



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 24-11
September 5, 2024
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 24-11: Park Tour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None; discussion only.	

STAFF:	Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager Sam Harb, Parks Operations Manager Carson Hornsby, Management Analyst II
EXHIBITS:	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) will accompany City staff on a tour of park properties and other sites in preparation for the development of the Parks Zone. The PRC will begin discussion on the Parks Zone in fall 2024 with the goal of providing a recommendation to the Planning Commission (PC) in 2025.

BACKGROUND

The City Council added the creation of a new Parks Zone to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update scope of work with [Resolution No. 1621](#) as part of a periodic update required by the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA). A preliminary draft Parks Zone was presented to the PRC on [January 4, 2024](#), and to the Planning Commission on [January 24, 2024](#). After receiving feedback from both commissions and residents, the City Manager directed staff to pause the legislative review process and return the draft Parks Zone to the PRC for further review. At the [March 7, 2024](#) PRC meeting, the PRC and two members of the Open Space Conservancy Trust (OSCT) Board provided a recommendation to separate the zoning work into two zones: one for open space and another for parks.

The PRC and OSCT worked collaboratively on the development of the Open Space Zone and approved a joint recommendation to the PC at the [May 8, 2024](#) PC Meeting. The PC held a public hearing regarding the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update on [May 29, 2024](#). The PC will hold another public hearing on September 25, 2024 regarding the Open Space Zone code amendment. The City Council is expected to review the PC’s Open Space Zone recommendation in Q4 2024.

The PRC will begin discussion on the Parks Zone this fall. The Parks Zone is expected to be included in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Annual Update.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The [Parks, Recreation, and Open Space \(PROS\) Plan](#) provides an inventory and classification of parks and open space lands in chapter 5. Each park classification defines the site’s function, amenities, and recreational uses that serve as general guidelines addressing the size and use of each park. The classification system is important because some parks are more developed with athletic facilities and buildings while other parks are less developed with some containing areas that are maintained in the same manner as Open Space. Staff

recommends commissioners review the PROS Plan inventory and classifications and familiarize themselves with the characteristics and amenities of each park.

The September 5 PRC meeting will consist of a tour of park properties and other sites in preparation for the development of the Parks Zone. The PRC and City staff will travel in City vans to visit six locations and discuss how the Parks Zone relates to each property. The tour will provide an opportunity for commissioners to see the conditions of each site in-person to develop a deeper understanding of the City's diverse park system. The tour is expected last approximately two hours.

Tour Itinerary:

1. Mercer Island Community and Event Center (8236 SE. 24th St.)
2. Lincoln Landing (76th Ave Se.)
3. Aubrey Davis Park (2030 72nd Ave Se.)
4. Mercerdale Park (3009 77th Ave Se.)
5. Island Crest Park (5500 Island Crest Way)
6. Clarke Beach (SE 76th St.)

NEXT STEPS

No action is expected to be taken by the PRC during this meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

None; discussion only.