



CITY HIGHLIGHTS

From the Interim City Manager, Martin Yamamoto



Dear Residents of Mill Creek,

In early 2020, we experienced one of the most significant events in our history. The Covid-19 pandemic crippled economies and workforces across our country, state, and our great city. On behalf of the City of Mill Creek, I want to thank you for your resilience and patience throughout this pandemic.

During my 18 years as a public servant, I have worked with many leaders across municipal governments and in the public sector. The City of Mill Creek's management team is one of the most productive I have ever worked with, and as our rebuilding continues, I am confident that this team will bring the City to a level of services that sets the standard for local government.

“ We are currently developing a multi-year plan, focusing on rebuilding our core business. This foundation is necessary to deliver the highest quality service to our residents and communities while planning for the future development of Mill Creek. ”

- MARTIN YAMAMOTO -

This plan will require establishing an optimal workplace where staffing is a priority. We are in the process of filling our budgeted positions while planning for future capacity needs across all departments, including Police, Public Works, Planning, and Administration.



We held an all-staff meeting on April 27, 2022, the first since the start of the pandemic. Our leadership team, including Mayor Brian Holtzclaw and Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal, were present to connect with employees and update all on recent accomplishments and the City's goals. I look forward to these meetings; they are critical to our communications plan.

On April 26, 2022, our residents voted to annex into South Snohomish County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire Authority (South County Fire). Annexing to South County Fire was the most cost-effective choice considering current data for 2022. Annexation will take effect in August, and property owners will start paying taxes to South County Fire in January of 2023. In the meantime, we will continue to pay Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue (SRFR) for service until our contract expires on December 31, 2022. We appreciate the high-quality service SRFR has provided the city since 1983. Both SRFR and South County Fire have assured a seamless transition between the agencies. The Mill Creek Fire Station will continue to have the same number of apparatus, firefighters, and paramedics serving the community. We encourage residents to learn more about South County Fire at www.southsnofire.org.

We are proud to have published our first annual State of the City video. Thank you to Kathy Coffey Solberg of Leadership Snohomish County for sitting down with Mayor Holtzclaw and Mayor Pro Tem Vignal to talk about Council's priorities and goals for 2022 and beyond. **You can watch the video by scanning this QR code.**



This year, the City is bringing back many popular events and working on several new ideas to help bring our communities together. In this effort, we often collaborate with local organizations such as the Mill Creek Town Center Association, Mill Creek Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Rotary, YMCA, and others to help reach communities outside our local area and help improve the local economy. In addition, the City recently published its first annual Spring Performance Survey to help gather feedback about events and other topics from those living and working in Mill Creek. **If you'd like to help shape the future of Mill Creek, please take our survey by scanning this QR code.**



Mill Creek is a great place to live and work. My commitment to our residents and communities is that your municipal government will continue to operate in partnership with you as we provide outstanding customer service and an exceptional community experience. It is an honor to serve you.



STATE OF THE CITY



In this Q&A - Learn more about the City of Mill Creek by reading excerpts from our 2022 State of the City video featuring Mayor Brian Holtzclaw, Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal, and moderator, Executive Director of Leadership Snohomish County, Kathy Coffey Solberg. You can also watch the video in its entirety by scanning this QR code.

Q: What are you excited about in 2022?

Brian We are excited to get back to planning for the Dobson, Remillard, Cook, and Church (DRCC) properties. The DRCC includes about 15 acres just north of Freedom Field. (See image below)

Stephanie Having been out in the community, many people have had questions about what the City wants to do with the DRCC property. Last year [the City Council and City Staff met], and we started envisioning the possibilities for this property, something where the whole community could come together. We are excited that we just received funding from the State to work on our site plan for the DRCC and continue moving forward to see [our ideas] become a reality.

Q: Mill Creek is looking for a City Manager. Can you tell us what that process looks like and how it's moving along?

S We are working with a search firm and have spread a broad net to look for the right person. Coming out of the pandemic, we have many opportunities to build for the future, and we need the right person to take on this challenge. Our plan is to bring the candidates to Mill Creek to meet with the community, and hold final interviews (this summer.)

Q: What do you see as the primary roles and responsibilities of the City Manager once hired?

B We have a Council-Manager form of government. The City Manager is the Council's one employee, and the City employees technically work for the City Manager and not the Council. We are looking for someone who can work as a partner with the Council to help us implement our vision for the city and the priorities that we identify.

Q: What has Mill Creek learned from the pandemic, and how do you think that will affect your future?

