include walking/jogging trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquire land for active recreation such as sports fields and playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquire land for pocket parks or small neighborhood parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquire land for indoor recreation facilities, like gyms or classrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. If you wanted the City of Mercer Island to do just one thing to improve parks, trails and/or open space areas, what would it be? (Open-ended)

10. For your household, please indicate your interest in the following recreation programs and activities.

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested	Not Sure
Swimming & water safety (classes or for fitness)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating programs (sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor classes (fishing, environmental or orienteering)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational classes (technology, safety or health)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performing arts (theater or concerts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for adults 55+ (drop-in activities, trips)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult classes (arts, crafts, fitness)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children's after-school programs or summer day camps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth activities (fitness, music, arts or crafts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth sports programs and camps during school breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Recognizing that the City of Mercer Island cannot provide every desired service, please indicate your priorities by identifying item in the list as either a core/primary service (one the City should lead), partner/secondary service (one the City should collaborate with or partner with another organization to provide), or not a priority for city government.

	Core / Primary Service	Partner / Secondary Service	Not a Priority	Don't Know
Youth activities, such as supervised after-school programs or summer day camps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, trips, or camps during school breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programs for senior adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips, or health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness or wellness classes (aerobics, yoga, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer or softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community events, concerts & celebrations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seasonal lifeguarding at swim beaches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. For your household, please indicate your interest in the following aquatic programs and activities.

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested	Not Sure
Swimming lessons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sailing classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kayak / paddleboard rentals or other watercraft rentals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water-oriented special events such as dragon boat races, sailing races, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water-oriented summer camps (sailing, kayaking, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Prior to COVID-19, if your household did not often participate in or utilize recreation programs or activities offered by the City of Mercer Island, what are the reasons? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- N/A - Does not apply to me
- Not aware of programs
- Don't have activities I'm interested in
- Poor quality of programs
- Poor quality or outdated facilities
- Held at inconvenient times
- Held at inconvenient locations
- Classes or programs are full
- Need childcare in order to participate
- Too busy; no time
- Lack of transportation
- Too expensive / Fees too high
- Other (please specify)

14. The City of Mercer Island is exploring options to enhance revenue generation to support the delivery of parks and recreation services. How would you rate your level of support for each of the following options?

	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Not Supportive	Not Sure
Install and rent additional picnic shelters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charge fees for outfield fence banners or other advertisements at athletic fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Institute a paid parking program at Luther Burbank Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Institute a paid reservation system for tennis and pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase rental scheduling at the Community Center for private events and gatherings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Alternative survey questions to consider related to funding parks and recreation services:

15. Which one of the following statements best describes how you feel park and recreation programs and facilities should be funded? (Please select one)

- 100% from user fees
- 100% from taxes – no fees should be charged to use recreation facilities and programs
- Mostly from user fees and some from tax dollars
- Mostly from tax dollars and some from user fees
- Don't know

16. While no new property taxes are currently being proposed, what additional funding sources would you support to improve parks and recreation opportunities in Mercer Island?

- None, existing tax revenues and user fees should be sufficient
- Implement or increase user or rental fees for specific parks, programs, or events
- New tax to fund park system development and renovation projects

Demographics

The following, optional questions help us understand whether we have a cross-section of the community responding to this survey, and the data will help in future grant requests. Thank you for your understanding.

19. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

20. What is your age?

- Younger than 20
- 20 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 and older

21. Using the map, in which section of Mercer Island do you live?

- (A) North of SE 40th
- (B) Between SE 40th and SE 68th
- (C) South of SE 68th
- Don't live on Mercer Island

Closing Statement & Re-direct