

# PARKS AND RECREATION

**GOAL** Provide and maintain natural areas and recreational facilities and opportunities that enhance the health and well-being of the community.

Staff and volunteers maintain parks and manage recreation programs

So that...

City invests in parks and recreational programs

So that...

City progresses on the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

So that...

Kirkland has an exceptional parks and recreation system

MEASURE	2009	2010	2011	2012	Target
FTE staff for parks maintenance and recreation programs	51.38	47.72	48.3	49.43	N/A
Park maintenance FTE's per 100 acres developed land	5.719	5.156	4.72	4.65	N/A
Number of volunteers	1,639	3,112	1,909	2,439	N/A
Volunteer hours	16,006	21,865	14,751	13,901	N/A
Parks Capital Improvement Program	\$2,518,500	\$1,220,500	\$888,000	\$1,028,000	N/A
Parks Operating & Maintenance Funding	\$3,835,398	\$3,754,612	\$3,726,109	\$4,135,489	N/A
Recreation Operating & Maintenance Funding	\$2,209,598	\$2,072,283	\$1,879,750	\$2,067,630	N/A
Residents with neighborhood park within 1/4 mile radius	76%	76%	68%	68%	100%
Acres of natural area in restoration	25.4	30.01	38	40.3	379 acres by 2028
Percent of recreation classes meeting minimum enrollment	76%	79.8%	78%	83%	80%
Citizens rate City parks as satisfactory or better	*	95%	*	96%	95%

\*Community survey occurs in even years

## HOW DO WE MEASURE PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES?

The budget and the number of FTE staff available to the Parks Department helps measure how often the City is able to maintain the parks. Given the important contribution that volunteers make to City's work, the number of volunteers and their total number of hours is also tracked.

The Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan sets targets that provide benchmarks by which to measure the development and maintenance of Kirkland's parks and natural spaces, including:

- Residents should have access to a neighborhood park within a quarter mile of their home.
- All 379 acres of natural areas should be restored to their natural state by 2028.

The plan is being updated through public input in 2013. Recreation services are measured by subscription rates. Tracking recreation class attendance demonstrates how well they match residents' preferences.

Citizen satisfaction with the parks, as determined by the Community Survey, provides another measure of how well the park system meets the community's needs.

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

Following voter approval in 2012, Proposition 2 will enable levels of maintenance to be restored in 2013. Despite the reductions in services incurred between 2009 and 2012, citizens continue to be satisfied with their parks.

83% of recreation classes met the minimum enrollment target, an improvement from 2011 and a good indication that the classes offered meet the demands of citizens.

Annexation decreased the percentage of residents with a park within a ¼ mile radius in 2011. This number remained unchanged in 2012.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Parks and recreation services enhance the quality of life and health in a community. Despite its importance to the community, parks and recreation services have had to face the reality of shrinking resources. Maintenance standards in some parks were reduced as have some of the programs offered by the department.

For much of 2012, department leadership worked with community members to determine the most immediate needs in the parks system. The Park Funding Exploratory Committee developed a levy package to address reductions in maintenance and recreation programming, to ensure ongoing care and restoration of the City's urban forests through the Green Kirkland Partnership, to provide for needed renovation of the City's aging park facilities such as Edith Moulton Park, Waverly Beach Park and the Juanita Beach Park Bathhouse, to develop an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail on the Cross Kirkland Corridor and to acquire land for future neighborhood parks in areas of the city where new parks are needed.

In November, 2012, Kirkland voters approved this park funding package and will begin to see the positive impact on its park system in early 2013.

In 2012, the Green Kirkland Partnership collaborated with Pearl Jam to offset the band's carbon footprint from world touring by funding a 9-acre forest restoration in Crestwoods Park. This project accounted for a significant increase in the total number of trees planted annually in restoration projects: from 837 trees in 2011 to 3,538 trees in 2012. The City also installed rain gardens in Juanita Beach Park that allow water to soak into the ground while providing beautiful landscape features.



Marina Park



### Pee Wee Soccer in Kirkland!

The pee wee soccer league, now in its third year, has been a great addition to the City's fall and spring course offerings. The program is designed to develop and improve soccer skills for ages 3 to 6, while focusing on sportsmanship, socialization and having fun.

For its inaugural season, in fall of 2010, the goal was to attract a total of 40 youth; over 90 registered. Following annexation in 2011, the program expanded from its original location at Emerson High School field to 132nd Square Park in the City's new Evergreen Hill (Kingsgate) neighborhood. The league is currently offered at both locations, over 250 children expected to participate each season.

Children are placed on teams and are assigned a volunteer coach. The program meets for seven weeks with the activities including practices and games. Allowing participants to play a "real" game with referees, substitutions and a running clock sets this program apart from other pee wee soccer offerings in the area. This gives children an opportunity to thoroughly "Experience It!"