

# Kirkland

2013 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON THE PARK LEVY PROGRAM

## KEEPING PACE

Parks receive boost  
in maintenance **PG. 12**



## ON THE LOOKOUT

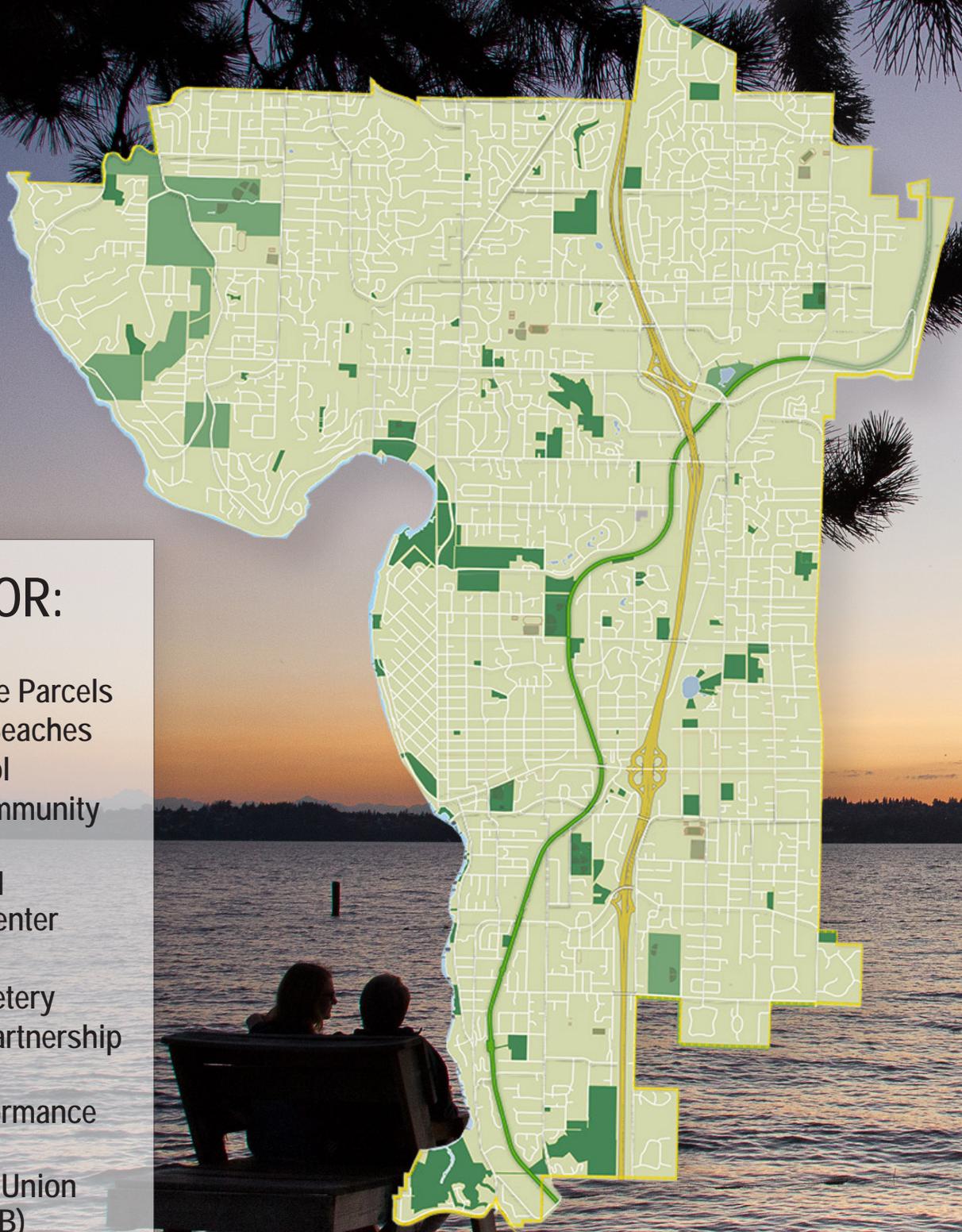
Levy restores lifeguards  
to City's beaches **PG. 16**



# KIRKLAND PARKS

## WE CARE FOR:

- 48 Parks
- 22 Open Space Parcels
- 3 Swimming Beaches
- Peter Kirk Pool
- Peter Kirk Community Center
- North Kirkland Community Center
- Heritage Hall
- Kirkland Cemetery
- City/School Partnership Playfields
- Kirkland Performance Center
- Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB)



# QUALITY OF LIFE

KIRKLAND'S RESIDENTS DECIDED IN 2012 TO SUPPORT MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENTS FOR THEIR PARK SYSTEM.

