



## **CITY OF KIRKLAND**

**Department of Parks & Community Services**

**505 Market Street, Suite A, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300**

**www.kirklandwa.gov**

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### **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Jennifer Schroder, Director  
Michael Cogle, Deputy Director

**Date:** March 20, 2014

**Subject:** Proposed Design Program: Edith Moulton Park Master Plan

#### **Recommendation**

That the City Council considers a Proposed Design Program for the Edith Moulton Park Master Plan as recommended by the Park Board.

#### **Background**

The City of Kirkland assumed ownership of Edith Moulton Park from King County in 2011 following annexation of the north Juanita neighborhood. Edith Moulton originally donated the 26-acre property to the County in 1967. Her dream was for her family homestead to be used as "a place for children to play in nature". This vision has been a guiding principle for the master planning effort for the park. Funding for master planning and improvements for Edith Moulton Park comes from the voter-approved 2012 Parks Levy. Total project budget for planning and construction has been approved in the Parks' CIP for \$1,000,000.

The existing park property is heavily wooded and dissected by Juanita Creek. Current amenities include trails, a small picnic shelter, a lawn/open play area, and fencing. In 2013 staff began the master planning process with the selection of a design team led by Otak, Inc., a Kirkland-based firm with considerable public parks planning and design experience. Initial master planning tasks have included a site survey and inventory, site assessment, and historic resources research.

As a foundation for development of an eventual park schematic design, staff have been creating a Park Design Program. The Park Design Program is intended to articulate the overall vision, programming components, and design considerations for the project. The Park Board, staff and the consultant team initially developed a draft Design Program which was shared with the community at a public meeting on January 22. General feedback from the 50 or so participants was positive. Staff presented the draft Design Program at the March 10 Juanita Neighborhoods Association meeting. Feedback received from the meeting was also generally positive, with particular interest in ensuring proper placement and accessibility of park trails. The final Design Program will be used to create optional approaches for trail types and locations. These trail design options will be presented for public consideration and will help guide decisions during the project's subsequent schematic design phase.

At their meeting of March 19, the Park Board unanimously recommended the following Proposed Design Program for Council consideration:

## Edith Moulton Park Master Plan

### **Proposed Design Program**

1. Focus on serving both the surrounding neighborhood and the residents of Kirkland.
2. Preserve and manage the forested areas to be enjoyed as natural areas in perpetuity.
3. Restore disturbed natural areas where appropriate and plan for natural succession.
4. Provide for wetland and stream habitat enhancements.
5. Maintain a balance between developed and natural areas for active and passive park use. Consider a children's play structure.
6. Make the park sustainable by balancing long-term resource requirements with community benefits.
7. Connect visitors to the life of an early pioneer family. Consider a community orchard and pea patch.
8. Enhance the great lawn area for community events and gatherings. Consider an open-air lodge for gatherings with restroom facilities and adequate parking.
9. Find a way for dogs and their owners to enjoy the park without negatively affecting other users or wildlife and stream habitat. Consider an off-leash dog area.
10. Improve trail accessibility for all users where feasible. Provide new trail connections where appropriate and remove duplicate trails.
11. Provide for environmental education opportunities.

Staff requests that the City Council reviews and provides direction on the Board's recommendation. Staff would propose that final City Council approval of the Design Program for the Edith Moulton Park Master Plan occur via Resolution at the Council's April 15, 2014 meeting unless issues are raised by the Council that require more time.

Following approval of the Design Program, staff and the Park Board will begin work on the schematic design phase, with additional community meetings scheduled to occur this spring. A final proposed Edith Moulton Park Master Plan will be presented to the City Council later in the year. Construction of park improvements is currently slated to begin in 2015.

**Attachment A** to this memorandum provides further background on the park as well as the January 22 public workshop. An abbreviated version of Attachment A will be part of the presentation to the Council on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Attachment A



# Edith Moulton Park

planning & design

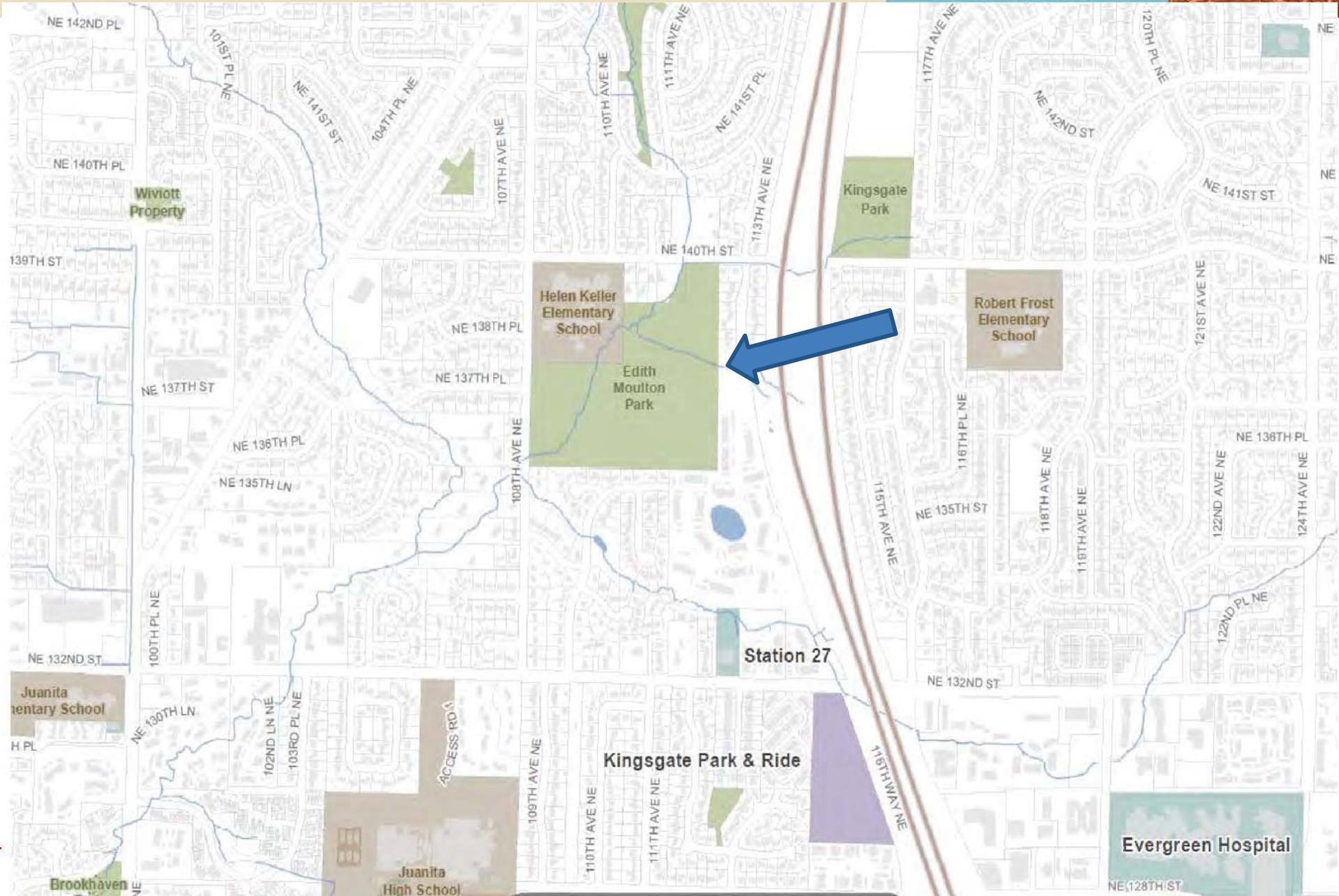
Proposed Park Design Program: March 2014



*“A Place for Children  
to Play in Nature.”*

# Vicinity Map

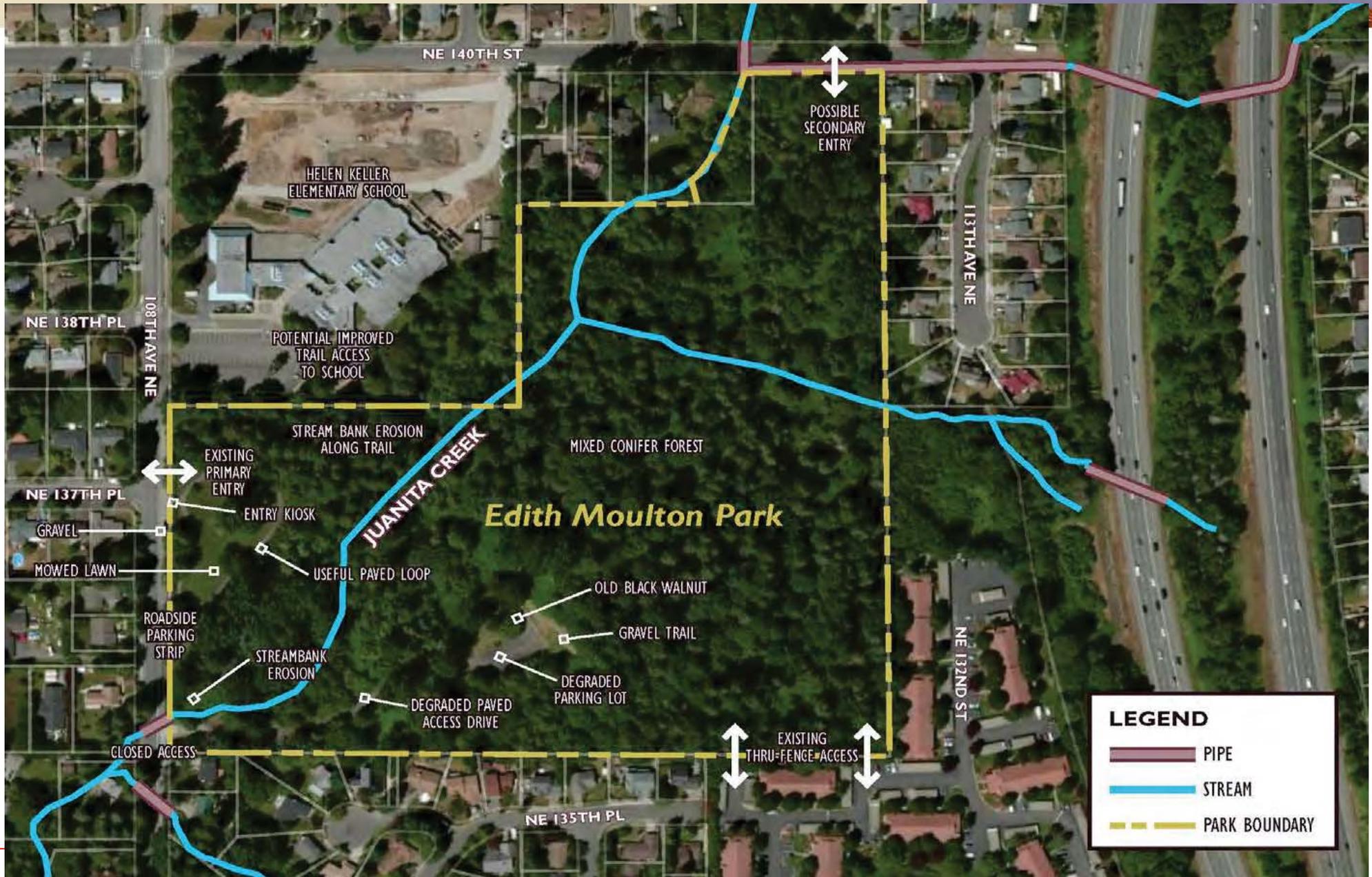
Attachment A



# Parcel Map

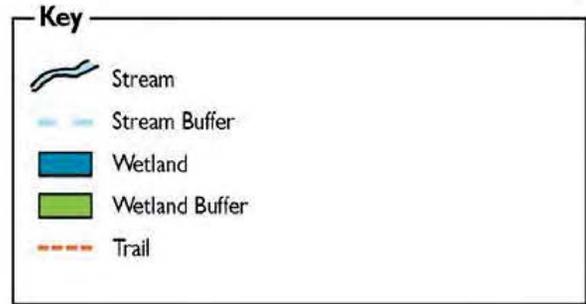
Attachment A

**Edith Moulton Park**  
planning & design



# Sensitive Areas and Buffers

Attachment A



**Sensitive Areas**

Parcel No.	Area (sqft)		% of Site
202605-9027	1,149,984		
202605-9186	13,936		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,163,920</b>	<b>(26.72 Acres)</b>	
Total Stream Area	25,086		2%
Total Wetland Area	90,523		8%
Total Sensitive Area + Buffer Area	533,901		46%
Total Remaining Uplands	630,019		54%

\* Note: Parcel Areas are Based on King County Assessor Data

# Suitability Map

Attachment A



## Nature-Related Improvements

*Improvements in harmony with Edith Moulton's purpose for donating the land that enhance ecological functions while improving access and enjoyment for people*



### Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Limited low-impact improvements to trails
- New creek crossings
- Improved accessibility
- Stream bank, creek, wetland and upland restoration
- Habitat structures
- Nature interpretation
- Limited wayfinding



### Upland Areas

- Trail improvements
- Trail consolidation and restoration
- Interpretation and wayfinding
- Habitat structures
- Forest restoration

## Socially-Related Improvements

*Improvements primarily focused on creating a welcoming place for community gathering*



- Trail improvements
- Trail consolidation and restoration
- Interpretation and wayfinding
- Open-air lodge structure
- Rest room building
- Unobtrusive play structure?
- Enhanced park entry and landscape planting
- Improved parking

## Culturally-Related Improvements

*Improvements related to understanding and experiencing the property's history*



- Trail improvements
- Trail consolidation and restoration
- Wayfinding
- Moulton Homestead Interpretation
