



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-11
October 20, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-11: Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks Joint Park Infrastructure Plan Update	☒ Discussion Only ☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive project update and provide feedback on draft design concepts for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks.	

STAFF:	Kellye Hilde, Deputy Public Works Director Shelby Perrault, Capital Parks Manager Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
EXHIBITS:	1. Project Location Map 2. Clarke Beach Park Design Concepts 3. Groveland Beach Park Design Concepts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to update the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) on the process to develop a joint infrastructure plan for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks (Exhibit 1).

- On March 18, 2025, the Mercer Island City Council (City Council) authorized staff to proceed with developing a joint infrastructure plan for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks. ([AB 6642](#))
- The City Council approved \$251,845 in the 2025-2026 Budget and Capital Improvement Program to support the joint planning effort
- The infrastructure plan will prioritize repair and/or replacement of the overwater structures and shoreline features; improvements to uplands infrastructure and amenities such as restrooms, trails, and parking will be considered for renovation in the future as resources allow.
- From May to August 2025, the project team analyzed the existing conditions and early community input to develop three preliminary design concepts for each park.
- Design concepts have been posted on Let's Talk with accompanying virtual "open house" presentations and a digital survey. The community is invited to review the concepts and provide feedback through November 3, 2025.
- During the Commission update on October 20, 2025, staff will provide an overview of the design concepts and share progress of community engagement efforts currently underway.
- This planning effort is anticipated to conclude by the end of Q2 2026. Project information, current engagement opportunities, and more details are available on Let's Talk at www.mercerisland.gov/cgip.
- Following adoption of the joint infrastructure plan, the City will begin work to implement improvements at Clarke Beach first. The City Council approved \$150,000 to begin design in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The [2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan \(PROS Plan\)](#) identified the need for a joint planning effort to efficiently prioritize capital projects for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks. On March 18, 2025, the City Council authorized staff to move forward with developing a joint infrastructure plan that prioritizes the repair and/or replacement of the parks' overwater structures and shoreline features and may address the following:

1. Dock and beachfront improvements
2. Shoreline erosion control and stabilization
3. ADA accessibility
4. Other amenities, such as restrooms, wayfinding/signage, and parking

At the May 1 Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) meeting, staff provided an update on the planning process, including key findings from preliminary site assessments and a background survey on community uses conducted between August 2023 and December 2024. ([PRC 25-05](#))

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

The existing site conditions and community feedback collected during the background survey informed the development of three design concepts for each park (Exhibits 2 and 3). Each concept generally represents a different level of investment in park features, with individual elements designed to be interchangeable. For example, a dock configuration shown in one Clarke Beach concept and a picnic area design from another could be combined in the preferred concept for the park.

Additionally, several features are consistent across all concepts for each park. An overview is provided below.

Clarke Beach Park

1. All concepts remove the existing concrete bulkheads and sheet pile swimming enclosure to restore the shoreline to a more natural condition, significantly enhancing fish habitat and the overall ecological health of the waterfront.
2. Each design reflects a shift toward a more passive, nature-oriented park use. Formal swimming amenities are not included; instead, Groveland Beach and Luther Burbank Parks are being considered for enhanced swimming facilities.
3. In alignment with the change of use, all concepts propose replacing the existing restroom with a smaller, modern facility featuring two gender-neutral stalls to better serve anticipated needs.

Groveland Beach Park

1. All concepts include removal of the existing concrete bulkhead to soften the shoreline and improve ecological function, consistent with the approach at Clarke Beach.
2. Each design proposes replacing the elevated pier with a new floating pier to improve swimmer access and calm wave activity in the designated swimming area.
3. All concepts include replacing the existing restrooms with an upgraded facility that includes gender-neutral stalls and changing rooms.

Staff will present the concepts in more depth during the October 20 meeting.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An online survey (<https://letstalk.mercergov.org/clarke-groveland-planning/surveys/cgip-concepts-survey>) to collect community input on the draft design concepts is open on Let's Talk through November 3, 2025.

Community members have multiple opportunities to review the design concepts prior to completing the survey, including:

- **“Virtual Open House” Presentations:** The project team recorded presentations that outline the existing conditions and walk through each park's design concepts. Community members are encouraged to view the presentations through the "virtual open house," before taking the survey. [Clarke Beach Park Virtual Open House](#) | [Groveland Beach Virtual Park Open House](#)

- **Digital Concept Boards:** Each concept is also presented on digital boards on Let's Talk. Boards include overall plans and shoreline enlargements to provide greater detail on proposed waterfront features. These can be reviewed in advance or referenced while completing the survey.
Clarke Beach Park Concept Boards – [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#)
Groveland Beach Park Concept Boards – [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#)
- **Pop-Ups at Community Events:** Instead of hosting a stand-alone open house, staff are participating in existing community events throughout October 2025 to share information, promote the online survey, and collect input through a “vote with your own dollars” prioritization exercise. Staff attended the [Mid-Autumn Festival](#) at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center on October 5, and will participate in the [Town Center Trick-or-Treat](#) on October 31. Information on these and other pop-up events that may be added are available on Let’s Talk.

Opportunities to learn more and provide feedback are being promoted across all City channels, including the MI Weekly e-newsletter, social media, and on-site signage posted in parks and at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center. Materials have also been shared with community organizations and outlets such as the *Mercer Island Reporter* and the Mercer Island School District, and a mailer to park neighbors (1,000 ft radius, 410 addresses) was sent the week of October 13.

Staff will provide an update on survey engagement during the October 20 meeting.

COMMISSION FEEDBACK ON DESIGN CONCEPTS

Staff seek the Commission’s feedback on the design concepts, which will be combined with community input to inform the development of a preferred concept for each park. Questions below are intended to guide the discussion, assess how well the concepts reflect community input to date, and identify key areas for refinement.

1. Do the concepts reflect the community input received to date? If not, what’s missing or needs further emphasis?
2. Are the proposed uses and amenities consistent with the intended character of each park? Are there any additions, removals, or adjustments the Commission recommends?
3. Are there specific features from different concepts that should be combined in the preferred design for each park?
4. Do the shoreline restoration and ecological enhancements align with the project’s goals for sustainability and habitat enhancement?
5. Do the concepts support equitable access to amenities across all waterfront parks?
6. Does a single concept or a combination of elements best represent the Commission’s preferred direction for each site?
7. Do the concepts represent appropriate levels of investment relative to the Commission’s expectations for the joint infrastructure plan?

During the October 20 meeting, staff will collect input on these questions and any other design concept feedback from the Commission.

NEXT STEPS

The design concepts survey is open through November 3, 2025. Feedback from the survey, in-person voting exercises, the PRC discussion, and any other engagement opportunities will inform the development of a preferred design concept for each park. Staff will present the preferred concepts to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the February 5, 2026, Regular Meeting. A recommendation from the Commission on the joint infrastructure plan is anticipated to be brought to the City Council in March or April 2026.

Project information, current engagement opportunities, and additional details will continue to be available on Let's Talk at www.mercerisland.gov/cgip.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive project update and provide feedback on preliminary design concepts for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks.