SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal,** even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in "Part B: Environmental Elements" that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background Find help answering background questions

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Bike Skills Area at Deane's Children's Park (PA0165)

2. Name of applicant:

Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, City of Mercer Island – Public Works

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040
206.549.1032 | sarah.bluvas@mercerisland.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 17, 2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Community Planning and Development, City of Mercer Island

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

PROJECT TIMELINE – Completed and Upcoming Milestones

July 19, 2022	Mercer Island City Council appropriated $75,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund to design a new Bike Skills Area facility at Deane's Children's Park, 5701 Island Crest Way (AB 6120).
Oct. 2022-Mar. 2023	The City contracted with American Ramp Company (ARC) and developed the 30% design in consultation with the Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) and Mercer Island community.
December 6, 2022	Mercer Island City Council adopted the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget, which includes a budget of $302,500 to construct the Bike Skills Area in 2023 (AB 6194).
March 7, 2023	City Council approved the 30% design and authorized City staff to complete the project design to meet the fall construction schedule.
March-Aug. 2023	Finalize design, secure permits, and prepare site for construction
Aug.-Sept. 2023	Anticipated construction period
October 2023	Open the facility

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No additions, expansion, or further construction activity is planned for the site post-construction of the new Bike Skills Area. The proposed project is a revised recreational facility that will require ongoing maintenance by the City's Parks Operations team once it is constructed. Maintenance will primarily consist of cleaning wooden jump features, repacking dirt trails, and general upkeep to preserve the site.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

A topographic and tree survey of Deane's Children's Park and an adjacent area of Island Crest Park was conducted by Bush, Roed, and Hitchings, Inc, in September 2022. In late September, Andrew Prince, the City's Urban Forestry Project Manager, performed a risk assessment of trees in the project area; an Arborist Report summarizing his assessment was issued on October 2, 2022.

Because a portion of the site is mapped as a Potential Slide and Erosion area, the proposed project also requires a Critical Area Review 2; the Critical Area Study was conducted by Marc McGinnis of Geotech Consultants, Inc.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No applications for other government approvals are pending.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

The following City of Mercer Island approvals and permits are required for this project:

- Critical Area Review 2
- Grading permit
- Building permit
- Stormwater permit

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposed project includes building an **Enclosed Bike Skills Area** of 15,000 square feet that will use the existing paved ADA path as the primary entrance trail and two **Access Trails** leading to the new facility. When completed, the facility will be primarily used by novice and experienced mountain bikers of all ages to build and expand mountain biking skills on a professionally built and maintained course. The bike course may be used for City programs in the future, such as training/educational classes, summer camps, and special events.

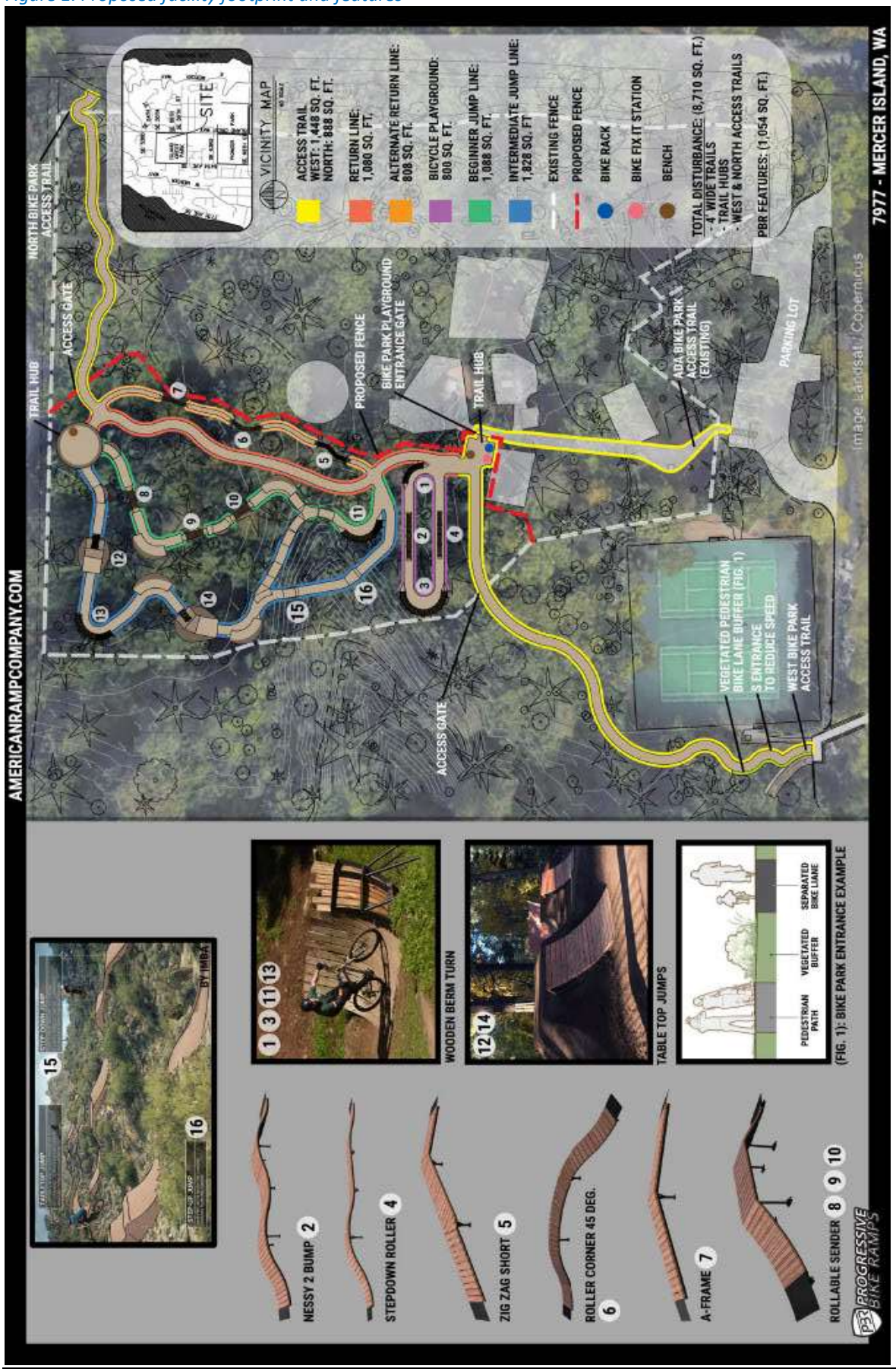
Project elements include:

- Enclosed Bike Skills Area
    - Mountain biking skills course featuring a combination of wood and dirt jumps/features, reinforced berms, and dirt trails.
    - Bicycle playground for new riders, featuring wooden trail features.

    - Bike rack, bike fix-it area, and seating.
    - New fence on the east side of the proposed facility and modifications to the existing fence on the west side of the site.
    - Signage in the proposed facility explaining course rules and safety.
    - Signage outside of the proposed facility explaining shared-use rules and etiquette for surrounding park amenities, including tennis courts and open space areas.
- Access Trails
    - Use of the existing paved ADA Entrance Trail that currently leads to the project site.
    - New dirt access trail from the Island Crest Park parking lot, located to the west of the tennis courts adjacent to the site; new trail will be buffered by landscaping to separate bike park users from users of the existing trailhead leading into the Island Crest Park open space.
    - New dirt access trail from Island Crest Way, running through the northeast quadrant of Deane's Children's Park.

The design schematic for the proposed facility is provided as Figure 1.

Figure 1. Proposed facility footprint and features



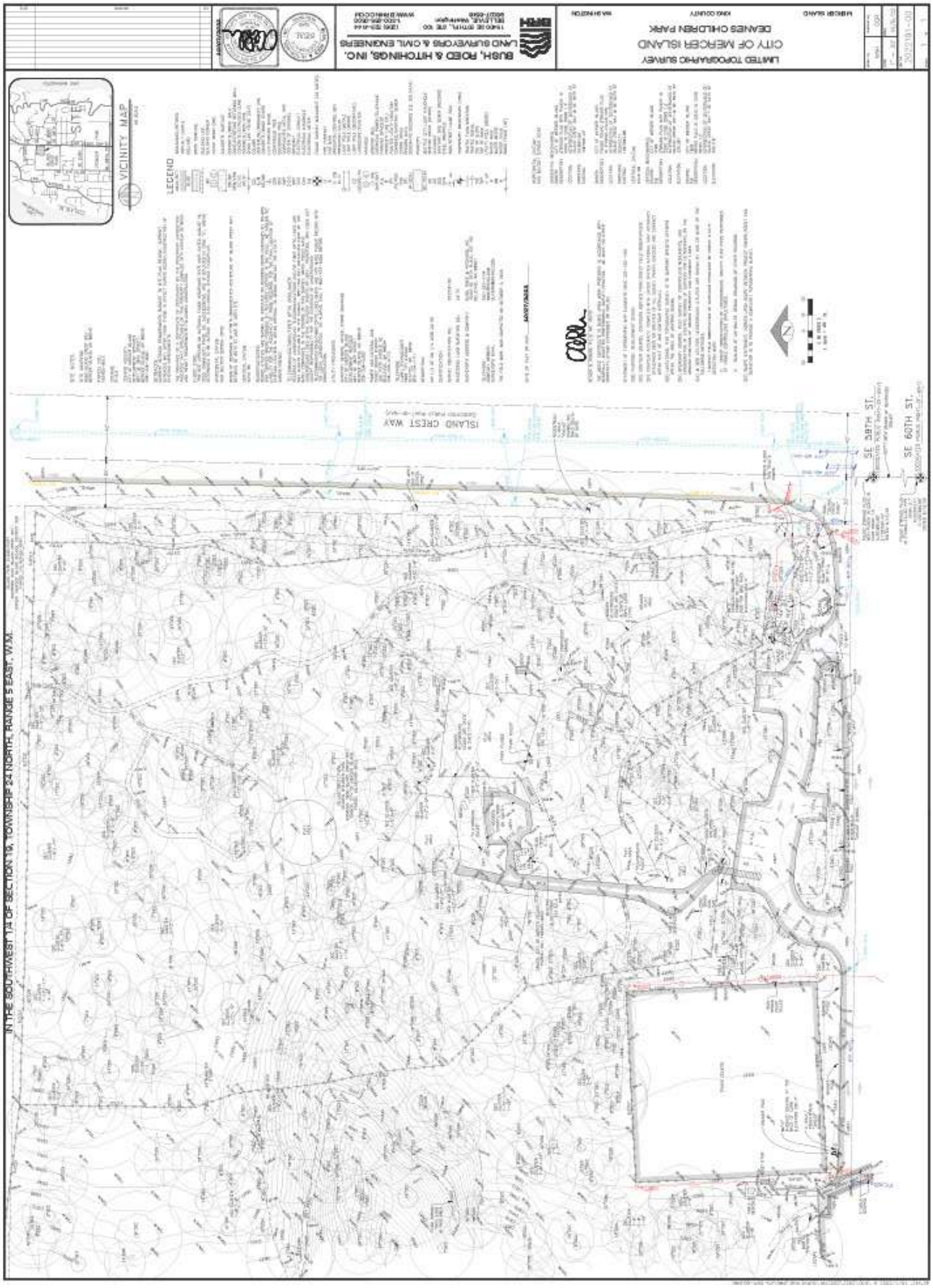
12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

- Project Site Address: Deane's Children's Park, 5701 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Parcel Number: 192405-9013
- Ownership: City of Mercer Island
- Zoning: Park within R-9.6 (Single Family)
- Section 19, Township 24N, Range 05E

The proposed facility will be sited in the northwest quadrant of Deane's Children's Park, on the site of the former Adventure Playground. The project location is identified in Figure 2, and a topographic survey is provided as Figure 3.

Figure 2. Location for Proposed Bike Skills Area

Figure 3. Topographic Survey Conducted by Bush, Roed, and Hitchings, Inc, in September 2022



B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth Find help answering earth questions

a. General description of the site:

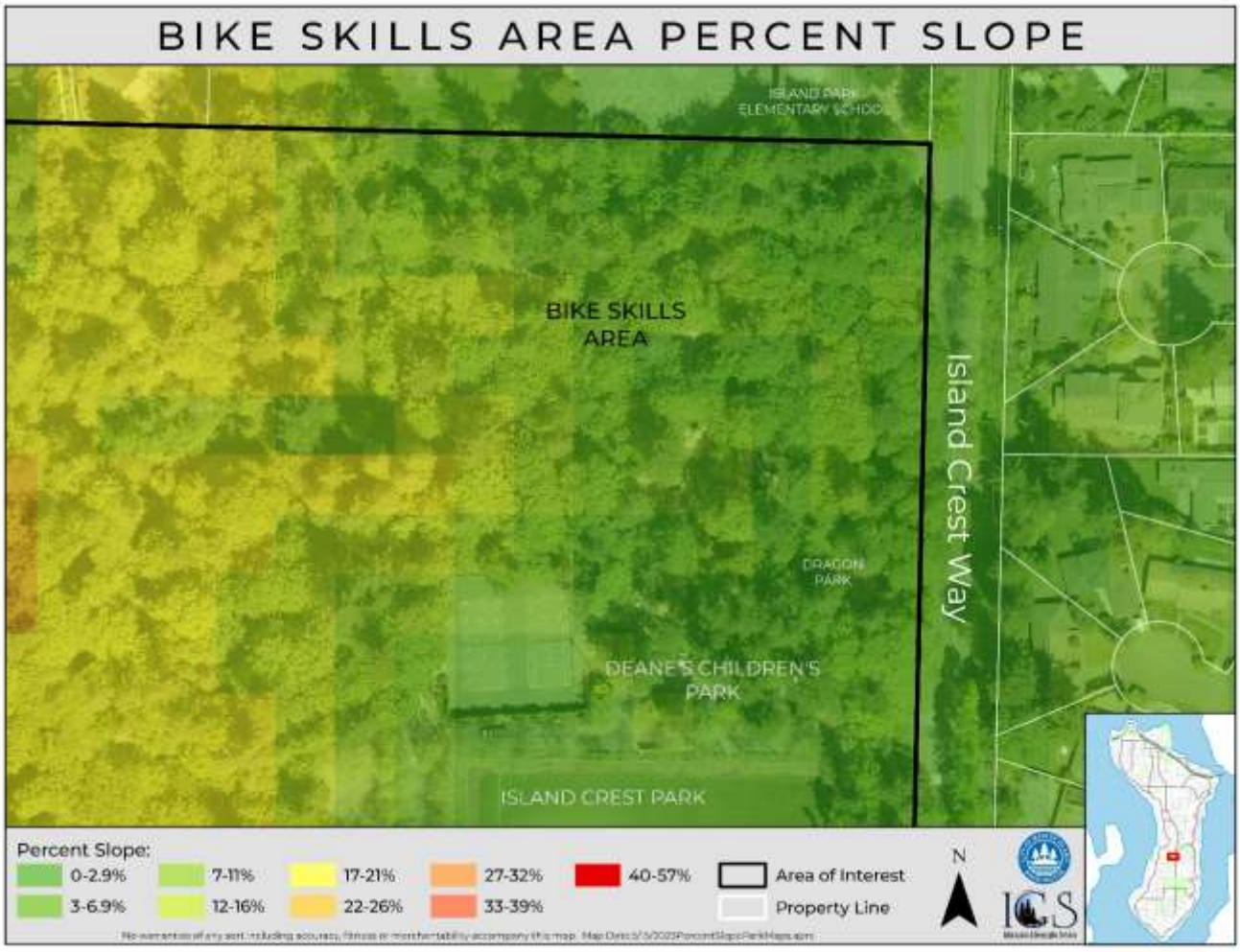
The proposed facility will be sited in the northwest quadrant of Deane's Children's Park, a small park area located mid-Island, adjacent to Island Crest Park. Features in and around the park include playground equipment, a restroom, picnic tables, a paved ADA access path, and vegetated/forested open space. Previous recreation programs at the site (e.g. Adventure Playground) significantly denuded the site, leaving highly compacted top soil and minimal understory.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slope located within the proposed project site is 17-21% slope (see Figure 4.).

Figure 4. Percent Slope for Proposed Bike Skills Area



c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

According to the USDA soil survey, the site includes Alderwood gravelly sandy loam. Minimal soil removal is planned for this project. There are no agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance at this site.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

A portion of the southern half of the proposed project site lies within a zone that includes potential slide and erosion hazards. Per Mercer Island City Code (MICC) Ch. 19.07, the project applicant conducted a Critical Area Study of the site to determine risk and opportunity for hazard mitigation during and after construction of the proposed project. According to the study findings, there is no potential for future slope instability on the slopes located within and around the proposed project site, which are considered gentle to moderate.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The contractor will use a structural grade clean fill blend of 20% clay / 80% sand sourced from a local quarry. Fill will be used to build mounds and other elevated surfaces needed to create bicycle park features such as jumps and berms. Approximately 500 cubic yards of fill will be used for this project.