**I**n November of 2012, Kirkland voters approved a permanent property tax levy to restore and enhance funding for daily park maintenance, summer beach lifeguards, major capital improvements, and acquisition of park land. This annual report summarizes how the levy funds are being used to support and enrich Kirkland's cherished quality of life.

The levy will raise approximately \$2.35 million annually, of which \$1.15 million will be used to restore, maintain and enhance Kirkland parks and natural areas and \$1.2 million will be added to the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to complete major repairs and site renovations, such as rehabilitating deteriorating docks and piers in the City's waterfront parks and performing site updates at Waverly Beach and Edith Moulton parks.

A detailed landscape architectural plan of a park area. The plan shows various features such as a paved plaza with benches, a rain garden, a path to access benches, a seasonal small boat launch, a portable lifeguard chair, a load/unload area, bike parking, an outdoor shower, solar panels, new play equipment, and a parent seatwall. The plan also includes a shoreline pathway, a lawn area, and a subdrainage system. The plan is divided into sections A and B. The text is overlaid on the plan, with some text appearing in a white box and some text appearing directly on the plan. The text describes the community's capital investment in its park system, the impact of the 2008-2012 economic downturn, and the funding plan for park capital projects. It also describes the three stages of a park development project: Planning & Design, Permitting, and Construction. The text mentions the Waverly Beach Park renovation plan, the Park Board, and the City Council-appointed advisory group. The text also mentions the Edith Moulton Park Master Plan and the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan.

**T**he community's capital investment in its park system has been negatively impacted by the 2008-2012 economic downturn. Prior to the levy, the primary funding source for park capital improvements – Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) that is collected when properties are sold – had declined to the extent that annual funding for major park improvements had dropped by more than 38% in the past several years.

**Prior to the levy**, the funding plan to implement park capital projects had an annual average projection of REET funding of \$731,500 for 2011-2016. With the levy, the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has annual average funding of \$1.94 million for 2013-2018.

There are three stages a park development project progresses through to completion: **Planning & Design, Permitting and Construction.** Once a project is funded, the length of time to complete a project will depend on size, scope and the number of permitting agencies involved. For example, in 2013, the Waverly Beach Park renovation plan was developed by landscape architects guided by input from community members and recommendations by the Park Board. Permitting for this project will begin in 2014 with construction slated for fall of 2015 and completion in spring of 2016.

**The Park Board**, a City Council-appointed advisory group, is actively involved in overseeing the Parks CIP and making recommendations to Council on park use and improvements. In 2013, the Park Board participated in public outreach and planning meetings related to the Waverly Beach Park Renovation Plan, Edith Moulton Park Master Plan and the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan.

Restore forested hillside

# THANKS TO THE LEVY

THE LEVY PROVIDES OVER \$1 MILLION PER YEAR FOR MAJOR RENOVATIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS TO KIRKLAND'S PARKS SYSTEM.



## WAVERLY BEACH PARK PRELIMINARY RENOVATION PLAN

# INITIATED OR COMPLETED

## LEVY-FUNDED PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



*Cross Kirkland Corridor*



PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

### ■ CROSS KIRKLAND CORRIDOR (\$500,000 levy funds)

Kirkland has long looked at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Eastside Rail Corridor as an opportunity to provide a multi-use transportation corridor including both rail and trail. Purchased by the City in 2012, the 5.75 mile segment now known as the Cross Kirkland Corridor traverses Kirkland from the South Kirkland Park & Ride to the City's northern boundary in the Totem Lake Business District. The City has been actively embracing the community's energy around the corridor's future development as a multi-modal transportation corridor and recreation asset. The City has received \$3 million in State and Federal grants for design and construction of an interim recreational trail, while levy funding is being used to create an overall Master Plan for the corridor.

# 2013 PROJECTS

## PROJECTS INITIATED OR COMPLETED IN 2013 INCLUDE:

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

### ■ WAVERLY BEACH PARK (\$739,000 levy funds)

The levy will help fund a major renovation of Kirkland's oldest waterfront park. A park renovation plan completed in 2013 will help guide future park improvements, with a first phase of renovation scheduled for 2015/2016. Renovation priorities include the park's extensive shoreline and beach area, pathways and accessibility, playground upgrades, and drainage improvements.



