



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5797
January 19, 2021
Study Session

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5797: Joint City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission Study Session regarding the re-start of the planning process for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Discuss project scope, timeline, and process for updating the PROS Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Parks and Recreation
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Jake Jacobson
EXHIBITS:	1. Community Survey Summary Results (March 31, 2020) 2. Presentation by Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 98,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 98,000
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

The purpose of this joint meeting is to kick-off the re-start of the planning process for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

BACKGROUND

As directed by the City Council in September 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Commission, began the process of producing an updated Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The [current plan](#) expired at the end of 2019. This is a six-year plan that anticipates the programming and capital projects necessary to meet the community's need for parks, recreation, and open space, as well as trails, arts, and cultural events. Conservation Technix was selected as the consultant to manage the process, including providing a baseline analysis on existing conditions and community needs, conducting a multi-faceted community engagement process, and developing a draft framework for the final PROS Plan.

Work was suspended on the PROS Plan update in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

GRANT ELIBILITY/RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

The PROS Plan must be updated every six years to maintain eligibility for many of the grants administered through the Washington State Department of Recreation and Conservation (RCO).

CITYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The PROS Plan is not currently included as an appendix to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The staff recommendation is to include the PROS Plan and a companion element in the next Comprehensive Plan update. Planning work is scheduled to begin on the Citywide Comprehensive Plan update in 2022, with adoption anticipated in 2024.

RECREATION RESTART PLAN

Running concurrently in 2021 is the planning work related to restarting recreation programs and services and re-opening the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC). All recreation programs and services were suspended and the MICEC was closed in March 2020 due to the Pandemic. The City's Recreation Transition Team, supported by a consultant, is developing a phased plan to resume services in 2021 as the Pandemic becomes less of an obstacle. Information from this planning effort, including the policy framework for the restart of services, will be integrated into the PROS Plan recommendations.

CURRENT WORK

At the end of 2020, the staff and consulting team resumed the planning process for the PROS Plan, with an initial focus on assessing the work that was already completed, adjusting the project timeline, and modifying the scope of work to reflect the need for virtual engagement strategies. To date, work that has been completed on the PROS Plan includes a review of existing conditions, one presentation to the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Arts Council, and the completion of a community survey (see Exhibit 1).

PROS PLAN KICK-OFF DISCUSSION

The PowerPoint document for the presentation is attached as Exhibit 2 and will serve as a guide for the kick-off discussion with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive presentation, discuss, and provide input on the PROS Plan scope and process.