

**CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 1326**

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING KING COUNTY RECORDS AND ELECTIONS DIVISION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 9, 2004, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO INCREASE ITS TAX LEVIES ANNUALLY FOR TEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS ABOVE THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN RCW 84.55.010 FOR (1) ACQUIRING OPEN SPACE, (2) BUILDING TRAILS, (3) REMOVING NON-NATIVE, INVASIVE PLANT MATERIAL FROM ALL CITY-OWNED PARKS, OPEN SPACES, STREET ENDS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY, (4) REPLACING INVASIVES WITH NATIVE PLANTS AS NEEDED, AND (5) EDUCATING MERCER ISLAND RESIDENTS ON NATIVE VEGETATION AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH NON-NATIVE, INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

RECEIVED
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WHEREAS, the City was contacted by Virginia Arnon, Rita Moore and Marguerite Sutherland (Petitioners) regarding placing an initiative on the ballot to raise property taxes for the reasons stated in this Resolution title; and

WHEREAS, the Petitioners unanimously requested the Initiative be placed on the March 9, 2004 special election.

WHEREAS, King County has validated The Mercer Island Parks & Open Space Preservation Initiative Measure No. 03-01 ("Initiative"); and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2003, the Mercer Island City Council adopted a Resolution opposing the Initiative; and

WHEREAS, consistent with RCW 35.17.260 and Mercer Island City Code (MICC) 2.24.120, the Mercer Island City Council wishes to reject the Initiative and forward the Initiative to a vote of the qualified electors of the City of Mercer; and

WHEREAS, consistent with RCW 29.13.020, the conditions here and above set forth create an emergency which requires the holding of a special election in the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND,
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

KING COUNTY RECORDS, ELECTIONS
AND LICENSING SERVICES
Election Section
RECEIVED BY: *L. Sanchez*

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Chapter 29.13 RCW, it is hereby found and declared that an emergency exists requiring the submission to the qualified electors of the City of the Initiative for ratification or rejection at a special election to be held on March 9, 2004. The Initiative and ordinance shall be the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by this reference. The amount of the first year property tax increase shall be \$0.198 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which tax levy is estimated to produce the sum of \$1,250,000 per year for a period of ten (10) years.

Section 2. The King County Records and Elections Division, as ex officio supervisor of elections in King County, Washington, is hereby requested to find the existence of an emergency and to call and conduct such special election to be held within the City on such day and to submit to the qualified electors of the City for their approval or rejection, a proposition in the form attached as Exhibit A providing for ten (10) consecutive annual increases in the City's aggregate tax levy. Upon approval of the voters of the proposition hereinafter set forth, the City may use proceeds of such levy for (1) acquiring open space, (2) building trails, (3) removing non-native, invasive plant material from all city-owned parks, open spaces, street ends and public rights of way, (4) replacing invasives with native plants as needed, and (5) educating Mercer Island residents on native vegetation and problems associated with non-native, invasive plant species

SECTION 3. The Clerk of the City is hereby authorized and directed to certify said proposition to the King County Records and Elections Division, as ex officio supervisor of elections in King County, Washington, in the following form:

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
PROPOSITION NO. 1

LEVY FOR INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS AND EDUCATION

For the purposes of (1) acquiring open space, (2) building trails, (3) removing non-native, invasive plant material from all city-owned parks, open spaces, street ends and public rights of way, (4) replacing invasives with native plants as needed, and (5) educating Mercer Island residents on native vegetation and problems associated with non-native, invasive plant species, should Mercer Island be authorized to increase its regular property tax levy by \$0.198 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, subject to the limitations upon property tax levies set forth in Chapter 84.55 RCW or other applicable laws in order to generate approximately \$1,250,000 in tax revenue per year for a period of ten (10) consecutive years with collection beginning in ~~2004~~

*ok pass
2004 is
right
see
email*

YES

NO

SECTION 4: In the event a majority of the Petitioners submit a letter withdrawing the Initiative to the City Clerk on or before January 16, 2004, this Resolution shall automatically be repealed and be of no force and effect.

PASSED THIS 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2003, by the City Council of the City of Mercer Island, and signed in approval therewith this 15th day of September, 2003

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

Susan Blake for

Alan Merkle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Allison Spietz

Allison Spietz, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Londi K. Lindell

Londi K. Lindell, City Attorney

MAY 13 2003

MERCER ISLAND
CITY CLERK

MERCER ISLAND PARKS & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION INITIATIVE MEASURE

To the City Council of Mercer Island:

We petition the City Council of Mercer Island to vote for and pass the Initiative presented below or, alternatively, submit it to a vote of the people:

INITIATIVE Statement:

For the purposes of (1) acquiring open space, (2) building trails, (3) removing non-native, invasive plant material from all city-owned parks, open spaces, street ends and public rights of way, (4) replacing invasives with native plants as needed, and (5) educating Mercer Island residents on native vegetation and problems associated with non-native, invasive plant species, should Mercer Island be authorized to increase its regular property tax levy \$0.198 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, subject to the limitations upon property tax levies set forth in Chapter 84.55 RCW or other applicable laws in order to generate approximately \$1,250,000 in tax revenue per year for a period of ten (10) consecutive years with collection beginning in 2004?

LEVY YES _____

LEVY NO _____

ORDINANCE TEXT:

The City Council of Mercer Island will increase its regular property tax levy by \$0.198 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for a period of ten (10) consecutive years with collection beginning in 2004 for the:

- acquisition of additional open space on Mercer Island
- construction of new trails in parks and open spaces
- removal of non-native invasive species on public lands as described below
- replanting of areas with native species where invasive species have been removed
- education of island residents concerning the benefits of controlling invasive species and using native plants on their own property.

