



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON**

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DATE: September 1, 2022

TO: Mercer Island City Council

FROM: Parks and Recreation Commission
Jodi McCarthy, Chair, Peter Struck, Vice Chair, Don Cohen, Paul Burstein, Sara Marxen,
Rory Westberg, Ashley Hay

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvements 30% Design

The Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission is pleased to present our recommendation on the Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement 30% Design.

Summary Recommendation:

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) commenced review of this matter on April 7, 2022, and discussed the topic over four meetings. The project design team collected public input through a virtual open house held on xx and an online survey conducted from xx to xx as well as received public comments via the project page on Let's Talk. This input was presented to the PRC for consideration at the outset of its deliberations.

We recommend the City Council approve the 30% design as presented in Exhibit A. The design includes regulatory signage and pavement markings at trail intersections throughout the Lid Park. It also provides additional trail modifications in the ballfield/restroom area that will reduce speeds, channelize cross-trail traffic, and alert all users to the "mixing zone" they are entering.

Project Priorities:

In making this recommendation, the PRC prioritizes the following:

Focus on safety

The PRC initially considered a suite of improvements that were collected from public input. With the limited budget, the PRC chose to prioritize improvements that would directly enhance safety. The PRC quickly concluded that signs and pavement striping were low-cost measures that would improve user safety. The utility of other improvements such as benches, kiosks, and pull-out areas was not as clear.

Focus on the ballfield/restroom area

The initial design included substantial improvements at the West Mercer Way crossing. The PRC concluded that these improvements, while useful, were not as critical to trail safety as the improvements proposed for the ballfield/restroom area. The PRC concluded that the project should focus trail improvements there. Particularly, the importance of a roundabout at the entrance to this area was identified as key to control traffic flow before trail users enter the mixing zone at the ballfield. Using concrete pavement to better define the restroom mixing zone will also further signal the need to be alert to the areas where park users enter the trail.

Stay within the available budget

The Engineer's Estimate provided for the recommended 30% design exceeds the available budget of \$350,000 by approximately \$25,000. However, the PRC recommends moving forward with this scope of work, as the design achieves the goals of the project, and the estimate is a planning-level estimate that is likely to change when the project is publicly bid for construction.

Other Considerations:

On June 2, the PRC and the Mercer Island Arts Council held a joint meeting and discussed opportunities to integrate art and/or placemaking elements into the project that would be consistent with the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan. The PRC understands that placemaking elements incorporated into the trail could foster more considerate behaviors among trail users but also wants any features to be compatible with the park's natural landscape, including employing judicious selection of themes and colors. These recommendations will be transmitted to the Arts Council to further inform their discussions of how to use the project's 1% for Art in Public Places contribution (approximately \$3,500).

Conclusion:

The PRC believes the recommended 30% design provides much-needed improvements that can be constructed within the available budget. The design prioritizes improvements that will directly enhance trail safety and focuses major improvements at the ballfield/restroom area, which is a critical area of concern. **Discuss the next steps here?**