

City of Mercer Island

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday · October 3, 2019
Regular Meeting Agenda

6:30 pm Call to Order & Roll Call

6:35 pm Minutes of September 5, 2019 Meeting

6:40 pm Appearances

6:45 pm Regular Business

1. Director's Report Ryan Daly (10 min)
2. Recreation Program/MICEC Update Zach Houvener/CJ Stanford/Merrill Thomas-Schadt/ (30 min)
3. Aubrey Davis Master Plan Open House #3 Recap/Next Steps Paul West (30 min)
4. Next Meeting: November 7, 2019 Chair (5 min)

8:00 pm Other Business

8:30 pm Adjourn (estimated)

BOARD MEMBERS

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

STAFF

Ryan Daly, *Director (Interim)*
Tammy Bodmer, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

Mayor Debbie Bertlin





PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2019

Call To Order:

Chair Westberg called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center, 8236 SE 24th St., Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Don Cohen, Lyn Gualtieri, Amy Richter, Rory Westberg, Sara Berkenwald, and Jodi McCarthy were present. Commissioner Kirk Robinson was absent.

Staff present were Ryan Daly, Parks and Recreation Interim Director, Tammy Bodmer, Senior Administrative Assistant, Paul West, Capital Project & Planning Manager, Deb Estrada, City Clerk and Mary Swan, Paralegal/Public Records Officer

Chair Westberg asked all commissioners and staff to introduce themselves.

Minutes

Minutes from 7/11/19 meeting were presented. Commissioner Cohen motioned to accept the minutes and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Appearances:

- Dan Thompson - spoke regarding parks levy expiring and need for renewal. Also address what the commission's job is going to be.
- Tom Aker – Urged Commissioners to think big picture. Thanked Commissioners for serving.

Regular Business:

1. Director's Report

Director Daly gave the director's report.

- Tree Removal – hazard trees throughout parks and open spaces
- Doowop and Daisy's event taking place on September
- Cougar update
- Recreation updates – summer recap of programs
- Let's Talk – explanation of site.

2. Public records act and Open Public Meeting Act

City Clerk Estrada reviewed Roberts Rules of Order and parliamentary procedures. Paralegal/Public Records Officer Swan reviewed the Public Records Act.

3. Aubrey Davis Master Plan Status Report

Capital Project and Planning Manager West walked the Commission through the draft master plan that was submitted for SEPA review. Upcoming Open House on September 23, 2019.

4. Appointment of Vice Chair

Nominations were opened for the vice chair. Commissioner Cohen nominated Commissioner McCarthy. She accepted the nomination. A vote was taken, and it passed unanimously.

5. Bylaws

The draft bylaws were presented with changes from July 11, 2019 meeting. Commissioner McCarthy

moved to accept the bylaws as amended. Commissioner Gualtieri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2019, at 6:00pm – OSCT joint meeting.

Adjournment: 8:25 pm

Draft

Mercer Island Parks & Recreation – Summer Update



October 3, 2019

Staff



Zach Houvener – Interim Recreation Manager



Merrill Thomas-Schadt – Customer Service Supervisor



C.J. Stanford - Recreation Supervisor

Summer Camps



Total Camps Offered: 169!

Summer Camp Focus Areas:

- **Camp Mercer**
- **Sports Camps**
- **STEM Camps**
- **Cooking Camps**
- **Creative/Art Camps**

Summer Camps – Marketing/Promotions

- Increased # of park pop ups
- Camp Fair
- Camp Guide (released in February)
- Increased social media presence
- Partner Marketing (email, web, & social)
- All island mailer....



Recreation

Summer 2017

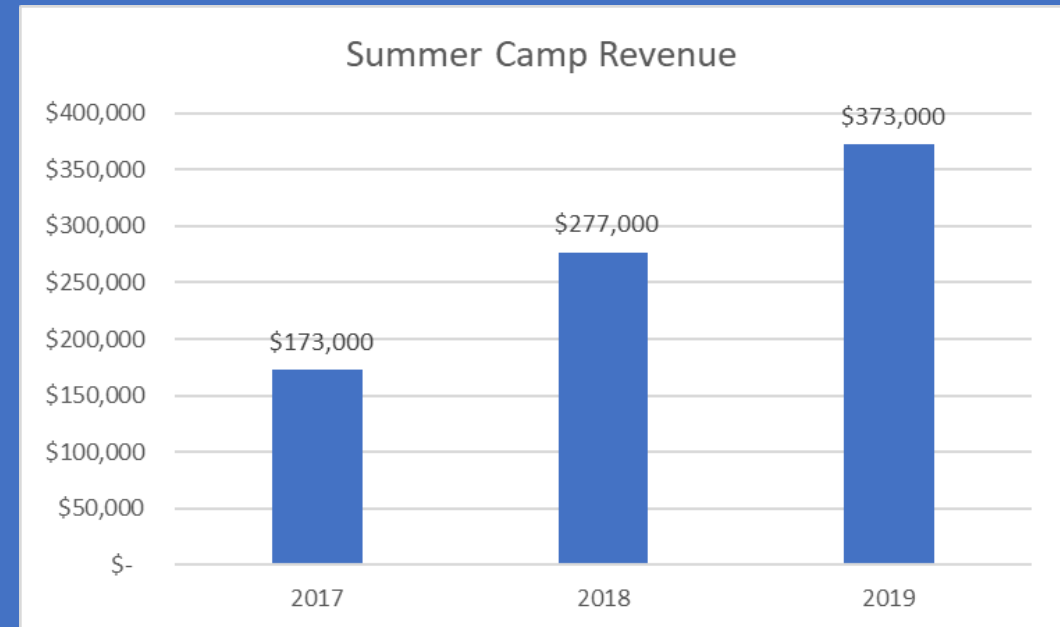
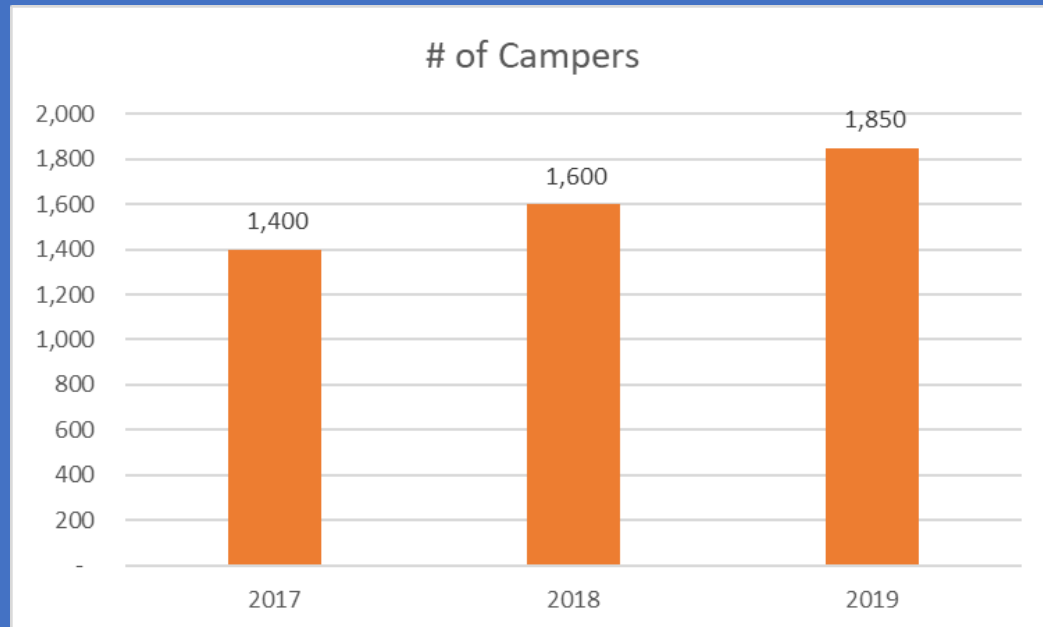
- Campers: 1,400+
- Revenue: \$173,000

Summer 2018

- Campers: 1,600+
- Revenue: \$277,000

Summer 2019

- Campers: 1,850
- Revenue: \$373,000

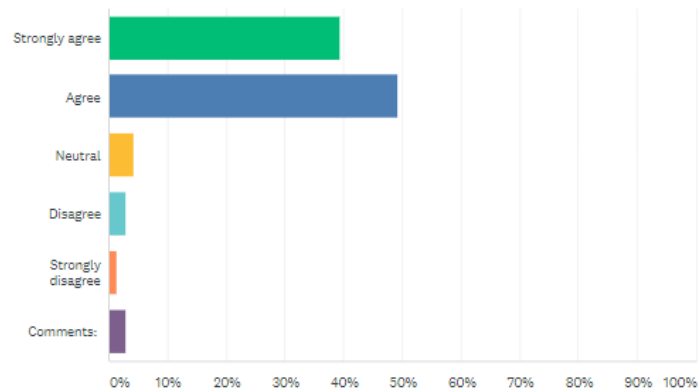


Recreation - Feedback

Recreation Programs Survey

The registration process was simple and efficient.

