



Mercer Island Arts Council & P&R Commission Joint Meeting

Agenda | January 8, 2020

Mercer Island Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th St., Mercer Island, WA 98040

- 6:30 PM APPEARANCES & INTRODUCTIONS**-Arts Council and Parks & Recreation Commission
- 6:40 PM CITY UPDATES**-Jessi Bon, Interim City Manager
- 6:55 PM ARTS COUNCIL ROLE OVERVIEW**-Diane Mortenson
P&R COMMISSION ROLE OVERVIEW-Ryan Daly
- 7:10 PM PROS PLAN UPDATE**-Ryan Daly & Steve Duh, Conservation Technix
- 7:55 PM AUBREY DAVIS PARK MASTER PLAN GRANT AWARD UPDATE**-Paul West
- 8:30 PM ADJOURN**

Next Arts Council Meeting: February 12, 2020

Arts Council Members

- 1 Anumeha
- 2 Suzanne Skone
- 3 Gaylene Vaden
- 4 Amy Barnes, Vice Chair
- 5 Matt Lome
- 6 Erin Vivion, Chair
- 7 Erik Gordon
- 8 Damian Schwiethale
- 9 Xixi Shakes

P&R Commission Members

- Sara Berkenwald
- Don Cohen
- Lyn Gualtieri
- Jodi McCarthy, Vice Chair
- Amy Richter
- Rory Westberg, Chair

City Council Liaisons

- Salim Nice

Community Liaisons

- Claudia Zimmerman, MIVAL
- Alice Finch, FAAC

Staff

- Jessi Bon
- Ryan Daly
- Diane Mortenson
- Paul West
- Tammy Bodmer
- Sarah Bluvus

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Parks & Recreation Department

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Parks and Recreation Commission/Arts Council January 8, 2020 Joint Meeting

Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan- Conservation Technix Introduction

To: Parks & Recreation Commission and Arts Council

From: Ryan Daly, Interim Parks and Recreation Director

Date: January 3, 2020

BACKGROUND

As directed by City Council in September 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Commission has begun the process of producing an updated Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The current plan expired in December of 2019. This is a six-year plan that anticipates the programming and capital projects necessary to meet the community's needs for parks, recreation, and open space, as well as trails, arts, and cultural events. To begin the PROS plan process, Conservation Technix was selected to provide deliverables for the PROS Plan. Attached is Exhibit A, the consultant's scope of work:

[MI_PROSplan2020scope](#).

This updated community driven plan will help guide the City in providing parks and recreation services in our community and map out priorities for the next 5-10 years. This plan is a requirement for the city's eligibility for grant funding through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and must be updated every six years. From 2014-2019, the City received \$673,000 in grant funds through the RCO.

To date the preliminary work that has begun includes the drafting of a community survey, public involvement process, and review of existing conditions.

SUMMARY

On January 8, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Arts Council will engage in conversation with staff and Conservation Technix regarding the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan, of which preliminary work is currently underway. The Parks and Recreation Commission is the primary body advising staff on the content of the plan, with the Arts Council will provide review and assistance in aspects of the plan pertaining to arts and culture. The Planning Commission will review the PROS Plan for consistency with the City's comprehensive plan.

During this introductory meeting the Parks and Recreation Commission, Arts Council, staff and Conservation Technix will discuss visioning, challenges, opportunities, and potential partnerships. Diverse community engagement will be an ongoing focus throughout the planning process. As such, Conservation Technix will present the community engagement strategy, including: community survey, Commission and Council discussions, stakeholder forums, Open House Meetings, Pop-up events, and online engagement. See Exhibit B, the draft Public Involvement Plan for additional background information.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff requests the following:

1. Ask questions and provide input toward visioning and next steps of the planning process

City of Mercer Island

PROS Plan 2020

SCOPE OF WORK & FEE

Task 1: Project Initiation & Management

Hold a project kick-off meeting with City staff to refine the scope of the project and to consider the following:

- Review and discuss the overall objectives and milestones for the project
- Define a public participation plan to include team and staff roles
- Identify key community stakeholders including agencies, organizations and individuals
- Discuss community interests and issues
- Discuss concurrent planning efforts underway to assess options for coordination of efforts

Hold periodic project coordination meetings, in-person or via phone conference, with City staff to review and discuss work products, prepare for community outreach, refine objectives and develop implementation strategies.

Task 2: Existing Conditions & Baseline Analyses

Task 2.1. Review of Existing Plans & Studies

Review and analyze all pertinent, existing city-wide planning materials, including the 2014 PROS Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities Plan, park master plans, budget, past surveys and others. Review and validate the park and recreation goals of the comprehensive plan and other City policy statements.

Task 2.2. Demographics & Trends

Compile relevant statistics and data to include Census figures and Washington OFM projections to profile population trends and other socioeconomic conditions. Compile a community profile that includes demographic information, as well as natural characteristics of the City's watershed, hydrology, forests and critical areas. Examine recent studies and regional statistics, such as the Washington SCORP, NRPA data and sports industry association data, to develop a trend assessment uniquely-focused toward the City's offerings.

Task 2.3. Base Mapping & Spatial Analysis

Utilize GIS to analyze the parks, trail and recreation system against distribution, proximity and accessibility criteria and identify potential shared uses or multiple uses of public lands for recreation. Our team has strong skills in GIS, and we offer a unique method of assessing service areas and system deficiencies. We utilize a network-based watershed gap analysis that can illustrate areas of the city with optimal parkland access, as well as highlight areas underserved by park and recreation facilities.

Task 2.4. Parkland, Trail & Amenity Inventory & Assessment

Expanding upon the existing 2014 City documentation, conduct a physical assessment of parks, trails and recreational amenities to identify potential needs for improvement, enhancement or renovation, along with opportunities to establish or improve sustainable management. Meet with operations staff to discuss facility needs, best management practices or challenges regarding the planned and potential growth of system assets and facilities.

Task 3: Community Engagement

Task 3.1. Public Involvement Plan

Develop draft and final public involvement plans that:

- Outlines goals and objectives
- Defines key messages to frame the project for the community and use in promotional materials
- Describes outreach and engagement methods
- Identifies key stakeholders and defines which discussions will be City-led versus the consultant
- Specifies consultant and city roles and responsibilities
- Describes a schedule for implementing the plan

The public involvement plan will include suggested outreach and communications tasks for the City to implement, as well as expectations for consultant role.

Task 3.2. Community Survey

Working closely with staff, we will design and implement a mixed sample mail- and online-based survey to identify general community sentiment and preferences, needs, demand and the general use of parks and recreation facilities and to inform and guide the direction and development of the Plan. The survey will be prepared for mail distribution. We propose a random sample of 2,500 residents using GIS-based information for the mail survey, with reminder postcards to follow. The aim is to have at least 300 surveys completed by resident households. We will prepare an online version of the same survey for the general public and segregate the datasets. We will compile and analyze the data and prepare summary findings as

a technical memorandum to highlight key subgroup responses (age, gender, etc.) and core attitudes toward parks and recreation issues.

Task 3.3. Parks & Recreation Commission Discussions

Meet with the Parks & Recreation Commission as a unique stakeholder at the onset of the project. The initial session will focus discussions toward visioning, challenges, opportunities and potential partnerships. We will meet with the Commission three additional times for progress updates and project guidance. Prepare meeting materials and summaries of each meeting. As an optional service, we will conduct additional sessions with the Parks & Recreation Commission and have provided a per meeting cost in the Fee Proposal section.

Task 3.4. City Council Discussions

Prepare for and attend up to two study sessions with City Council during the community outreach and plan development phases of the project to seek Council's insights and guidance on challenges, opportunities and priorities. Prepare meeting materials and summaries of each meeting. As an optional service, we will conduct additional sessions with City Council and have provided a per meeting cost in the Fee Proposal section.

Task 3.5. Stakeholder Interviews & Forums

Conduct up to two topic-oriented, small group discussions geared toward targeted stakeholder interests to gather information about community needs, challenges and priorities, and it is anticipated that these sessions will be publicly advertised and be supported by City staff. Conduct up to six individual interviews by phone or in-person, to more deeply address areas of partnerships, programming, service delivery or community needs. An initial list of potential stakeholders will be discussed during the kick-off meeting. It is anticipated that the City conduct additional group or individual sessions to solicit and record stakeholder feedback.

