

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

MEASURE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Target
FTE staff for parks maintenance and recreation programs	47.72	48.3	49.43	56.24	59.69	N/A
Park maintenance FTE's per 100 acres developed land	5.156	4.72	4.65	5.05	5.44	N/A
Number of volunteers	3,112	1,909	2,439	2,306	3,012	N/A
Volunteer hours	21,865	14,751	13,901	17,997	19,266	N/A

So that...

City invests in parks and recreational programs

Parks Capital Improvement Program	\$1,220,500	\$888,000	\$1,028,000	\$3,537,578	\$3,823,583	N/A
Parks Operating & Maintenance Funding	\$3,754,612	\$3,726,109	\$4,135,489	\$4,969,719	\$5,097,601	N/A
Recreation Operating & Maintenance Funding	\$2,072,283	\$1,879,750	\$2,067,630	\$2,176,292	\$2,198,858	N/A

So that...

City progresses on the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Residents with neighborhood park within 1/4 mile radius	76%	68%	68%	68%	68%	100%
Acres of natural area in restoration	30.01	38	40.3	48.5	58.6	379 acres by 2028
Percent of recreation classes meeting minimum enrollment	79.8%	78%	83%	81.6%	85.4%	80%

So that...

Kirkland has an exceptional parks and recreation system

Citizens rate City parks as satisfactory or better	95%	*	96%	*	95%	95%
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*Community survey occurs in even years

HOW DO WE MEASURE PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES?

The budget and 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 the 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

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?

In 2012, Kirkland voters approved a property tax levy to restore and enhance funding for daily park maintenance, summer beach lifeguards, major capital improvements and acquisition of park land, all of which support the health and well-being of the community.

With the infusion of levy funds, park maintenance staffing was returned to a higher level than it was in 2010.

Over 85% of recreation classes meet the minimum enrollment, and exceed the City's target, a good indication that the classes offered address the demands of citizens.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Between 2008 and 2012, the acreage maintained by Kirkland parks grew by 20%, mainly due to annexation; however, during that period, the department saw funding for maintenance activities reduced by as much as 22%. In 2013, funding from the 2012 voter-approved Parks levy became available which restored labor hours for parks maintenance, materials, supplies and utilities. Returned were amenities such as restroom service at neighborhood parks, irrigation of lawn areas, staff and materials for weeding and mulching landscape beds, as well as care of park benches, picnic shelters and restroom buildings.

The levy also provided resources for the City to assume from the Finn Hill Park and Recreation District, the maintenance and operation responsibilities of 46-acre O.O. Denny Park. O.O. Denny Park continues to be owned by the City of Seattle.

Further investment in the City's Parks Capital Improvement Program was made through the levy and a number of major phases were completed in 2014, such as: the Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan, Waverly Beach Park Renovation, the Totem Lake Park Master Plan and Edith Moulton Park Master Plan. Also completed in 2014 was the acquisition of land adjacent to Juanita Heights and Totem Lake parks.

Funding was secured through the levy to keep lifeguards at Houghton and Waverly beaches as well as add water safety services to ever-popular Juanita Beach Park.

Lastly, in 2014 the Green Kirkland Partnership secured a grant from the King Conservation District to begin updating its 20-year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan, a document which guides the City's restoration efforts in its parks and open spaces. The updated Plan, when completed by the end of 2015, will include the parkland added to the City in 2011 by annexation, as well as document the restoration work completed since the original Plan was published in 2008.



Marina Park



Edith Moulton Park

When former schoolteacher Edith Moulton donated her family's home-stead farm property as a public park, her dream was to ensure a place "where children can play in nature". Such was the vision and spirit that has guided the City's efforts in creating a plan to renovate and improve the lovely 26-acre Edith Moulton Park property in Kirkland's Juanita Neighborhood.

In 2014, the City began the process of developing a park master plan for the property. The plan, created in collaboration with park users and neighborhood residents, capitalizes on the special attributes of the forested park property, which is dissected by Juanita Creek and features extensive walking trails. Future improvements will include trail enhancements to improve year-round use and accessibility as well as new bridge crossings over the creek. A portion of the trail system will provide for use as an off-leash dog trail. New features to be built will include a small group picnic shelter, restroom, and children's climbing play equipment. To celebrate the history of the property as a one-time family farm, a portion of the park will be set aside for community gardening.

In early 2015, the City Council adopted the park master plan at the recommendation of the Kirkland Park Board. Construction of the park improvements will begin in 2016. The \$2.1 million project is funded in part by the voter-approved 2012 Kirkland Parks Levy.