



MillStream

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY SID SIEGEL

As with a typical northwest spring, the ying and yang of rain and sun is in full swing. You may have noticed that our annual hanging of the beautiful flower baskets on street poles around the community is complete. With a little more sunshine, those will start exploding with brilliant colors.

Along with the baskets this time of year, also comes the annual assessment bill from the Association. This is the primary revenue source for the operation of our Association, the maintenance of our grounds and assets, and the security and administrative services provided. Our annual budget meeting is conducted in April every year and provides great detail into what is required to keep our Association in the great shape it is in. If you missed that meeting, you can obtain the presentation slides at our PAYHOA site under Documents, MCCA Documents. The Board and Association management work together to keep our expenses in alignment with the services and maintenance levels our owners across the Association expect. Our assessment increased 6% over last year, which is slightly higher than the 4.1% inflation rate in 2023. However, in the face of double digit increases in insurance, materials, and labor costs, including healthcare, the Board worked hard to provide the most value for your dollars.

And speaking of keeping expenses in check, the operation of our Association could not be managed without the contribution in time and service from our many volunteers. From the Trail Ambassador you may meet while on a stroll through the neighborhood to the President of the Board and our numerous committees – these are all composed of resident volunteers from our Association who have found a rewarding way to give back a little to ensure MCCA remains an amazing place to live. Please consider joining a great group of volunteers on one of our committees. I can promise you it will provide great insight into the workings of the Association and provide the necessary perspective and experience to eventually serve with the Board, if that is of future interest.



CONTACT THE MCCA Office and have us record your EMAIL ADDRESS for the PayHOA System. Stay in touch with your Association by way of this **MillStream** newsletter, **PayHOA**, our **Website** and our **3 major resident member mailings** each year (Budget, Assessments and the Annual Meeting).

You may reach us by phone (425-316-3344) or email (info@mcca.info) for help or information.

ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Opt-In to Electronic Notifications

Thank you for helping us save on mailing costs and reduce our environmental impact. You can opt-in to electronic notifications instead of traditional mail by following these steps:

1. Sign into your PayHOA account by going to: <https://app.payhoa.com/auth/login>
2. In the top right corner click the circular 'Person' icon.
3. In the menu that opens, select My Account.
4. When the Account page opens, select "Notifications" from the options along the top of the page.
5. On the Notifications window, select "Change my settings" if you have not opted-in before, or "Update mail settings" if you have already opted-in and wish to make a change.
6. Click the 'I Agree' blue button.
7. If you wish, you can select "Print my opt-in agreement" to get a paper copy of your opt-in agreement.

MCCA Assessment Payments—Due July 1!

We thank the many members who have already paid the 2024/2025 assessment. Thank you for being so prompt! Per our [Collections Policy](#), **the assessment is due paid in full by July 1**. Invoices were emailed and mailed out to all single family home owners in late May. If you haven't received your invoice by mid-June, please contact the MCCA office (info@mcca.info) and we are happy to send you a copy. For our townhome and condominium residents, your sub-association board receives the invoice and pays your annual MCCA assessment on your behalf. Some sub-association boards include the MCCA assessment in the monthly dues, other boards collect the MCCA assessment annually from their residents.

Please be prepared and do not leave your payment until the last minute. The MCCA board extends a 30 day grace period in July, but a late fee of \$25 will be assessed to accounts with outstanding balances on August 1. If you choose to rely on the mail, please pay well in advance to ensure your payment reaches us by July 31.

Payment Options

The MCCA annual assessment can be paid online by logging in to your PayHOA account, or by clicking "Make a Payment" on the invoice you received by email. There is no charge for ACH payments, the credit card companies add a 3% fee to all credit card and debit card transactions.

You can also pay by check. You can send your check to the MCCA office, or mail it directly to our lockbox:

Mill Creek Community Association
PO Box 93723
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-3723

Many residents ask about the Las Vegas address. The lockbox is operated by our bank, Alliance Association Bank, and their fulfillment center is located in Las Vegas. When you send your payment directly to our bank, you save our office staff time spent processing check payments which gives us more time to spend on tasks and issues related to our residents.

We will always take your payments at the office and we prefer if you pay by check. You may mail your check to the office, drop your payment in the locked drop box located by the front door, or you can bring your payment in during regular business hours (M-F 8 am to 4 pm).

Huckleberry Wall Update

Our project to replace the Huckleberry wall is moving along. The original wall was starting to fail due to a lack of drainage behind the wall and tree roots, both of which were causing the rocks to move. In early May we worked with Currie Construction to remove and replace the rock retaining wall. This was a major project as we needed to use large boulders, heavy equipment, and shut down a lane of traffic on Village Green Drive for three days. In accordance with the Right of Way permit we received from the City of Mill Creek, our maintenance crew members, who are certified flaggers, staffed a major traffic control operation.



The new rock retaining wall uses larger rock and was constructed to ensure water drains through a layer of cobble behind the wall into a perforated pipe and away from the wall. Large footings that reach down to the glacial till layer were poured for the new brick monument to ensure that it will stand straight for many years to come. Recently, the brick wall was rebuilt by Powers Chimney & Masonry. We are waiting for dry weather so the brick wall can cure before Powers returns to apply a coat of water sealant. The sealant helps the mortar and masonry last longer in our wet weather conditions.

This month, our electrical vendor, Voltech, will return to run conduit and rewire the lights. Once the brick and mortar have fully cured (mid to late June depending on the weather), we can re-install the Huckleberry sign. In the meantime, the crew has installed the irrigation system and the area is ready for plants. This project should be wrapped up by the end of June.

