



Parks and Community Services:

Crestwoods Park

1. A great idea for an open or small park area would be a Par Course which is a series of stations each requiring a certain exercise: usually totaling 5 to 10 stations. Not certain the name of the company that makes these exercise courses but they are great and do not take up a ton of room ... hopefully affordable?
Response: *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*
2. We need picnic tables and benches at Crestwoods Park. There are a couple of small tables in the playground area, but a little further south, between some of the trees and overlooking the fields, it would be very nice to have bigger picnic tables and benches. That is where we put the tables and chairs that we rent each summer for our annual Norkirk Picnic. This park gets a lot of use, and there is almost no seating except at the south end of the park where there are bleachers by the baseball fields. Also, if it were not too expensive, a shelter would be very nice and often used too. Thank you for your consideration. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*
3. I would like to use grant funds to jumpstart the Green Kirkland program at Crestwoods Park. I have spoken to Sharon Rodman and Collins Klemm about possible projects. Sharon is concerned that the program is in jeopardy because of budget cuts but I will let you work that out. I would help organize events and volunteers to do invasive removal and planting in an area on the north side of the woods, just below the baseball diamond. There is an area there with a nice amount of native plant growth but some invasives are coming in. The invasive removal would be a moderate effort. Planting would be the emphasis in this area. I would also like to consider hiring the goats to reduce blackberries, perhaps on the north side of the trail in this area of the north woods of the park. These would be blackberries in the shady part of the park where people don't pick and eat as much. We could then plan another work party in the fall. Neighborhood funds would pay for plants and goats, and possibly project leaders and even Parks funding such as to continue Sharon Rodman's position. I think this project would need at least \$10,000 and I would be willing to put all \$25K to it. **Response:** *Unfortunately, the Green Kirkland Partnership cannot commit to any support of restoration efforts at Crestwoods Park this year because it's not in our 2009-2010 budget. We've already outstripped our resources and are struggling. We are planning for Crestwoods to be our next Green Kirkland park, but we currently don't have funding beyond this year, either to continue our efforts or to start in new parks. As things stand, Sharon Rodman's position ends at the end of 2010. We thus cannot commit to any support next year, and don't know when we will be able to start at Crestwoods.*

Tot Lot Park

4. I would like to propose using a small portion (probably around \$2500) to provide some public outreach for the Tot Lot Pea Patch. This would create an educational component for the community garden there by having a bulletin board/kiosk at the 9th street fence - for use by us on both sides where we could post information on getting a pea-patch and on organic gardening on the more public street side and information for the pea patch users of the inward facing side. We could help to encourage organic gardening practices among our neighbors. From the user standpoint, we plot ""owners"" could interact better - we don't always meet each other because some work on their plots days and others only weekends. This way we could

make the pea-patch more of a community for us by posting notices about things to share such as plant starts/seedlings, materials or tools. We would like to have the posting space be glassed/plexi-ed/weather proof - I have a sliding aluminum window in fair shape I could give to the construction - so we can put things up for many weeks or the entire season. We would also like to get a bench so we can invite our friends and family to join us and the neighbors in the Tot Lot to come in and look around and have it be more welcoming. I understand that a fixed metal one might cost \$900 but I recommend purchasing a less expensive wood one and the Kirkland Pre-school has indicated that they would decorate it for use in the Tot Lot. This would be a fun project that would help to make this a truly community garden. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*

5. In light of the recent necessary service cut-backs in our parks, I suggest that money be used to re-establish some of those services. For example, Tot Lot (Turtle Park) should have its porta-potty returned. You have no idea how hard it is on families of young children to not have a quick bathroom! Well, unfortunately, it's maybe not that hard, since some are resorting to finding an out-of-the-way bush. Thank you. **Response:** *Referred to the City Council for 2011 budget process.*