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

According to the geotechnical report and critical area study conducted for the proposed project, minimal erosion is expected because of construction. Limited clearing will occur since the site is largely bare already, and upper soil layers will not be loosened by tilling.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The proposal features approximately 10,310 square feet of existing and new impervious surface. In the case of this project, impervious surface is limited to packed dirt trails and the existing paved ADA access trail. No concrete, crushed gravel, or other materials will be used to construct new trails. These impervious surfaces include:

- Existing paved ADA entrance trail: 1,600 square feet
- North access trail (packed dirt): 888 square feet
- West access trail (packed dirt): 1,444 square feet
- Return line trail (packed dirt): 1,080 square feet
- Alternate return line trail (packed dirt): 808 square feet
- Bicycle playground trail (packed dirt): 800 square feet
- Beginner jump line trail (packed dirt): 1,083 square feet
- Intermediate jump line trail (packed dirt): 1.828 square feet

The total area of these features accounts for less than 1% of the total area of the parcel.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

Construction will be performed during the dry season to minimize the possibility of soil movement due to runoff. Soil stockpiles will be minimized and covered if wet weather does occur. Additionally, straw or mulch wattles will be placed along the area of the BSA that extends through the southwest depression classified as a potential landslide area to prevent erosion until the area can be fully revegetated. The City's Natural Resources and Parks Operations teams will also monitor the site on a regular basis to evaluate/mitigate erosion risks that may arise from use of the new facility.

2. Air Find help answering air questions

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The proposed project will result in short-term emissions from heavy equipment used to construct the facility and from trucks delivering construction materials. Equipment that will be use includes:

- Excavator
- Skid steer
- Plate compactor

No long-term emissions will result from operation and maintenance of the facility.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No off-site sources of emissions or odor could affect the proposed project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.

The proposed project will adhere to applicable regulations for the reduction or control of emissions as applicable. Equipment will be regularly inspected to ensure that uncontrolled emissions do not occur.

3. Water Find help answering water questions

a. Surface Water: Find help answering surface water questions

1. **Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

No surface water body exists on the proposed project site. An unpiped, open watercourse designated type Np (non-fish) runs through the Island Crest Park open space. It is located approximately 625 feet from the project site.

2. **Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No work will be conducted over, in, or adjacent to the unpiped watercourse described above.

3. **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands during or after construction of the proposed project.

4. **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No surface water withdrawals or diversions are required during or after construction of the proposed project.

5. **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

The proposed project site does not lie within a 100-year floodplain.

6. **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

The proposed project does not involve discharging waste materials to surface waters in any way.

b. Ground Water: Find help answering ground water questions

1. **Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No water needs will be supplied by groundwater during or after construction of the proposed facility.

2. **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals…; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

No new septic tanks or other discharge sources will be installed or used during construction or management of this facility.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

1. **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Water runoff will come entirely from stormwater, which will be collected and disposed through existing drainage and detention facilities. Runoff will not flow into any downstream waters or alter the existing stormwater system.

2. **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

No waste materials will enter ground or surface water as a result of the proposed project's construction. Future use of the site will primarily consist of pedestrian and non-motorized bicycle traffic, which will generate no domestic sewage, chemical, agricultural, or other waste material.

3. **Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

The proposed project will not alter or affect draining patterns in the site area.

4. **Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any.**

Plantings, mulch, and other reforestation measures will be added to improve infiltration and uptake of stormwater on the project site once completed.

