

Gifts...from the Heart



Your Gift Guide to Mercer Island Parks and Recreation

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

- Mahatma Gandhi



This catalogue was developed in the spirit of giving and philanthropy to improve people's lives and help build a strong and healthy community. Through the purchase of a gift or by making a donation to one of our programs, you are contributing to the quality of your parks and community programs, and investing in the future for many generations to come. Mercer Island Parks and Recreation has earned and enjoyed a fine reputation of excellence. But the costs of excellence are as great as the rewards. Each park facility and program requires staffing, managing, scheduling, maintenance, equipment and an enormous amount of dedicated energy and attention in order to offer you all that we do. Your giving enables us to sustain and build on excellence. Now you can be a partner in our effort and success with your personal involvement in a favorite project or program.

Parks play a vital role in the quality of our lives by providing play areas, green places and open spaces. Quality recreation programs offer all ages opportunities for learning, enrichment, growth, self improvement, leadership and good citizenship in our community.

Our gift catalogue represents a list of needs for the many parks, facilities and programs you now enjoy. Its purpose is to raise additional funding to meet our growing needs. Your support and generosity can secure our future. You can keep us growing and blooming with endless possibilities! Be inspired to give from the heart.

Please use this catalogue when making your charitable, tax-deductible contribution. The catalogue is also perfect for giving special gifts to friends, family, service groups or business associates to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, milestones or – to commemorate any occasion. These gifts imprint a lasting legacy to our community.

Did you know that many employers match their employee's contributions to non-profit organizations? If applicable, please check with your Human Resources Department.

The Gifts...from the Heart catalogue is easy to use. Simply select your gift items, complete the donation form and return with payment in the enclosed business reply envelope. All donations will be recognized by the City of Mercer Island in an appropriate manner. If you have any questions, or would like additional copies of the catalogue, please contact the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department at **206.236.3545**. The catalogue is also available by downloading on www.miparks.net.



The Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department is proud to join the Northwest Parks Foundation as a community partner in establishing a Parks Safety Net Fund. This is a flexible pool of donations entrusted to the Northwest Parks Foundation that enables donors to direct their charitable contributions to a desired park improvement or acquisition project.

The Northwest Parks Foundation, founded in November 2002, is a private, non-profit organization created to support park and recreation facilities throughout Western Washington through financial endowments, organizational grants and capital projects.

You can designate your directed donation (i.e. Mercer Island park bench) to the Northwest Parks Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation. Donations are tax-deductible. If you wish to make a directed donation to Mercer Island Parks and Recreation using your VISA card, please log on to the foundation's Web site: www.nwparks.org for specific directions.

Past Donations



"You can tell what kind of people live in a community by which details are paid closest attention to." – Joseph Campbell



Examples of past donations

Public Art • Land • Trees • Picnic Tables • Children's Play Equipment • Benches • Historical Signage • Exercise Equipment • Pool Tables • Organ • Flowers • Scholarships • Portable Stages • Volunteer Time in Programs • Toys and Games • Mostly Music in the Park Summer Concert Series • Summer Celebration! Festival...and more.



**Mercerdale Park
Children's Play Area**



Parks & Open Spaces

"He who has done his best for his own time has lived for all times."

-Johann von Schiller

Parks are a place of natural beauty

The City of Mercer Island boasts 36 parks, street ends and open spaces. Over 466 acres of park land offer a variety of active and passive experiences. There are natural areas such as Pioneer Park for walking, horseback riding and wildlife observation. Well maintained athletic fields and playgrounds can be found at South Mercer Playfields, Island Crest Park, Homestead Field and the I-90 Park on the Lid. The newest addition to our parks is a play equipment area for youngsters at Mercerdale Park – thanks to the dedicated hard work of the Mercer Island Preschool Association. There is a multitude of waterfront experiences available at many street end parks, swimming beaches at Calkins Landing, Clarke, Groveland and Luther Burbank community parks. Inspiring views of the lake and city from a number of parks around the island are plentiful.

Mercer Island parks are known for their quality and pristine beauty. You can help maintain the color and well manicured parks by contributing funds for any of the items listed:

Plant and Landscape Material	\$50 - \$2,500
Irrigation Equipment	\$75 - \$2,000
Trees	\$100 - \$250
Park Signs	\$500 - \$2,500
Park Banner System	\$6,000 - \$10,000

Parks are a great place to relax and unwind

Many people visit our parks to enjoy a picnic with family and friends, to retreat from every day stress, to stroll along our almost nine miles of park trails, or to just relax and take in the refreshing scenery. You can enhance the enjoyment of our parks for these purposes by donating any of these items:

Picnic Table	\$400 - \$2,000
Park Bench	\$500 - \$1,200
Bicycle Rack	\$500
Litter Container	\$650 - \$850
Drinking Fountain	\$1,000 - \$3,500
Doggie Drink Station <i>(for dogs, birds & other wildlife)</i>	\$2,000
Information Kiosk <i>(map and information center)</i>	\$5,000 - \$15,000
Picnic Shelter	\$35,000
Neighborhood Park Restroom	\$50,000

Park Volunteer Opportunities

Be a steward of your parks and get involved in volunteering your time and energy to make a difference in preserving the outdoor resources we most treasure... urban wildlife habitat, trees and native plants. Your neighborhood parks have special needs from clearing ivy and invasive species, planting trees and shrubs, litter pick-up to trail maintenance. Our own City parks can benefit from your care! Groups and organizations are encouraged to volunteer as a team, to sponsor its enhancement and/or maintenance – either through direct financial support or through hands-on care.