Van Aalst Park

6. Add more picnic tables at Van Aalst and Crestwoods parks. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*

Marina Park

7. Pay for concerts in the park. **Responses:** *There are 16 great concerts planned for this summer, but they will cost about \$19,000 to produce. The concert committee has raised more than half of the money, but needs more. They'll be asking for a \$2 donation at each concert. You can make a donation online. Be sure to fill out a matching donation form for your company as well. The fiscal sponsor, Kirkland Downtown Association, is a 501(c)3 organization. If you know any local businesses who can donate in exchange for some great publicity direct them to the donation web site at: <http://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AZMUV-nX1nXTZHBia21rcF8wZGt0ejJuMnY&hl=en> For more information about the concert series see:<http://kirklandsummerconcerts.org/>*
8. I would like to see our Norkirk neighborhood money, or at least part of it, donated to the Summer Concerts in the Park. I understand they may not happen this year due to lack of money. We attend these concerts and see many of our Norkirk neighbors there as well. The concerts bring people into Kirkland to enjoy the park and spend money in our city. **Response:** *See above.*

Parks in General

9. Trash cans in the neighborhood would be a great addition anywhere for us frequent walkers. **Response:** *Referred to the City Council for 2011 budget process.*
10. I wanted to comment on the funds for the Norkirk neighborhood. Before we install art or benches, I feel strongly that we should take steps to bring some current services back up to speed. Trash cans have been removed from the children's parks and many people still throw their trash onto the lawn, grass and play areas. Yesterday I was walking the dog past a Market area park and there was a pile of tissues, sterile wipes and syringe packets! I felt like I was in the middle of a big city. Dog waste bags are thrown in the vicinity where cans formerly sat and the lack of disposal is discouraging and disgusting. The parks are well used and need more, not less, attention. A new bench is less important than the sanitation of our current facilities. I know that neighborhoods must take some responsibility for our local services. Perhaps if there were a residential type waste roller at the park, a local neighbor could take the initiative to roll it out to the street on trash day. Any chance of that?" Thank-you for the postcard and the opportunity to submit ideas

for the use of \$25,000 in our neighborhood. Referred to the City Council for 2011 budget process.

Response: Referred to the City Council for 2011 budget process.

11. I would just love to see our parks get the trash cans back. I know many neighbors feel the same."

Response: Referred to the City Council for 2011 budget process.

12. I live along 1st Street in Norkirk and I am amazed at how many people walk their dogs along the street partly because In Kirkland, there is no place for people to take their dogs to run off leash. I propose that the Norkirk fund this year be used to make an off leash dog park at Crestwood park or other suitable location in Norkirk. This would bring neighbors together in one place. I attend dog parks in other parts of the county and always there is a lot of friendly communication between owners. I have even joined a dog group which formed out of owners talking together while their dogs played. I believe this type of community form is exactly what the neighborhood fund is designed for. **Response:** At the April 6, 2010 joint meeting with the Kirkland City Council and the Park Board, the City Council authorized the Board and Parks staff to investigate two options for providing this recreation activity. First, a Fenced Off-Leash Area Option will be considered at a City-owned park property south of the Heronfield Wetlands (area just west of Fred Meyer and the Kirkland Municipal Court building). KDOG, a local non-profit group, will be working with the City on a feasibility study and, if the site is approved, would be responsible for start-up costs and stewardship. A decision on the site is likely to be made this fall.

A second option to be explored would be for unfenced Off-Leash Areas, which would require a revision to Kirkland's existing park regulations to allow time-limited off-leash dog activity within certain areas of some existing developed park sites. As of now, the process for examining the unfenced option will not be initiated until after the process for a fenced option has concluded. The process for considering both options will include opportunities for public input.

For more information please see the staff memo on this subject which was prepared for City Council review: http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/Assets/City+Council/Council+Packets/040610/3a_StudySession.pdf.

13.

Traffic Circles and City Right of Way:

14. My proposed project is to spend \$5,000 to \$10,000 (or some reasonable amount) from the Neighborhood Connections program on the Norkirk Traffic Circle Program. I propose that the money be used in this way: First, identify the "'problem circles': those that have overgrown plants, dead plants, that have no volunteers to take care of them, and those that are too dangerous from traffic for citizens to work in. Maybe we could get a small group of citizens to do this identification.

