



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Jennifer Schroder, Director of Parks and Community Services
Sharon Rodman, Green Kirkland Partnership Supervisor

Date: November 6, 2015

Subject: 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan Adoption

Recommendation

It is recommended that City Council approves the Resolution that adopts the City's 2015 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan.

Background

Need for Updated 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan

In 2013, the King Conservation District approved a grant application from the City's Green Kirkland Partnership (GKP) Division for \$50,000 to produce an updated 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan. This is an update to the forest restoration plan that had been previously approved by City Council Resolution in February 2008. The previous Plan needed to be updated to include new neighborhoods that were annexed in 2011, and the updated Plan includes a reassessment of areas currently enrolled in restoration.

In 2014, GKP contracted with Forterra to develop the updated Plan over a two year period. GKP intends to use the updated Plan as a tool, resource, and roadmap to guide the Partnership in the restoration, maintenance, and stewardship of 487 acres of Kirkland's valuable forest and natural area parkland. It will be used to prioritize restoration projects within available resources and to seek out additional resources.

After receiving and including public comment during the first quarter of 2015, through an online survey and hosting an Open House on March 24th, the draft Plan was presented for review to the Park Board on June 10th, and to the City Council on August 3rd. Park Board and City Council review comments have been completed and included.

In response to Council comments and to finalize the document, the following changes were made to the draft 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan:

1. Can the Plan build in language for desirable survival rates for native plants planted, for tracking restoration success?
 - Added: "Monitoring may be as simple as neighborhood volunteers patrolling park trails to find invasive species, or it could involve regular measuring and documentation of various site characteristics and plant survivorship rates"

- Added: "One component of monitoring is to track plant survival rates. Plant survivorship thresholds are outlined in park level stewardship plans and may vary depending on site conditions or habitat type."
2. Include a sentence on ethnobotanical use of native plants, such as edible plants.
 - Added: "These experiences also help people learn more about the environment and local natural history, and further their connection to, understanding of, and appreciation for forests and natural areas. Natural areas serve as a living classroom where adults and children can participate in educational and cultural experiences, such as learning about the ethnobotanical uses of native plants, including edible plants. "
 3. Remove "logged" for volunteer hours and replace with a word that doesn't have tree logging connotations.
 - Logged replaced with recorded.
 4. Include more about funding upfront.
 - Added to Executive Summary: "The plan outlines a strategy of gradually increasing the budget over time. Funding will come from a variety of sources, primarily through the 2012 Parks Levy. Additional funding sources will include grants, foundations, and partnerships with other government and non-profit organizations to leverage resources."
 5. Does the Plan include anything about nuisance wildlife?
 - Not within the scope of the document
 6. Can the Plan include more about what to do about illegal activity, and the safety of Stewards and volunteers?
 - Added: "The city has policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety of park visitors and volunteers."
 7. Emphasize that typically each Steward works specifically in a particular park and has detailed knowledge of that park and its geographic location.
 - Added: "Stewards become resident experts on the park where they lead restoration."

The 2015 [20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan](#) is available on the City website.

NOTE: This Plan document is provided in Adobe Acrobat PDF  format. It is recommended you [download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)  (a free program) to view the Plan. For more information or if you are having issues with the PDF files [visit our PDF format help page](#).

The final draft Plan was received by the Park Board on October 14th and the Park Board unanimously recommended that the City Council adopt the Plan.

Next Steps:

Following adoption, implementation of the 20-Year Plan will take place through the work of Green Kirkland Partnership staff, partners, and volunteers. Staff will report annually to Council on implementation progress. GKP will create annual plans, five-year implementation plans, and conduct a 10-year evaluation and update of the strategic plan and benchmarks. The mid-plan status report will be shared with partners and stakeholders.

RESOLUTION R-5168

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND
ADOPTING THE 20-YEAR FOREST AND NATURAL AREAS RESTORATION
PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, healthy sustainable forests and natural areas provide
2 a natural way to filter stormwater runoff, remove carbon from the air,
3 and provide important recreation opportunities for City residents to
4 connect with nature; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution 4689 on February
7 19, 2008, adopting the City's 20-Year Forest Restoration Plan for 372
8 acres of forested natural parkland; and

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10 WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland in 2011 annexed the Finn Hill,
11 Kingsgate and North Juanita Neighborhoods; and

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13 WHEREAS, the annexation resulted in a City-wide increase of 115
14 acres of forested and other natural parks and open space which include
15 areas in decline from invasion by non-native plant species; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Community Services
18 updated the City's 2008 20-Year Forest Restoration Plan to the 20-Year
19 Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan incorporating the new
20 neighborhoods and guiding restoration of the City's forested and other
21 natural areas; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the Park Board reviewed the City's 20-Year Forest and
24 Natural Areas Restoration Plan on October 14, 2015; and

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26 WHEREAS, in public meeting, the City Council considered the
27 written report and recommendation of the Park Board.

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29 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City
30 of Kirkland hereby approves the City's 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas
31 Restoration Plan.

32
33 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
34 meeting this 17th day of November, 2015.

Signed in authentication thereof this 17th day of November, 2015.

MAYOR

Attest:

City Clerk