B We have a new normal; we've had to learn how to deliver services differently like passport services, we have had to adjust how we provide this service due to the limitations of gathering in one place. We have moved into a hybrid world of holding public meetings, which I'm excited about because I have seen more people in the Council meetings. I tell people, "this is your government - if you like something we're doing, tell us; if you don't like something we're doing, tell us."

Q: So, what else are you excited about?

B One thing that will take up a lot of time this year, but especially in 2023 and 2024, is planning for the sub-area, areas south of Mill Creek Town Center to Hwy 527. City Council formed a group including Council members, staff, citizens from our various boards, and property owners to look at what we could do with that area over the next 10-30 years. We have a great opportunity to do some visioning on how we want to see that developed, while also addressing some of our obligations under the Growth Management Act to plan for population growth. This is going to be a community discussion about what we want our city to look like in the next 20 or 30 years.



The DRCC Properties are located near the Mill Creek Sports Park.

“ We have a new normal; we’ve had to learn how to deliver services differently like passport services, we have had to adjust how we provide this service due to the limitations of gathering in one place. ”

- BRIAN HOLTZCLAW -

Q: How can residents stay informed?

S It’s important that all residents know that we are here for them, that we are their representatives, and that we need to hear from them. There are so many ways to reach out, they can participate in our City Council meetings, and each Council member has their email listed on our website. Also, Brian and I are doing City Chats once a month online; it’s an informal opportunity to get informed and have their voice heard; we’re here for them!

B We’re trying to do a better job of communicating. We have a great communications team that is helping us take advantage of social media to help keep people informed about what’s going on at the City.

We started City Chat about a year and a half ago as an open forum and an opportunity for the public to tell us things they think we need to know, what we’re doing wrong, and what we’re doing right so we don’t stop doing it.

We’ve got a great team here; it’s not just the two of us but seven great Council Members, great directors, and great staff to put this all together and keep us moving forward, so I’m excited for what the future holds for Mill Creek.



Mill Creek Boulevard Corridor - Site of sub-area plan.



City Chat



Join Mayor Brian Holtzclaw, and Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Vignal for a virtual Chat about our City. Help build common ground by discussing and sharing what is most important to you about your Mill Creek community. During this informal online chat - you can ask questions, get updates on City services, and learn about upcoming events.

2022 Schedule - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

	July 20	Sept. 21	Oct. 19	Nov. 16
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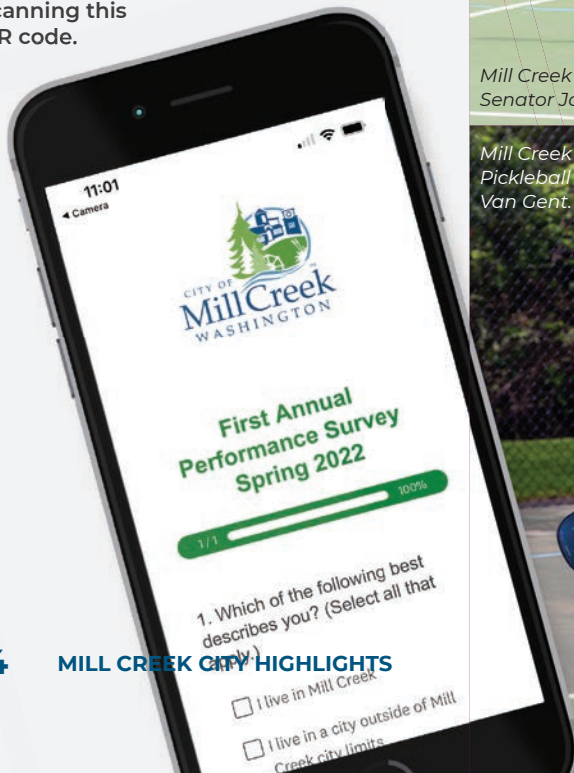


COMMUNITY

Our communications team has been busy organizing and planning city events, recreation programs, city communications, media relations and resident outreach. We'd love to hear from you – whether you'd like to volunteer for city events, serve on a board, or provide general feedback about our programs and services email us at communications@cityofmillcreek.com.

City Survey

In this survey we hope to measure satisfaction with City services, maintenance, public safety, events, and communication for those living and working in Mill Creek. The insights from the survey will provide leadership and staff with a performance benchmark and data for future planning. **If you'd like to help shape the future of Mill Creek, please take our survey by scanning this QR code.**



Mill Creek resident, Senator John Lovick.

Mill Creek resident and Pickleball Advocate, Kate Van Gent.



Pickleball

Pickleball is Washington's Official State Sport.

