

1 **Introduction**

2 The City of Mercer Island parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation facilities are a pillar  
3 of the high quality of life enjoyed by Mercer Islanders. Preserving these public lands  
4 as the City manages growth in the coming decades is an important way the City can  
5 maintain the quality of life for future generations. To that end, this element of the  
6 Comprehensive Plan establishes the goals and policies to manage parks, open spaces,  
7 trails, and recreation facilities through the year 2044.

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9 **Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan**

10 The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS) is a long-range planning  
11 document that serves as a blueprint for the growth, enhancement, and management  
12 of the City of Mercer Island parks and recreation system and assists in guiding  
13 decisions related to planning, acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks, open  
14 space, trails, and recreational facilities. The PROS Plan also includes priorities for  
15 recreation programs, special events, and arts and cultural activities.

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17 The PROS Plan, updated every six to ten years, identifies parks and recreation goals  
18 and objectives and establishes a long-range capital plan for the Mercer Island parks  
19 and recreation system, including action items and strategies to inform future work  
20 plan items. The recommendations in the PROS Plan are based on community input,  
21 evaluations of the existing park system, operating conditions, and fiscal  
22 considerations.

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24 **Goals and Policies**

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26 **Goal 1**

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28 Continue to maintain the Island's unique quality of life through the stewardship,  
29 preservation, and maintenance of parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational facilities.

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31 **Policies**

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33 1.1 The most recent version of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS)  
34 Plan is hereby adopted by reference, establishing the goals and  
35 objectives that serve as the policy framework for the operation of the City  
36 of Mercer Island parks and recreation system.  
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38 1.2 Establish an Open Space zone and a Park zone, as well as the related  
39 development regulations to preserve and enhance public open space  
40 and park lands for the enjoyment of Mercer Island residents, visitors, and  
41 future generations.