Answered: 71 Skipped: 0

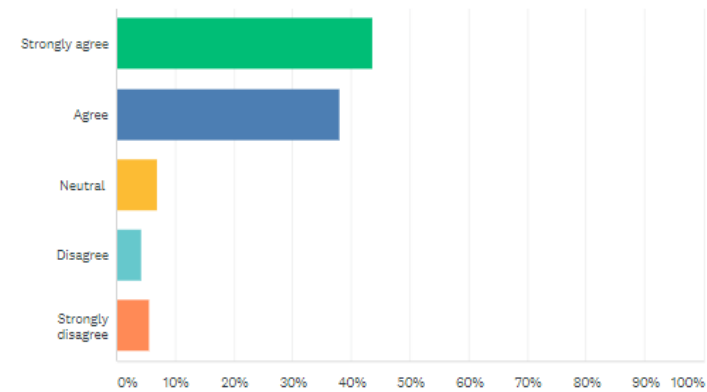


Recreation Programs Survey - Summer 2019

🔍 (0)

The program, class or camp met my expectations.

Answered: 71 Skipped: 0

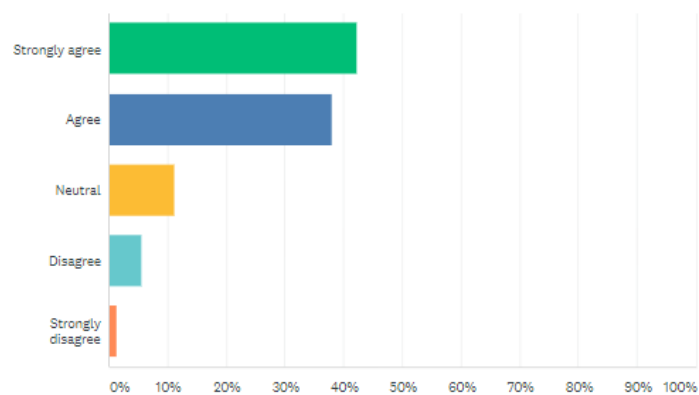


Recreation Programs Survey - Summer 2019

🔍 (0)

The instructor/staff was enthusiastic, knowledgeable and engaging.

Answered: 71 Skipped: 0

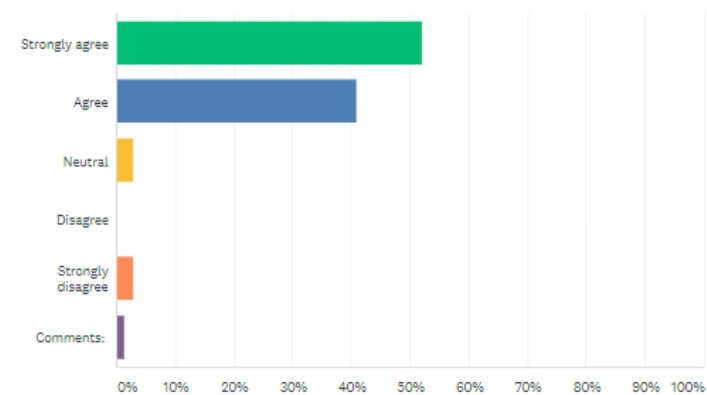


Recreation Programs Survey - Summer 2019

🔍 (0)

The facility was appropriate and met the needs of the program/class ...

Answered: 71 Skipped: 0



Recreation Programs Survey - Summer 2019

🔍 (0)

Recreation Guide

play on mercer!

MERCER ISLAND PARKS AND RECREATION GUIDE

FALL 2019/WINTER 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- visit the p-patch page 14
- new programs & classes! page 15
- parks map & guide page 8

Registration Begins Online: Aug 16
Phone: Aug 19

Deanna Killean in the P-Patch

PLAYONMERCER.COM

LETTER FROM LEAP

Parcs & Recreation mascot Leap the Frog

Ribbit...Ribbit... Welcome to the new Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Guide. **Play On Mercer!** Use this guide as a resource to find out what is happening with Mercer Island parks and recreation programming this fall and winter.

Kids are back to school, new programs are beginning and our beautiful parks and open spaces are as colorful as ever.

For many, fall is a time where leaves gracefully drop to the ground and we reflect as summer comes to an end, but for Mercer Island Parks and Recreation, the fun keeps hoppin' along! With the new season comes many opportunities to gather with neighbors and fellow community members, rock out with Caspar Baby pants (pg. 16), volunteer at our Arbor Day celebration (pg. 13), learn how to carve soapstone (pg. 23), or stroll through 475 acres of park land (pg. 9). Mercer Island Parks and Recreation has something for everyone this fall and winter.

The Parks & Recreation Department has encountered many changes to programming and events over the last year. With City resources reduced, now is the time to bring forward ideas and take part in opportunities to engage with City staff and your community. Don't get a frog in your throat - speak up and share what you love about Mercer Island Parks and Recreation and how we can work together to enhance the services this department offers.