Task. 3.6. Community Open House Meetings

We will conduct up to two, 2- to 2.5-hour public meetings to inform and engage the community at key stages of the plan's development. The meetings will include presentations, informal opportunities to interact with City and consultant staff, display boards, and interactive exercises. We will prepare all materials for the meeting and prepare summaries after each meeting. We propose the following sequence of meetings.

- Public meeting #1 - the meeting will be used to describe the planning process and schedule, explore the future vision of the parks, recreation and trails system, along with program and facility opportunities, and provide opportunities for the community to identify their priorities for parks, recreation and open space.
- Public meeting #2 – the meeting will be used to present and review the preliminary draft Plan and seek feedback in specific areas, such as capital project priorities, partnerships and implementation strategies. Solicit input on recommendations for a connected system of parks

and trails corridors and linkages with schools, retail areas and neighborhoods. Explain how public input was used to shape the plan, and describe next steps for finalizing the plan.

Task 3.7. Pop-up Meetings

We will support up to three, 2-hour pop-up events with one consultant. We will also prepare materials for each event and prepare summaries after each event. We will work with city staff to identify locations and dates for each event. It is anticipated that the City conduct additional pop-up sessions utilizing these materials, as staff resources allow, and prepare summary notes and photos from each pop-up event for use by the consultant team.

Task 3.8. Online Engagement / Let's Talk Support

We will prepare content for three rounds of engagement on the city's "Let's Talk" platform. Two rounds of engagement will replicate the public meetings described in Task 3.6, with the third round replicating materials from the pop-up sessions described in Task 3.7. We will provide the content to the City, who will upload the content to "Let's Talk" and manage the online platform. We will prepare a series of up to 10 posts for the City's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The posts will focus on promoting the planning process, generating excitement to get involved and informing about the public meetings, "Let's Talk" and pop-up meetings. It is expected that the City coordinate the promotion of materials via multiple platforms (print and electronic).

Task 4: Community Needs Assessment

Task 4.1. Park Level of Service Assessment & Benchmarking

We will utilize inventory data, GIS and national data to assess the City's current and future levels of service. Coordinate with staff on the approaches to service standard assessments, which may include NRPA's PRORAGIS database, comparable jurisdictions and local history. Review current park classifications in terms of hierarchy, appropriateness and function, and discuss the potential for locally-relevant revisions to classifications to fit with local recreation needs, staff direction and an estimate of financial implications.

Task 4.2. Recreation Assessment & Gap Analysis for Parks and Trails

Develop a programming matrix to highlight the range of recreation offerings, areas for potential cooperation and local deficiencies. Analyze local demographics and use national and regional sports/exercise survey data to provide insight into likely programs, activities and service demand. Prepare a programming gap analysis where possible deficiencies are identified, as well as program strengths are recognized, and develop a program assessment for Mercer Island that

will map areas of focus, methods of delivery and required resources for future recreation and art programming.

Conduct a system gap analysis utilizing GIS modeling and findings from the inventory assessment. Summarize findings and statistics and specifically address potential park, trail, and maintenance improvements to meet the service demands requested by the community and stakeholders.

- Analyze the park, trail and open space system against distribution, proximity and accessibility criteria, along with transportation, geographic and other barriers and neighborhood data.
- Assess park service area needs and identify future demand for parks, amenities and recreation facilities.
- Make informed recommendations about potential candidate acquisition areas that maximize resource utility, while managing potential long-term development and operating costs.
- Evaluate service standards and re-align them as appropriate to meet the community's vision and existing and planned park system assets.
- Explore opportunities for enhanced offerings for recreation and special events.

Task 5: Preliminary Plan Development

Task 5.1. Draft PROS Plan

The draft Plan will outline a framework for the improvement and growth of City recreation facilities, amenities and parks to the specific needs of the community. This framework will help clarify funding, program objectives, development or resource goals, and it will set a long-range vision for the City and provide clear action items and strategies for implementation. The draft Plan will include a compilation of all the analyses and recommendations from the planning process and will include chapters detailing the public process, system inventory, community needs, goals and implementation actions and strategies - consistent with RCO guidelines. The Plan will incorporate the following:

- Clear goals and policies for park, trail, open space and recreation delivery
- Strategies for parks, trails and open space for planning, acquisitions and maintenance, built from recent planning efforts and community feedback
- Identification of coordination or partnership options for known or planned improvement projects with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies with a local presence
- Identification of opportunities for volunteer activity, neighborhood / citizen participation in the City's recreation offerings and opportunities for regional and interagency cooperation
- Identification of potential funding sources, financing options, grants and strategic partnerships

Develop a Capital Improvements Plan that identifies in priority order and sequences the actions necessary to implement Plan recommendations. Generate initial cost projection for all proposed park and recreation components, renovation and redevelopment, potential land

acquisition and potential new development. Prepare a strategy and priorities for phased implementation of proposed recommendations. Capital improvements plan components will be organized based on funding availability, ease of implementation and construction cost.

Following the staff review of the preliminary draft plan, revise the document and produce a public draft Plan for distribution to and review by the Parks & Recreation Commission, City Council and general public.

Task 5.2. SEPA Checklist

Following the compilation of the public review draft of the PRO Plan, we will prepare a non-project SEPA Checklist to address the potential environmental impacts resulting from PRO Plan recommendations. We will coordinate with staff to generate the appropriate determination and rely on city staff to publish the SEPA Checklist and aggregate comments received.

Task 6: Plan Review & Approval

Task 6.1. Parks & Recreation Commission Review

Conduct one study session with the Parks & Recreation Commission for their review and comment. The sessions will focus on the draft Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan and highlight the key considerations about services, policies, program strategies and capital priorities. Comments and direction will be incorporated into the Plan and provided to staff for circulation to City Council.

Task 6.2. Arts Commission Review

Conduct one study session with the Arts Commission for their review and comments specific to cultural arts needs and plan recommendations and incorporate suggestions into the Plan prior to circulation to City Council.

Task 6.3. Planning Commission Review

Conduct one study session with the Planning Commission for their review and incorporate comments into the Plan prior to circulation to City Council.

Task 6.4. City Council Review

Attend one study session with City Council to present the draft Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan with staff and review the key findings, financing measures, policy recommendations and implementation strategies and to receive Council's comments prior to formal approval. Attend up to two business meetings with City Council to present the final plan and facilitate approval by Council.

Task 6.5. Plan Revisions & Final Documentation

Incorporate final comments to finalize the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan. Produce and publish the Plan in color and in booklet format, delivered in both hard copy and electronic format. A data drive of all deliverables (e.g., maps, tables, content, GIS data, etc.) will be provided in digital formats at project completion.

Fee Proposal

To complete the scope of work identified in the Scope of Work section, we propose a total not-to-exceed cost of \$146,326, including all costs. Staff rates and a fee summary by task are noted below. We will work with the City to prepare a revised scope and budget, consistent with the available resources.

Staff Rates

Firm	Staff	Billing Rate
Conservation Technix	Principal	\$ 170
	Senior Associate I	\$ 155
	Senior Associate II	\$ 130
	Associate	\$ 105
MacLeod Reckord	Principal	\$ 170
	Landscape Architect	\$ 130
	Administrative	\$ 110
PRR	Senior Project Manager	\$ 179
	Deputy Project Manager	\$ 90
	Project Coordinator	\$ 77

Fee Summary

TASK	Fee Subtotal	Hours Subtotal	Conservation Technix	MacLeod Reckord	PRR
Task 1: Project Initiation & Management	\$ 7,990	52	\$ 4,980	\$ 3,010	\$ -
Task 2: Existing Conditions & Baseline Analyses	\$ 29,860	209	\$ 14,250	\$ 15,610	\$ -
Task 3: Community Engagement	\$ 50,636	377	\$ 24,450	\$ 520	\$ 25,666
3.1. Public Involvement Plan		26	\$340	0	\$2,581
3.2. Community Mail & Online Survey		51	\$9,730	0	\$0
3.3. P&R Commission Meetings (4)		22	\$3,060	520	\$1,328
3.4. City Council Meetings (2)		18	\$2,910	0	\$0
3.5. Stakeholder Discussions (2 group, 6 indiv)		53	\$2,570	0	\$4,003
3.6. Community Open House Meetings (2)		86	\$4,210	0	\$6,565
3.7. Pop-Up Meetings (3)		46	\$1,290	0	\$3,637
3.8. Online Engagement / Let's Talk Support		75	\$340	0	\$7,551
Task 4: Community Needs Assessment	\$ 14,460	98	\$ 13,600	\$ 860	\$ -
Task 5: Preliminary Plan Development	\$ 25,780	176	\$ 20,860	\$ 4,920	\$ -
Task 6: Plan Review & Approval	\$ 10,705	69	\$ 9,685	\$ 1,020	\$ -
Direct Costs	\$ 6,895		\$ 6,575	\$ 120	\$ 200
TOTAL	\$ 146,326				