Volunteer opportunities will be encouraged for the removal of non-native invasive species, the replanting with native species and trail building.

Twenty percent (20%) of the total funds for the ten year period will be available for the acquisition of additional open space on Mercer Island.

Ten percent (10%) of the total funds for the ten year period will be available for the building of new trails on Mercer Island.

Invasive plants in city parks and open spaces are a very serious problem. Delaying invasive removal will significantly increase the future cost of removal due to the explosive growth of the invasive plants and normal inflation. Without removing these invasive species, the uniquely wooded nature of our parks and open spaces will be significantly diminished and not reflect our forested northwest heritage. The City of Mercer Island will cause to be removed, from all city-owned and maintained parks, open spaces, street ends and street rights-of-way, the non-native invasive plants including, but not limited to, English ivy, Himalayan and Evergreen blackberry, English laurel, English holly and Japanese knotweed. The invasive plant material will be removed over a period of ten (10) years.

Appropriate native plant species will be replanted, where needed, according to best management practices, when the non-native invasive plants are removed. When invasives have been cleared from city-owned and maintained parks, open spaces and street ends and rights-of-ways, the City will monitor and remove non-native invasive species on a yearly basis if they reappear. Areas replanted with native plant materials will be monitored and the plants replaced, if needed, for a period of five years after the initial replanting of the area.

The City will sponsor an on-going city-wide program to educate Mercer Island residents, at least quarterly, for the first three years and at least annually for the next seven years. The education should include but not be limited to classes and resident mailings. The education material should include but not be limited to:

- The value of our native habitat on the island
- The economic value of trees on residential property
- The problems caused by non-native invasive plants to our native habitat
- How to remove non-native invasive plant material from one's own property
- How to restore native habitat on one's own property

A five person oversight board, of citizen volunteers, knowledgeable about the issues, will be appointed for five year rotating for the duration of the project.

MERCER ISLAND PARKS & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION INITIATIVE PETITION

To the City Council of Mercer Island:
We, the undersigned, petition the City Council of Mercer Island to vote for and pass Initiative No. 03-01, or alternatively, submit it to a vote of the people.

For the purposes of (1) acquiring open space, (2) building trails, (3) removing non-native, invasive plant material from all city-owned parks, open spaces, street ends and public rights of way, (4) replacing invasives with native plants as needed, and (5) educating Mercer Island residents on native vegetation and problems associated with non-native, invasive plant species, should Mercer Island be authorized to increase its regular property tax levy \$0.198 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, subject to the limitations upon property tax levies set forth in Chapter 84.55 RCW or other applicable laws in order to generate approximately \$1,250,000 in tax revenue per year for a period of ten (10) consecutive years with collection beginning in 2004?

LEVY YES _____
LEVY NO _____

WARNING:

Any person who signs this petition with any other than their true name, or who knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, or signs a petition seeking an election when he/she is not a legal voter, or signs a petition when he/she is otherwise not qualified to sign, or who make herein any false statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each signature shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil and shall be followed by the printed name of the signer, the date of the signing and the address of the signer.

#	Signature	Name (print legibly)	Address	Date
1.				
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I affirm that there are _____ signatures on this page and to the best of my knowledge each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be and the statements made are true.

Signature _____

EXHIBIT A

City parks include but are not limited to:

Bicentennial Park
Clark Beach
Clise Park
Ellis Pond
First Hill Park
Groveland Beach
Homestead Field
Island Crest Park
Deane's Children's Park
Park on the Lid
Luther Burbank Park
Mercerdale Park/Hillside
Pioneer Park
Roanoke Park
Secret Park
Slater Park
South Mercer Playfields

Open Spaces include but are not limited to:

Gallagher Hill Open Space
Hollerbach Open Space
Parkwood Ridge Open Space
North Mercerdale Hillside
SE 47th Open Space
SE 53rd Open Space
SE 80th Open Space
Tract "A"

Street Ends include but are not limited to:

Calkins Landing
Forest Landing
Franklin Landing
Fruitland Landing
Garfield Landing
Lincoln Landing
Miller Landing
Proctor Landing
Roanoke Landing
77th Ave SE Landing
SE 56th Street Landing
SE 72nd Street Landing
72nd Ave Street Landing
South Point

Major Street rights-of-way include but are not limited to:

Island Crest Way
East Mercer Way
West Mercer Way
North Mercer Way
SE 40th Street/Mercerwood Drive
SE 53rd Place
SE 66th Street
84th Ave SE (from SE 68th Street south)
SE 72nd Place
SE 70th Place
SE 24th Street (between West Mercer Way and SE 27th Street)
Gallagher Hill Road

Initiative Proposers:

- Virginia Arnon
3427 80th Ave.
Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Rita A. Moore
4509 Ferncroft Rd.
Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Marguerite Sutherland
5425 96th Ave. SE
Mercer Island WA 98040

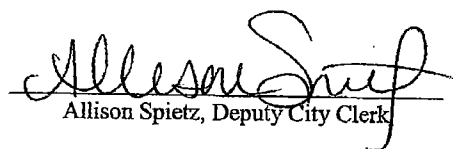
CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the City of Mercer Island, Washington (the "City"), and keeper of the records of the City Council (the "Council"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

1. That the attached resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1326 of the Council (the "Resolution"), duly passed at a regular meeting thereof held on the 15th day of September, 2003.

2. That said meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law, and to the extent required by law, due and proper notice of such meeting was given; that a legal quorum was present throughout the meeting and a legally sufficient number of members of the Council voted in the proper manner for the adoption of said Resolution; that all other requirements and proceedings incident to the proper adoption of said Resolution have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed; and that I am authorized to execute this certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of September, 2003.


Allison Spietz, Deputy City Clerk