



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6505
July 2, 2024
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6505: Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation No. 338	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 338 proclaiming July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month on Mercer Island.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Salim Nice, Mayor Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	1. Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation No. 338
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	2. Sustain and enhance our natural environment, especially parks and open spaces, to benefit this generation and others that follow.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to recognize the importance of parks and recreation programming and opportunities in the Mercer Island community and to proclaim July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month on Mercer Island (Exhibit 1).

BACKGROUND

National Parks and Recreation Month was originally celebrated in the month of June through the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). In July of 1985, the NRPA wanted to engage and accommodate more children with differing school schedules. With the support and endorsement of then Vice-President George H.W. Bush and NFL Hall of Fame running back Walter Payton, the NRPA formally recognized the month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month. In 2009, with bipartisan support, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.Res.288 designating July as National Parks and Recreation Month while acknowledging the societal value of parks and recreation and honoring the vital contributions of employees and volunteers within parks and recreation.

PARKS & RECREATION ON MERCER ISLAND

The Recreation and Parks & Natural Resources divisions are part of the Public Works Department and assume major roles in developing a sense of community and enhancing Mercer Island residents' quality of life by providing recreation and social opportunities to people of all ages. Fundamental to this mission is providing affordable and ready access to parks, facilities, programs, events, and other social opportunities. The City of Mercer Island is responsible for operating and maintaining the 42,000 square foot Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), over 475 acres of parks and open space, and more than 30 miles of trails. Partnerships with community agencies, businesses, and other community groups are actively solicited and managed to enhance and support diverse offerings. These partnerships and relationships are vital to meeting the community's access to parks and recreation opportunities.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

CELEBRATE PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

July 2024 is packed with recreational opportunities within the Mercer Island community. Summer camps are anticipated to draw approximately 1,500 participants; the public is accessing the MICEC for a variety of activities including events, celebrations, and sports and fitness activities; athletic opportunities are occurring on newly turfed fields; and the trails and open space areas are being used by all age groups. Events such as the Mostly Music in the Park concert series will take place at Mercerdale Park, with Shakespeare in the Park inhabiting Luther Burbank Park, and community organizations are taking advantage of newfound opportunities to collaborate with the City on various special events hosted within the parks system.

Summer Celebration will return and expand on the 2023 successes. Hosted on Saturday, July 13, the event will include music, food, entertainment, art vendors, the community parade, and fireworks. This event and all the other parks and recreation related services, partnerships, and opportunities highlight the importance parks and recreation plays on Mercer Island and demonstrates the appreciation the Mercer Island community has for its parks and recreation sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and staff alike.

In recognition of all the treasured parks and recreation activities and opportunities available to the Mercer Island community, staff recommend July 2024 be proclaimed as Parks and Recreation Month on Mercer Island.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 338 proclaiming July 2024 as Parks and Recreation Month on Mercer Island.