OPTIONAL SERVICES		Conservation Technix
3.3. P&R Commission - Add'l Meetings (\$/mtg)	\$ 1,015	\$ 1,015
3.4. City Council Meetings - Add'l Meetings (\$/mtg)	\$ 1,705	\$ 1,705

Mercer Island Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Public Involvement Plan - DRAFT

Background

Mercer Island City Council adopted the City's current Parks and Recreation Plan in January of 2014. This plan contains a community profile; a parks, and recreation facilities inventory and level of service report; a needs and demands assessment, a capital projects plan and options for financing and conservation. These elements need an update to reflect community changes since adoption and to ensure the City retains eligibility for state-based grants, including Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants. In addition, the 2020 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan¹ update needs to address:

- a revenue shortfall from I-747 and the resulting need for sustainable revenue generation to support necessary infrastructure updates
- Parks staff and programming
- General maintenance of Mercer Island parks, recreation, and open space.

Mercer Island Parks and Recreation's aging infrastructure, evolving trends in recreation, and the revenue shortfall are the primary drivers for updating the PROS Plan. Mercer Island's growth and the expansion of Sound Transit's Link light rail also contribute to the need to:

- Assess community needs and account for changes in recreational patterns;
- Ensure consistency with recent citywide planning efforts
- Address aging infrastructure
- Reflect the community's evolving priorities for parks, open space, and recreation facilities and programs.

The updated plan will also provide essential information to help guide the City's parks capital improvement program.

Project description

The 2020 PROS Plan will outline a framework for the conservation, improvement and expansion of City recreation facilities, programs, and resources to address the identified community needs. This

¹ Previous versions of the plan were called Parks and Recreation Plan. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is the widely used term for this type of parks plan, and the City has adopted this name for the 2020 plan update.

framework will help clarify program objectives, development or resource goals, and funding. In addition, it will set a long-range vision for the City and provide clear action items and strategies for implementation.

The draft Plan will include a compilation of all the analyses and recommendations from the planning process and will include chapters detailing the public process, system inventory, community needs, goals, and implementation actions and strategies - consistent with RCO guidelines. The Plan will:

- Articulate clear goals and policies for park, trail, open space and recreation facility service delivery
- Recommend levels of service adjustments
- Assess and recommend enhancements for programs, events, and facilities
- Prepare strategies for parks, recreation facilities, trails and open space for planning, acquisitions and maintenance, using existing analyses from recent planning efforts
- Identify performance measures to track and monitor outcomes
- Review maintenance requirements resulting from planned improvements and system growth
- Identify opportunities for cooperative arrangements with civic groups, businesses, and initiatives with nearby jurisdictions (such as King County)
- Identify opportunities for volunteer activity, neighborhood/citizen participation in the City's recreation offerings, and opportunities for regional and interagency cooperation
- Identify potential public funding sources, financing options, grants, and strategic partnerships with public and private entities

Following the public review of the preliminary draft Plan, the team will revise the document and produce a revised draft Plan for distribution to and review by the general public, commissions, and City Council.

The City's Parks & Recreation Commission will be the primary body working with staff and the consulting team to steer development of the PROS Plan. Staff will provide monthly updates on the planning process, and the commission will also be engaged in topical work items and joint meetings with other boards and commissions as the Plan forms.

Public involvement goals and objectives

In summary, the overarching goal of the public process is to ensure the residents of Mercer Island are informed about the PROS Plan; have ample opportunities to provide their input; and understand the role the PROS Plan plays in the future of parks, recreation, and open space in the City. For organizational purposes, we identified three milestone phases where we will focus our information and involvement efforts. They are:

- Phase 1 - "Big picture" visioning:
 - Identify ideas, priorities, what's working well, what would you like to see more of, etc.
- Phase 2 – Scenarios/alternatives:
 - Review and provide input to/rank potential scenarios and alternatives
- Phase 3 – Draft Plan:

- Review and offer suggestions to refine/improve the draft plan

More specific outreach goals and objectives are described below.

Goals

GOAL 1 Increase awareness about the existing parks, facilities, and programs currently provided in Mercer Island and the importance of the Parks and Recreation Plan to the future of the city's parks, facilities, and programs.

Provide context for discussions about the Plan and to broaden understanding about current facilities, programs and opportunities, communicate to the community the current and past state of parks and recreational assets and opportunities. Broaden understanding about the reasons for completing the Plan.

GOAL 2 Identify the needs, concerns, and priorities of the full cross-section of interests.

(neighborhoods, businesses, user groups, advocacy groups, etc.).

Provide the City of Mercer Island, the consultant team, and decision makers with a broad and deep understanding of public input so they are fully aware of the public's values, needs, priorities, and perspectives that must be represented during the planning process.

GOAL 3 Create ample opportunities for public engagement through the planning process.

Provide the public opportunities to learn about the project, provide input at key milestones (visioning, alternative/scenarios development, and draft plan), and assure they understand what they are being asked to weigh-in on and how their input is being used.

GOAL 4 Ensure that the City of Mercer Island is successful in gaining public trust through early, transparent, timely, and objective communications.

Provide the public with balanced, objective, and timely information to assist them in understanding the challenges and opportunities that come with the Plan.

GOAL 5 Build enthusiasm and excitement for the plan.

Conduct the public process in a way that generates enthusiasm by providing fun and engaging opportunities to learn about and provide input to the Plan.

Objectives

The following objectives will support the goals described as they are incorporated in all public involvement activities throughout the planning process:

- Provide accurate and timely information to the public and stakeholders.
- Commit to reporting back to the public on what was heard from them and how it was used in the decision-making process.
- Communicate the PROS Plan schedule and next steps at each phase of the project.
- Engage in constructive dialogue on the issues and opportunities.
- Provide decision makers with a comprehensive understanding of stakeholder and public perspectives and priorities.

- Use the “full toolbox” of public involvement methods to inform and engage stakeholders and the public.
- Conduct events that promote participation that are engaging, interactive, and fun.

Key stakeholders

We want to inform and involve a number of stakeholders and audiences in different ways and on different levels. In general, our audiences include residents, businesses, existing and potential users, local schools, and various organizations whose members are or could be interested in parks and recreation. We will identify and reach out to additional stakeholders as the project progresses. The list below illustrates the types of stakeholders with which we will engage. The complete list of stakeholders is provided in an appendix at the end of this document.

Internal (city)

HOAs and Community Clubs

Community Partners, Organizations & Businesses

Schools

Events

Key messages

The City of Mercer Island and the project team will communicate with stakeholders and the public throughout the planning process. It is important that everyone involved with the project communicate with one voice. The key messages identified below are intended to provide guidance with oral and written communications with stakeholders and the public. The messages may be “plugged in” to various materials and may be modified for specific situations, but they are not intended to be recited verbatim.

- The Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department currently provides a wide range of recreational opportunities. When the City was incorporated in 1960 (with a population of about 12,000 people). In 1964, the first Parks and Recreation Plan inventoried 157 acres of parks, including the newly purchase 113 acres that became Pioneer Park. There are now more than 455 acres of parks serving 25,000 residents within its city limits, and the City offers a variety of facilities and programs.
- The City is updating its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan to reflect the changing needs and priorities of the community since the first Plan was developed in 1964. The 2020 PROS Plan will outline a framework for the conservation, improvement and expansion of City recreation facilities, amenities, and parks to address the specific needs of the community. This framework will help clarify program objectives, development or resource goals, and funding from State sources, and it will set a long-range vision for the City and provide clear action items and strategies for implementation.
- PROS Plan development will take approximately one year. Among other things it will: include a system inventory, describe community needs, recommend and prioritize implementation actions and strategies, identify performance measures, and identify funding sources and options.