Cherry Pond Pipe Project

Last year we replaced the leaking catch basin that works to maintain the pond level at the Cherry Park retention pond. This year we have found that pipes leading from the new catch basin to the golf course pond are leaking so we have plans to replace them. There are a 12" and 18" pipe that leads from the new catch basin to the golf course. Since both of these pipes are the same age and located on top of each other, we are replacing both pipes to the end of our property line where we will hook them into the pipes that continue to the golf course pond. Currie Construction will return to Cherry Park in August for this project.

The concrete path running from the Huckleberry division between the retention pond and golf course is the main access to the park for all our maintenance tasks. This path sustained some damage last summer when the retention pond was cleaned, and we anticipate some more damage as a result of the pipe replacement project. When this project is complete, we will work on replacing that section of path with a concrete path that is built to better withstand the types of heavy maintenance vehicles that are occasionally required to enter the park.

National Trails Day Scavenger Hunt

The Trail Ambassadors and the Noxious Weed Committee sponsored our first ever National Trails Day Scavenger Hunt on June 1. We had a great event and were relieved that the weather cooperated! Over 50 people attended the event. The lucky winners of a \$15 Cold Stone Creamery gift certificate were:

- Eric Jassman (Evergreen)
- Alex Casparius (Cypress)
- Miles Parker (Huckleberry)

We had a lot of smiles at the park!



Upcoming Board Elections

It is that time again! We are looking for candidates for the Board of Directors. If you have MCCA committee experience and would like to be considered as a board candidate, please contact the [MCCA office](#) by June 30 so we can send you an application packet. If you haven't volunteered on an MCCA committee yet, please do so! Our Covenant Committee, in particular, is in need of more volunteers.

Beautiful Yard Awards

MCCA volunteers will hand out the Beautiful Yard Awards June 17 through 21. The rules are simple, we ask our volunteers to select the best yard in the neighborhood, and try to avoid giving the award to the same person who won last year. We hope you enjoy this fun competition! We will post a list of winners on the website at the end of the month.

IMPORTANT DATES!

Please go to the [MCCA Calendar](#) on the MCCA website for updated information on our meetings and events.

June 17-21	Beautiful Yard Awards
June 19	MCCA Board Meeting at 2:00 PM in board room
June 30	Last day to request Board Member Interest Forms
July 1	Annual assessment due paid in full
July 4	MCCA office closed
July 17	MCCA Board Meeting at 2:00 PM in board room
August 1	All overdue accounts receive \$25 late payment fee

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Windy Weather

The beginning of June brought some very blustery and wet weather to our area. Maintenance is working hard to clean up the branches and debris left behind. This is a great time to remind all our residents to use caution during windstorms. Please do not walk in the Nature Preserve or other treed areas during a wind advisory.

The National Weather Service has a few [High Wind Safety Rules](#) including:

1. The safest place to be during high winds is indoors. Postpone outdoor activities if a wind advisory or high wind warning has been issued.
2. If you are caught outside during high winds, take cover next to a building or under a shelter. Watch for flying debris. Tree limbs may break and street signs may become loose during strong wind gusts. Keep an eye toward nearby balconies for loose objects that may fall.
3. If you are driving, keep both hands on the wheel and slow down. Watch for objects blowing across the roadway and into your path. Keep a safe distance from cars in adjacent lanes as strong gusts could push a car outside its lane of travel. If winds are severe enough to prevent safe travel, get onto the shoulder of the road and stop, making sure you are away from trees or other tall objects that could fall onto your vehicle.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Flying Branches and Fallen Trees

Every time there is a windstorm, the office receives many calls about branches and trees, and who is responsible for picking up branches or cleaning up trees on various properties. When a branch from a tree on a neighboring property falls onto your property, it becomes your branch. You are responsible for the clean up and for repairing any damage to your property caused by that branch.

The same is true for fallen trees. The [MCCA Tree Policy](#) was written to abide by Washington State law and the section on Fallen Trees reads:

“By deciding to purchase a home next to trees, the homeowner is assumed to know the inherent risks of trees falling onto their property. Homeowners are advised to maintain adequate insurance coverage to cover property damage and the costs of removing fallen trees from their property. If a tree falls onto the homeowner’s lot, the homeowner may remove the fallen tree immediately in conjunction with filign their insurance claim. The cost to remove a fallen tree is the responsibility of the owner of the land where the fallen tree lies. Homeowners are responsible for removing any tree that falls on their property, regardless of who “owns” the tree before it fell.”

When the trees are in full leaf, windstorms are particularly challenging and we seem to lose more branches and trees. This seemingly endless wind storm should die down soon. Stay safe out there!



Damage Nature Preserve Bridge #4



Ash Tree down in Aspen

SECURITY

Pedestrian Safety and Driving Reminders

As the weather is improving and the days are longer, we are seeing an increase in people out and about. With that, comes the need to remind all drivers to slow down so they are better prepared for yielding to pedestrians. Sun glare on windshields, shadows on the road and crosswalks combined with speed can make for dangerous conditions. Please pay attention to your surroundings. Speeding continues to be an issue on all our streets; the speed limit is 25 MPH throughout MCCA. If we all SLOW DOWN and enjoy our trip, we will arrive at our destination safely - and so will others. If you are at a crosswalk, please make sure you are visible. If waiting for a school bus, stand back from edge of road. If you are walking or jogging, wear brightly colored or reflective clothing and make yourself visible. Don't walk in the street. Use the sidewalks. Carry a light if you're walking at dusk. Being seen is a way to stay safe.