Parks and Recreation is about enjoying nature and sharing community connections. I invite you to take the opportunity this season to connect with this amazing community. Talk with staff and neighbors, explore the wide range of programs offered, attend a community meeting, or jump outdoors to your favorite park for a breath of fresh air.

This year has been full of change and growth, and we continue to look towards the future. I was once a tadpole...look at me now!

Signing off from the Luther Burbank Park wetlands.

Leap the Frog

2 Fall 2019/Winter 2020

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FOREST STEWARDSHIP

WEEDS & TREES: FOREST RESTORATION ON MERCER ISLAND

Kim Frappier
Natural Resources Specialist

From Pioneer Park's 118 acres of conifer forest to small neighborhood gems like Ellis Pond and Wildwood Park, Mercer Island is home to over 300 acres of public open spaces. This network of natural areas includes upland forests, ravines, watercourses, wetlands, and shoreline. Mercer Island's forests clean our water and air, sequester carbon, and provide habitat to a diversity of wildlife - including the iconic bald eagle and graceful black-tailed deer.

HISTORY
Like most of the Puget Sound region, Mercer Island was historically dominated by conifer forest including old growth Douglas fir, western hemlock, western redcedar, and a diverse native understorey. The island's rich natural resources first drew the local Duwamish people for fishing, hunting, and foraging. European homesteaders, however, would be the first to settle on the island in the late 19th century. The landscape changed dramatically as land was cleared for timber, home building, and agriculture. Although the forested character of the island carried on in many areas, urban development continued, and many of the remaining natural areas that were cleared during the last century recolonized primarily with short-lived, fast-growing native deciduous species such as bigleaf maple, black cottonwood, and red alder.

WITHOUT RESTORATION

PRESENT IN 20 YEARS IN 50 YEARS IN 100 YEARS

WITH RESTORATION

Graphic provided by Forterra and Green Seattle Partnership.

"Participating in forest stewardship not only restores the health and function of our forested open spaces, it restores our relationship to each other and the natural world that sustains us."

"Ecological restoration is not only about weeds and trees. It is about creating community through shared mission and experience."

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

ENTER THE WEEDS
To the forest's detriment, a host of introduced invasive plants such as English ivy, English holly, and Himalayan blackberry soon followed. What were first considered delights to the ornamental gardener soon spread into open spaces where they smothered native plants and suppressed tree regeneration. The problems associated with non-native invasive plants persist today. English ivy vines create dense carpets that outcompete native plants for nutrients and sunlight. In addition, ivy climbs up trees and chokes out the canopy, causing limbs to break under their weight. Himalayan blackberry thickets are especially aggressive, creating 'monocultures' that decrease the diversity of habitat and food sources available to Pacific Northwest wildlife. As non-native invasive plants replace native plant communities, they reduce the environmental benefits a healthy forest provides such as shading and cooling, erosion control, stormwater retention, and carbon sequestration. If invasive species are allowed to spread, Mercer Island will be left with a degraded tree canopy and a desert of ivy and blackberry.

THE SOLUTION
During the last 15 years, Mercer Island Parks and Recreation has been working to remove invasive weeds from the island's open spaces and replace with native trees and shrubs. This process, known as ecological restoration, keeps invasive plants from completely taking over and allows forested open spaces to recover. Native soils have also been heavily impacted from development and land clearing, resulting in poor soil conditions and depleted stores of native seed that would ordinarily contribute to forest regeneration. To address this, restoration crews and volunteers install native plant material and mulch. City staff prioritize restoration of critical areas

to ensure protection of watercourses and wetlands and stabilize steep slopes. The City's restoration work is guided by the Mercer Island Open Space Vegetation Plan 10 year Evaluation and Update adopted by City Council in March 2015.

RESTORING PLANTS AND PEOPLE
Forest restoration builds community. In addition to hiring restoration professionals, the Parks and Recreation Natural Resources team partners with local non-profit conservation organizations - EarthCorps and Mountains to Sound Conservancy, as well as community forest stewards. Together, staff and volunteers work to create a healthier network of forested open spaces that are resilient and sustainable. At community restoration events, volunteers pull weeds, plant trees and move mulch. But ecological restoration is not only about weeds and trees. It is about creating community through shared mission and experience. Volunteers experience mental and physical well-being from working in the outdoors, meet new friends, and connect with neighbors of all ages. Participating in forest stewardship not only restores the health and function of our forested open spaces, it restores our relationship to each other and the natural world that sustains us.