4. Plants Find help answering plants questions

a. **Check the types of vegetation found on the site:**

- ☒ **deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- ☒ **evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- ☒ **shrubs**
- ☒ **grass**
- ☐ **pasture**
- ☐ **crop or grain**
- ☐ **orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- ☐ **wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- ☐ **water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- ☐ **other types of vegetation**

b. **What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

Prior to construction, dead and invasive vegetation will be removed, and tree stumps will be ground down or removed. The proposed facility has been designed around existing trees, and no healthy trees will be removed for construction of the project. Some native ferns exist on the site, and those will be salvaged for reuse in the project landscaping. The project applicant anticipates restoring vegetation before, during, and after construction of the proposed project. This restoration will be overseen and maintained by the City's Natural Resources and Parks Operations teams.

c. **List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

No threatened or endangered plant species are known on or near the site.

d. **Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.**

Landscaping will be used for trail separation, and the site will be significantly revegetated with native shrubs such as evergreen huckleberry and beaked hazelnut, groundcovers such as wood sorrel and vanilla leaf, and trees such as cascara, Pacific dogwood, and vine maple. Planting areas will be watered during plant establishment and maintained per the park maintenance plan to establish and support species growth. All newly vegetated areas will be mulched with arborist chips to improve soil moisture retention and increase soil organic content, reducing the effects of compaction over time. This work will be conducted in consultation with the City's Natural Resources and Parks Operations teams.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Mercer Island contains areas of knotweed, English ivy, and Himalayan blackberry. Invasives on the proposed project site include ivy, blackberry, laurel, and holly. Invasive plants will be removed by volunteers and City staff during site preparation in summer 2023.

5. Animals Find help answering animal questions

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Mercer Island contains animal species typical of suburban development in the Puget Sound region, including but not limited to American crows, Steller's Jays, Bald eagles, songbirds, deer, rats, and salmon. There have also been sightings of band-tailed pigeons, pileated woodpeckers, and cavity-nesting ducks. The proposed project site includes no fish-bearing streams.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The proposed project site includes no known threatened or endangered species.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Mercer Island is located within the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

No measures to preserve or enhance wildlife are necessary as part of this proposed project.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Invasive animal species on Mercer Island include European starlings, Eastern gray squirrels, and rats.

6. Energy and Natural Resources Find help answering energy and natural resource questions

1. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The proposed facility will require minimal energy resources once the project is complete. Energy use will include electric- or gas-powered equipment used to conduct periodic facility maintenance. No heating, lighting, manufacturing, or other energy-intensive uses are planned for the site.

2. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project will not affect potential solar energy use by adjacent properties.

3. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.

No energy conservation features are included as part of the proposed project. The proposed facility will not require energy resources to operate or use, and maintenance of the facility will be conducted efficiently to keep equipment energy needs low.

7. Environmental Health Find help with answering environmental health questions

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

No environmental health hazards such as exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste will occur as a result of the proposed project.

1. **Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

No known or possible contamination exists on the proposed project site.

2. **Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

No hazardous chemicals or conditions exist that would affect completion of the proposed project.

3. **Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be stored, used, or produced during the proposed project's construction or after the facility is in use.

4. **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

No special emergency services for hazardous chemical impacts will be required during construction or use of the proposed project.

5. **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

Best management practices will be used during construction to avoid or minimize potential environmental health hazards, such as an unintentional release of fuel, lubricants, or hydraulic fluid from construction equipment. The contractor will be responsible for implementing a spill plan during the construction period.

b. Noise

1. **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

Existing noise comes from car traffic on Island Crest Way and within park parking lots; sports and recreational activities such as baseball games and playground use; and maintenance equipment such as leaf blowers. Existing noise will not impact the construction and facilitation of the proposed project.

2. **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term**

or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?

Noise from construction equipment and activity will be generated in the short-term during construction. Work will take place during daytime hours, to the extent possible. Long-term noise at the site will remain similar to existing conditions and come from riders and spectators using the facility as well as periodic maintenance conducted by the Parks Operations team.

3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.

Construction activities will be performed in accordance with the limitations on development activity outlined in MICC 8.24.020 Nuisance Control Code – Types of nuisances.

8. Land and Shoreline Use Find help answering land and shoreline use questions

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the project affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The proposed project site was previously used for the Adventure Playground, a recreation facility managed by the City's Recreation team. The Adventure Playground closed at the end of summer 2019, and the site has not been used for other organized activities since its closure. Island Crest Park/Deane's Children's Park (where the proposed facility will be sited) also includes playground equipment, two athletic fields, two tennis courts, batting cages, restrooms, a picnic shelter, picnic tables, and open space trails. Adjacent properties include single-family residential neighborhoods and Island Park Elementary School. No changes to current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties are anticipated as a result of the construction or use of the proposed project.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

The proposed project site has not been used as working farmland or forest land and has no long-term commercial significance that will be lost as a result of this proposal.