ONGOING

### ■ PARK LAND ACQUISITION (\$2,350,000 levy funds)

Land acquisitions to plan for growth and to protect important natural resources are funded from the levy. In 2013, the City acquired 2.3 acres to expand Juanita Heights Park in the Finn Hill Neighborhood. The levy helped fund the acquisition in the amount of \$240,000.



# INITIATED OR COMPLETED

## LEVY-FUNDED PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



Edith Moulton Park



### ■ EDITH MOULTON PARK (\$1,000,000 levy funds)

Edith Moulton donated her family homestead in Juanita to the public in 1967, and Kirkland assumed ownership of the 26-acre heavily wooded property from King County following annexation in 2010. A park master plan process was initiated in 2013, with park construction scheduled to begin in 2015.

# 2013 PROJECTS

## PROJECTS INITIATED OR COMPLETED IN 2013 INCLUDE:

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

### ■ DOCK AND SHORELINE RENOVATIONS (\$800,000 levy funds)

Kirkland's thirteen diverse Lake Washington waterfront parks provide opportunities for public access while balancing the needs for habitat enhancement and maintaining ecological function. In 2013, levy funds were used to complete a technical assessment of Kirkland's public shoreline structures to prioritize and guide dock and shoreline renovations in the coming years. In 2014, repairs to Houghton Beach Park and the South Piers will begin



*Juanita Beach Park*

### ■ FUTURE LEVY-FUNDED PROJECTS

- Juanita Beach Park Restroom
- City/School Partnership Field Improvements
- Neighborhood Park Land Acquisition



*Waverly Beach Playground*

# PLANNED FUNDING

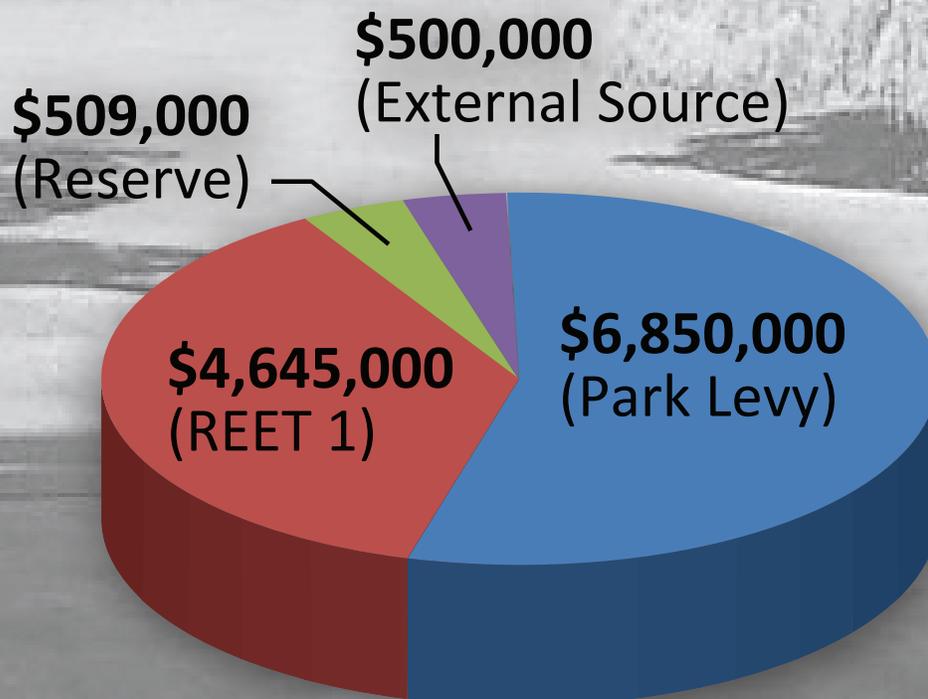
2013-2018 PARK PROJECTS	Funding Amount
Neighborhood Park Land Acquisition*	\$2,350,000
Edith Moulton Park Renovation*	1,000,000
Dock & Shoreline Renovations*	800,000
Waverly Beach Park Renovation*	739,000
Juanita Beach Bathhouse Replacement & Shelter*	1,200,000
<b>City-School Playfield Partnership*</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
132nd Park Playfields Renovation	712,000
Terrace Park Renovation	515,000
Spinney Homestead Park Renovation	493,000
Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program	450,000
Totem Lake Park Master Plan	120,000
Open Space, Pk Land & Trail Acq Grant Match Program	100,000
Heritage Park - Heritage Hall Renovations	50,000
Everest Park Restroom/Storage Building Replacement	735,000
Lee Johnson Field Lighting Replacements	150,000
Park Play Area Enhancements	200,000
Juanita Beach Park Development Phase 2	1,307,000
Park and Open Space Acquisition Program	508,000
Mark Twain Park Renovation (Design)	75,000
<b>Total Funding for Park Projects 2013 - 2018</b>	<b>\$12,504,000</b>
*Levy-funded projects	

