The City provides funding and outreach for neighborhood participation.

So that...

Residents participate in their neighborhoods and citywide forums.

So that...

Residents are satisfied with City services and the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

HOW DO WE MEASURE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES?

Resident satisfaction with Neighborhood Services demonstrates how well the City understands the needs of residents and subsequently invests in neighborhood planning and capital improvements.

Rates of resident participation in neighborhood activities reflect the neighborhood organizing work done through the Neighborhood Services Division.

E-bulletin communications, neighborhood funding and outreach programs demonstrate how the City actively connects residents with resources and stimulates participation in local government.

WHY DID WE CHOOSE THESE MEASURES?

These measures account for the neighborhood organizing work done through the Neighborhood Services Division of the City Manager’s Office. This is only one element of what influences a resident’s satisfaction with government and their neighborhood.
WHAT IS THE CITY OF KIRKLAND’S ROLE?

The City is committed to supporting neighborhoods by:

- Providing neighborhoods with resources to address needs;
- Strengthening the relationship between City Hall and the neighborhoods;
- Supporting the neighborhood associations in expanding their membership;
- Increasing awareness of City services; and
- Building partnerships to improve Kirkland’s neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Services staff provides outreach and resources through personal contact, coordination with the City’s Communication Program and the City website.

The City distributes neighborhood matching grants for neighborhood projects. Project creation and volunteerism enable residents to actively participate in local government, build community and improve the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Neighborhood Services connects residents with citywide issues by coordinating opportunities for community input on issues and decisions considered by the City Council. These opportunities include large town hall style events as well as other civic engagement activities.

In previous years, Neighborhood Services has coordinated City Council meetings in four neighborhoods per year. Residents could talk directly to City Council members and ask questions regarding neighborhood and citywide issues.

The Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods (KAN), with the help of the City, leads periodic Neighborhood University sessions. These classes teach residents about City government, neighborhood organizing, and leadership. KAN meets ten times a year to exchange information about neighborhood issues, network, provide educational opportunities for neighborhood leaders, and connect with City services.

Representatives from the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods and other neighborhood leaders worked with City staff to develop and implement the Neighborhood Safety Program. The purpose of the program is to “reenergize neighborhoods through partnerships on capital projects implementation”.

For the Love of Kirkland

The City of Kirkland wanted to celebrate the accomplishments of our neighborhoods and inspire new interest in neighborhood leadership and participation. Peter Kageyama, the author of “For the Love of Cities” and “Love Where You Live,” was the ticket.

On January 23, 2017, Peter came to Kirkland and spoke to over 160 people, including residents, business owners, artists, and elected officials.

As Peter outlines in his book “For the Love of Cities,” he talked to participants about “the mutual love affair between people and their place is one of the most powerful influences in our lives, yet rarely thought of in terms of a relationship. As cities begin thinking of themselves as engaged in a relationship with their citizens, and citizens begin to consider their emotional connections with their places, we open up new possibilities in community, social and economic development by including the most powerful of motivators—the human heart—in our toolkit of city-making.”

On September 9, 2017, Kirkland had its first “Citywide block party”, Crossing Kirkland, where neighbors shared food, fun and conversation. Neighborhood Associations from across the City sponsored stations spread out along the Cross Kirkland Corridor, including a scavenger hunt, a climbing wall, games, food trucks, craft projects, bike tune-ups and information stations.

With more than 1,000 attendees, the celebration was community building in action. Hatched out of the “For the Love of Kirkland” from January 2017, Crossing Kirkland beckoned the community to engage with the Cross Kirkland Corridor and each other in new ways.

“Crossing Kirkland brought neighbors together in a very special way,” said Jonathan Heuer, co-leader of the Norkirk station and the main organizer of the event. “It was truly a ground-up enterprise organized by people who really love Kirkland and who are invested in creating and maintaining the small town atmosphere of the City while protecting the natural spaces the City has worked hard to preserve.”