- Community orchard and/or pea patch
- Removal of existing degraded paving
- Natural play area
- Kiosk / tool shed
- Alternative use: off leash dog area (limited size)

# Proposed Park Design Program

Attachment A

The logo for Edith Moulton Park planning & design features a photograph of autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow. Below the photo, the text "Edith Moulton Park" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, and "planning & design" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The entire logo is set against a dark purple background.

Edith Moulton Park  
planning & design

1. Focus on serving both the surrounding neighborhood and the residents of Kirkland.
2. Preserve and manage the forested areas to be enjoyed as natural areas in perpetuity.
3. Restore disturbed natural areas where appropriate and plan for natural succession.
4. Provide for wetland and stream habitat enhancements.
5. Maintain a balance between developed and natural areas for active and passive park use. Consider a children's play structure.
6. Make the park sustainable by balancing long-term resource requirements with community benefits.

# Proposed Park Design Program

Attachment A



Edith Moulton Park  
planning & design

7. Connect visitors to the life of an early pioneer family. Consider a community orchard and pea patch.
8. Enhance the great lawn area for community events and gatherings. Consider an open-air lodge for gatherings with restroom facilities and adequate parking.
9. Find a way for dogs and their owners to enjoy the park without negatively affecting other users or wildlife and stream habitat. Consider an off-leash dog area.
10. Improve trail accessibility for all users where feasible. Provide new trail connections where appropriate and remove duplicate trails.
11. Provide for environmental education opportunities.