# INVESTING IN PARKS

The table at left shows the funding plan for the 2013-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including which projects are funded by the levy and which ones are funded through Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Anticipated funding for parks projects averages \$1.94 million per year, with approximately \$1.167 million per year coming from the 2012 levy.

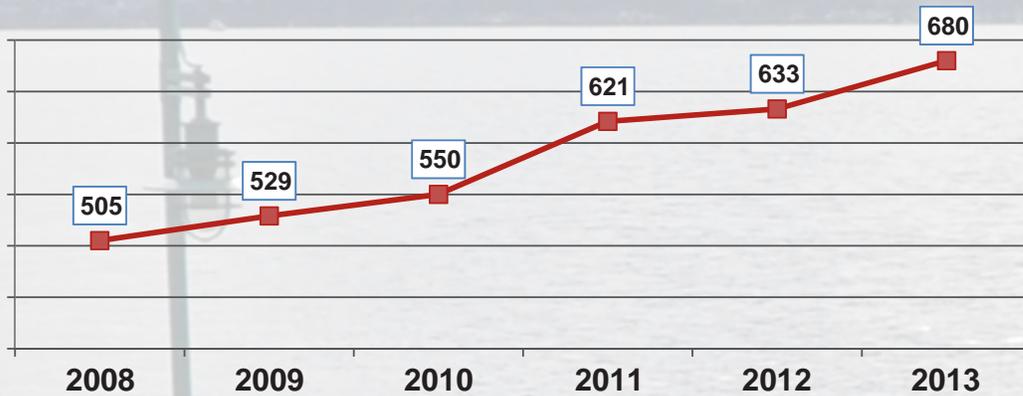
In addition to the revenue sources shown in the chart below, the city continues to seek county, state and federal grants for project elements such as dock and shoreline renovations, park land acquisition and trail development for the Cross Kirkland Corridor.

## CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES 2013-2018



While the acreage maintained by Kirkland parks grew by 25% between 2008 and 2012, mainly due to annexation, the per-acre funding for maintenance was reduced by as much as 18%.

## Acres Maintained by Kirkland Parks



## Maintenance Funding per Acre



The 2012 levy increased the maintenance levels of parks by restoring full-time and seasonal positions for a total of approximately 61,000 labor hours to perform park maintenance activities. The impact of the increase in labor can be seen in several areas of the maintenance division's operation.

# KEEPING PACE

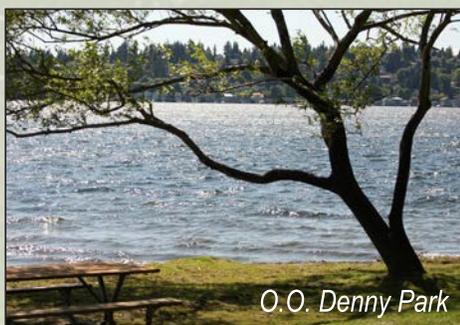
**LABOR FOR PARKS MAINTENANCE AND APPROXIMATELY \$156,000 FOR SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND UTILITIES.**

Restroom service has been restored at neighborhood parks, such as North Kirkland Community Center's "Train Park", Phyllis Needy Houghton Neighborhood Park and South Rose Hill Park.



No more brown parks with irrigation resumed at the lawn areas of Peter Kirk, Crestwoods, Everest, 132nd Square, Spinney Homestead, Terrace and other parks. Labor hours for weeding and mulching of landscape beds have been restored.

Park benches, pathways, picnic shelters, restroom facilities and other site amenities, maintenance of which has been deferred, are one by one getting repaired. In 2013, for example, staff replaced countertops, resurfaced floors and repaired roofs of restroom buildings at Waverly Beach, Crestwoods, Everest and Doris Cooper Houghton Beach parks.



