



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC26-13
October 1, 2026
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC26-13: 2026 Summer Recap	☒ Discussion Only ☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive Report	

STAFF:	Katie Herzog, Interim Recreation Manager
EXHIBITS:	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) with a summary of the 2026 summer season and an update regarding recreation camps, programs, special events, ballfield and park use, and MICEC facility rentals.

BACKGROUND

The summer season represents one of the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department's busiest periods of the year. The City of Mercer Island provides a wide range of recreation programs, camps, community events, facility rentals, and services designed to meet the needs and interests of residents of all ages. The season also brings increased participation and facility use, requiring significant coordination among staff to ensure programs, events, and services are delivered safely, efficiently, and successfully.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Tonight staff will provide a presentation on outcomes of the 2026 summer season. The presentation will include an overview of program participation and facility utilization, as well as highlights from recreation programs, camps, special events, and other seasonal activities. Staff will also share key accomplishments and examples of community engagement throughout the summer.

This recap provides an opportunity to reflect on the Department's summer operations and overall community participation, while highlighting the breadth of programs and services offered during one of the Department's most active seasons. Staff will highlight key activities and outcomes from the summer including:

- Summer Camps: Served approximately 1,172 participants through 11 different camp providers.
- Programs: Summer programs included Letterboxing in Pioneer Park and The Legend of the Sinking Island Treasure Hunt through Luther Burbank Park, Sing with Our Kids, Music Together, Open Art Studio, MIVAL Gallery & Reception, MIVAL art classes, Community Coffee Celebrates, and Senior Social Seminars, in addition to drop-in activities
- Community special events: The City's coordinated events included Summer Celebration, 5 weeks of Mostly Music in the Park, Pride in the Park, 14 Shakespeare performances, and Arts on the Island weekend. Events brought residents together, provided family-friendly activities, and strengthened community engagement.
- Ballfield rentals: City ballfields supported approximately 2,400 bookings or 7,946 rental hours (April – August) for local leagues, teams, tournaments, and community groups.

- Picnics and Permits: Over the summer, the City supported 145 picnic rentals in designated picnic areas, along with 55 special event permits. These permits included private gatherings, City-sponsored activities, and public events held within City parks, reflecting continued community use of park spaces for a variety of events and activities.
- Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC) facility rentals: MICEC hosted approximately 926 facility rentals, which included a wide range of celebrations, meetings, and events and another 97 City meeting bookings (April – August). Together that accounted for 4,008 rental hours at the facility.

Rowing Club- Pilot Program

The Mercer Island Rowing Club partnered with the City of Mercer Island to provide a pilot-program in Luther Burbank Park. This program was offered on a seasonal agreement in the same format as other summer camp programs. Overall, this summer program was a success with the program operating from 5:00am – 10:00am, when park use is generally lower, helping reduce conflicts with other recreational activities and preserve public access during peak-use periods.

Recreation staff are currently completing a review of the program and will be evaluating possible future program offerings in the same format as 2026.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will present the 2026 Annual Report to the PRC in Q1 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive Report