- The PROS Plan will provide a road map for the future direction of the City’s parks and open spaces – the facilities, programs, and other amenities – to ensure that the recreational needs and expectations of our community are met today and in the future.
- To ensure the PROS Plan reflects the community and its needs and priorities, the public will be provided the opportunity to be heavily involved in the Plan’s development. Through an open and constructive process, the City will inform and engage the public, particularly at key milestones, including: 1) identifying needs, opportunities, and ideas; 2) reviewing and evaluating future scenarios or alternatives; and 3) reviewing and providing input to the draft Plan.

Outreach methods

We will use several methods to inform and engage the public and to document the results of the public process. These methods are described in greater detail below. The descriptions identify the timing of when the methods will be used and the responsibilities of the City and the consultant team.

Materials/notification

The project will use a number of materials to provide information about the project and notify stakeholders and the public about opportunities to participate. The materials, their uses, and team member roles and responsibilities are identified below.

Material	Description	Uses	Roles and Responsibilities
Branding/templates	Provides a visual identity for the plan that will be incorporated into all materials	All internal and external facing documents: Fact sheets boards, emails, website, etc.	City of Mercer Island develops two to three concepts and refines selected concept into a final design PRR reviews and provides input concepts and the selected design
Fact sheet	Provides a project description and schedule, as well as background information and graphics. Updated two times to reflect project phase (visioning, scenarios/alternatives and draft plan).	Public meetings, interviews, pop-ups, briefings, posted on the website.	PRR develops, with review and support from team and final review and approval from City of Mercer Island.
E-newsletter (MI Weekly)	Provides updates to subscribers (about 2,000) about the PROS Plan and opportunities to provide input	At key milestones, but at a minimum in March, June, and August 2020	City of Mercer Island will develop content for the email updates and will be responsible for sending them to the email list.
Website/Let's Talk public engagement platform	Provides information about the PROS Plan (process, benefits, opportunities for input, schedule, etc.). The website will be updated up to 6 times during the planning process and will also house project documents, including the Draft and final PROS plan, open house summaries, open house display boards and other graphics, and stakeholder discussion and interview summaries.	Ongoing	City of Mercer Island will develop and update the website and will be responsible for posting all materials and documents. Conservation Technix and PRR will provide materials and documents.
Display boards	Provide background, project description and schedule and phase-specific information. Boards are typically 24x36 inches and posted on easels. Some boards will be used at all public meetings and some will be prepared for specific meetings.	Public meetings and briefings	PRR develops, with review, support and graphics from team and final review and approval from City of Mercer Island. Conservation Technix is responsible for printing.

Material	Description	Uses	Roles and Responsibilities
Press releases and op-eds	Provide information to local media about all public meetings; include project background, project description and schedule, and phase-specific information.	Mercer Island Reporter , MI Patch , MIHS Islander , 88.9 The Bridge	City of Mercer Island prepares draft and final versions and distributes each press release to its media list prior to public meetings. City of Mercer Island and PRR will identify opportunities for op-eds at selected milestones. City of Mercer Island will work with potential op-ed authors to develop op-ed articles.
Posters/flyers	Provide project information and notice about public meetings. Posters are 11x17 and flyers are 8.5x11	Posters posted in public facilities and other appropriate locations. Flyers distributed at briefings, businesses, and appropriate locations	City of Mercer Island develops, prints, and posts and distributes posters and flyers.

Information and engagement

The project will use a number of methods to inform and engage project stakeholders and the public. The methods, timing for their use, and team member roles and responsibilities are described below.

Method	Description	Timing	Roles and Responsibilities
Parks and Recreation Commission meeting	Primary body steering the PROS plan development. There will be monthly updates on the planning process, along with longer topical work items and joint meeting with other boards and commissions as the plan comes together.	Monthly August 2019-December 2020	City of Mercer Island will be the primary facilitator. Conservation Technix will attend specific sessions to present planning products and generate discussion and direction.
Arts Council meeting	Joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation Commission and additional update facilitated by staff at a regular meeting	January and June 2020	City of Mercer Island will provide update

Method	Description	Timing	Roles and Responsibilities
Planning Commission meeting	Discussion of goals and objectives/integration with Comp Plan	May and September 2020	City of Mercer Island will provide update
Open Space Conservancy Trust meeting	Update on process and progress at a regular meeting	June 2020	City of Mercer Island will provide update
City Council Discussions	Conduct two study sessions with City Council during the community outreach and plan development phases of the project.	March and August 2020	City of Mercer Island will schedule and reserve meeting rooms with City Council. City of Mercer Island will review and approve all materials. Conservation Technix will develop materials for the study sessions, facilitate the discussions, take notes, and develop summaries of the discussions.
Community Open House	Conduct two public meetings to inform and engage the community at key stages of the plan's development. 1. Describe the planning process and schedule, explore the future vision of the parks, recreation and trails system, along with program and facility opportunities and provide opportunities for the community to identify their priorities for parks, recreation and open space. 2. Present and review the preliminary draft Plan and seek feedback in specific areas, such as capital project priorities, partnerships and implementation strategies. Explain how public input was used to shape the plan and describe next steps for finalizing the plan.	March and September 2020	City of Mercer Island will schedule and reserve meeting rooms and will provide up to 10 staff to attend each meeting. PRR will plan the event format and lead development of all materials, including a detailed event plan, agenda, fact sheet, boards, comment forms, summary report, etc. The team will provide materials development support and will provide up to 4 staff to attend each meeting. City of Mercer Island will review and approve all materials.
Pop-up Meetings	Conduct up to 6, two-hour pop-up events between May and August to inform and engage the public as they go about their daily lives.	May-August 2020	PRR will work with city staff to identify locations and dates for each event. PRR will prepare materials, staff, and prepare summaries for three events. City of Mercer Island will review and approve all materials. The City will also staff and prepare summaries for up to three additional events.

Method	Description	Timing	Roles and Responsibilities
Online Engagement/ Let's Talk Support	Use the City's Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor accounts to create awareness about the PROS Plan, encourage participation, and highlight events and milestones. Conduct three rounds of online engagement using the city's "Let's Talk" platform. Two rounds of engagement will replicate the public meetings. The third round will replicate materials from the pop-up sessions.	February-December 2020	<p>PRR will develop content for the "Let's Talk" platform and 10 social media posts with support from the team. The City will be responsible for additional social media activity.</p> <p>City of Mercer Island will review and approve content and will be responsible for "Let's Talk" logistics, testing and administration.</p>
Stakeholder Discussion and Interviews	<p>Conduct two, topic-focused stakeholder discussions to gather information about community needs, challenges and priorities.</p> <p>Conduct interviews with stakeholders who represent different groups and viewpoints. The interviews will take place by phone or in-person, to more deeply address areas of partnerships, programming, service delivery or community needs.</p>	Between February and April 2020.	<p>PRR will coordinate logistics, prepare topic guides and materials, and report the results of the interviews. At least one team member will attend and lead the interviews and briefings.</p> <p>City of Mercer Island will review and approve briefing list/schedule and all materials. At least one City staff member will attend the interviews and briefings.</p>

Method	Description	Timing	Roles and Responsibilities
Student Outreach	Conduct outreach to teachers at targeted schools to provide materials to be sent home with students and to offer opportunities for engagement with students to get their input on the plan.	April-May and September 2020	City of Mercer Island will identify and reach out to teachers and will lead any events with students. PRR and the team will support the City with materials and logistical assistance.
Events	Supply materials for and/or attend existing City events to disseminate planning information and promote involvement.	June-September 2020	City of Mercer Island will identify event opportunities and coordinate the project's participation in any events. PRR will adapt materials for use at events.

Documentation

To ensure we have a comprehensive record of who was involved in the planning process, how they were involved, and the input they provided all interactions will be documented using an excel database. Regular reports summarizing participation and input will be distributed to the consultant team and the City.

Method	Description	Timing	Roles and Responsibilities
Database	Build and maintain a contacts database that will be used to communicate during the project and to track all project interactions (questions, comments, etc.) and activities (public meetings, stakeholder discussions, emails, etc.).	Ongoing	The City of Mercer Island will build and maintain the database.
Reporting	Provide reports (in addition to summaries from public meetings) as requested and at key milestones to keep city staff, council and commissions informed about the quantitative and qualitative results of the public process.	As requested	PRR and Conservation Technix will prepare reports. The City will review and approve reports.

