



2024

PARKS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM YEAR IN REVIEW



VOLUNTEER STATS

In 2024 we hosted

77 volunteer events

With

1,041 volunteers

Volunteering for

2,400+ hours



Across **15 different parks** volunteers:

- Removed over **64,500 sq ft of weeds** (mostly ivy and blackberry)
- Planted **1,658 native trees and shrubs**
- Spread **76 cubic yards of mulch**
- Built **100ft of fence**

EDUCATIONAL EVENT STATS

In 2024 we hosted **21** Education and Outreach events with a total of **264** participants. These events allowed us to reach a wider audience to share about the value of our green spaces.

Mindfulness Walks in Pioneer Park

We hosted 6 walks, teaching participants about the healing power of nature.



BAT Night in Luther Burbank

Over 80 participants joined us, the Woodland Park Zoo, and Bats Northwest to help monitor bat activity in the park.



Winter Workshop Series

We invited participants to the community center to learn about Native Plant Gardening, Wildcrafting, and Mushroom ID.



Identification Walks in Pioneer Park

Throughout the year we offered various identification walks to teach participants about local plants, birds, and fungi.



FOREST STEWARD ENGAGEMENT

- We held **2 Forest Steward Orientations** in 2024
- Welcomed **10 new Forest Stewards**, adding stewards to 2 additional parks!
- Stewards led **29 events** with **407 volunteers** totaling **928 hours**.
- Our stewards put in an additional **680 volunteer hours** working in their sites across the island.
- Held **4 training courses** for Stewards on Assisted Plant Migration, Proper Pruning Techniques, Mushroom Identification, and Wildcrafting with native and non-native plants.



PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024 we were able to establish new and deeper partnerships with many local organizations.

Sathya Sai has adopted Clarke Beach Park and has been putting in a lot of hard work removing ivy. In 2024 they held 6 events including a large planting event in the beginning of the year.



Mountain Bike Club has been helping with various stewardship events since 2021. In 2024 they continued to help clear ivy in the new Bike Skills Area.



Scouts Various Scout Troops have volunteered in parks across the island this year helping remove weeds and plant natives. We also had 2 completed Eagle Scout Projects, a fence build in Roanoke Park and Owl Boxes for Luther Burbank Park.



PARTNERSHIPS CONT.



Aljoya A small group of seniors from Aljoya started volunteering in our Nursery in 2022. This year they continued helping us care for our native plants throughout the year.

FASPS The 6th grade class comes to Pioneer Park 3 times a year to remove ivy and plant. The kindergarten and 1st grade classes continued to work and play in Island Crest Park.



Rotary Rotarians continued their clean-up's of Rotary Park leading leaf raking events including a creative Leaf Maze design event in the fall.



Additionally we held events for: MI Women's Club, Girl Scouts, Sacred Heart Staff, Pathstone, Homeschool Stewardship Squad, and Riot Games.

OUTREACH MATERIALS

Some samples of poster designs shared around the city to promote upcoming events.



A poster for Mindfulness Walks in Pioneer Park. The top half features a photograph of a paved path winding through a lush green forest. Two people are walking away from the camera, and a dog is on the path. The City of Mercer Island logo is in the top right corner. The bottom half has a blue background with white text and a QR code.

Mindfulness Walks
in Pioneer Park

Join City of Mercer Island Parks and Forest Steward Marilyn, for a series of guided meditative walking tours. Please join us if you're curious about mindfulness, want to learn more about and experience healing powers of being in nature, and/or if you want to deepen your connection with Pioneer Park and others.

Scan code to register



A poster for an Ellis Pond Work Party. The background is a close-up of green foliage. A blue rectangular box contains white text and a QR code. The City of Mercer Island logo is in the top left corner.

Ellis Pond
WORK PARTY!
Saturday, Nov 9th
9am-12pm

Join in the fun by **planting native trees and shrubs** as well as **helping to remove weedy plants!**

All ages welcome, tools and gloves provided.

Scan code to register



A poster for Bat Night at Luther Burbank Park. The background is a dark blue gradient with silhouettes of two bats in flight. The City of Mercer Island logo is in the top left corner. The bottom right features a QR code.

Join us for
BAT NIGHT

LUTHER BURBANK PARK
August 7th, 8-9:30pm

Join Mercer Island Parks and the Woodland Park Zoo for a fun night of community science. Learn about our local bat populations, participate in the Bat Activity Trends (BAT) project to track bat activity in the park.

All ages are welcome, no experience is necessary.



A poster for a Pioneer Park Birding Walk. The background is a close-up of a pink flower with a hummingbird in flight. The City of Mercer Island logo is in the top left corner. The bottom right features a QR code.

Pioneer Park
Birding Walk
Tues 11/12 10am-11am

Photo by Ian Shen

If you're new to birding, curious about birding in a group, or just want to enjoy the park through a new lens, this is the walk for you! Join the Natural Resources team for a leisurely walk through the park. We'll teach you bird ID tips and how you can collect bird data to contribute to community science!

All ages welcome, no experience necessary!



A poster for becoming a Mercer Island Forest Steward. The background is a collage of nature photos: a person in an orange volunteer vest, a group of people standing in a park, a butterfly, and blue berries. The City of Mercer Island logo is in the top left corner. The bottom right features a QR code.

DO YOU LOVE MERCER ISLAND PARKS?
WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FOREST RESTORATION?
WANT TO HELP CARE FOR YOUR LOCAL PARK OR OPEN SPACE?

BECOME A MERCER ISLAND FOREST STEWARD

As a Forest Steward you will join a group of like minded community members all dedicated to making Mercer Island Parks and Open Space the best habitat they can be! You will receive training from City Staff on native plant identification, removal tips for non-native weeds, and volunteer leadership.

Scan code to learn more and apply!

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
PARKS & RECREATION

Questions? Email restoration@mercerisland.gov