Adopt-A-Park

This program gives you a great opportunity to make an ongoing contribution to the upkeep of a park in your community. Your school, neighborhood association, civic group, or business is needed to commit volunteers. Once a year or more, your members spend a few hours weeding, planting, raking, cleaning, or whatever is needed. Adopt-A-Park can give a child a cleaner playground, a senior a safe walking path, or future generations the stately trees that you plant as saplings.



Forest Stewardship

The City's forested areas need your help. With a trained eye and a careful hand, you can help safeguard the natural quality of these precious ecosystems. Forest Stewardship is a training program that gives you and other volunteers the tools to lead restoration efforts in your local park or open space. As a forest steward, you can work on your own, teach a group how to remove ivy, or work behind the scenes recruiting volunteers and handling logistics. There is something for everyone to do. To find out about the training, please call the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department at **206.236.3545**.

Forest Stewardship activities can also be supported by donations, which pay for the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers.

Cut ivy out of a tree	\$30 per tree
Plant a tree in the forest	\$50 per tree
6 member youth crew	\$1,100/day

Interpretive Tours – Educational Programs

*Historical Significance...*interesting and important aspects of Mercer Island's parks are captured in their past history. By partnering with the Mercer Island Historical Society, interpretive educational signs can help present and preserve the past.

Interpretive Signage	\$1,500
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Outdoor Play Facilities

“Play for grown people is recreation – the renewal of life.
For children it is growth – the gaining of life.”
- Joseph Lee

Ballfields and Playgrounds

Many of Mercer Island’s parks provide for outdoor recreation activities such as basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, skateboarding, tennis and swimming. Mercer Island’s parks also provide safe and fun playgrounds for young children to play. As the population of young families grows, it is becoming more essential to provide these types of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Tennis Nets	\$100 - \$200
Ballfield Maintenance Equipment	\$250 - \$6,500
Soccer Goals	\$1,500 - \$3,000
Renovate Lifeguard Shelter at Beach Parks	\$10,000
Ballfield Scoreboards	\$20,000
Playground Equipment	\$25,000 - \$50,000

**Park on the Lid
Ballfield**



**Roanoke Park
Playground Equipment**

Recreation Programs



"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." – Franklin D. Roosevelt



Many exciting and truly fun activities are offered through Mercer Island Parks and Recreation. Hundreds of active sports, educational opportunities, leisure trips, classes, and special events for all ages and abilities are included in these community offerings. Examples of some activities are sports leagues, fitness, dance, art, music, crafts, outdoor adventures, performing arts and health clinics. Past contributions to the recreation programs include donations of pianos, art equipment and supplies, prizes, awards, food products and beverages, Easter eggs, event sponsorships and contributions to the Scholarship Fund. Of greatest value are the hundreds of people who have given the gift of time. Numerous volunteers have spent many hours with our youth, adults and seniors.

Your gift to the recreation programs can be used to greatly enhance the quality of life or provide entertainment for the multitude of children and their families who attend Mercer Island's performing arts programs and special events each year. You can make a profound difference by assisting families in need, young children and seniors in this community with opportunities that otherwise would be lost.

Indoor Play Equipment	\$50 - \$150
Parachute	\$150
Beach Water Toys	\$5,000

Scholarship Fund

Give a child or family in need an opportunity to participate in enriching and fun programs. Donations will pay for scholarships to Kamp Rock, sports camps and recreation classes such as art, crafts, gymnastics and dance. Help those who are unable to participate due to financial hardship.

You may choose to give any amount. Your entire donation will be placed into the Scholarship Fund to be used by individuals in need requesting assistance.

Sponsorships

Sponsor a free Summer Concert series performance or a Summer Celebration! festival activity for the enjoyment of young and old. Your donations could be used for camps or an athletic event. There are many special events held each year that are popular and a community favorite that could be made even better...or you might even make a fantastic new event possible. Corporate sponsorships enable you to develop your company's visibility. We can tailor your sponsorship to best meet your marketing goals and needs.

