

Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Commission



Department Report
September 1, 2022



Summer Celebration- Recap

- Huge SUCCESS!
- Hosted on July 9 at Mercedale and Luther Burbank parks.
- Scaled back from previous years.
- Entertainment, food trucks, Touch A Truck, community booths, fireworks, and more!
- **Total Revenue: \$46,650!**

*And expenses remained within the budget of \$80,000.

Summer Celebration- Recap

Community feedback at the event was overwhelmingly positive!

- 99 participants (86.9% residents) completed the post event survey.
 - Key Takeaways:
 - Fireworks and touch-a-truck were a huge success
 - Need more food options (some trucks canceled)
 - Requests for the addition of carnival style/ yard games
 - Requests for the return of the parade
 - High ratings for parking and interactions with staff

2023 Save the Date- COMING SOON!

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022



Summer Celebration Sponsors

THANK YOU SPONSORS!!

- Windermere
- MI Community Fund
- MI Martial Arts
- The Mercer Apartments & Dollar Development
- John L. Scott
- Island Books
- Kimball Agency
- Jake Jacobson
- Healthcare Reimbursement Solutions
- Recology

Contributed \$43,650!

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WOPR
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Boiler Building Stabilization

- This project is ranked in the Washington Historical Society's capital budget request!
- If approved it will provide \$513K of funding, 1/3 of the project cost!
- Project includes: seismic stabilization, reducing chimney height, installing framework inside the building, minor electrical work and a new roof membrane.
- Thank you to the Mercer Island Historical Society for their strong letters and support.
- Construction is expected fall of 2023



Lincoln Landing

- This street end at north end of 76th Ave SE is halfway done.
- Renovation of the stream and beach is complete and looking GREAT!
- Sewer work, pathways and landscaping remain.
- Expecting project to be substantially complete by the end of October



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Mercerdale Playground

- Ribbon cutting was outstanding, and the usage is through the roof! But...work is not yet complete.
- Northwest Playground will need to close the area for a day in late September to finish equipment replacements, cosmetic details signage and install a bench.
- A parks sign that stated the age range for the playground as 2-5 years old has been replaced with a sign that says 2-12 years old.

South Mercer Playfield Project



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- The City and School District are working on joint project. With MISD as the project Manager.
- The project began in early July with completion scheduled for November.
- The project will convert field #3 and field #4 to synthetic turf, installing lights and replacing turf on fields #1 and #2.
 - The turf on fields #1, 2, and 3 has reached the end of its useful life
- We are still awaiting delivery of the light poles- this was a supply chain issue.
- Thank you to all of the user groups for their flexibility as we adjust schedules to meet needs.

A GREAT Summer!

June –August

- Return of Summer Celebration
- Mercedale Playground Ribbon Cutting
- Kirk Robinson Skate Park Dedication
- (1500+) Participants in Recreation Division Summer Camps
- (5) Mostly Music in the Park Concerts
- (19) Shakespeare in the Park Shows
- (117) Picnic Reservations
- (22) Permitted Park Events
- (3,77) hours of Athletic Field Rentals
- (31) Weddings, Celebrations, and Events at MICEC
- (2700+) drop-in sports attendees at MICEC



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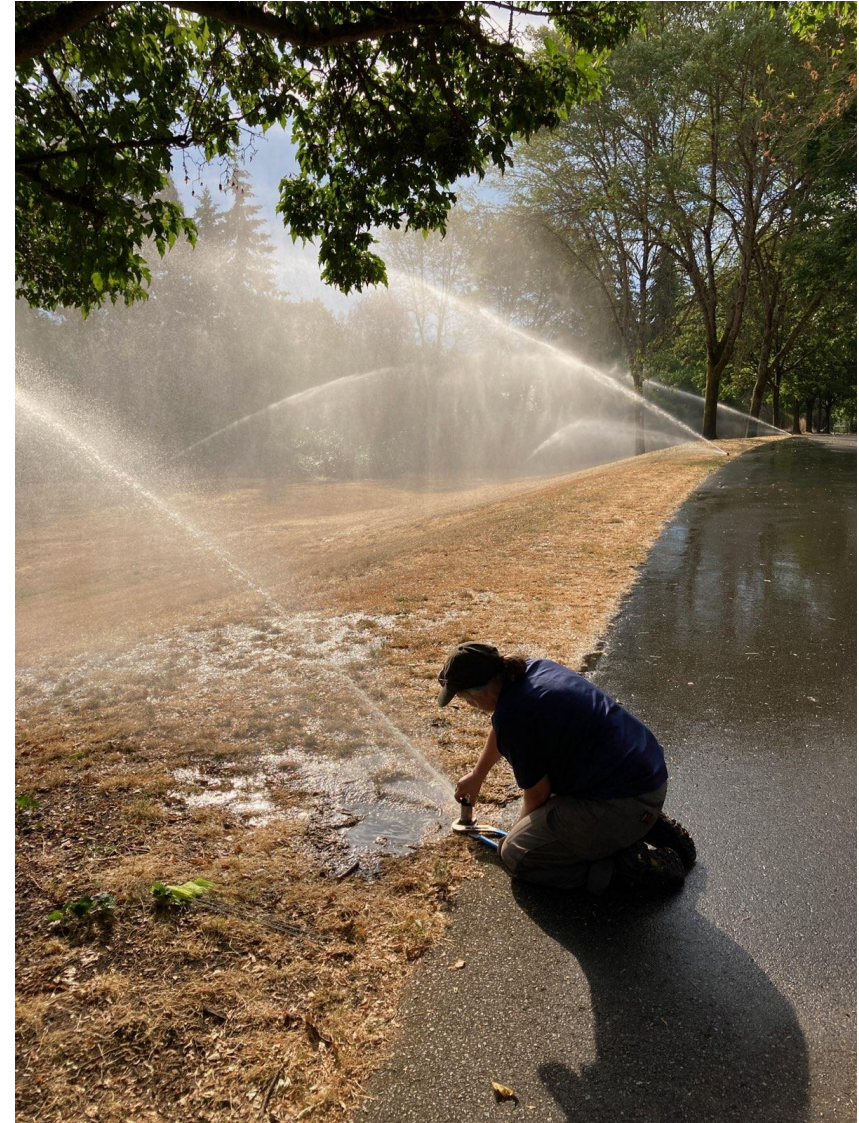


What You're Seeing in the Parks

- 400+ acres of parkland, the vast amount do not have automated irrigation systems.
 - Those parks that have systems are old (20-30 yrs. in age)
 - Irrigation repairs are frequent/common in Spring-Fall
- Some trees, grasses, and plantings distressed by drought.
- Trees and shrubs go dormant when stressed to protect themselves- this includes the coloring changes we are seeing in parks.

How are we combating drought conditions?

- Parks staff focuses irrigation resources on active use areas such as athletic fields, and on immature and ornamental plantings.
- Replacing dead trees with native- more drought tolerant species.
- Repairing irrigation systems- catching up on deferred maintenance.
- Using manual watering methods for immature plantings that aren't on an irrigation system.
- Water is an expensive resource, as is staff labor. Manual watering by staff is inefficient and impractical for a park system such as Mercer Island's.
- Crews are monitoring/evaluating and supplementing where needed.



Thank You!

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