1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?

No working farm or forest land of long-term significance exists on Mercer Island.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

No man-made structures exist on the proposed project site. Playground equipment, a restroom, a picnic shelter, a small storage building, and tennis courts are located adjacent to the project site. This proposed project does not include any changes or improvements to the adjacent structures.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished as a result of the proposed project.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The site is designated as Park within the R-9.6 zone (Single Family).

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The comprehensive plan designates the site as Park.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Per MICC 19.13, Shoreline Master Program, and the associated map adopted as Appendix F, the proposed project site does not have a shoreline master program designation.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

A small portion of the west side of the proposed facility lies within a depression classified by the City as a potential landslide hazard area. Per MICC Ch. 19.07, the project applicant conducted a Critical Area Study of the site. The associated report states that the site does not meet the criteria for a seismic or landslide hazard but does meet the City's criteria for an erosion hazard.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No people will reside at the proposed project when it is complete. City Parks Operations staff, independent contractors, volunteers, and others may occasionally work at the site once the project is complete to perform routine maintenance. Approximately one to six people may work on or in the vicinity of the site during regular Parks Operations hours.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

The proposed project site is currently vacant and not used for any permanent activity, housing, etc. The proposed facility is expected to generate demand for a recreational activity not available on Mercer Island; some people who regularly use other amenities at Island Crest Park may temporarily choose to use amenities at other Mercer Island parks if use of the proposed facility is high on a given day.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.

During construction of the proposed facility, construction staging, access, and work areas will be established to minimize impacts to park users, including limiting closures of parking spaces, sidewalks, and park amenities as well as changes to traffic flow. Construction timelines will be developed with park users in mind. After the project is completed, the City will monitor use of the new facility and its impacts on parking, open space trails, and other surrounding amenities and implement measures as needed.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

The proposal does not include a requested land use change, and the project site is currently vacant parkland. The proposed facility will continue to be park and recreation amenity, which is compatible with current land uses and

plans.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any.

No measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance are required.

9. Housing Find help answering housing questions

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing is being proposed as part of this project.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing exists on the proposed project site, and no housing will be eliminated through completion of this project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

No impacts to surrounding housing units are anticipated, and no measures to reduce or control housing impacts are proposed.

10. Aesthetics Find help answering aesthetics questions

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The tallest features in the proposed project are 6'. These include the berm turns, which are built using wood, steel, and compacted soil, and the Trail Hubs, which are compacted soil.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

The proposed facility has been designed to maintain the natural character and forested landscape of the existing site. Features to achieve this include:

- Using wood and dirt materials to build trails, jumps, and other bike riding features.
- Designing the course around existing trees to avoid tree removal.
- Converting compacted, denuded soil at the site to vegetated, mulched planting beds.

No views will be altered or obstructed as a result of construction or use of the new facility.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.

Routine maintenance will be conducted at the facility to ensure that wood features do not grow mossy or slick in the wet season; trails remain compacted to keep the site clean and dust minimized; and amenities such as trash receptacles are regularly emptied.

11. Light and Glare Find help answering light and glare questions

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The proposed facility does not include any features or components such as lighting, mirrored/unmirrored glass, or other reflective materials that would produce significant light or glare. The site is also heavily wooded, which limits sun exposure to create glare.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No safety hazards or interference with views are anticipated as a result of light or glare from the finished project.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Off-site sources of light within the vicinity include field lights at the adjacent athletic fields in Island Crest Park; indoor/outdoor lights at single-family residents surrounding the park area; streetlamps on Island Crest Way; and lighting at Island Park Elementary School. None of these or other sources will affect the ability to construct or operate the proposed facility.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.

No measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts are proposed for this project.