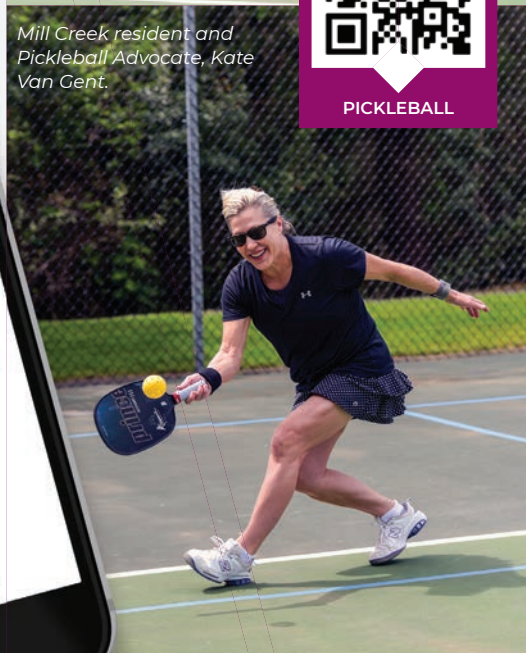
On March 28, 2022, Gov. Jay Inslee signed Senator John Lovick's Senate Bill 5615 into law on Bainbridge Island, making Pickleball Washington's Official State Sport.

Pickleball is a sport played with a paddle and plastic ball that combines tennis, badminton, and ping-pong elements. The rules are simple, and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but it can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

The City has cleaned the courts at Heron and Highlands Park sports courts and installed new tennis nets. In addition, Heron Park has been striped for one Pickleball court utilizing the existing tennis net, and Highlands Park has been striped for two Pickleball courts for those that wish to bring their own nets.

The courts are open to the public without reservations and are available year-round from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. 7 days per week.

Visit our website at cityofmillcreek.com/pickleball or use the QR code for more details and information.



City Events



Thursday June 30	Party in the Parks at Highlands Park
July. 11 - Sept. 6	Pianos on Main Mill Creek Town Center
Thursday July 28	Party in the Parks at Heron Park
Thursday Aug. 27	Party in the Parks at Mill Creek Sports Park
Sunday Oct. 30	Halloween Event
Friday Nov. 11	Veterans Day Ceremony & Parade
Nov. 25 - Dec. 24	Festival of Trees
Saturday Dec. 2	Tree Lighting Ceremony



Community Events



Sat/Sun July 16/17	Mill Creek Festival Mill Creek Chamber of Commerce
Saturday July 23	Run of the Mill 5k Columbia Funding
Saturday Oct. 1	Run with Heart 5K Columbia Athletic Club




PARK SURVEY

Parks & Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Board would also like to hear from you. Please consider filling out this short six-question survey to help shape Mill Creek parks for the future.



GEOCACHING

Go Geocaching - Fun for All Ages!

Explore all that Mill Creek has to offer by searching for more than twenty caches strategically placed areas around the city.

Visit cityofmillcreek.com/geocache to learn more.



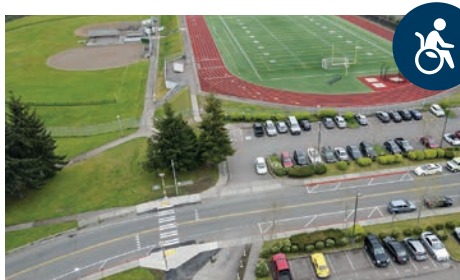
GEOCACHING



PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Complete Streets Pedestrian Improvements

The 2021 Complete Streets Pedestrian Improvements project constructed pedestrian improvements at three different locations in Mill Creek. We were able to finalize and complete these small but important safety projects last month.



New ADA compliant crosswalk with signage and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) on 136th Street SE between the football and baseball fields east of Jackson High School.



New sidewalk on Heatherwood Drive which now connects people to the SWIFT bus stop on Hwy 527 and allows safer travels for Heatherwood Middle School and Jackson High School students.



Pedestrian and bicycle safety enhancements along the shoulder of North Creek Drive from Freedom Field towards Heatherwood Apartments and Dumas Rd. This included raised pavement markers, striping, and signage for increased visibility and safety.

New Equipment Makes Work More Effective

As Spring is upon us, the public works crew is getting out to trim vegetation, maintain our streets and sidewalks, and spruce up the parks. New equipment is helping the City become better equipped to self-perform some important maintenance functions. The recent acquisition of a new, safer bucket truck, chipper, and arborist box has allowed staff to conquer some overhanging branches and dying tree on Old Seattle Hill Road. A new excavator is going to allow the crew to investigate and repair a couple of small sinkholes that are developing in neighborhood streets. Taking these jobs on directly with our own equipment will help us eliminate the overhead of bidding work and managing contractors where it is easily to just get it done.