If you see MCCA Security out and about, we will be driving the speed limit on the main city streets and will reduce our speed even less as we patrol each division. Tailgating our vehicle will not get you to your destination faster and passing at a high rate of speed is just asking for a ticket or accident. Be safe, leave earlier and slow down.

Keep Pets Safe From Predators

We do have wild animals in the Nature Preserve! Coyotes, owls and hawks can all be a danger to our pets. Consider a Coyote Proof Vest Harness to put on your pets as a deterrent while on walks and remember all dogs must be on a leash. This law helps protect others and your pet.

Solicitors

MCCA is not able to regulate outside companies or people from soliciting door-to-door. To deter solicitors from approaching your home, you may put a NO Soliciting sign near your front door. You can find many different types of No Soliciting signs on Amazon.

Security Request Forms

If you're planning a Summer holiday, complete a [Security Request Form](#) so we can be sure to monitor your property while you are away and pick up any packages for you!

Security Metrics

Our Security Team works 20 hours per day, 7 days per week. To date, this fiscal year the team has:

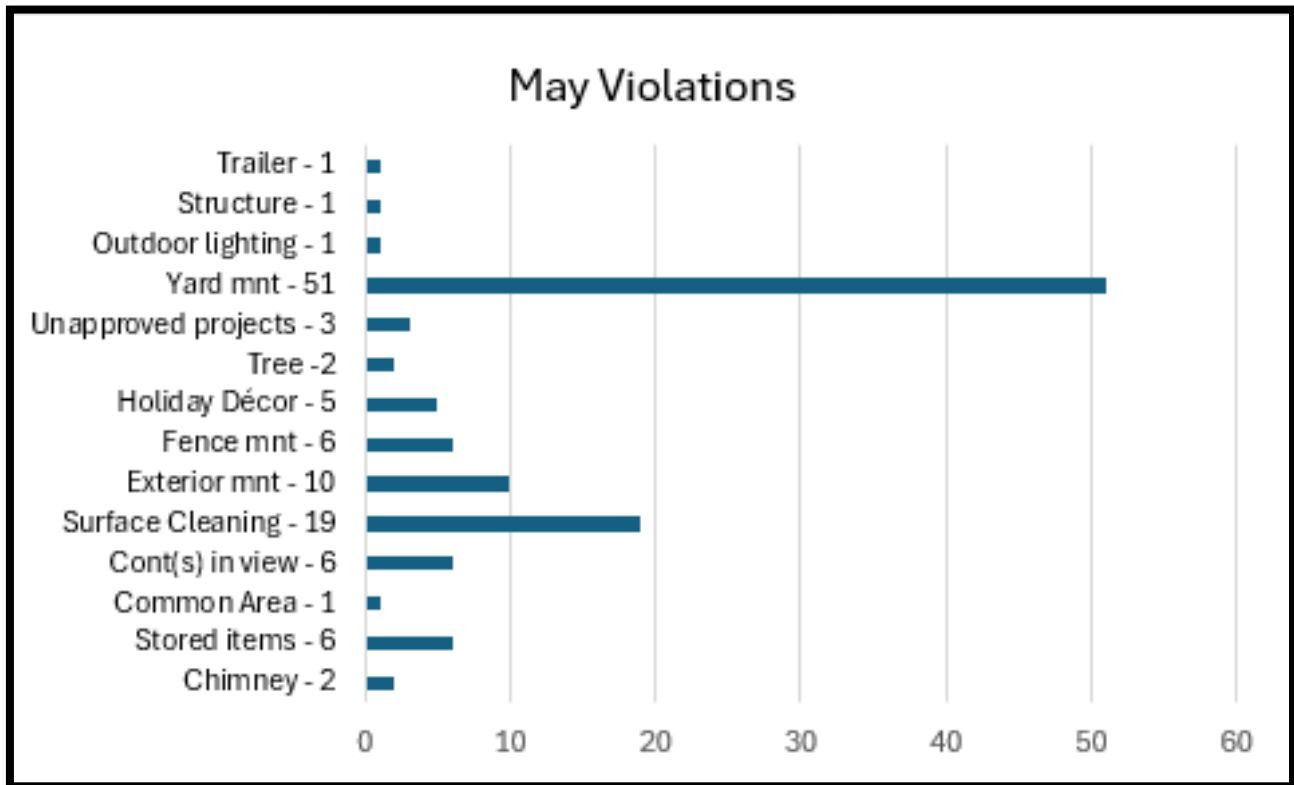
- logged 40,700 miles driving,
- completed 17,343 vacation checks,
- assisted 2,334 members,
- called the police 19 times to report suspicious activity,
- notified 718 residents about opened garage doors, and
- picked up and returned over 650 parcels.

We are happy to serve the residents of Mill Creek! Have a great and safe summer.

Lois
MCCA Security Supervisor

COVENANT COMMITTEE

Last month, MCCA had 98 open compliance issues. The following is a breakdown of the areas that the committee requested for compliance. As you can see, the largest number of issues involved general maintenance for yard work.



Thank you!

The Covenant Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank those residents who are addressing any issues of encroachment along the city streets and walkways and keeping their landscapes maintained within their properties. I received a lot of phone calls and emails regarding the matter addressed in the April MillStream article and the letters I sent out to the membership. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at joan@mcca.info.

MCCA Notifications

Some members have questioned receiving letters in the mail in addition to email notifications. **If you are receiving both emails and mailed letters from MCCA, it is because you have not yet opted in for electronic notifications. To do so, refer to the instructions on [page 2](#) of this MillStream.** Once you opt-in for electronic notifications, you will receive emails only.

