



KIRKLAND PARK BOARD

Date: January 9, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Council Chamber, City Hall

The mission of the Park Board shall be to provide policy advice and assistance to the Department of Parks and Community Services and City Council in order to ensure the effective provision of Parks and Community Services programs and facilities to the residents of the City of Kirkland.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** *5 minutes*
December Park Board Meeting Minutes
4. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE** *5 minutes*
5. **REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS** *5 minutes*
Update on Kirkland Dog Off-leash Group (K-DOG)
6. **PRESENTATION**
No Items
7. **COMMUNICATIONS** *20 minutes*
 - a. Correspondence
 - b. Staff Reports
- December Update
 - c. Committee Reports
 - d. Comments from the Chair
8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
No Items
9. **NEW BUSINESS** *45 minutes*
 - a. 20-Year Reforestation Plan
Topic: Final report for development of 20-Year Reforestation Plan
Action: Review and recommend approval to City Council
10. **MEETING EVALUATION** *5 minutes*
11. **ADJOURNMENT**
Next meeting: February 13, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers

Estimated Meeting Completion: 8:25 p.m.

PARK BOARD MINUTES – December 12, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The December 12, 2007 Park Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Robert Kamuda.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Chair Robert Kamuda, Vice Chair Colleen Cullen, Kevin Hanefeld and Stephanie Johnson.

Sue Keller and Jeff Trager arrived at 7:12 p.m. and a quorum was established at that time.

Chuck Bartlett and Cindy Zech were excused.

Staff present: Michael Cogle and Jennifer Schroder.

3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No items.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Jeremy McMahan, Planning and Community Development Department, presented the updated Downtown Strategic Plan as developed by the Downtown Advisory Committee.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kamuda noted two corrections to the November 14th minutes. Mr. Hanefeld motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Johnson seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Correspondence

Ms. Schroder shared Ms. Zech's email and noted that her proxy for the election of the positions of Chair and Vice Chair could not be accepted.

b. Staff Reports

Ms. Schroder reported on the November 10th Arbor Day event and received feedback related to the dock masters, wireless access within Marina Park, increased number of recreation classes as reported in the Kirkland Performance Measures booklet and library parking

Mr. Cogle reported on the Touchstone redevelopment of Park Place and announced that a request for an updated presentation has been made on behalf of the Park Board.

c. Committee Reports

Mr. Trager reported on the Highlands Neighborhood Association meeting and shared feedback received regarding the Woodlands Park boardwalk, brush clearing and parking signage at both 124th Avenue and Forbes Lake.

Mr. Kamuda reported on neighborhood work parties at Cedar View Park.

d. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Kamuda requested an update on the next steps related to the Kirkland Dog Off-leash Group (KDOG) that attended the November meeting.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. McAuliffe Park Master Plan Revision Process

Mr. Cogle discussed the McAuliffe Park master plan and its need to be updated due to the loss of the gray barn. The Board provided staff with feedback as to how the revision should proceed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Juanita Bay Park Proposed Name Change

Mr. Cogle presented the staff recommendation of the proposed name change of Juanita Bay Park to Juanita Bay Wildlife Refuge. Tim McGruder and Brian Bell, East Lake Washington Audubon Society, were in attendance. The Board is in favor of seeking public comment related to the name change in early 2008.

b. Elections

Ms. Keller nominated Ms. Cullen, who accepted and Mr. Trager seconded. Motion carried (5-0, Ms. Cullen abstained).

Mr. Kamuda nominated Mr. Bartlett. Ms. Cullen seconded. Mr. Bartlett was elected, in absentia (6-0).

9. MEETING EVALUATION

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Trager motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hanefeld seconded. Motion carried (6-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Jennifer Schroder, Director
Parks and Community Services

Robert Kamuda, Chair
Park Board



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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To: Park Board

From: Jennifer Schroder, Director

Date: January 4, 2008

Subject: January Update

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Community Services

- We have been completing updates on the Forbes House, in accordance with the King County Historical Society and Kirkland Heritage Society. We are in discussion with Youth Eastside Services about timing of occupancy, possible contract terms for them to move in and operate as was previously discussed.
- We have been in continued discussions with Evergreen Hospital about a possible partnership in the Indoor Recreation project.
- We will be adding a new position to our department. The Special Events Coordinator position is being moved over from the City Manager's Office. We will be hiring a 1.0 FTE Special Projects Coordinator soon. This person will be charged with permitting and coordinating city-wide special events.
- We are starting to load all of our facilities into our Class software, so we will eventually be able to view availability online through Myparksandrecreation.com
- Carrie Hite will be chair of the Eastside Human Services Forum for the next two years. Cheryl Harmon will provide administrative support to this project.

Business Services

- Once again, the Wilde Rover Irish Pub and Restaurant sponsored the Kirkland Polar Bear Plunge. With their support we were able to provide pre-plunge muffins and cocoa and a polar bear patch to all who dared to enter the chilly water. After the event, a hefty bowl of soup was available free to all who came in with their patch. I spoke with the owners after the event, they're comments were "more then expected showed up for soup, but the more the merrier, this is a good community event." With the change in duties of events in parks, Business Services will strive to tie all events in with the business community.
- RFP's for Aquatic Recreational Experiences and for Concessions in Parks are now open to anyone interested in doing business on the lake through kayaking, canoeing and/or food and beverage sales within our park system.