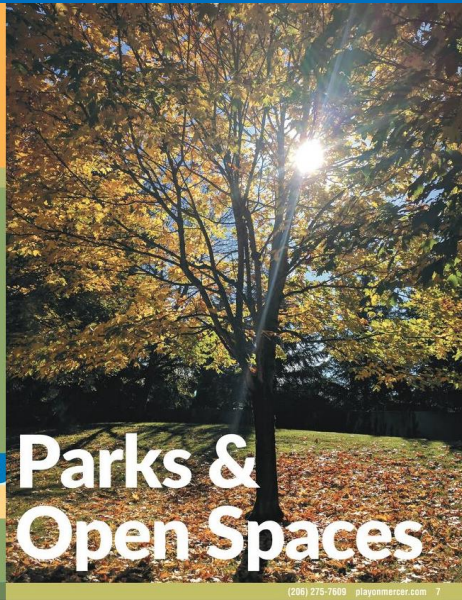
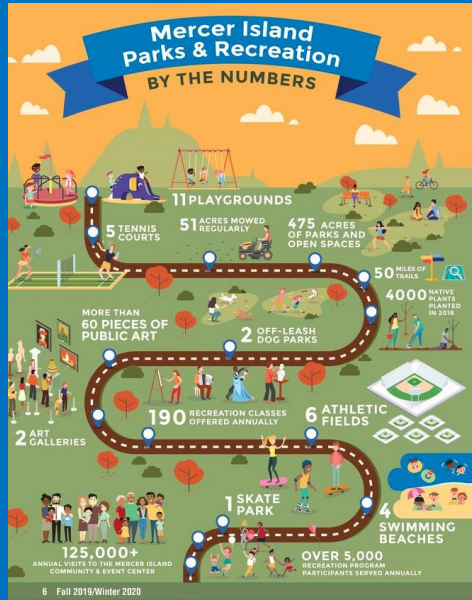
Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Program
Restoration and forest stewardship
Kim Frappier
kim.frappier@mercercorp.org
mercercorp.org/foreststewardship

Trail and urban forestry
Andrew Prince
andrew.prince@mercercorp.org

Noxious Weeds in King County
Learn more about invasive weed identification & control: kingcounty.gov/depts/natural-resources/animals-and-plant/noxious-weeds.aspx

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Recreation Guide



Parks & Open Spaces

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SPECIAL EVENTS

DOO WOP & DAISIES
A FREE EVENT TO HONOR AGING IN OUR COMMUNITY!
LIVE MUSIC, ACTIVITIES, LUNCH & MORE!
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:
JOHN BENSON | CISCOR | MARIANNE WHO LET THE SCARF? | GARDENING ADVICE | THE HISTORY OF DOO WOP!
SEPTEMBER 12 | 11AM - 2PM
MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER
REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CALL 206-275-7609 TODAY!
COURSE #9776

CASPAR BABYPANTS
SATURDAY, OCT 12 | 10:30am
MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT HALLOWEEN PARTY!
SPORTS LANS | HOLLOWEEN CARDS | COUNSEL #9168 | AGES 5-17 SAT, OCT 26 | 5:30-8:00 PM | TRICK OR TREATING
COURSE #9776

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT HOLIDAY PARTY W/ SANTA
Leave your kids with us and finish up your holiday shopping or attend a holiday party!
Santa and his elves will make an appearance for photos!
Course #9459
Age: 5 - 12
Sat, Dec 14
\$39/Child; \$29/Sibling

FREE! ARGOSY HOLIDAY SHIP & BOAT PARADE
Bonfire | S'mores
Carpoling | Cocoa & Coffee
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 7:30PM
Ship arrives at 8:10pm
LUTHER BURBANK PARK SWIM BEACH

FALL & WINTER Senior Lunches
October 31: HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR
November 14: GIVE THANKS
January 16: BEAT THE WINTER BLUES
March 12: LUCKY LEPRECHAUN LUNCH
12PM - 2PM \$7.50/PERSON + TAX
MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER
CALL 206-275-7609 TO REGISTER TODAY!

FIRST FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS
Join us on the first Friday of each month for special activities for little ones at MICEC!
10:30am - 12pm
September - March
10:30 - 11:30 am
Interactive indoor play
Meet a special guest!
11:30AM
Stories & Sing-Alongs in Leap's Pad!
See pg. 6 for more info FREE!

Sip n' Socialize! Community Coffee Hour
Every Wednesday & Friday 9am - 10am
Mercer Island Community & Event Center
Enjoy FREE warm coffee and tea and catch up with old friends or new acquaintances. No need to register, just show up on us for a warm cup of joe and start your day in a wonderful way.

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LIFELONG RECREATION



Donna Largis is keeping strong and healthy at age 85! What's her trick? Over 10 years of Enhance Fitness exercise.

"KEEP IT MOVING AND FEEL GREAT!"