**Edith Moulton Park**  
Public Meeting Summary  
January 2014





**At the Edith Moulton Park Public Meeting, a questionnaire and comment card was given to attendees, asking a variety of questions about the future of the park. Below is a compilation and summary of the feedback we recieved from the meeting participants.**

## 1

### What are your favorite features in Edith Moulton Park?

- The best parts of the park are the big lawn and the wilderness feel to the trails and streams. *(K. Foster)*
- Trees, creek, and trails.
- I like the geo-caching, the variety of species, and the calmness. *(K. Hoard)*
- Location and size.
- That it has open space that is perfect for an off-leash dog area.
- Trails and water access – and that we have a park of this size in Kirkland! *(T. Doering)*
- Parks along the creek and in the woods; rain cover in inclement weather; garbage receptacles
- Open space and nice trails. *(S. Radcliffe)*
- Well-maintained trails. More than one entrance.
- Trails – stream – open space – water
- Lots of trees and vegetation with color.
- Sun on the Great Lawn and hiking trails.

## 2

### What are your ideas for the future design of the park?

- Improve the community shelter. Increase trash receptacles. Improve and maintain natural trail areas. Please don't over-develop with play structures and an official dog park. Edith's vision was a wilderness for the children to enjoy. *(K. Foster)*
- Create community space, a larger shelter. Create an off-leash area (Kirkland needs more. Jaspers is good, but not all dogs enjoy the bareness of it.)
- You should put in a cabin in the woods, and use it as a study center. Schools could field trip to the park and go to the cabin to study something. *(K. Hoard)*
- An off-leash dog park would be wonderful!
- (I wish) that the park would permit an off-leash area for dogs to play.
- Really, really want to see a portion allocated for off-leash dog recreation. We need off-leash areas that residents can walk to in their own neighborhoods. Given the large size of the park, and the levy funding, it would be a huge disappointment if this didn't come to fruition. *(T. Doering)*
- Needs to be more user-friendly and attractive (too overgrown, swampy, and doesn't feel safe). Would like to see well-delineated, safe pathways for walking, picnic area, something for kids to do. People need to keep dogs on leashes and be respectful of other people and people with dogs. Though, a dog controlled area would be okay.
- Can we have more clean up of fallen logs and branches in the pack of the park – especially blockages in the creek.
- Just have wooded trails around. *(S. Radcliffe)*





- Please put in an off-leash dog park.
- Keep it natural – expand trail system, and build a bridge over the stream.
- Lots of trees and vegetation with color.
- Sun on the Great Lawn and hiking trails.

### 3 Do you have any information about the natural resources or history of Edith Moulton Park that would be helpful to us?

- I have been here for 25 years. I found the efforts 5 years ago to identify tree species and old growth fir interesting. It did not turn out well due to vandalism, but I would hope for a small movement in that direction.
- Question if there are fish in the creek. If not, why? There used to be deer in park, but not lately. No food?

### 4 Do you have any additional comments or concerns?

- If there isn't already, create a committee. Include kids. Explore the whole park, and be in charge of everything from cleaning litter to making presentations. *(K. Hoard)*
- Please remember as you make your plans that I am a tax payer without children but I have two dogs. Hoping that you give those of us tax-paying dog owners a voice! We as fellow tax payers and supporters of parks and schools that do not have two-legged children really wish that we might see a dog area set aside for the park.
- Need to find best solutions for how to make the park inviting and friendly to neighborhood, and welcoming to kids and families.
- We need more fenced in off-leash dog parks in Kirkland. People like us who live in condo apartments need open spaces for our furry ones. Please arrange poopy bag holders and waste bins at accessible entry or exit places to encourage owners to pick up poop. Or install signs that encourage owners to pick up all poop. Get waste collection services weekly with the city. Get a water tap source available. *(S. Radcliffe)*
- Dog waste bags. Fenced area for dogs. Water for dogs.
- I don't want to see an official dog park there. I think the environment is too sensitive. Old chain-link fence that shows up along the trails needs to be removed as well as all the blackberries.
- It is important to me and many neighbors of the park to preserve the "nature" in the park. There are very few natural areas in the city for people to experience the beauty of nature. I am *not* looking for playgrounds, biking trails, soccer fields etc. I *do* value the trails that are there now. I would like them preserved and for the forest to stay a healthy, strong and safe place. I would like to see the ivy removed from the trees. It is not a native species and has killed many of the deciduous trees on the northeast corner of the park. I love the open areas where ferns, Oregon grapes and salmon berries grow. I would also love to see an effort to get rid of the blackberries that are taking over. *If* the city decides preserving the stream is of value, a footbridge would do more to keep humans and dogs out of the water than any other single improvement. *(K. Retzlaff)*