Letters from the Covenant Committee

If you receive an email request from me, please reply to my email with steps you plan to take in resolving the issue. You can even email me a photo to show me that the matter is complete. If you log in to PayHOA and open the letter, you can also comment through the portal and post photos there. Notifications will come to me directly when the member responds this way. Any questions can be directed to me, and I will respond.

Summer Checklist

- Pressure wash and clean fences, paved surfaces, gutters, siding
- Clean roof
- Trim and prune trees and shrubs
- Repair or replace fence
- Paint home exterior
- Exterior repairs (decks/siding/chimney)
- Mow and edge lawn
- Weed beds

Now is the time to get started on the checklist! Check out our [Service Provider](#) list if to find a company or vendor who can take some of these tasks of your hands.

Yard Signs

MCCA and your committees understand that many residents are proud parents who wish to display graduation signs or voters who want to participate in the process by posting a political sign. Please do so while following the MCCA sign restrictions and keep your signs 10 feet back from the curb. If you are posting any vendor signage, the same rule of 10' back applies. You may post vendor signs only while the vendor is on your property performing the work. Once the project is completed, the signs need to be removed.

Clarification from the April Issue "Encroachment"

In the April issue of the MillStream, we reminded residents about trimming back shrubs and trees from the Right of way –7' above sidewalks and walking paths and 14' above roads. To clarify the pedestrian paths marked on the roads are still considered roadways, so shrubs and trees should be trimmed back from the curb and up 14' above any asphalt roadway. This ensures that the city's new street sweeper can get all the way to the side of the road without hitting tree limbs. Allowing your landscape to grow over the curb and out into any road is not considered maintained by MCCA standards.

Need a Landscape Refresh?

Know which shrubs and trees can be hard-pruned in late spring/summer. If you have a shrub or tree that has been hard-pruned and there is no new growth, it should be removed and possibly replaced. This Swansons Nursery website has great tips on what to prune and when: <https://www.swansonsnursery.com/blog/pruning-101>.

If you have any questions regarding the [MCCA Rules & Regulations](#) or the [MCCA Restrictive Covenants](#), feel free to email me at joan@mcca.info. Thank you for making Mill Creek a beautiful place to live!

Joan Sweeney
Compliance Coordinator

A MESSAGE FROM TRAIL AMBASSADORS

Mill Creek Wildlife

In spite of our suburban surroundings, we share our community with many woodland creatures, including several species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects. The HOA, with the guidance of the Washington State Fish and Wildlife, is committed to co-existing with these creatures. In the next several issues of the Mill Stream, we will feature various animals you might see while walking through our wooded common areas. This month we will focus on the beaver and garter snake.

Beavers

These water dwelling rodents pretty much keep to themselves in streams and ponds; they are most likely to be spotted in the early morning hours or dusk. You may have seen evidence of their handywork such as dams and downed trees (with the tell-tale gnaw marks!). The Maintenance team regularly monitors our beaver activity to avoid flooding and property damage without harming these aquatic mammals. Baby beavers are born between April and July.



Beaver in Holly Pond

Garter Snakes

Snakes are among the most misunderstood of all animals. These reptiles are an important part of the natural food chain, eating a variety of prey—from mice and birds to frogs and insects. If you see a smallish striped snake, it's most likely one of three varieties of garter snake found in our region. These tiny, innocuous snakes are generally considered to be non-venomous and won't usually bite unless thoroughly provoked. However, if handled improperly, garter snakes are prone to discharge musk or defecate when handled. Garter snakes are most active during the day and end their hibernation in the spring. These animals are one of the most frequently spotted on our trails.



Photo by Craig Williams

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Lawn Alternatives

It's hard to believe a drought was declared in the State of Washington with all of our recent blustery, wet weather! Unfortunately, our current snowpack is still below normal, which plays a vital role in our water supply for spring and summer seasons. Under these potentially dry conditions, we understand that some homeowners may be seeking alternatives to lawns and the maintenance required in order to keep them green. This past month, we offered a presentation to residents from a Master Gardener on best practices for removing lawns and replacing with low-maintenance Native plants. Those who attended received helpful information along with native plant suggestions for the Pacific Northwest. Visit this link [The Plant List](#) to search Pacific Northwest Natives that might work for your specific site needs. If you are considering lawn removal and replacement, please complete a [Landscape Application](#) so we can review your plans before making any changes. We hope to offer presentations similar to this in the future, so stay tuned for further opportunities.



Master Gardener, LaDawn Rollins, presents to residents

Recommended Lawn Care During Drought

There are a few steps you can take to keep your lawn alive and green during the summer – even during a drought. If you allow your lawn to die in the summer, you will find that you have put in a lot of time, effort, and money to revive the lawn in the fall. If you've already tackled spring lawn projects such as aeration, thatching, topdressing, and overseeding, your lawn will be better able to withstand drought stress. Even if you haven't done these tasks, try these tips to keep your lawn looking good:

Mulch-mowing (also called "grasscycling") should be done whenever possible. Don't bag your clippings. Grass clippings are 90% water and decompose quickly, returning nutrients to your lawn – free fertilizer! Contrary to popular belief, grasscycling does not cause thatch buildup; thatch is woody stems and roots, not clippings.

Mow regularly and a little higher, cutting no more than 1/3 of the grass at one time. Mowing regularly and higher can reduce the invasion of weeds, encourage deeper root development, and improve resistance to drought stress. Mowing weekly in the springtime, when the lawn is growing fastest, is the least stressful for the lawn. Mowing too low can shock and seriously weaken a lawn during hot weather.