Mostly Music in the Park Concert	\$100 and up
Summer Celebration! Festival	\$500 and up
Corporate Sponsorship	\$500 and up
Athletic Event (i.e. 3 on 3 Basketball, All-Island Track Meet)	\$1,000 and up
New 'Funmobile' Van	\$35,000

Special Events

You can contribute to our community activities by sponsoring any of these special events or by donating equipment such as portable canopies, a P/A system and staging for special events and performances held each year for children, families and seniors. Portable canopies are routinely used and those currently owned need to be replaced. Canopies of varying sizes are rented for some community events. Owning the tents would save money in the long run and enhance our programming flexibility.

Funtastic Friday Events	\$300 and up
Spring Egg Hunts	\$500 and up
Summer Carnival	\$500 and up
Directional Signage to Special Events (i.e. 'A' frame signs)	\$500
Portable Canopies (i.e. 10' X 10' or 10' X 20')	\$1,000
Portable P/A System	\$2,000
Portable Staging	\$5,000
Portable Outdoor Movie Screen	\$10,000

Summer Celebration! Festival



Community Center



"A Place for Everyone!"

Mercer Island will have a new state-of-the-art community center in 2006! The newly built community center at its original site overlooking Luther Burbank Park and Lake Washington will be a place for children, teens, adults, families and seniors. Even though the center will be new, there will be opportunities to donate specific types of equipment...but also ways to volunteer time, skills and expertise.



The Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Volunteer

Your time is one of the most valuable gifts you can give! You can lend a helping hand in many ways and make a difference in someone else's life. There will be opportunities to create healthy and rewarding lives for yourself and others...such as jobs working in the office, with young children, with transportation, and more ways than we can imagine. In the past, Mercer Island citizens have demonstrated their generosity and gave their time, skills, monetary and in-kind donations. Because of the overwhelming generosity of many, it has made it possible for the Community Center at Mercer View to offer a wide variety of activities, programs and quality services to the residents of Mercer Island.

Special Event Assistant
Coffee Bar Host
Meals on Wheels Delivery
Bus Driver/Bus Helper
Instructor
Courtesy Desk Greeter
Office Clerical Assistance
Footcare Clinic/Health Clinic Assistant

Furnishings

Even though Mercer Island will have a new community center, there are still some equipment needs to furnish the newly built facility.

Game Equipment	\$50 and up
Game Tables	\$100
Exercise Equipment	\$100 and up
Stackable Chairs	\$150
Round Café Tables	\$300 - \$500
Lightweight Folding Tables	\$450 - \$600
Friendship Lounge Furniture	\$500 and up
Overhead Projector	\$500
LCD Projector	\$3,000





The Future...

Planned Giving

“The only thing you take with you when you’re gone is what you leave behind.”

- John Allston

Now more than ever, personal contributions are needed to provide for the future health and happiness of our children and community in the face of reduced public funding and increasing challenges to urban families. You can enhance the quality of life on Mercer Island and strengthen your personal financial status at the same time by making a planned gift today.

More than a gift, you will be making an investment for our community’s future and creating a legacy for many generations to come. A charitable contribution can improve, protect and strengthen your financial status through various forms of estate and financial planning, with a wide range of flexibility and tax advantages. In addition to gifts of cash, property or other securities, contributions can be made on a deferred basis through tax shelters, bequests, life insurance, or charitable remainder trusts. Every gift you give is tax-deductible. Please look over the catalogue and consult your banker, trust officer, attorney, or accountant if necessary.

Your lasting gift can accomplish the following:

- Turn undeveloped land into a beautiful park.
- Provide for ongoing enhancements of your favorite park such as play areas, park furnishings and flower beds.
- Preserve the lasting beauty and vitality of our parks, facilities and public art.


We ask that you include Mercer Island Parks and Recreation in your charitable planning. We will be happy to work with you on your gift – be it large or small, as you direct. You can make a gift in the name of a loved one, or in your name.

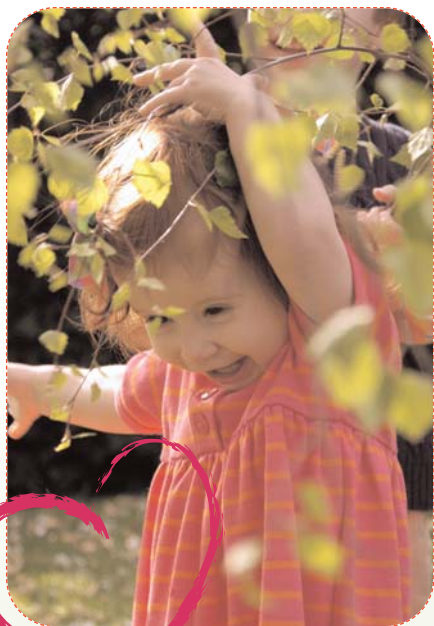
There is a myriad of planned giving opportunities for Mercer Island’s parks, recreation programs and special events. For more information, please call the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department at 206.236.3545.





*"To accomplish great things, we must not only act,
but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."
– Anatole France*





Thank You!

Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Department thanks you for your valued contribution in making the community of Mercer Island a great place to live and play.

This catalogue is a publication of the
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