Public involvement schedule

MILESTONE 1: VISIONING

October-December 2019

- Prepare Public Involvement Plan
- Identify stakeholder interview candidates
- Prepare community survey

Lead

PRR
City of Mercer Island
Conservation Technix/COMI

February- April 2020

- Conduct community survey
- Draft fact sheet and website content
- Draft social media content
- Prepare MI Weekly e-newsletter content
- Finalize fact sheet content
- Begin conducting stakeholder interviews
-
- Prepare Community Open House #1 event plan
- Conduct City Council study session #1
- Conduct Stakeholder meeting #1
- Monthly updates to Parks & Recreation Commission

Lead

Conservation Technix
PRR
PRR
City of Mercer Island
PRR
PRR

PRR
Conservation Technix
PRR
City of Mercer Island

May-June 2020

- Continue conducting stakeholder interviews
- Social media promotion of “Let’s Talk”
- Prepare Community Open House #1 boards
- Prepare Community Open House #1 materials
- Prepare informational materials for circulation to students
- Send email to list
- Update² “Let’s Talk” page with Open House #1 content
- Conduct Pop-up meetings #1 & #2
- Conduct Community Open House #1

Lead

PRR
City of Mercer Island
PRR
PRR
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
PRR
PRR

July 2020

- Fact sheet update #1
- Identify and attend events (TBD, in addition to pop-up events)
- Social media promotion of “Let’s Talk” #2
- Prepare and distribute press release
- Prepare and send email
- Conduct Pop-up meeting #3, 4, 5, 6?
- Develop “Let’s Talk” #2 material

Lead

PRR
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
PRR
PRR

² Conservation Technix and PRR will be responsible for Let’s Talk content at the three distinct points described in the schedule. The City of Mercer Island will be responsible for all other Let’s Talk content. Let’s Talk will remain active throughout the planning process.

MILESTONE 2: SCENARIOS/ALTERNATIVES

July-August 2020

- Schedule and attend events
- Finalize and send newsletter content
- Fact Sheet update #2

Lead

City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
PRR

August 2020

- Let's Talk update #2
- Prepare and send email
- Prepare and post posters/flyers
- Conduct City Council study session #2
- Send email to list
- Website update #3
- Fact sheet update #3
- Prepare Community Open House #2 event plan
- Finalize and send newsletter content
- Conduct Pop-up meeting #4
- Conduct Stakeholder Meeting #2

Lead

PRR/City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
PRR
PRR
PRR
City of Mercer Island
PRR
PRR

September 2020

- Conduct City Council briefing
- Prepare Community Open House #2 boards
- Prepare Community Open House #2 materials
- Prepare and distribute press release
- Prepare and post posters/flyers
- Send email to list
- Conduct Community Open House #2
- Conduct follow-up student outreach
- Pop-up meeting #5 & #6
- Let's Talk #3
- Prepare informational materials for circulation to students³

Lead

Conservation Technix
PRR
PRR
PRR/ City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
PRR
City of Mercer Island
PRR
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island

MILESTONE 3: DRAFT PLAN

October 2020

- Website update #4
- Send email to list
- Conduct City Council study session #3
- Prepare & publish non-project SEPA Checklist

Lead

PRR
City of Mercer Island
City of Mercer Island
Conservation Technix

³ This round of outreach could also include engagement with a group of students on the facilities and programs they'd like to see in parks

MILESTONE 4: FINAL PLAN

November 2020 – December 2020

- Website update #5
- Send email to list
- Conduct City Council hearing

Lead

PRR

City of Mercer Island

City of Mercer Island

Appendix: Stakeholders recommended by City of Mercer Island

Internal

- City Council
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Arts Council
- Open Space Conservancy Trust
- Planning Commission

Community Partners, Organizations & Businesses

- Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club
- Mercer Island Food Revolution
- Mercer Island Library
- Mary Wayte Pool
- Mercer Island Pediatrics
- Mercer Island Preschool Association
- Island Park Elementary School PTA
- Lakeridge Elementary School PTA
- Northwood Elementary School PTA
- West Mercer Elementary School PTA
- Islander Middle School PTA
- Mercer Island High School PTA
- Stroum Jewish Community Center
- Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce
- Town Center businesses
- South End businesses
- My MI
- Mercer Island Youth and Family Services
- Mercer Island School District
- National School Lunch Program
- Mercer Island Farmer's Market
- IAWW (Indian Association of Western Washington)
- Mercer Island Sister City Association
- Mercer Island Historical Society
- Mercer Island Visual Arts League
- Fine Arts Advisory Council
- Youth Theatre Northwest
- Mercer Island Center for the Arts
- Additional groups identified by the City of Mercer Island

HOAs and Community Clubs

- Mercer Island Women's Club
- Mercer Island Kiwanis Club
- Mercer Island Rotary Club
- Mercer Island Lions Club

- Mercer Island Community Fund
- Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks/Protect Mercer Island Parks
- Pioneer Park Unleashed
- Friends of Luther Burbank Park
- MI Chinese Association
- ONE MI
- Special Olympics
- Forest Stewards
- Solemates
- Scouts
- Sustainable Mercer Island
- Neighbors in Motion
- Nextdoor neighborhoods
 - Avalon Drive & Place
 - East Mercer – 85th Benotho
 - Island Point
 - Island Terrace
 - Mercer Meadows
 - Mercer Way 72nd
 - Mid Mercer Island
 - North Mercer Island
 - Pioneer Park
 - South Clark Beach
 - Southend West of Fleurry
 - The Lakes

Leagues

- Mercer Island League
- Mercer Island Football Club (soccer)
- Additional sports leagues identified by City
- Eastlake Little League
- Eastlake Youth Football Association
- Eastlake Youth Lacrosse
- ISD Women's Lacrosse Club
- Issaquah FC
- Issaquah Soccer Club
- Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
- Puget Sound Premier League
- Seattle Starz Lacrosse
- Seattle SuperStix Lacrosse Club
- Skyline Spartans Lacrosse Club
- Skyline Youth Football Association
- Spartan Baseball Club
- Clean & Sober Softball Association (CSSA)
- Greater Seattle Soccer League
- Puget Sound Senior Baseball League
- Arena Sports - Issaquah

- Bellevue Blast 12U Maroon
- Eastside Crusaders Youth Lacrosse
- Eastside FC
- Field of Champions
- i9 Sports
- Issaquah Lacrosse Club
- Issaquah Parks & Recreation
- NW Naturals BBC
- Pick 6 Sports
- Sounders FC - camps
- Washington Athletics Baseball
- Washington Girls Youth Lacrosse
- WW Sweets
- Eastlake Baseball Boosters
- Eastlake High School
- Eastlake High School Coaches
- Skyline High School
- Skyline High School Coaches

Faith Based

- Island Synagogue
- Additional faith-based groups identified by City

Schools

- Mercer Island High School
 - MIHS Outdoors Club
 - MIHS Senior Service Club
 - MIHS Green Team
 - 889 The Bridge
 - COED Ultimate Frisbee, TRIBE Ultimate Frisbee
 - Unified Sports Club
- Crest Learning Center
- Islander Middle School
- Northwood Elementary
- Lakeridge Elementary
- Island Park Elementary
- West Mercer Elementary
- Mercer Island Preschool Association (MIPA)

Senior Adult organizations

- Aljoya
- Island House
- Covenant Shores
- Aegis Living

- Sunrise Senior Living
- Senior Foundation of Mercer Island

Events

- National Night Out
- Mercer Island Farmers Market (Sundays, June-October)
- Mostly Music in the Park (Thursdays, July-August)
- Art UnCorked (September 11, 2020)
- Additional events identified by City

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Parks & Recreation Department

9611 SE 36TH STREET | MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040

PHONE: 206.275.7870 | www.mercergov.org



Parks and Recreation Commission/Arts Council

January 8, 2020 Joint Meeting

Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvements Scoping

To: Parks & Recreation Commission and Arts Council

From: Paul West, Capital Projects and Planning Manager

Date: January 2, 2020

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be involved in recommending needed trail safety improvements in Aubrey Davis Park. This first presentation will be spent on an overview of the potential projects. The joint meeting with Arts Council also will be an opportunity to discuss how the integration of arts and placemaking opportunities in future capital projects might occur. Questions that are raised will be explored further at the February commission meeting.