Water deeply and infrequently. Watering once per week when it's cool (early morning) encourages deeper roots – most lawns need only 1 inch of water each week to stay green through Northwest summer months. To find out how long your sprinklers take to supply this amount, place several empty short cans throughout your yard. Turn on your sprinkler(s) for 15 minutes, then measure the water depth in each can with a ruler and determine the average depth. Watering dormant lawns at least once a month during the dry season, will improve post-drought recovery.

Early in the growing season, use a slow-release fertilizer such as [Milorganite](#). Avoid using fertilizer during hot, dry weather.

NOXIOUS WEED COMMITTEE

The NWC has been busy this spring removing vast amounts of yellow archangel that has been introduced into our common areas generally by discarded planter pots in the past or by intrusion from residents' yards. Did you know the sale of yellow archangel is prohibited in WA State – along with yellow flag iris that the NWC has been combatting in Cherry Park retention pond? This [publication](#) includes prohibited plants in Washington State. If one is in your yard, please control and contain it if you don't choose to eradicate it.



Yellow archangel

As the NWC and Maintenance Team work to clear areas of invasive species, a plan is always in place for restoration, as not having a plan means the disturbed ground, particularly if it receives sunlight, will be a prime location for the return of invasive species. As restoration is begun, the area is monitored long term to ensure the native plants take hold and removal of returning or new invasive species is done. But it does take time for ground cover, understory and canopy to develop, thereby discouraging the invasive species!



From the NWC, another reminder that your English ivy growing up your tree will weaken it by taking up rainwater meant for the tree roots, inviting rodents and insects to live in it as it grows up the tree and creating the appearance of a head of broccoli at the top of the tree that will catch the wind and eventually bring down the tree! Click on the picture to the left to learn about ivy removal.

Contact the NWC at mccanwc@mcca.info with any questions or to get more information about volunteering!



Saskatoon serviceberry in Central Park
(Evergreen)



Fringecup in South Park
(Vine Maple)

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF MILL CREEK



**SEEKING INPUT FOR OUR
RECREATION
PROGRAMS**

Share your feedback
by answering
a short questionnaire



millcreekwa.gov/recreation



PIANOS ON MAIN THE CONCERT

with Grammy
Nominated Pianist

JOSH RAWLINGS

**Monday, July 1st
at 5 PM**

Town & Country Market
15605 Main St, Mill Creek

Free Community Concert
presented by:



millcreekwa.gov/piano



MESSAGE FROM SOUTH COUNTY FIRE

Summer Safety Tips

Summer is a time of fun and sun. It is also a time when we see increases in fire and other emergencies.

- Know the rules for outdoor burning www.southsnofire.org/outdoorburning
- Fireworks discharge is illegal in all areas served by South County Fire
- Clean outdoor grills and lock up lighters and matches when not in use
- Know the signs of heat-related illness
- Keep an extra eye out for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Have a first aid kit for minor injuries
- Move right for lights and sirens

To learn more about how to prepare and care for your family in all types of emergencies visit www.southsnofire.org/classes or call 425-320-5800.

Please read Learn Before You Burn on next page for important information about recreational fires! Click [here](#) to read about burn ban information or call 425-388-3508 to check requirements.



LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN



What is allowed and not allowed?

ALLOWED:

- BARBEQUES, CHARCOAL, & GRILLS
- SEASONED, CLEAN AND DRY FIREWOOD



NOT ALLOWED:

- BURNING GARBAGE OR YARD DEBRIS
- FIREWORKS DISCHARGE



Small Recreational Fires

Recreational fires are allowed for cooking, ceremony or pleasure purposes.

- Fire should be small. Limit to 3 feet wide by 2 feet high and must be contained (example: fire pit).
- Fires and discarded fire materials must be at least 25 feet away from any structure or combustible material.
- A water source must be readily available (example: charged water hose or a 5-gallon bucket).
- Never leave a fire unattended. Fully extinguish the fire with water to drown all the embers then stir with a shovel.
- Recreational fires may also be banned during [countywide burn bans](#) issued by the county fire marshal.

Be a Good Neighbor

If smoke from your fire bothers your neighbors, you must extinguish the fire immediately.

Irritants in the smoke can be especially dangerous for kids, older adults and those suffering from respiratory issues.

- Call 911 for immediate threat to life or property.
- Call the non-emergency number for issues that are not an immediate threat to life or property 425-407-3999.
- File a complaint with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency at 800-552-3565.

Dangerous Outdoor Burning

LARGE OUTDOOR FIRES ARE PROHIBITED YEAR-ROUND

Outdoor burning is prohibited at all times in the South County Fire service area including unincorporated communities in Snohomish County starting in south Everett and extending to the urban growth areas through to the county line. South County Fire also serves the cities of Mill Creek, Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, and Mountlake Terrace.

Burn bans and regulations include:

- Burning debris, such as yard waste and scrap wood, is not allowed.
- Burning garbage is not allowed.
- Fireworks discharge is not allowed and is banned year-round.

To learn more visit www.southsnofire.org

Girls on the Run of Snohomish County

Volunteer with us!



CELEBRATION 5K

Sunday, June 9, 2024
Mill Creek Town Center

We are in need of enthusiastic volunteers for our 5K event and have multiple time slots available between 5:30am-noon. Volunteers are needed for set-up, course monitoring, fun zone activities, cheer stations, parking attendants and more!

This is a fun and impactful volunteer opportunity, great for high school students, co-workers, friends or individuals! Costumes, music, cowbells and smiles are all encouraged!



