



CITY OF MILL CREEK // KEY PRIORITIES

2023 State Legislative Agenda

The City of Mill Creek established priorities for the 2023 legislative agenda. We have prioritized projects to include funding for infrastructure planning and improvements, policing, public records reform, and regional transportation.



Funding for City Infrastructure & Capital Projects

The City of Mill Creek is planning for land development and infrastructure improvements to increase and improve on City services as well as increase the safety of our residents and visitors across our facilities.

Dobson, Remillard, Church & Cook (DRCC) Properties – HIGH PRIORITY

Over the past 15 years, the City acquired four parcels of land consisting of **approximately 19 acres that make up the DRCC site**. In 2023, the City is re-establishing the planning process and has hired a planning consultant to manage the process that will include concept development and planning the next steps for the future development of the site. The City is **seeking funding for the post-concept stage of the planning process that will entail engineering and construction planning**.

City Hall North Building Improvements – HIGH PRIORITY

The City owns two buildings, City Hall North and City Hall South, just South of Town Center. **City Hall North has 25,697 square feet of office and warehouse space** that is occupied for various business uses including:

- Approximately 4,000 square feet of vacant office space to be potentially leased to **civic-focused** tenants.
- Offices for City departments that include Public Works, Planning, and Marketing & Communications.
- Space for various yearly **City programs** managed by community organizations.
- Two spaces are leased to long-time tenants.

- Provide temporary space for events and programs that service our community.
- Facility rentals for community individuals and organizations.

City Hall North is aging and in need of major repairs including replacement of the HVAC system, roof replacement, and other internal improvements. To continue to provide community value services to our residents and businesses, major repairs to the building are required. Given the significant cost of repairs the **City is seeking funding to make those improvements.**



Policing for a Safer Mill Creek Community

The City supports legislation for the safety of our neighboring cities and to ensure a safe community for Mill Creek residents, businesses, and visitors. Both the Blake decision and vehicle pursuits are AWC initiatives and legislation is continually being addressed in this year's session.

Blake Decision - **HIGHEST PRIORITY**

- Supporting clarification **around the crime of possessing a controlled substance** so that individuals, law enforcement, and treatment providers can respond appropriately.

AWC Initiative: https://wacities.org/docs/default-source/legislative/factsheetblake2023.pdf?sfvrsn=ae3d254f_8

Vehicle Pursuits - **HIGHEST PRIORITY**

- Supporting **clarification around the ability for law enforcement to conduct effective and safe vehicle pursuits** using a reasonable suspicion standard in specific circumstances when there is an immediate threat to public safety.

AWC Initiative: https://wacities.org/docs/default-source/legislative/factsheetpublicsafety2023.pdf?sfvrsn=a63d254f_6



Ensure Basic Infrastructure Funding

The City of Mill Creek stormwater system is part of a larger network that serves adjacent local governments in Snohomish County. In 2023 the City of Mill Creek will be 40 years old with aging stormwater infrastructure that requires critical maintenance and repair with significant administrative costs. With existing project costs, the City may face challenges funding stormwater projects.

Public Works Assistance Account

This is an Association of Washington Cities (AWC) initiative. The City supports the **full funding of the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA)**, allowing the current revenue diversions to sunset at the end of fiscal year 2023 and refraining from further fund transfers or diversions to other infrastructure programs or non-infrastructure accounts. This would support expansion of state funding opportunities to assist with maintenance and operations of local infrastructure.

AWC Initiative: <https://wacities.org/advocacy/City-Legislative-Priorities>



Public Records Reform

Per the Public Records Act (PRA) RCW 42.56, Washington State law requires that members of public have access to records and materials from state and local agencies, public records that are identifiable and made available to members of the public for inspection and copying upon request unless the information fits into one of the various specific exemptions in the PRA or as otherwise provided by law.

Potential Misuse of Current Public Records Laws

Legislators in the State of Washington are aware of the concerns of local governments that there is a potential misuse of current laws, ultimately creating unnecessary costs. In 2017, HB1594 and HB1595 were created to curb the problem, but they did not provide a measurable solution for the City of Mill Creek.

The **City continues to incur high costs** due to the ongoing public requests from members of public. Our Executive office spends an **enormous amount of time processing public records requests** which takes time away from other priorities **significantly impacting operational capacity**.

The City supports legislation that will **address the problem of potential misuse of current laws**.



Community Transit Regional Transportation Projects

Community Transit is planning to launch the Swift bus service that is designed to move passengers more quickly with more frequent, faster stops that will be every 10 minutes on weekdays and 15-20 on evenings and weekends. Buses will be equipped with special signals and bypass lanes to keep buses on schedule. Real-time information will tell bus riders when buses will arrive at stations. In 2024, the Orange Line will connect south Snohomish County to the region's high-capacity transit network extending to Lynwood. The route impacting Mill Creek extends from the I5 and 164th interchange running East to Bothell-Everett Highway, North to 132nd, then West to McCollum Park.

The Orange Line launch in 2024

The City supports **regional transportation projects that will improve future travel to and from the City of Mill Creek**, particularly the Community Transit **2024 Orange Line** project that will impact transportation from the 164th and the I5 interchange and across this route.

Community Transit 2024 Orange Line: <https://www.communitytransit.org/swiftorange>