board one

Edith Moulton Park neighborhood context

STATION 1 BOARD 1

PARK ENTRY ALONG 108<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NE

PARK DRIVEWAY ON 108<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NE

SIDEWALK ALONG PARK AT 108<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE NE

board two

Edith Moulton Park existing conditions

STATION 1 BOARD 2

**Existing Habitat Types**

- Conifer Forest
- Conifer-Deciduous Mixed Forest
- Deciduous Forest
- Riparian Forest
- Juanita Creek
- - - Major Trails

**Existing Features**

- 1 Great Lawn
- 2 Significant Cottonwood Tree
- 3 Degraded Asphalt Driveway
- 4 Degraded Asphalt Parking Area
- 5 Asphalt Paved Loop Trail
- 6 Rockery Retaining Walls
- 7 Entry Gateway with Sign and Interpretive Pan-
- 8 Small Picnic Shelter
- 9 Fruit/Nut Trees From Original Homestead
- 10 Original Moulton Homestead Site
- 11 Extensive Area of Himalayan Blackberries
- 12 Stream Bank Impacts from Foot Traffic
- 13 Informal Access Points
- 14 Gravel Parking Strip





board three

Edith Moulton Park **site photos** STATION 1 BOARD 3

**natural areas**



JUANITA CREEK CROSSING



JUANITA CREEK CROSSING DURING STORM



SITE-BUILT LOG BRIDGE



JUANITA CREEK

**great lawn area**



PARK ENTRY AND GREAT LAWN



GREAT LAWN LOOKING NORTH



OLD PICNIC SHELTER



PAVED LOOPTRAIL AROUND GREAT LAWN

**parking & driveway**



REMNANT ORCHARD NEAR THE MOULTON HOMESTEAD



OLD KING COUNTY-BUILT PARKING LOT



OLD KING COUNTY-BUILT DRIVEWAY



OLD KING COUNTY DRIVEWAY

board four

Edith Moulton Park **sensitive areas** STATION 1 BOARD 4



JUANITA CREEK

**Legend**

- Stream
- Stream Buffer
- Wetland
- Wetland Buffer
- Trail

**Sensitive Areas**

Parcel No.	Area (Sq. Ft.)	% of Site
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<b>Total Sq. Ft.</b>	<b>1,163,920</b>	<b>46%</b>
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Note: Parcel Areas are based on King County Assessor Data





board five

Edith Moulton Park  project goals  STATION 2  
BOARD 5

**NATURAL AREAS**  
**Project Theme: Honor Edith Moulton's Legacy by Conserving "Wilderness for Children to Enjoy"**

Overall Goals:

- Preserve and Manage the Park's Natural Areas
- Achieve A Sustainable Balance Between Community Investment and Community Benefit
- Restore Degraded Habitat
- Facilitate Stream and Forest Ecology Study by Local Schools
- Make Sure Dogs and Their Owners Can Enjoy The Park Without Affecting Habitats or Other Visitors' Experiences

Place Your Suggestions Here

board six

Edith Moulton Park  project goals  STATION 2  
BOARD 6

**DEVELOPED AREAS**  
**Project Theme: Honor Edith Moulton's Legacy by Conserving "Wilderness for Children to Enjoy"**

Overall Goals:

- Serve the Surrounding Neighborhood and Residents of Kirkland
- Connect Visitors with the Life of an Early Kirkland Family
- Make the Park A Safer Place to Visit
- Enhance the Great Lawn As A Community Gathering Space
- Improve Trail Accessibility for All Users

Place Your Suggestions Here





board seven

Edith Moulton Park

## site suitability

STATION 3  
BOARD 7

**Nature-Related Improvements**  
*Improvements in harmony with Edith Moulton's purpose for donating the land that enhances ecological functions while improving access and enjoyment for people.*

**Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

- Limited low-impact improvements to trails
- New Creek Crossings
- Improved Accessibility
- Stream Bank, Creek, Wetland & Upland Restoration
- Habitat Structures
- Nature Interpretation
- Limited Wayfinding

**Upland Areas**

- Trail Improvements
- Trail Consolidation & Restoration
- Interpretation and Wayfinding
- Habitat Structures
- Forest Restoration

**Socially-Related Improvements**  
*Improvements primarily focused on creating a welcoming place for community gathering.*

- Trail Improvements
- Trail Consolidation & Restoration
- Interpretation & Wayfinding
- Open-Air Lodge Structure
- Restroom Building
- Unobtrusive Play Structure
- Enhanced Park Entry & Landscape Planting
- Improved Parking

**Culturally-Related Improvements**  
*Improvements related to understanding and experiencing the property's history.*

- Trail Improvements
- Trail Consolidation & Restoration
- Wayfinding
- Moulton Homestead Interpretation
- Community orchard and/or pea patch
- Removal of existing degraded paving
- Natural Play Area
- Kiosk / Tool Shed
- Alternative Use: Off-Leash Dog Area (limited size)

board eight

Edith Moulton Park

## project goals

STATION 3  
BOARD 8

### POTENTIAL PARK IMPROVEMENT IDEAS

Place Your Suggestions Here

- Open-Air Lodge Structure for Gatherings and Events
- Small Off-Leash Area
- Safer and More Efficient Parking Along 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE
- Restrooms
- Play Structure
- Park Boundary Fencing





board nine



### POTENTIAL PARK IMPROVEMENT IDEAS:

- Improve Existing Trails, Provide New Trail Connections, Remove Duplicate Trails, and Improve Trail Accessibility
- Restore Degraded Natural Areas (Invasive Plant Removal and Re-Planting)
- Stabilize Stream Banks
- Community Orchard and Pea Patch
- Early Kirkland Settlement Interpretation

Place Your  
Suggestions  
Here

board ten



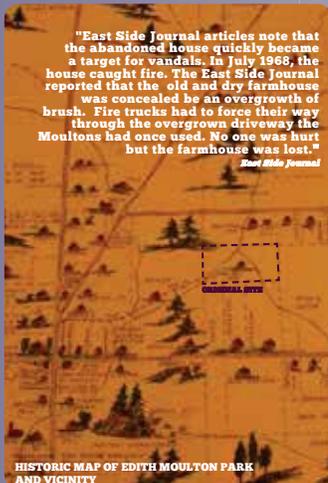
EDITH MOULTON - 1917



MOULTON FARMHOUSE - 1950

### What Are Your Ideas For Connecting Park Visitors to the History of the Property?

Place Your  
Suggestions  
Here



HISTORIC MAP OF EDITH MOULTON PARK  
AND VICINITY



MOULTON FARMHOUSE - 1937

"East Side Journal articles note that the abandoned house quickly became a target for vandals. In July 1968, the house caught fire. The East Side Journal reported that the old and dry farmhouse was concealed by an overgrowth of brush. Fire trucks had to force their way through the overgrown driveway the Moultons had once used. No one was hurt but the farmhouse was lost."  
*East Side Journal*

"Edith Moulton Park is a unique cultural asset, the site of an early twentieth century working farm. Although structures such as the Moulton Farmhouse, Sprague cabin, and for pens are no longer extant, the property still provides excellent opportunities for interpretation."  
*Historical Research Associates, January 2011*





The public meeting featured ten presentation boards providing information about existing conditions at Edith Moulton Park, and asked for suggestions regarding the future design of the park. Attendees were asked to place **GREEN** dot stickers by ideas that felt desirable, and **RED** dot stickers by ideas that were not ideal for the park's future. Attendees were also asked to provide suggestions and commentary pertaining to the presented ideas.