**BE A PART OF THIS FUN,
IMPACTFUL DAY FOR YOUTH
IN OUR COMMUNITY!
LEARN MORE & SIGN UP:**



GirlsontheRunSnoCo.org/5K

MILLCREEK GARDEN CLUB

Mill Creek Garden Club is pleased to announce our [8th Annual Mill Creek Garden Tour and Artisan Market](#) on Saturday, July 20, 2024. Get your tickets early, beginning June 14 and buy extras so you can enjoy the Tour with friends or family. Advance tickets are \$20. You can purchase tickets at these locations: Town & Country Market (Mill Creek), Shawn O'Donnell's Grill & Pub (Everett), McAuliffe's Valley Nursery (Snohomish), Sky Nursery (Shoreline), and Sunnyside Nursery (Marysville). Day of tour tickets are \$25 and only available at Town & Country Market. Tour, shop, and visit our sponsors (who are recognized in the tour brochure) here in Mill Creek.

Of the five residential gardens, one has been developed over the past 35 years. Two of them were prior tour participants six and ten years ago. But don't think that you will see 20 or 30 year-old gardens. Most have been under constant revision and improvement as the family's needs and focuses have changed.

The Rietkerk's garden could be called a symphony of colored perennials and annuals. Will you experience the joy the hosts feel in their backyard sanctuary?

The Petterson's have transformed a child's play area into a tranquil meeting place for neighbors and family. This transition involved every landscape activity imaginable: digging, sculpting, irrigating; adding soil, drainage, RV parking, hardscaping, decking and structures.



Rietkerk's Garden



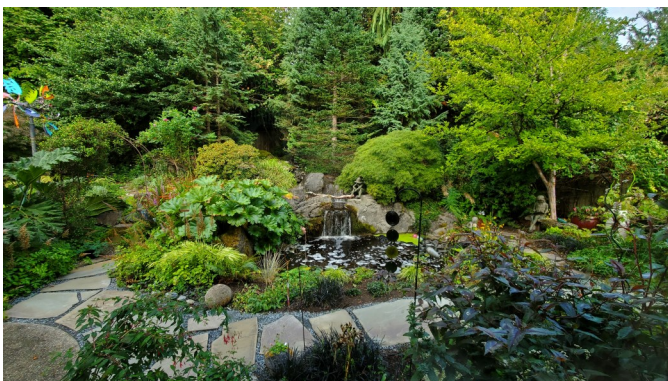
Petterson Side Yard

The Marshlain yard has been a kid's space, celebration area (including a wedding), a recovery haven and currently an adult gathering space. Their flower garden focuses on unusual shade plants with highlights of garden art, annuals, and perennials.



Marshlain Entrance

MILLCREEK GARDEN CLUB (CONT.)

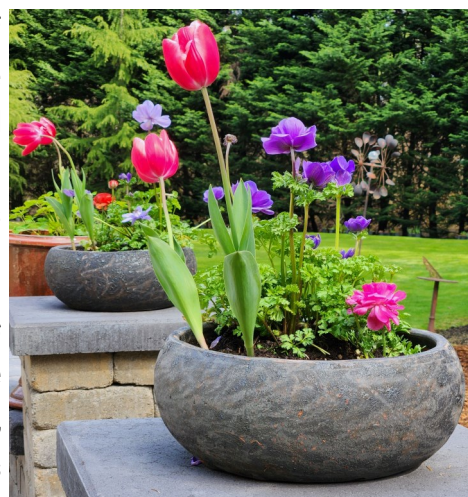


Nulph Pond and Waterfall

The Nulph's 23-year-old garden was on the MCGC tour in 2014. It is a Certified Sustainable Landscape that has undergone six major renovations. Water conservation in this garden is admirable and an example for all. Various container plantings provide color, fruits and vegetables.

Just shy of an acre, the Dill garden started in 1999. The removal of second growth stumps and brush was the beginning. Then came the addition of a full-sized volleyball court and enough lawn for croquet and other yard games. Under the stars, many family gatherings were enjoyed by the campfire and horseshoe pits. Later, the gazebo and BBQ structures were added.

At least one artisan will be featured in each of the gardens. *Barn-Artisans* create one-of-a-kind glass garden art, like birdbaths from recyclable items. *Fir Tree Point's* clay creations include whimsical animals, faeries, and such. *Glass Roots* uses flat and fused glass to create individual glass art pieces. *NightOwl Paper Creations* produces homemade cards of various papers, textures, and colors. *Rohini ArtWorld* produces vibrant and colorful floral, botanical, and garden scene paintings. *Seed & Soil Botanical Jewelry's* homemade small-batch botanical jewelry highlights the beauty and intricacy of nature. *Seams Sew Fitting* makes framed art using sea glass and other recyclables. *TLVB Construction* uses wood for creating birdhouses, planters and more, plus charcuterie and cutting boards. *Window Lit Fused Glass Art Studio's* designs explore light, color and shape that sparkle and glow in the garden.



Dill Flower Pots

In case you wonder what is involved in organizing the Tour & Market, it takes about two-thirds of the club's active members, serving on eight subcommittees, to produce a high-quality event. Those 30 members have been involved since the vetting of more than 50 potential gardens began last August.

Marilyn Hanan-hoover, Publicity Chair
www.millcreekgardenclub.com

MILL CREEK LIBRARY



Summer Reading and Repairs!

[Mill Creek Library](#) will be closed for repairs beginning June 3 and is expected to last three months. The last day of library service at the Mill Creek Library will be Sunday, June 2. Please know that the entire building and part of the parking lot will be unavailable during the closure. Restrooms, book returns, and Wi-Fi access will be closed. We will reopen this fall with updated, ADA-compliant lobby restrooms, an additional restroom in the Children's area, a new HVAC system to offer a warming & cooling center to the community, and most importantly, repaired floors!