BACKGROUND

During the early stages of the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan process, City staff applied for capital funding from the Washington State Legislature for implementation of safety improvements on the Mountains to Sound Regional Trail. The Legislature approved an appropriation of \$500,000 as a Department of Commerce Grant in 2019 while the plan was still under development.

Mercer Island City Council adopted the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan on December 3, 2019. Along with that action, Council also directed the City Manager and Parks and Recreation Commission to develop a recommendation to expend the Department of Commerce grant in accordance with the master plan in the first quarter of 2020.

The plan lists three projects as top priority in the trails category:

1. West Mercer Way Crossings
2. Intersection and Crossing Improvements

3. Restroom Conflict Zone

Most of the project sites are on Washington State Department of Transportation right-of-way, or a combination of City and WSDOT right-of-way. Parks and Recreation staff have been in discussion with WSDOT staff regarding these projects over the past month. WSDOT retains final approval authority for any project in its right-of-way.

ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

1. West Mercer Way Crossings

This project consists of upgrading an existing crosswalk where the Mountains to Sound Trail crosses West Mercer Way near the on-ramp to I-90 and to install a new crosswalk to the north between the Lid C (soccer) field on the west side of West Mercer Way and the playground on the east side.

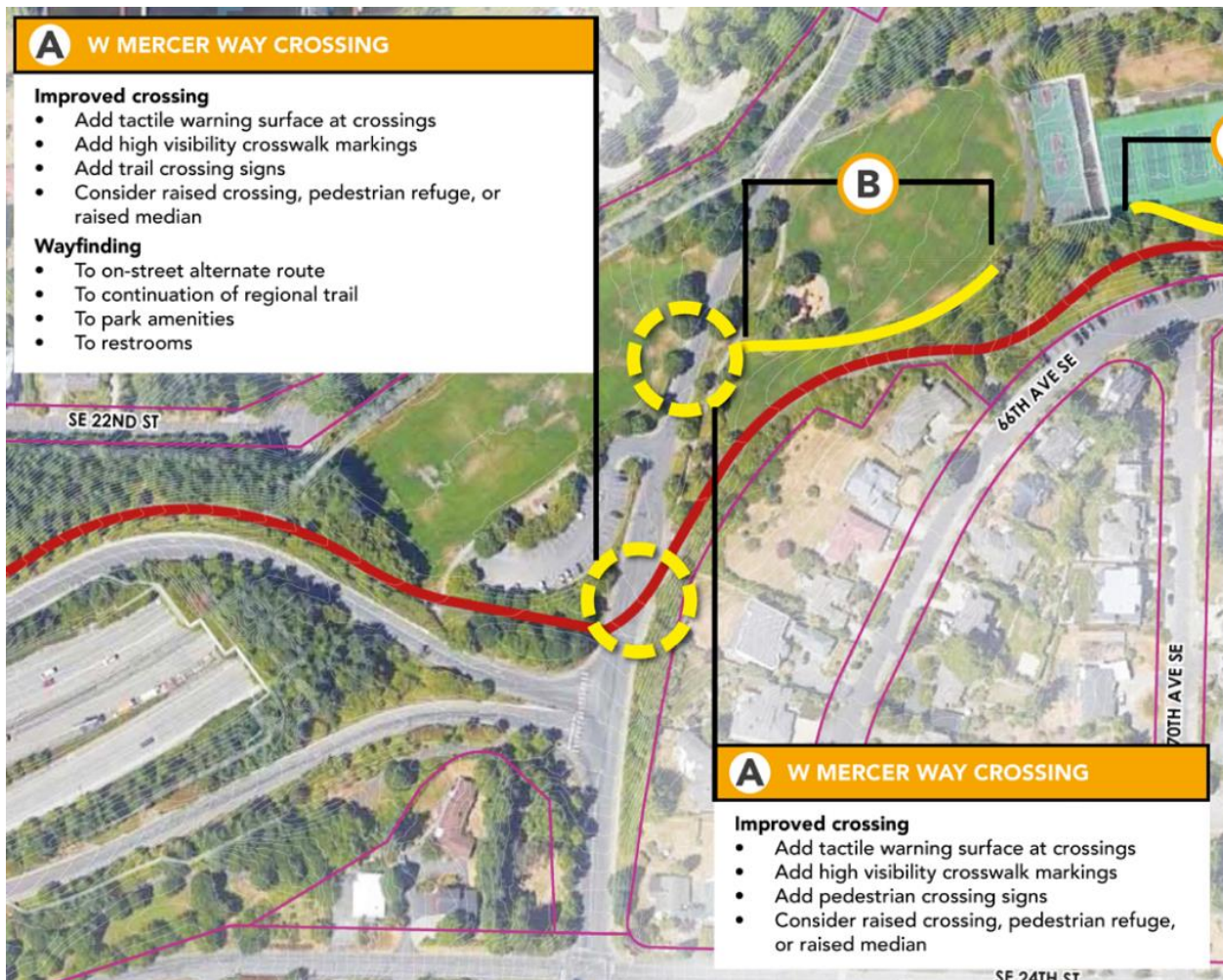


Figure 1: Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan excerpt of West Mercer Way Trail Improvements

This project was identified in the Sound Transit Settlement Agreement. Funding is sufficient to complete this project. It is currently in design and could be constructed as early as summer 2020. There is no need for grant funding on this project.

2. Intersection and Crossing Improvements

This project consists of various places that the Mountains to Sound Trail intersects or crosses streets or other trails. Sixteen sites, including four identified separately in 1 and 3 are included in this general category. Improvements needed vary by site, but generally include bollard removal, ADA access, and traffic calming. Exhibit 1 shows the current status of the 16 locations. Two of them have already been reconstructed, while two others are scheduled to be reconstructed as part of the King County North Mercer Sewer construction project.

Of the remaining eight locations, three are intersections with trails that are proposed in the master plan but do not yet exist. At four other intersections, trail improvements cannot be separated from the need for more extensive work involving the surrounding intersection. For example, the intersection at 76th Ave SE and SE 24th Street is generally too large. Curb bulbs or other rechannelization at this intersection could make it more pedestrian-friendly. A more integrated approach is called for, but this makes it much more than a trail project. The City's Transportation Improvement Plan is a likely place to house such a project.

That leaves one location at 100th Ave SE at SE 35th, just north of the westbound East Mercer Way off ramp. This could be pursued with the grant funding. However, it is a signalized intersection with good visibility and would not be the highest priority from a safety perspective.

A 2016 report on bollards in Aubrey Davis Park recommended the removal of virtually all bollards on park trails. This report is incorporated by reference in the master plan. A new project could be defined that would address this need as a low cost safety improvement. A 2017 bollard removal project on City property took out 66 bollards for a cost of approximately \$40,000 utilizing City maintenance staff. The number of bollards on WSDOT ROW is approximately double that and involves a few complicated sites.

3. Restroom Conflict Zone

This project consists of two of the intersection sites identified above and called out in more detail in the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan. These are along the west edge of Lid A (softball) fields just east of the 72nd Avenue overpass. The combination of cyclists, pedestrians and ballfield users in this area has been an ongoing source of conflict. Eastbound cyclists come down the hill from the tennis courts with speed into an area that attracts large numbers of people to stand in the trail.