Next, hire a professional landscaper to do the following:

- A. Develop a landscaping plan for each "'problem circle'".
- B. Develop a landscaping plan for circles that are not problematic, but have not been maintained for awhile. If we could get these circles in good shape, citizens may be more willing to volunteer to do the on-going maintenance.
- C. Clean out dead plants and those that are overgrown or not appropriate.
- D. Amend the soil.
- E. Plan low maintenance, drought tolerant plants in each circle.
- F. Add wood chips or some other material (not bark) to keep weeds down.

Third, do outreach to Norkirk neighbors to identify circles that need volunteers and solicit volunteers to "'adopt the circles'". This would be for circles that are safe to work in, and therefore, can be adopted. This would require some funds for printing and mailing flyers with Adopt A Circle information.

Lastly, plan for a twice a year "'Norkirk Traffic Circle Volunteer Day'" so that teams of volunteers can do maintenance on the "'problem circles'". This would involve some City staff help with advertising and

organizing this event. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*

15. Professionally re-landscape the traffic circles in the worst condition. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*
16. Re-landscape around the neighborhood signs (3rd St/10th Ave & 6th St/7th Ave). **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*
17. Fix street end at 2nd and 19th. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*
18. Benches at metro bus stops. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*

Art

19. The statue we purchased with the last grant is very popular, and it would be nice to purchase another statue for the neighborhood. As we did in 2007, we could have a committee to research and present statues and sites. We could afford to purchase a statue with just a portion of the total grant funding, probably in the \$6-7,000 range. **Response:** *This project qualified as a potential Neighborhood Connection project. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*

Eastside Rail Corridor:

20. Suggest identifying areas for potential new park/green space in Norkirk area and using grant money for basis of matching funds from local citizens or public/corporate entities; alternatively applying grant towards future development of public access to "BN corridor" once master plan completed. **Response:** *In December, 2009, the Port of Seattle (Port) finalized its acquisition of the Eastside Rail Corridor from Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway. Final cost for the northern section of the 42-mile corridor between Woodinville and Snohomish was approximately \$81 million. BNSF donated the southern portion of the corridor between Woodinville and Renton and the Redmond Spur that goes through the City of Redmond. The Kirkland City Council has taken a position that strongly supports the corridor within Kirkland city limits to be developed as a trail and does not preclude the possible development of rail use.*

King County and Sound Transit intend to initiate a public planning process (at the earliest) in the third quarter of 2010 that will help to identify possible future uses and timing for development of the corridor. The City of Kirkland will initiate its own public process this summer to determine what Kirkland's interests are in the future development of the Eastside Rail Corridor as it pertains to the Kirkland segment. Because of the length of these processes, complexity of issues, multitude of jurisdictional interests, and significant costs for development this is not a viable Neighborhood Connection Program project.

Neighborhood Traffic Control:

21. I don't know if this falls under this project but we have long felt that there needs to be a four way stop at 1st Street and 7th Avenue. There have been many accidents and even more near misses. This is a busy intersection as 7th Avenue is often used as a thoroughfare to avoid Central when traffic is heavy. Because 7th Avenue is on a hill it is difficult to see traffic coming, especially if cars are parked along the curb. With

our church, the Kirkland Arts Center and many businesses using these streets for parking and for access it can get quite busy. Much of the traffic moving on 7th Avenue is often over the speed limit and this adds to the unsafe conditions for vehicles, bicyclists and walkers using the crosswalks on 7th. If there is another place where this concern should be raised rather than this project, please let me know. **Response:** Referred to Neighborhood Traffic Control Program (NTCP) for evaluation. If two additional signs meet the criteria, NTCP will install them at no charge to the Neighborhood Connections Program.