There are still many options for Mill Creek residents to continue using the benefits of a Sno-Isle Libraries card!

- Use the Libby app or [Libbyapp.com](https://www.libby.com) to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks.
- Use the [CloudLibrary](#) app or website to borrow popular, always-available eBooks.
- Stream videos via [Kanopy](#) & [Hoopla](#) apps or sites.
- Kids & teens can participate in Summer Reading via the [Beanstack](#) app or site.
- For Research, Information, & Recommendations, [Book-A-Librarian](#) for a 30 to 60-minute personalized virtual or in-person session with a Mill Creek Library librarian.

Enjoy your June & July and look for updates on the repair project in the August MillStream. In the meantime, Happy Reading!

Mill Creek Library / 15429 Bothell-Everett Hwy / 425-337-4822 / sno-isle.org

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

As previously mentioned, the Mill Creek Library will be closing for some much-needed, long-awaited repair and renovation on June 3rd, and will remain closed for the summer. While you can make arrangements to pick up your holds at other Sno-Isle locations, the Friends sales area will, of course, be nonexistent for the duration of the closure.

The good news is that all of the library programs supported and funded by the Friends will continue. Early literacy story time will take place at various locations, including Japanese story time with Takuya at the Mukilteo Library; adult programs such as Silver Kite and the Writers' Series continue without pause since they are already held at partner organization venues (the annex and the YMCA); and the Summer Reading Program officially kicks off on June 1st. The Friends will, once again, be supplying prize books for finishers. Prize books can be picked up at other Sno-Isle Libraries.

The bookmobile will be visiting Library Park twice a month from 9am-12pm on the following dates: 6/17, 6/25, 7/1, 7/30, 8/5, and 8/29. During bookmobile stops, you can visit Mill Creek Library staff for family story time and a craft. You can also register for a library card, and reference librarians will be available to answer questions.

And we still want your book donations! We need to maintain - and build - our inventory of books for when the library reopens and our sales area is once again front and center upon entry to the building. Because there will be no access to the library building (or the main parking lot) during closure, we will pick up your donations, large or small. Please contact our super-volunteer, Kurt Layman, at (425) 577-8214 or kurtlayman@gmail.com.

Like most of you, the Friends are sad that the library will be closed for so long, but we are excited about the changes and updates to come. We will look for you out and about in Mill Creek this summer.

NORTHWEST STREAM CENTER

The Musical Mountaineers and Friends perform at the Northwest Stream Center



As the sun sets on the Northwest Stream Center join the Adopt A Stream Foundation for an intimate musical performance leading up to the summer solstice. On Saturday June 15, The Musical Mountaineers and Friends will perform a lovingly curated program inspired by nature.

Sunset Serenades
 Saturday, June 15, 2024
 6:00-6:30 PM Early Admission and Priority Seating
 7:00 PM 90-Min Program Begins

"This event will kick-off our 2024 \$1.5 million Sustainable Infrastructure campaign to convert our Visitors Building into a Sustainable Ecosystem Lab. It will become a place where you can see and learn about the latest tools to fight climate change that you can put to use where you live or work," says AASF Director Tom Murdoch. When visitors come to the Lab, they also have an opportunity to go on an incredible *Nature Trail* where they can learn the interconnections between forests, wetlands, streams, fish, wildlife, and people <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T55zEuM3FXo>.

A hub for environmental education and community resources, the Sustainable Ecosystem Lab will be a place for people to gather and observe sustainable infrastructure, technologies, and practices at work. After their visit, people will leave thinking "I can do some of that at home or my workplace!" The "Lab" will be accessible to all and a model on how to fight climate change.

We are thrilled that the Miller Hull Partnership (<https://millerhull.com/>) has become our first major sponsor and is designing all of the structural changes that will transition the Visitors Building into the first major *Sustainable Ecosystem Lab* in the Pacific Northwest that is accessible to all. To donate or find out about sponsorship opportunities, please visit our [website](#).

Purchase tickets online at www.streamkeeper.org, by calling 425-316-8592 or in person at the Northwest Stream Center's Nature Store.



BearWise® BULLETIN

#1

Attract Birds, Not Bears

You don't have to choose between watching birds and being BearWise. Just think outside the bird feeder, and you'll discover how easy it is to invite in birds without attracting bears.



Bird feeders are bear magnets. So many calories, so little work. And so easy to find. Teaching bears to rely on people for food creates big problems with no easy solutions.

Grow Your Own Bird Food

Sunflowers and marigolds are just two of the many common flowers that produce seeds birds like to eat. Colorful tubular flowers are Mother Nature's always-filled hummingbird feeders. Many bushes and trees attract insects and produce seeds while also providing safe places for birds to perch and nest. Containers, window boxes and hanging baskets make it easy to offer up a smorgasbord for birds, butterflies and pollinators.

CAUTION: Most fruits, nuts and berries attract bears and other wildlife. If bears are common in your area, it's best to avoid planting them. Even if bears are only occasional visitors, you should plant well away from the house, pick up fallen fruit daily or pick before fully ripe, and consider electric fencing around fruit and nut-bearing trees.



Many species of hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinators are attracted to brightly colored flowers. Ask your local native plant nursery for suggestions on what grows well in your area.

What Attracts Birds?

Natural Foods • Shelter • Water • Safe Nesting Sites

Create a Natural Oasis

No matter how much or how little space you have, you can add features that will attract birds. Using native plants commonly found in your area, including trees, flowers and bushes, provides proven food sources and shelter from predators and bad weather. An added benefit for people: native plants attract more bird species and are often easier to grow and care for than non-native plants.