Donna Largis, Enhance Fitness Participant

Lifelong Recreation programs focus on providing a variety of meaningful activities that support an active lifestyle through education, outings & adventures, physical activity, health & wellness, and social connection. Although Lifelong Recreation programs are tailored for adults 65 years young and up, adults of any age are welcome to register if space is available.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Mercer Island Senior Programs

Mercer Island Community & Event Center 206-275-7609

Transportation Resources

www.gogograndparent.com (855) 464-6872
King County METRO Access (206) 749-4242
Sound Generations Volunteer Transportation 206-448-5740

SENIOR ADULT RESOURCES

Caregivers Support

Caregivers are invited to share concerns, receive support and increase their knowledge about resources with their peers. Please contact facilitator before attending your first meeting. This program is provided through Youth & Family Services.

Day: 1st Thu (Ongoing)
Time: 2:30pm - 4pm
Facilitator: Betsy Zuber, MS, LMHC (206) 275-7752
betsy.zuber@mercergov.org
Location: Luther Burbank Park Administration Building

Parkinson's Disease Support

This monthly support group provides community and educational resources to help participants maintain independence and develop health awareness. Concerns and challenges will be shared by group participants each month, and guest speakers will be invited periodically to share helpful and cutting-edge ideas and information.

Day: 1st Tue (Ongoing)
Time: 2pm - 3:30pm
Fee: Donation
Facilitator: Debbie Hanson, PT, DPT
Location: Mercer Island Community & Event Center

Senior Services

Provided by Mercer Island Youth & Family Services

- * In-home assessment and case management
- * Caregiver Support Group
- * Consultations with adult children

For more information about any of these services, please call Betsy Zuber at (206) 275-7752 or email betsy.zuber@mercergov.org.

Rentals/Customer Service

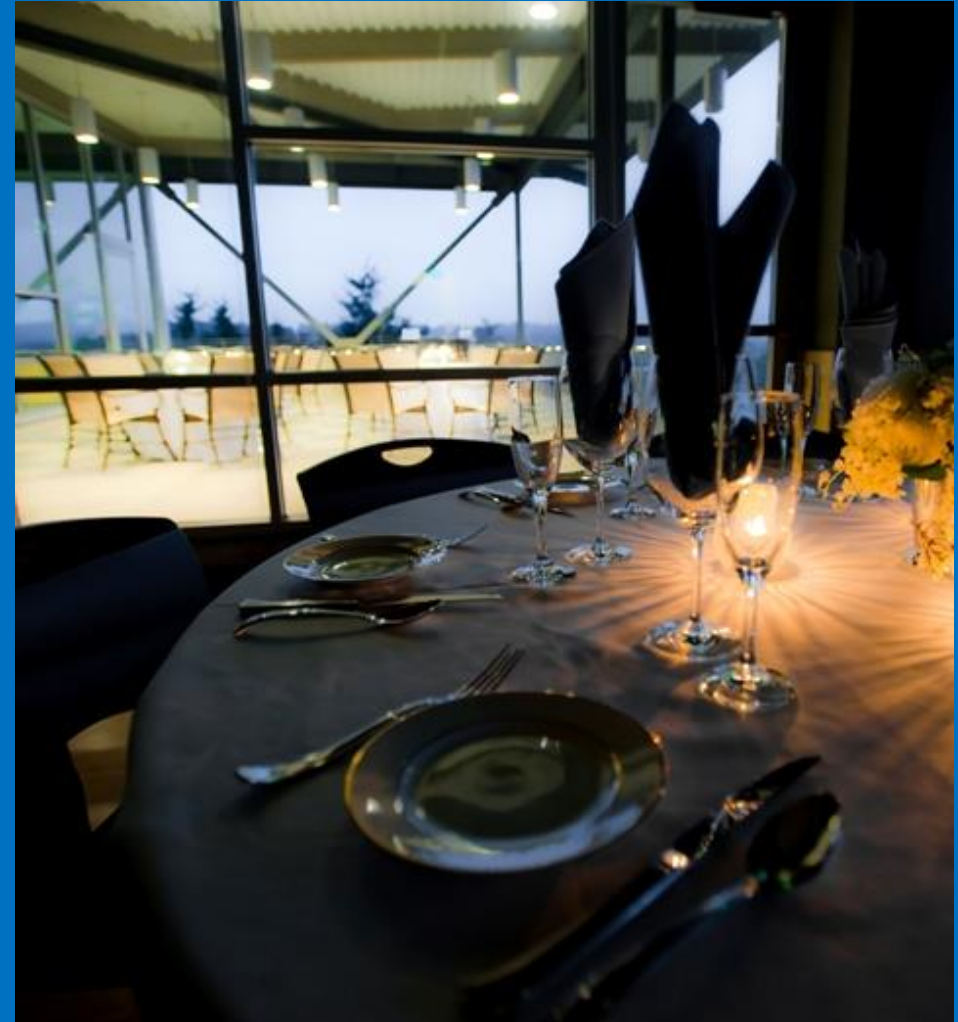
- Facility, Park & Field Rentals
- Marketing
- Client Satisfaction
- Revenue
- Improved Processes



User groups – Community Center

Core events:

- **Weddings**
- **Corporate Events**
- **Celebrations of Life**
- **Social Events (Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Birthdays, Holiday parties, etc.)**
- **Ongoing rental groups**



User groups – Field Rentals

Core partners:

- Mercer Island School District
- Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club
- Stroum Jewish Community Center
- Mercer Island Football Club (Soccer)
- Mercer Island Boys/Girls Lacrosse Club
- Tournaments, Special Events, etc.