The Park Maintenance levy also provided resources for the City of Kirkland to assume responsibility for the maintenance and operation of 46-acre O.O. Denny Park from the Finn Hill Park and Recreation District. O.O. Denny Park continues to be owned by the City of Seattle. Kirkland has an Interlocal Agreement to maintain and operate the park.

**T**he levy continues Kirkland’s commitment to restoring natural green spaces. The purpose of the Green Kirkland Partnership is to conserve and restore Kirkland’s natural area park land by removing invasive plants and planting native species for the sustainability of urban forests, wetlands and other habitats. Partnering with citizens, groups and businesses, over 50,000 volunteer hours have restored approximately 48 acres. Invasive plants such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry are removed and replaced with native trees, shrubs and

<b>GREEN KIRKLAND</b>	<b>2012 (no levy)</b>	<b>2013 (with levy)</b>
Number of staff	1	3
Number of volunteers	2,164	2,124
Volunteered hours	9,401	8,980
Volunteer work parties	168	189
Volunteer stewards	22	22
Acres in restoration	40.3	48.5
Invasive trees removed	336	1,007
Trees freed of ivy	38	294

groundcover needed to sustain these natural areas. Since 2005, the program has been financially at risk of losing sources to fund the necessary staff. Thanks to the passage of the levy, the program has a dedicated funding source for a modest level of staff to recruit volunteers and businesses, write grants, train volunteer stewards, coordinate restoration events, develop restoration plans, and provide education and outreach to schools and the community on the benefits of healthy forests and other natural areas.

- **THE LEVY ENSURES FUNDING FOR THE GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP, WHICH RECRUITED MORE THAN 2,000 VOLUNTEERS IN BOTH 2012 AND 2013.**



*The levy supports natural area restoration activities such as removing invasive plants and planting native plants and trees.*

*Lifeguard helps a toddler at Juanita Beach Park.*



**SWIMMING  
BEACH**

**Houghton**

**Waverly**

**Juanita**

# LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY

- **THE PARKS LEVY SECURED ONGOING FUNDING OF OVER 1,100 HOURS FOR LIFEGUARDS AT THREE OF KIRKLAND'S BEACHES.**



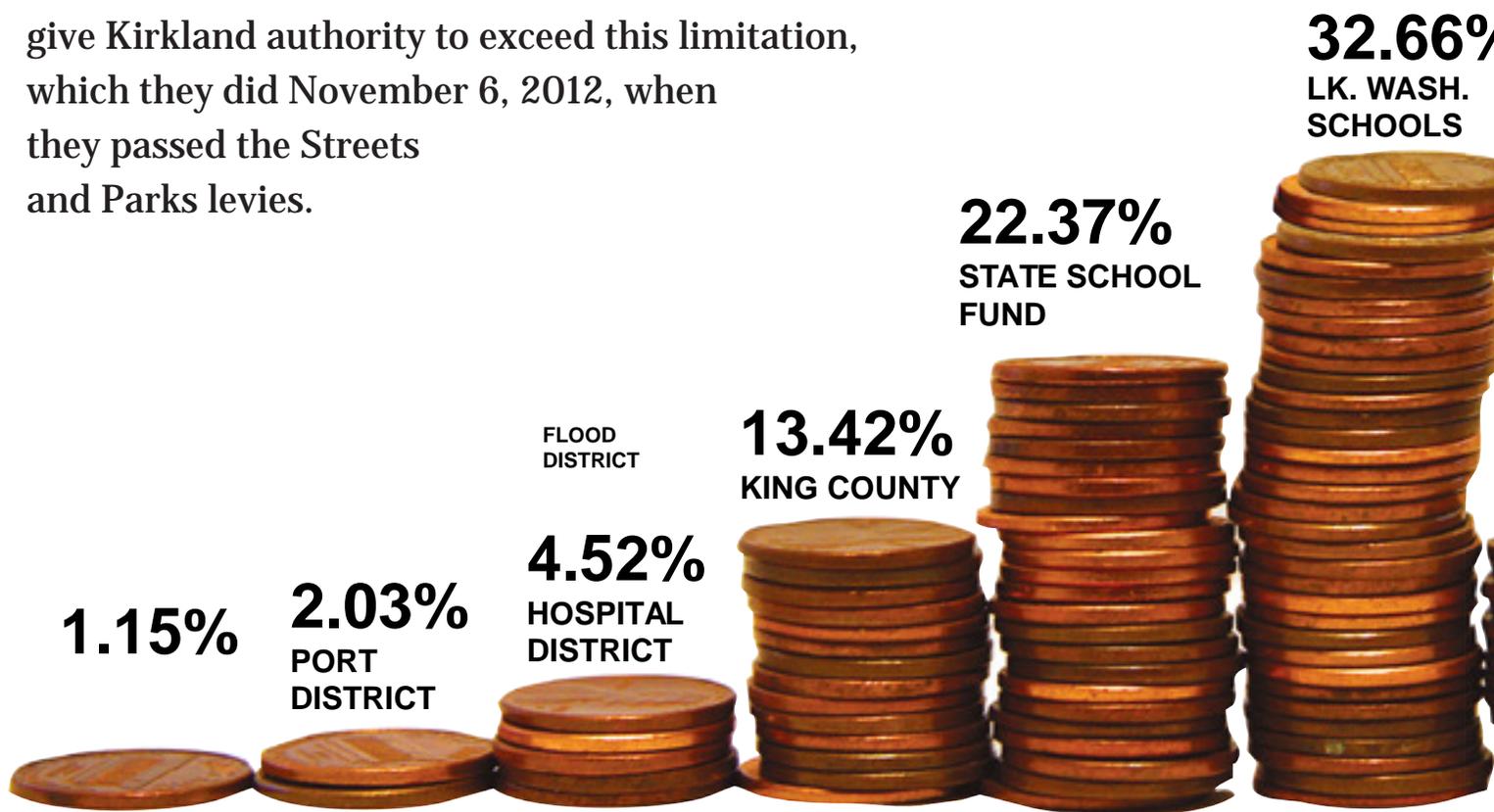
**K**irkland has a long history of providing lifeguards at Houghton Beach and Waverly Beach. Between 2008 and 2011, due to the economic downturn, the lifeguard water safety program was significantly reduced. Thanks to the levy, lifeguard on-duty hours increased by 20% at