TIP: Avoid pesticides; many birds rely on insects for a big part of their diet.

Offer Shelter and Perches

Birds need places to perch and to hide from predators. Small branching trees and dense bushes provide perches and shelter. A colorful wind chime, sculpture or other decoration can also provide a handy perch.

continued...



BearWise.org

Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears





Turn on the Faucet

All birds need fresh water for drinking and bathing and are always on the lookout for dependable sources. The sound of moving water is highly attractive. Adding a simple bird bath, hanging water feeder, fountain or a small pool with a bubbler is sure to bring in birds. Pea gravel in the bottom of your bird bath makes it easier for birds to use. Adding a few flat stones to a small pool also creates a handy spot for bathing.

Help Birds Stay in Great Shape

Birds take dust baths to remove excess oil and parasites; you can make a simple dust bath using fine sand surrounded by pavers or landscaping timbers. Position it near cover so birds are safe from predators. Birds don't have teeth; their gizzards digest food and need grit to work properly. Birds will appreciate a corner with sand and small bits of gravel and stone.

Provide Safe Places for Birds to Nest

Many cavity-nesting birds, including wrens, bluebirds, chickadees and some warblers, will use nest boxes because they resemble natural cavities in trees. (If it's safe to leave standing dead trees on your property, you'll provide a home for a variety of cavity-nesters.)

Summer is a great time to scope out locations and buy or make boxes so you're ready to put them up in late winter. Then you'll be all set to enjoy watching courting, nesting and baby birds growing up come spring.

Nesting boxes come in a variety of shapes and sizes designed to make the perfect home for many different species.



It is easy to attract and monitor birds with Gilbertson-style PVC nest boxes. (Photo: Alan Olander)

Benefits of Kicking the Bird-Feeder Habit

- A bird-friendly habitat attracts many more species than a bird feeder, including butterflies, pollinators and birds that don't visit feeders.
- Snakes, cats, foxes and birds of prey won't have a place to hang out and eat your birds.
- Skunks, mice, rats, raccoons and bears won't come to chow down your expensive birdseed.
- By creating year-round beauty and bird-friendly features, you'll always have something to watch.
- You will be helping to keep bears and other wildlife wild.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- The Audubon Society's native plants database contains thousands of plants; just enter your zip code and you'll get a selection of best choices for your area, along with photos and local and online resources. Your local chapter of the Audubon Society may be able to offer in-person expert guidance. www.audubon.org/native-plants
- The Pollinator Partnership provides regional planting guides and recommendations. www.pollinator.org/guides
- Visit NestWatch.org for help finding the right boxes for the bird species nesting in your area.
- Contact your county's **Cooperative Extension Service**.



Learn More:
BearWise.org



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 Red Cedar
 Spring Tree
 Sunrise
 Sun Rose

Sweetwater Ranch
 Swordfern
 Vine Maple
 Wildflower Park
 Willow
 Woodfern
 Winslow

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APARTMENTS

The Ardent Apartments
 Cogir of Mill Creek
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CONTACT US!

You can find nearly everything you need to know about MCCA, including office hours, contact information, forms, and governing documents, on our website:






-  www.mcca.info
-  info@mcca.info
-  security@mcca.info

-  Office: 425-316-3344
-  Security: 425-328-0035

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Camp Erin® 2024 King & Snohomish Counties

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Camp Erin® King and Snohomish Counties are free bereavement camps for youth grieving the death of a significant person in their lives. Children and teens ages 6 to 17 attend a weekend camp experience that combines grief education and emotional support with fun, traditional camp activities. Led by bereavement professionals and caring volunteers, campers are provided a safe environment to explore their grief, learn essential coping skills, and make friends with peers who are also grieving. Camp Erin® King and Snohomish Counties are part of Eluna’s national Camp Erin Network. For more information, please visit elunanetwork.org.

“At Camp Erin I learned that there are others who are going through what I’m going through.”
- Teen Camper

“Camp Erin helped me express my feelings about the loss of my dad. Camp Erin made me feel safe and I could cry if I wanted.”
- Kid Camper

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

Contact your local Camp Erin® office for more information. Spaces are limited and fill quickly!

KING COUNTY

Lake Retreat Camp - Ravensdale, WA
Friday, May 31, 2024 - Sunday, June 2, 2024
CampErinKing@providence.org
(206) 320-4000

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Camp Killoqua - Stanwood, WA
Friday, August 23, 2024 - Sunday, August 25, 2024
CampErinSno@providence.org
(425) 261-4800



Scan to visit our website and learn more about our camper application process



Hospice of Seattle: 2811 S. 102nd St. Suite 220, Tukwila, WA 98168
Hospice and Home Care of Snohomish County: 1615 75th St SW, Suite 210, Everett, WA 98203

Major funding for Camp Erin® King County is provided by Providence Hospice of Seattle Foundation and Safe Crossings Foundation, and funding for Camp Erin® Snohomish County is provided by Providence Hospice and Home Care Foundation of Snohomish County. Both camp programs were created and are supported in part by Eluna®.



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All are welcome to join the fun!

Sunday,
June 23, 2024
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Featuring...

Vintage car organizer Ron Osborn of the Original Colby Cruisers

Cogir's own Chef Kyle and team on the grill

Elvis impersonator Robbie Dee is back to twist and shake for you with performances from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m.

DJ and Photo booth by JD of "Catch the Beat Productions"

Craft vendors and more!

For more information or to participate in the car show, contact Jackie Reindal at (425) 338.1580!



Elvis impersonator, Robbie Dee

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