Rentals

Community Center

- Revenue (YTD):
\$537,000
- # of Bookings: **1,741**

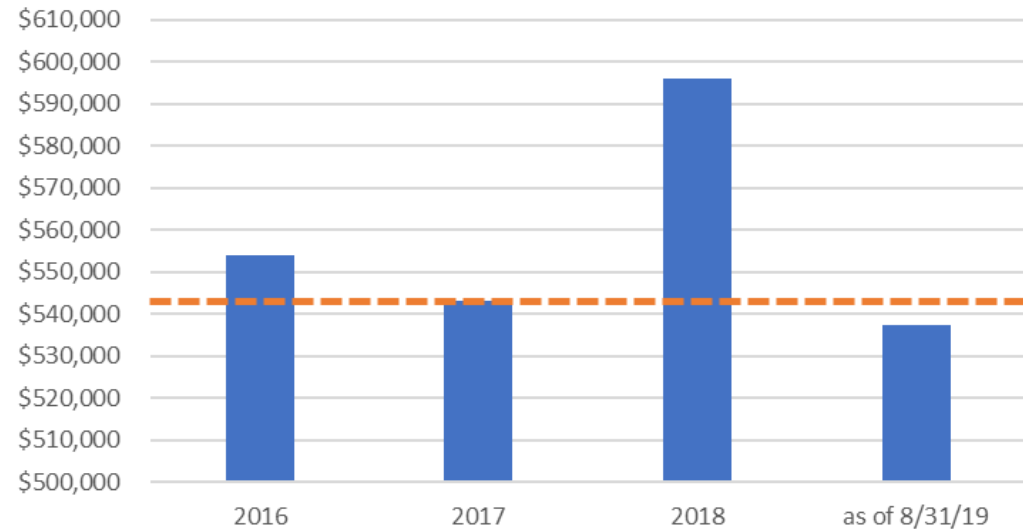
Field Rentals

- Revenue (YTD):
\$244,000
- # of Bookings: **2,322**

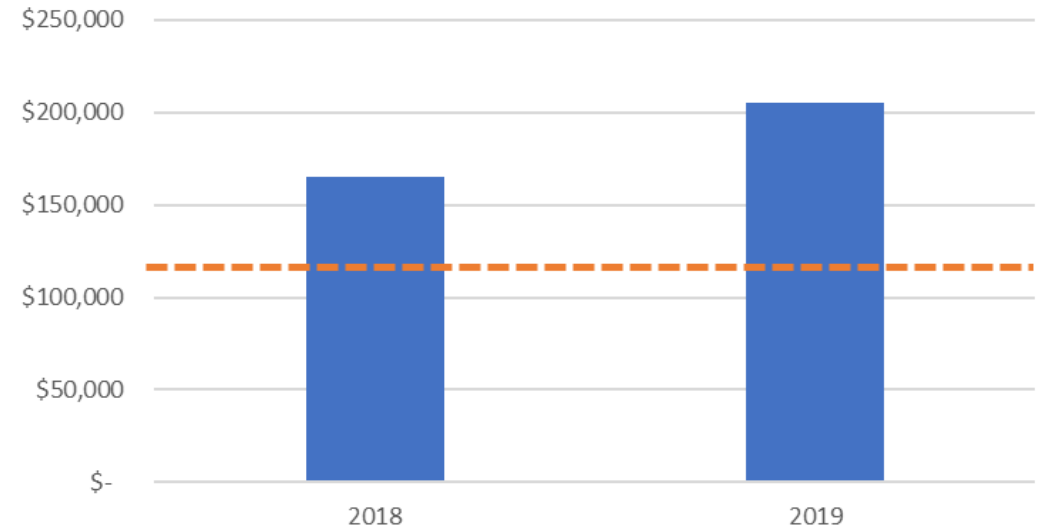
Park Rentals

- Revenue (YTD):
\$17,000
- # of Bookings: **82**

Facility Rental Revenue



Field Revenue YTD



Satisfaction – Google Reviews

Google reviews of 25 Community Centers around Seattle region

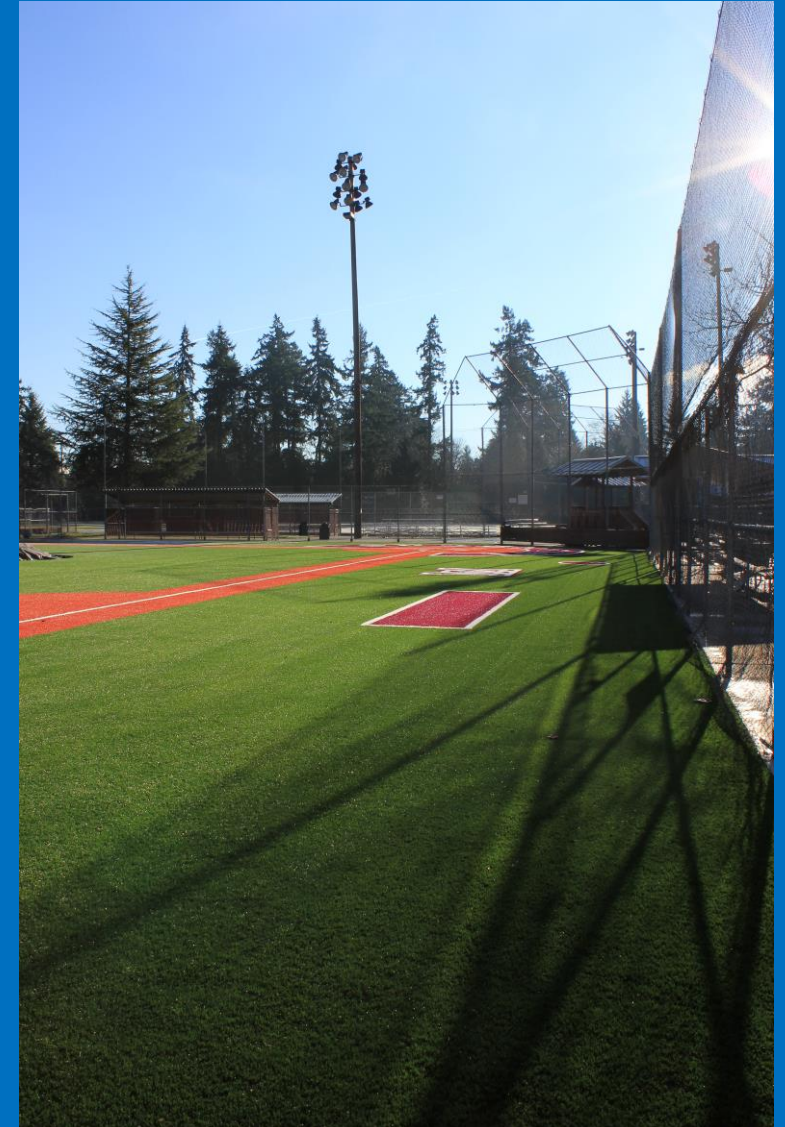
Core Strengths

- Top Notch Facilities
- Location
- Customer Service
- Improved Processes

City	Venue	Google Rating	# of Reviews
Mukilteo	Rosehill CC	4.6	295
Mercer Island	Mercer Island Community Center	4.6	217
Kirkland	North Kirkland CC	4.6	109
Bellevue	Highland CC	4.6	70
Seattle	Mount Baker CC	4.6	64
Mercer Island	Mercer Island Beach Club	4.6	63
Mercer Island	Stroum Jewish CC	4.6	30
Kirkland	Peter Kirk Park	4.6	29
Tukwila	Tukwila CC	4.5	484
Renton	Renton CC	4.5	151
Seattle	Rainier CC	4.5	101
Bellevue	Crossroads CC	4.5	93
Seattle	Jefferson CC	4.5	83
Burien	Burien CC	4.5	11
Federal Way	Federal Way CC	4.4	432
Lynnwood	Lynnwood Rec Center	4.4	418
Seattle	Rainier Beach CC	4.4	200
Issaquah	Issaquah CC	4.4	173
Bellevue	North Bellevue CC	4.4	163
Seattle	Miller CC	4.4	111
Seattle	Lakewood Seward Park CC	4.4	50
Seattle	Magnusson CC	4.4	43
Seattle	International District/Chinatown	4.3	111
Seattle	Garfield CC	4.3	99
Seattle	Filipino CC	4.2	69
Bellevue	South Bellevue CC	3.8	41

Improvements to Rental Process

- **Facility Availability Calendar**
- **Facility Cleanup Services**
- **Streamlined Workflows**
- **Updated Website/Rentals Page (coming 2020)**
- **Department wide rental synergies**
 - **Field, Facility, and Parks all to same team**



Questions?