22. My husband and I would like to vote for using the Norkirk annual funding for traffic safety. We live on the corner of 8th Ave and 3rd Street and have small children. There are speeders cutting through our neighborhood, specifically 7th Ave and 3rd Street that increase in number this time of year and through the nice weather months. **Response:** Referred to Neighborhood Traffic Control Program (NTCP) for evaluation. Since PW does not have the staffing or budget to run the process for installing traffic calming devices, this might be a good opportunity to get volunteers interested in the Citizen's Speedwatch program. Kirkland Police Department (KPD) will train volunteers to use a radar gun and catalog high speed motorists for follow-up by the KPD. As part of such an effort, NTCP would provide existing traffic data and do new counts if needed at no charge to the Neighborhood Connections Program.
23. I recommend a traffic island or speed bump to slow traffic flying south on 4th Street between 7th Avenue and Central Way. I've suggested this to city without getting much headway. Plenty of pedestrians cross 4th Street on their way to Park Place or west on 4th Avenue or 5th Avenue. I'm sure traffic counts have been taken to verify the large amount of traffic that uses this shortcut. **Response:** Referred to Neighborhood Traffic Control Program (NTCP) for evaluation. Since PW does not have the staffing or budget to run the process for installing traffic calming devices, this might be a good opportunity to get volunteers interested in the Citizen's Speedwatch program. Kirkland Police Department (KPD) will train volunteers to use a radar gun and catalog high speed motorists for follow-up by the KPD. As part of such an effort, NTCP would provide existing traffic data and do new counts if needed at no charge to the Neighborhood Connections Program.
24. Received card - neighbor and I believe that you should install a stoplight on Market St. - maybe about 18th Ave where the city and school bus turns up. Penny Sweet can also tell you of her frustration also trying to get across Market and up the hill during busy traffic times. **Response:** Referred to Transportation Commission to consider with Citywide Capital Improvement Program.
25. My vote is to put this money toward a traffic light on Market Street. We take our life in our hands getting on and off Market especially from 2 to 7. **Response:** Referred to Transportation Commission to consider with Citywide Capital Improvement Program.
26. Put a convex mirror at the intersection of 4th Street and 15th Ave, facing north so that traffic coming down the hill, south on 4th Street, can see approaching traffic on 15th. Currently, you have to creep forward, into the crosswalk and sometimes even into the intersection to see to the left (east) at this corner. The property on the northeast corner slopes up from the street and the road grade slopes down/away to the east. A convex mirror placed on a pole across the intersection on the southeast corner would make it much easier to see approaching traffic on 15th Ave. **Response:** Referred to Neighborhood Traffic Control Program (NTCP) for evaluation. We do not install mirrors in the public right-of-way because of the potential liability of keeping them in proper adjustment. NTCP will investigate alternative solutions at no cost to the Neighborhood Connection Program.
27. Add a painted stop stripe on northbound 5th Street at 7th Avenue. It is a dangerous intersection because the northbound 5th Street traffic blows through the stop sign Crosswalks: **Response:** Referred to Neighborhood Traffic Control Program (NTCP) for evaluation.

Return money:

28. In light of current economic conditions and considering it is highly unlikely that these conditions will improve considerably for quite some time, we suggest the funding be returned to the city to pay down debt, or placed into a reserve fund to be used for saving a program or service deemed to be critical. (This would NOT include hiring new city workers, bonuses, raises or payment of benefits.). **Response:** *Returning the money to the City is an option on the ballot. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*
29. Honorable Mayor McBride, and Honorable City Council members, Honorable Mayor McBride, and Honorable City Council members, I am a bit at odds with the continuation of the Neighborhood Connections Program for 2010. While I recognize that the annual funding has been reduced from 100K to 25K and only one neighborhood is receiving funding this year (mine--Norkirk) it seems less than prudent to be using scarce city funds to purchase art or other discretionary items--even though they might improve our quality of life. This concept is a wonderful program--when times are good. But in these tough economic times, it simply does not seem wise particularly when noting employee job losses and cuts to other programs which we all know actually do have a direct effect on our communities. Thank you for your consideration. **Response:** *Returning the money to the City is an option on the ballot. See final project voting results on the City's website at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/neighborhoods.*