## Natural Areas

Project Theme: Honor Edith Moulton's Legacy by Conserving "Wilderness for Children to Enjoy"

### 1 Preserve and Manage the Park's Natural Areas



### 2 Achieve A Sustainable Balance Between Community Investment and Community Benefit

Commentary:

1. Let's keep Edith Moulton Park a local access park without much parking.
2. More picnic tables

### 3 Restore Degraded Habitat



### 4 Facilitate Stream and Forest Ecology Study by Local Schools



Commentary:

1. Yes! Get schools involved! It would be a great Eagle Scout project for Boy Scouts too!
2. Educate Helen Keller Elementary, Thoreau Elementary, Kamiakin High, Juanita Elementary, Juanita High School, Finn Hill Middle School, and Sandburg Elementary School.

### 5 Make Sure Dogs and Their Owners Can Enjoy The Park Without Affecting Habitats of Other Visitors' Experiences



## Developed Areas

Project Theme: Honor Edith Moulton's Legacy by Conserving "Wilderness for Children to Enjoy"

### 1 Serve the Surrounding Neighborhood and Residents of Kirkland

Commentary:

1. Schedule park for events (i.e. laser tag)
2. Create entrances onto 113<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and onto Greenbrae
3. Keep park nicely "local" - not a massive destination park
4. Coordinate with Lake Washington School District/Keller Elementary as much as possible. Combine resources! Bridges, playground, access, and whatever great ideas come along!

### 2 Connect Visitors with the Life of an Early Kirkland Family

Commentary:

1. More history about Edith Moulton. Put in a site marker for the home-site.
2. Location marker for the house. What did they grow? When was the house built? More details about Edith Moulton and family.

### 3 Make the Park a Safer Place to Visit



Commentary:

1. Me and my family don't use this park because of all the off-leash dogs. Complaints have been filed. Off-leash dogs are the number one contributor of 1/2 million dog bites in the United States annually.





### 3 Enhance the Great Lawn as a Community Gathering Space



**Commentary:**

1. A community bulletin board would be nice for happenings, lost and found, information, etc.
2. We could use a couple more portable picnic tables this spring.
3. We need a bigger shelter with more picnic tables and some walls. The current shelter is so narrow that the rain blows in the sides.

### 4 Improve Trail Accessibility for All Users



**Commentary:**

1. Hikers only. No bikes, no horses, no ATVs.
2. No bikes, ATVs, or horses. Accessibility for all abilities.
3. Agreed! Everybody should experience nature! But do not allow horses, bikes, and other things besides your legs. You should put in a boardwalk.
4. Establish more trails - clear all trails so they are easily accessible and self policed.
5. Would be nice if trails were more like mountain trails and perhaps have distance markers so you know how far you have walked.

## Potential Park Improvements

### 1 Open-Air Lodge for Gatherings and Events



**Commentary:**

1. Covered all-weather structure that would deter graffiti.
2. BBQ areas and more picnic tables.
3. Lighting near the shelters to discourage illegal activity.
4. Well-lit areas for safety and video cameras.

### 2 Small Off-Leash Area



**Commentary:**

1. With 26 acres, why does this have to be "small?" Please give dog owners and their dogs a fair allocation of space. Dogs and dog owners are recreation users too, and we need to do better in allocating for mixed uses.
2. Set aside times that park could be used for off-leash area.
3. Edith Moulton should not become an official dog park. Maybe designate times for the great lawn to be off-leash.
4. Fencing for off-leash area.
5. Please install signs that encourage dog owners to pick up poop.

### 3 Safer and More Efficient Parking Along 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE



**Commentary:**

1. Low-level lighting desired along 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

### 4 Restrooms



**Commentary:**

1. Please no restrooms. It would attract vandalism and drugs (and use all the money).
2. Kids need restrooms! I work at Keller Elementary and would love to bring my students over more. We could do more outdoor education if there were restrooms.
3. Consider having year-round porta-potties that are handicap capable versus permanent restrooms (that would be shut off during winter since pipes freeze and would be much less expensive).
4. Restrooms to accommodate outdoor education.
5. Don't need a large bathroom! Too expensive! A clean, deluxe porta-potty is fine.