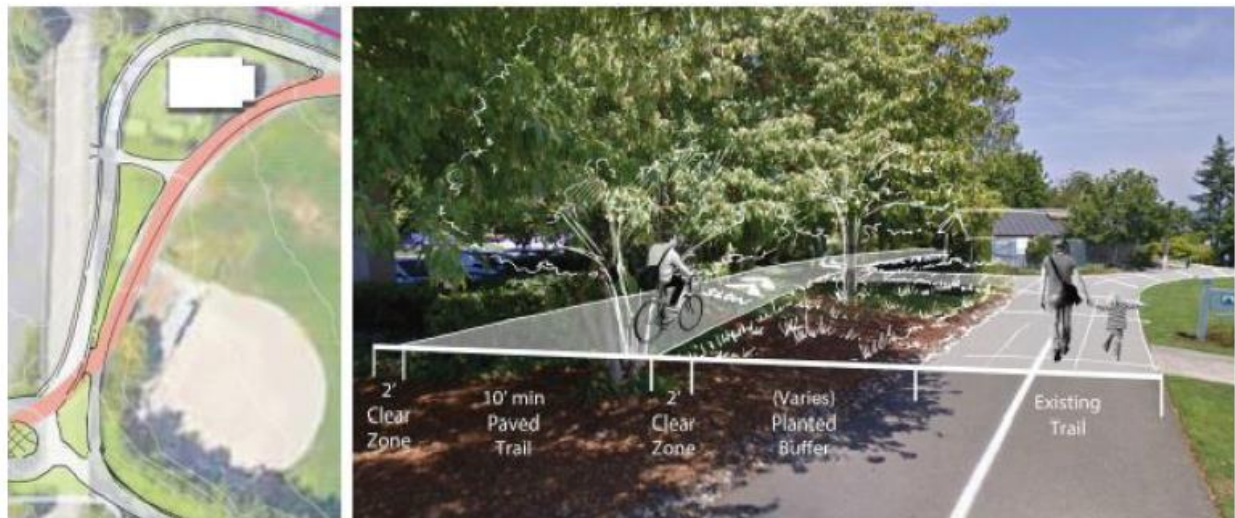
The master plan offers two options for reducing conflicts in this area. One is to widen the existing trail around the restroom to create a multi-modal plaza that would include traffic calming features at an estimated cost of \$375,000. A separate pedestrian path would parallel the trail providing walkers a refuge from bike traffic. The other option is a separate bike trail that diverts cyclists to behind the restroom at an estimated cost of \$500,000. This would

displace the existing maintenance facility behind the restroom. It would have to be relocated elsewhere in the park. See Figure 2 for graphic schematics of these options.



Option 1: Multi-modal plaza

- Addition of plaza for traffic calming – a ‘mixing zone’ that slows down all users and creates a greater sense of place
- Separate pedestrian path as you enter and leave the ‘mixing zone’
- Bicycle and pedestrian circle at corner for traffic calming and to reduce direct conflicts



Option 2: Trail behind restroom

- Routes trail on east side of structural columns for bridge and through existing city maintenance area
- Relocates city maintenance near WSDOT maintenance area to the west or to another location entirely
- Keeps existing parking in place
- Bicycle and pedestrian circle at corner for traffic calming and to reduce direct conflicts

Figure 2: Excerpt of Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan showing Restroom Conflict Zone options

The master plan calls for both options to be explored with public input in the early design phase of the project.

ARTS/CULTURE/PLACEMAKING INTEGRATION WITH PROJECTS

The Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan contains an element focused on arts, culture and placemaking within the park. It expands the role art plays in the park currently to include defining and programming spaces, encouraging exploration and discovery, and fostering expression and creativity in the park. See the Arts and Culture Vision document appended to this report. The framework of the vision states:

Create and strengthen community connections through arts and culture.

Provide welcoming and inclusive spaces to express and experience creativity.

Objectives

- Community Gathering
- Artmaking & Creative Expression
- Design for Inclusion

Experience nature and art through all seasons.

Objectives

- Seasonal Experiences & Discoveries
- Sustainable Art Practices
- Exploration & Discovery

Cultivate an art-inspired environment.

Objectives

- Performances & Events
- Public Art
- Artmaking

Celebrate our Island - past, present, and future.

Objectives

- Connect and Support the Island's Diverse Cultures
- Art that Reflects Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Pride - Honor Our Place

To realize this vision, arts, cultural programs and landscape design should be planned together. This meeting is an initial opportunity of the two boards to discuss with staff how this integration could occur.

The case of the Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvements Project provides all involved a chance to experiment with the working relationships of the two boards. Staff have drafted a schematic work plan for this initial discussion. This is meant to facilitate discussion only. Any product for final consideration would be brought to subsequent meetings of the respective boards.

Phase of work	Parks and Rec Com.	Arts Council	P&R Staff
Scoping	Commission proposes the scope of work, forwards to Arts Council	Arts Council provides early input on opportunities for arts/placemaking	Provides information, facilitates discussion and communication between boards
Consultant selection	Volunteer participates on interview panel	AC Chair reviews the recommended consultant prior to contract negotiations	Write RFQ or RFP to include arts scope
Concept Design	Commission reviews the design alternatives with consultant, selects concept and forwards to Arts Council	Consultant meets with Arts Council to vet opportunities; AC decides whether to engage an artist or creative consultant (or not)	Facilitates discussion and reviews consultant's work.
30% Design	Commission reviews design	Arts Council works with artist or creative consultant	Facilitates discussion and reviews consultant's work.
90% Design	Receive project updates	Final design of cultural elements; receive project updates	Provide updates and reviews consultant's work.
Construction	Receive project updates	Receive project updates	Provide updates and reviews contractor's work.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff requests the following:

1. Clarifying questions about the project options.
2. Clarifying questions about the Arts and Culture Vision of the Aubrey Davis Master Plan
3. Discussion about the potential roles and responsibilities of the two boards on this trail project.

site	location	status	ownership	lead agency	source of funding	completed?	in process ?	DOC grant candidate	TDG recommended scope from "Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan Intersection Analysis and Recommendations" dated 10/9/2018	City of Mercer Island Public Works comments
1	West Mercer Way existing crossing	in design for construction 2020	Mercer Island/WSDOT	Mercer Island	ST settlement fund	N	Y	not needed	Add tactile warning surface at crossings. Add high visibility crosswalk markings. Add trail crossing signs in advance of crossing to raise awareness for drivers, esp. for drivers right onto on ramp from W Mercer Way. Ensure existing lighting is adequate to illuminate crossing. Consider creating raised crossing, pedestrian refuge, or raised median to bring more awareness at crossing if conflicts/collision history	KPG is designing in coordination with WSDOT NWR Traffic Section
2	West Mercer Way new crossing	in design for construction 2020	Mercer Island/WSDOT	Mercer Island	ST settlement fund	N	Y	not needed	same as above	KPG is designing in coordination with WSDOT NWR Traffic Section
3	Convergence area under 72nd Overpass	in master plan	WSDOT	Mercer Island	undetermined	N	N	Y		would probably be part of #4 restroom conflict zone
4	Restroom Conflict Zone	in master plan	WSDOT	Mercer Island	undetermined	N	N	Y		
5	76th crossing at North Mercer Way	reconstructed by ST in 2017	WSDOT	Sound Transit	Sound Transit	Y			Add tactile warning surface at crossings. Add trail crossing signs in advance of crossing to raise awareness for drivers, esp. for drivers turning across trail in either direction. Ensure existing lighting is adequate to illuminate crossing. Consider creating raised crossing at right turn slip lane if conflicts/collision history warrants. This location may also warrant removal of the right turn slip lane and island.	
6	76th crossing at SE 24th	in master plan	Mercer Island/WSDOT	undetermined	undetermined	N	N			involves more extensive design of surrounding intersection
7	81st crossing at North Mercer Way	in design to be rebuilt as part of KC NME sewer project	Mercer Island	King County	King County	N	Y		Widen curb ramps to full trail width. Restripe crosswalk with a high visibility markings, consider crossbike markings as well. Add tactile warning surface at crossings. Add trail crossing signs in advance of crossing to raise awareness for drivers, esp. for drivers turning onto 81st Ave from either direction. Ensure existing lighting is adequate to illuminate crossing.	
8	Island Crest Way crossing at North Mercer Way	in design to be rebuilt as part of KC NME sewer project	Mercer Island/WSDOT	King County	King County	N	Y		Remove bollards. Add tactile warning surface at crossings. Add trail crossing signs in advance of crossing to raise awareness for drivers, esp. for drivers making a right off SE 26th. Ensure existing lighting is adequate to illuminate crossing. Reconfigure off-ramp terminus to remove slip lane and pork chop island, and to reduce right turn radius. Mark crosswalk with higher visibility markings such as "zebra" marking (similar to other marked crosswalks on trail).	KC will remove bollards and rebuild ramps to meet ADA compliance. Modifying free right turn slip lane is an identified issue that won't be addressed. Extensive work with WSDOT will be needed, incl. possible revision to NMW.