If you have a concern about a road, trail, sidewalk or other city owned resource, please submit your request at cityofmillcreek.com/feedback.



Projects?

Remember to check with your HOA and the City for any and all home improvement projects. Permits are required for tree removal, fences, decks, outbuildings, and other home remodeling projects.

To learn more, go to cityofmillcreek.com/permits.

STAFFING UPDATE

Staffing is one of our top priorities. We are in the process of filling our budgeted positions while planning for future capacity needs across all departments including Police, Public Works, Planning, and Administration. Please welcome our newest employees:



Angela Bolton
Surface Water Program Coordinator



Andrew Dubay
Police Support Services Technician



Debbie Mills
Human Resources Manager



Theodore Ojeda
Police Officer



Ryan Olson
Maintenance Worker



Brittney Roy
Police Officer



Asea Sandine
Deputy City Clerk



Sybil Tetteh
Senior Planner

Celebrating Tom Rogers

30 years of service

On Tuesday, April 12th, Mill Creek City Council, staff, family, and friends gathered at City Hall to honor Tom Rogers for his exemplary public service to the City of Mill Creek. Tom came to Mill Creek in 1992 and helped the city grow from 8,354 to 20,963 residents serving 37 Councilmembers, ten Mayors, and eight City Managers. He has always had a strong customer service ethic as he worked with citizens, developers, and partners honestly and fairly. In addition, Tom has been a colleague and a friend to employees in every department for 30 years, bringing planning and economic development expertise, professional excellence, and a sense of humor to the workplace! We wish Tom the very best in retirement – he will be sorely missed!

Watch Tom get recognized with a proclamation from the City Council.



POLICE UPDATE

Check out the newest video featuring lateral recruit Brittney Roy, "Work for the City of Mill Creek Police Department: Thoughts from a Lateral Hire".



There is an encouraging aspect that we're actually making a difference and doing good things for the city.

- BRITTNEY ROY -



Officer Roy joined the Mill Creek Police Department as a lateral from the Seattle Police Department, with five years of law enforcement experience. Originally from Long Island, NY, she began her career with the New York City Police Department.

The Mill Creek Police Department continues to work on hiring efforts and has brought in a consultant to help facilitate the task of locating quality lateral and entry-level candidates.

We are working on several projects that include facility upgrades, such as interview rooms with audio and video capabilities. We are also implementing programs to bolster field operations, such as non-lethal PepperBall technology as a use of force option and Shieldforce, a mobile dispatching app.

Police staff hosted their annual social event, Coffee with a Cop, on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at Starbucks in Mill Creek Town Center. Thank you to everyone who came out to grab a cup of coffee with a cop!

Pictured left to right above: Acting Police Chief Stan White, Detective Sergeant Bart Foutch, Sergeant Sean Conner, Officer Theodore Ojeda, Detective Chris White, Officer Kyle Hughes, and Officer Todd Bridgman.



Join Our Team!
MillCreekJobs.org

MEET YOUR CITY COUNCILMEMBERS!



Brian Holtzclaw
Mayor
Position #4



Stephanie Vignal
Mayor Pro Tem
Position #2



John Steckler
Position #1



Connie Allison
Position #3



Vince Cavaleri
Position #5



Melissa Duque
Position #6



Mark Bond
Position #7

Official City Council Meeting Schedule

City Council meetings are held on the first, second, and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at **Mill Creek City Hall South, Council Chambers, 15728 Main St.**, and on Zoom. The Council welcomes and encourages citizens, business owners, and all interested parties to attend City Council meetings. If you require special accommodations, please call the City Clerk at **425-745-1891** three days prior to the meeting.



Mill Creek Directory

City Hall South

15728 Main Street
425-745-1891

City Hall North

15720 Main Street
425-745-1891

City Manager's Office

425-921-5725

Communications, Marketing, Recreation & Tourism

425-582-6003

Finance & Administration

425-745-1891

Human Resources

425-921-5711

Passports

425-921-5743

Police

9-1-1 Emergency
425-407-3999 Non-emergency
425-745-6175 Office

Public Works & Development Services

425-551-7254

Mill Creek Service Agencies

Alderwood Water & Wastewater District

425-743-4605

Mill Creek Library/Sno-Isle Libraries

425-337-4822

Puget Sound Energy

1-888-225-5773

Senior Center

425-948-7170

Silver Lake Water District

425-337-3647

Snohomish County Public Utility District

425-783-1000

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue - Station 76

360-794-7666

Waste Management

800-592-9995



Aerial view of the city of Mill Creek and Exploration Park.

Contact Us



Visit us online at
CityofMillCreek.com
Now MillCreekWa.gov



@MillCreekWA
@MillCreekPD



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