12. Recreation Find help answering recreation questions

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The proposed facility will be located in Deane's Children's Park, which is a small park sited on the same parcel as Island Crest Park. Together, these park areas include a variety of designated and informal recreational opportunities, including:

- Athletic fields used for baseball, football, and soccer (fields include field lights and serve as the home fields for Mercer Island High School Baseball)
- Batting cages
- Concession stand
- Two tennis courts
- Playground equipment
- Open space trail system
- Picnic tables and restrooms

The parks are used passively and for scheduled uses such as JV and Varsity baseball games.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

During development of the 30% design, several neighbors of Island Crest Park expressed concerns about impacts on the park's open space trails, including trail user conflicts as a result of more bikers using the trails and biker-driver conflicts at the trailheads located on 84th Ave SE. The applicant met with community members on March 28, 2023, to discuss potential improvements to these areas. Additionally, increased activity at the park as a result of the proposed facility may limit parking availability for other recreational uses. Parking issues may deter park users from visiting the park.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities

to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.

Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation include:

- Education and awareness about transportation options to mitigate parking congestion, including encouraging riders of the future facility to ride their bikes to the park rather than visit by car.
- Signage and education about mixed-use trail etiquette placed near the entrance to the Island Crest Park trail system.
- Using a landscaping buffer to separate trail users and bikers on the proposed shared use path west of the tennis courts.
- Implementing safety improvements on 84th Ave SE in partnership with the City's Transportation Engineer and ROW Team to better identify trailheads and protect bikers, pedestrians, etc., exiting the trails onto the street.

Additional measures will be considered and/or implemented based on ongoing monitoring of the facility and surrounding areas once the bike park opens.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

No buildings, structures, or sites located on or near the proposed project site are eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

No landmarks, features, or other evidence of indigenous or historic use or occupation has been found on the proposed project site.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Potential impacts were assessed by reviewing historical aerial maps and documents.

d. Proposed measures to minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

No measures to minimize or compensate for loss, changes to, or disturbance of cultural and historic resources are necessary for this proposed project.

14. Transportation Find help with answering transportation questions

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe

proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Visitors to the proposed project site will be able to access the facility in different ways, including:

- Driving, walking, biking, taking public transportation, or other allowed modes of transportation on Island Crest Way to reach Island Crest Park/Deane's Children's Park.
- Walking, biking, or traveling on other allowed wheels through the trails in Island Crest Park.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Currently, residents and visitors may reach Mercer Island from off-Island via the Sound Transit 550 and 554 routes; as soon as 2025, Sound Transit will shift service to the Link Light Rail line 2. Once on the Island, park users can access the proposed project site via METRO Local Route 204; the bus stop nearest to the park is at Island Crest Way and 58th Ave SE, approximately 0.1 mile walk to the proposed project site.

c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

As detailed in Section 12, the project applicant is coordinating safety improvements on 84th Ave SE, between SE 61st and SE 57th Streets. These improvements are intended to make the Island Crest Park trailheads that open onto 84th Ave SE more visible to drivers as well as provide a buffer for pedestrians and bikers entering the roadway from those trails. The safety improvements will also include a new crosswalk located on 84th Ave SE at SE 59th Street, which will encourage drivers to slow down when driving on this road.

d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project will not use water, rail, or air transportation.

e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

A survey conducted by the project applicant in November 2022 found that 70% of respondents who intend to use the proposed facility plan to ride their bike to and from the site. Only 22% said they would drive to the site; of those who responded they would drive, about 28% said they were somewhat likely or very likely to carpool to the site with other riders. Based on this initial data, the project applicant does not anticipate a significant increase in vehicular trips to and from the proposed facility.

f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project will not interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on City streets.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

The proposed project is not expected to result in major impacts to transportation facilities. Use of the facility will be monitored, and additional measures to control transportation impacts will be considered/implemented as needed.

15. Public Services Find help answering public service questions

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project will provide a new recreational amenity on Mercer Island that will primarily be used by residents. Once the facility is completed, it will be served by an existing ADA access trail that can also be used by public services to access the site in an emergency. No increased need for public services is anticipated.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Signage at the proposed site will promote safety measures to minimize accidents that would require public service needs. Community members will be encouraged to ride their bikes to the new facility to reduce impacts on transportation infrastructure.

16. Utilities Find help answering utilities questions

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The proposed project will rely on existing utility connections during and after construction. No new utilities are proposed for this project.

C. Signature Find help about who should sign

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Type name of signee: Sarah Bluvas

Position and agency/organization: City of Mercer Island Public Works

Date submitted: 5/23/2023