site	location	status	ownership	lead agency	source of funding	completed?	in process ?	DOC grant candidate	TDG recommended scope from "Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan Intersection Analysis and Recommendations" dated 10/9/2018	City of Mercer Island Public Works comments
9	Island Crest Way crossing at SE 27th St	in master plan	Mercer Island/WSDOT	undetermined	undetermined	N	N			Involves more extensive design of the surrounding intersection; will require extensive WSDOT review process given the
10	MTS Trail intersection with Luther Lid overlook ramp	in master plan	WSDOT	Mercer Island	undetermined	N	N			would be part of lower staircase project
11	MTS Trail intersection with 84th Ave SE ADA sidewalk	in master plan	WSDOT	Mercer Island	undetermined	N	N			would be part of lower staircase project
12	SE 28th trailhead to Luther Lid	in master plan	WSDOT	Mercer Island	undetermined	N	N			would be part of upper staircase project
13	Shorewood Drive crossing	reconstructed by ST in 2019	WSDOT	Sound Transit	Sound Transit	Y	Y		Remove bollards. Add tactile warning surface at crossings. Add trail crossing signs in advance of crossing to raise awareness for drivers, esp. for SB drivers. Ensure existing lighting is adequate to illuminate crossing.	2019 improvements did not include recommended lighting.
14	North Mercer Way at SE 35th	in master plan	Mercer Island/WSDOT	undetermined	undetermined	N	N		Remove bollards. Add tactile warning surface at crossings. Add trail crossing signs in advance of crossing to raise awareness for drivers and trail users. Ensure existing lighting is adequate to illuminate crossing.	involves more extensive design of surrounding intersection
15	100th Ave SE crossing at SE 35th	in master plan	WSDOT	undetermined	undetermined	N	N	Y	same as below	
16	100th Ave SE crossing at SE 36th	in master plan	WSDOT/Mercer Island	undetermined	undetermined	N	N		For two trail crossing on the north side and for trail connection on the SE corner of the intersection, Remove bollards. Refer to bollard study for additional information about bollard removals along entire trail. Add tactile warning surface at crossings. Add trail crossing signs to raise awareness for drivers. Consider adding extruded curb to corner in order to reinforce turning radius. Also consider applying a smaller	Involves more extensive design of the surrounding intersection; will require extensive WSDOT review process given the signalized intersection and the on-ramp.

An Updated Vision for Arts & Culture in Aubrey Davis Park



Primavera II by Roslyn Mazzilli was the first artwork acquired for Aubrey Davis Park. Photographed by Jeff Reid.

Since its creation, the “Park on the Lid”, or Aubrey Davis Park, has been a primary location for Islanders to engage with arts and culture. As the I-90 construction neared completion in 1991, the city formed an I-90 ARTway Task Force to identify and implement public art opportunities throughout the corridor. Today, the park features nearly 25% of the City’s public art collection, stretching from *Playful Pup* by Gary Lee Price at the west end to *Gift of Reflection*, a steel sculpture by David Govedare at the east boat launch.

The first phase of the park’s public art opportunities opened in 1995 as the I-90 Outdoor Sculpture Gallery. The new gallery intended to enhance the Town Center portion of the park with public art and to enrich the Island’s sense of community and earned the city the Pacific Northwest Regional Arts and Humanities Award given by the National Recreation & Park Association in 1997 in recognition of the gallery.

In 1998, the I-90 ARTway Task Force and the Arts Council published a vision statement for the I-90 Sculpture Gallery. This vision emphasized enhancing open spaces, celebrating the unique landscape opportunity, and providing positive art experiences for the broadest audience possible. The city acquired the first keystone sculpture, *Primavera II* by Roslyn Mazzilli, with donations and grants, demonstrating the community’s commitment to public art. The gallery was renamed the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery in 2017 in honor of the long-time Island resident who was integral in founding the arts space; today, it showcases more than a dozen works of art and remains a focal point of the arts experience in Aubrey Davis Park.

Building on this rich history of providing positive public art opportunities in Aubrey Davis Park and recognizing that the park itself has become a treasured cultural resource in the community, the Mercer Island Arts Council has set forth this updated vision for art in the park:

Create and strengthen community connections through arts and culture.

Be it landscape art or interpretive signage, sound installation, or seasonal foliage, this vision reflects a broader plan to use arts and culture to deepen community connections to the park.

This document elaborates on this vision by outlining four tenets to guide how arts and culture can create and maintain a sense of place in Aubrey Davis Park.

CORE TENETS

Provide welcoming and inclusive spaces to express and experience creativity.

Experience art & nature through all seasons.

Cultivate an art-inspired environment.

Celebrate our Island - past, present, and future.

Provide welcoming and inclusive spaces to express and experience creativity.

Stretching from bridge-to-bridge on the north end of the Island, Aubrey Davis Park offers a prime place for community gathering and connection. Arts and cultural activities can be used to inspire park users to interact, to engage in meaningful dialogue, and to forge bonds with the park itself. Moreover, arts-based solutions for signage and park facilities can also be employed to inspire creativity and interest beyond traditional sculptures and new events.

Objectives

- Community Gathering
- Artmaking & Creative Expression
- Design for Inclusion



Blomster by Louise Hankes is on display for sale in the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery, an existing space where visitors can engage with arts and culture in the park. Photographed by Jeff Reid.

Possible Opportunities

- Art and arts spaces as landmarks and focal points for community gathering
- Art and arts experiences that encourage exploration and discovery
- Community engagement in the public art selection and creation process
- Interactive art installations for everyone
- Accessibility year-round through lighting features and installations, artful shelter structures, and art-inspired safety elements (eg. Designed paths to signal traffic crossings)
- Art-inspired and creative elements incorporated into wayfinding and facilities

Experience nature and art through all seasons.

The park serves as an oasis - a place where Islanders, commuters, neighbors, and others can escape from urban life. Current and future arts and culture features should complement the park's natural landscape and offer ways to interact with nature and experience tranquility. Those experiences should be available in all seasons. Using arts and culture as a tool, park accessibility can also be improved so visitors can discover something new year-round.

Objectives

- Seasonal Experiences & Discoveries
- Sustainable Art Practices
- Exploration & Discovery



The Source by John Hoge is an existing work of public art installed in Luther Burbank Park and represents works that integrate into the natural landscape as well as inspire visitors to interact with it in different ways. Photographed by Jeff Reid.

Possible Opportunities

- Art integrated with natural landscapes
- Noise mitigation through art installations and features (eg. Sound installations and rainwater collection features)
- Art that reacts to and embraces the weather - solar, rainwater, wind
- Landscape and foliage that create a visual art experience
- Interactive art features that engage all senses (eg. Edible plants and climbable or touchable artwork)

Cultivate an art-inspired environment.

Whether exploring one of the park's many works of public art or attending events in the outdoor sculpture gallery, community members have many opportunities to engage with arts and culture in Aubrey Davis Park. Expanding on this artistic atmosphere through intentional curation and community-driven activities helps make the park a place community members want to visit and explore.

Objectives

- Performances & Events
- Public Art
- Artmaking

Possible Opportunities

- Showcase and build off existing artwork to create new experiences
- Provide spaces for arts events and performances
- Explore temporary art projects to inspire public engagement and expression
- Engage community members in the public art selection and creation process
- Provide opportunities for local artists



Hundreds of visitors enjoy Art UnCorked each year, a lively art and wine event hosted by the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce in the outdoor sculpture gallery. Photographed by city staff.



Local artist Rachel Holloway completed the mural *Darwin's Dream* at the west end of the park in 2018. Photograph contributed by the artist.
Mercer Island Arts Council and Parks & Recreation Commission Joint Meeting - 01.08.20

Celebrate our Island - past, present, and future.

From legends shared by the Duwamish who foraged and hunted on the Island to Aubrey Davis's legacy of establishing the "Park on the Lid," the park has many stories to tell. Uncovering and highlighting these stories fosters community understanding of the Island's rich history and offers more opportunities to honor our place. With arts and cultural activities, we can build a bridge between past, present, and future, allowing future Islanders and regional neighbors to embrace the park.

Objectives

- Connect and Support the Island's Diverse Cultures
- Art that Reflects Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Pride - Honor Our Place

Possible Opportunities

- Introduce cultural events in collaboration with the community
- Design wayfinding and interpretive signage that tell the story of the Island and its people
- Strengthen partnerships with Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and other local community groups
- Create areas for remembrance and reflection



Interpretive park signage like this kiosk installed in partnership with Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust can be creatively designed to highlight the Island's history and guide visitors through the park. Photographed by city staff.