Houghton Beach, 50% at Waverly Beach, and lifeguarding hours were added at Juanita Beach Park, providing another choice for Kirkland residents and visitors to enjoy a lifeguarded beach.

In 2013, from July 1st through Labor Day, lifeguards were on duty noon-6pm daily at each of the beaches where they administered 1,589 swim tests to children under the age of 12, loaned out 1,268 free lifejackets and provided water safety to 15,764 swimmers.

	<b>2012 Hours (no levy)</b>	<b>2013 Hours (with levy)</b>	<b>Swimmers (2013)</b>	<b>Lifejackets Loaned</b>
	1 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Noon – 6 p.m.	3,993	569
	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Noon – 6 p.m.	2,600	305
	none	Noon – 6 p.m.	9,171	394

**T**he Park levy accounts for less than 2 percent of Kirkland residents’ property taxes, and yet it pays for more than half of City’s park improvement projects and makes up 20% of the department’s budget for park maintenance and operations. Property tax is the largest of Kirkland’s nine primary sources of revenue. It accounts for 19.5% of the General Fund. State law limits Kirkland to an annual increase of its regular property tax levy by the implicit price deflator or by 1%, whichever is less. State law also allows for new construction. Voters can give Kirkland authority to exceed this limitation, which they did November 6, 2012, when they passed the Streets and Parks levies.



# HERE PROPERTY TAXES GO

98.22%  
Other property  
taxes



1.39%  
Park levy

%

13.10%  
CITY OF  
KIRKLAND

4.94%  
LIBRARY  
DISTRICT

2.61%  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICES

1.78%  
STREET LEVY

1.39%  
PARK LEVY

.03%  
FERRY DIST.



# KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

(425) 587-3015

Mayor Amy Walen ♦ Deputy Mayor Penny Sweet

Jay Arnold ♦ Dave Asher ♦ Shelley Kloba ♦ Doreen Marchione ♦ Toby Nixon

## KIRKLAND PARK BOARD

Chair Adam White ♦ Vice Chair Kevin Quille

Sue Contreras

Sue Keller

Ted Marx

Rick Ockerman

Jim Popolow

Rosalie Wessels

The Kirkland Park Board meets the  
2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.



## CITY STAFF

### CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Kurt Triplett, City Manager ..... 587-3001

Marilynne Beard, Deputy City Manager ..... 587-3008

### PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Jennifer Schroder, Director ..... 587-3300

**experience it!**



**Kirkland Parks**