



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-14
October 20, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-14: Letter of Appreciation to Paul West	☐ Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the Letter of Appreciation to Paul West and direct staff to transmit.	☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Recommendation
STAFF:	Ashley Hay (Chair) Rory Westberg (Vice Chair)	
EXHIBITS:	1. Letter of Appreciation to Paul West	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Agenda Bill is to introduce a letter (Exhibit 1), drafted by Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Chair Ashley Hay and Vice Chair Rory Westberg, to be approved by the PRC and transmitted to Paul West.

BACKGROUND

At the September meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, several members expressed strong support for sending former Parks and Recreation employee Paul West a letter congratulating him on his June 18, 2025 retirement.

Paul dedicated 24 years of service to the Mercer Island community through various roles within the Parks and Recreation Department. He began his career with the City of Mercer Island as a part-time, contract arborist and went on to hold multiple key positions, including Natural Resources Manager, Parks Superintendent, and most recently, Senior CIP Project Manager.

Throughout his career, Paul's influence has been deeply embedded in the City's park system. His work reflects a steadfast commitment to the stewardship of public lands, the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment, and the creation of meaningful outdoor experiences for Mercer Island residents.

Paul consistently demonstrated a strategic and resourceful approach to project management, often securing grant funding to advance critical park and infrastructure improvements. Paul valued community input and sought ways to reflect that in his projects. His leadership was instrumental in the success of numerous high-impact projects, including (but definitely not limited to):

- Luther Burbank South Shoreline Restoration
- Lincoln Landing Shoreline & Stormwater Enhancement
- Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan
- Luther Burbank Boiler Building Restoration
- Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvements
- Mercerdale Park Playground Renovation
- Initiation of the Luther Burbank Dock Replacement Project

Paul's legacy is visible in the vibrant, sustainable park network that continues to enrich the quality of life for the Mercer Island community. His leadership, vision, and passion have left an enduring impact on both the landscape and the people who enjoy it.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Tonight, the Parks and Recreation Commission will review a letter to Paul West prepared by Chair Ashley Hay and Vice Chair Rory Westberg. The letter is intended to extend the PRC's gratitude for the outstanding contributions Paul made to the Mercer Island Parks System during his 24-year career with the Parks and Recreation Department.

NEXT STEPS

Once approved and directed, staff will place the letter on City letterhead and transmit to Paul West at his personal residence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Letter of Appreciation to Paul West and direct staff to transmit.