Recreation

- Registration for winter 2008 is well underway with 1,113 enrollments as of January 2nd.
- The Recreation Division is in the recruitment process for a General Recreation Coordinator, which will close January 15th. This position is based at North Kirkland Community Center and will replace Tony Trofimczuk as he has chosen to resign from City employment. Tony will remain with the City through March and Youth Basketball season pending employment opportunities that become available to him.

Sports and Aquatics

- Youth basketball officials training was held January 2nd at Kirkland Jr. High. 13 staff were in attendance.
- Adult volleyball, dodge ball, and basketball league registrations are trickling in for winter quarter. Leagues will be starting up over the next few weeks.

- The new winter Sunday leagues for volleyball and basketball may not run due to low enrollment. Offering leagues on Sunday was an attempt to regain some of the adult league time we lost at Kamiakin Jr. High and to see if there is interest in the community for this type of offering.
- The fifth annual Kirkland Polar Bear Plunge took place at on January 1st at Marina Park. This year's event was much larger than last year with 500 in attendance, and at least 180 who took the plunge. The event was a huge success, and made the front page of The Seattle Times.
- The seasonal aquatics staff gathered at Heritage Hall on December 16th to socialize and discuss summer 2008. Approximately 30 staff attended.

North Kirkland Community Center

- We have sold 100 passes for the new fitness program called "Move It! For your body, for your health, for yourself." Classes start January 7th.
- \$11,000 has been committed, so far, by local businesses for the Summer Concert and Movie Series. Evergreen Health Care will be a grand sponsor for fourth consecutive year.

Peter Kirk Community Center

- Senior Council is planning their annual retreat for January 27th where they will identify their 2008 work plan.
- Six new members were appointed to the Senior Council and will begin work in January. They are: Yanin Gaytan, Joan Luster, Bob McCrory, Penny Kahn, Dan Montgomery and Sheryl Henry.
- The PKCC Program Advisory Board will meet on January 7th to identify their 2008 work plan.
- Two new members were appointed to the PKCC Advisory Board. They are: Sheila Thomson, Nita Meringer.

Youth Services

- December 1st the Youth Council held the second, and their favorite, service project of the school year. They hosted the annual Holly Day Brunch for the seniors at the Peter Kirk Community Center. Over 40 senior citizens attended in inclement weather! KYC members decorated PKCC, prepared and served food, spent time chatting with the seniors, provided piano, singing and dancing entertainment. A great time was had by all.

Human Services

- On December 6th, the Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) held their annual fall meeting at Mercerview Community Center. The meeting was a celebration of the Forum's 5th anniversary. Accomplishments were shared, input was given on the work plan for 2008, and visioning for human services for the next five years occurred. The Work Group for the Forum will build visioning ideas into a strategic plan.
- The annual One Night Homeless Count on the Eastside will happen January 25th. A team from Kirkland will cover downtown Kirkland and the Totem Lake Area.

PARK MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Athletic Fields

- The annual Athletic Field Use Allocations meeting is scheduled for January 15th at 6pm at the Maintenance Center. All leagues who have submitted applications are invited to attend.

Donations

- A bench was donated by Amy Ohta and family in memory of their father, John Hesson Genger. The bench is near the large play structure at Carillon Woods.
- James Drewelow, family and friends donated a park bench in memory of Dr. Kenneth Drewelow. The bench is at David Brink Park on the viewing platform next to the Lake Washington Boulevard sidewalk.

Notes from the Field

- Spinney Homestead is receiving a new playground this month. Through the neighborhood meeting last fall we received good feedback from the community on what they were looking for. The playground arrived in December and we are now in the process of installation.



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board

From: Jennifer Schroder, CPRP, Director, Parks and Community Services
Sharon Rodman, Environmental Education and Outreach Specialist

Date: January 3, 2008

Subject: 20-year Forest Restoration Plan Final Draft and Green Kirkland Partnership update

The purpose of this memorandum is to present to the Park Board the 20-year Forest Restoration Plan Final Draft for your approval and to provide a status report on the Green Kirkland Partnership. This partnership is between the City of Kirkland, the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) and the community, created to restore and sustain Kirkland's natural areas. There are currently 372 acres of publicly owned natural areas within the City of Kirkland. The Green Kirkland Partnership's mission is to conserve and sustain natural areas for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Invasive plants such as English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, and English holly are threatening the sustainability of this important natural resource. A healthy urban forest cleans the air, moderates temperatures, enhances aesthetics, can stabilize hazardous slopes, and absorbs surface water runoff, thus reducing erosion and flooding.

The goal of the Green Kirkland Partnership is to restore the 372 acres of natural areas to a sustainable condition and create an aware and energized community in which individuals, neighborhoods, nonprofit organizations, businesses and City government are working together to protect and maintain Kirkland's natural areas.

There are two main goals that summarize the program:

- Restore Kirkland's natural areas by removal of invasive plants and planting native species for the sustainability of the urban forests, wetlands and their associated habitats.
- Build the community's capacity for long-term stewardship of the natural areas through increased public awareness of and engagement in protecting, restoring and helping to maintain healthy urban forests and wetlands.

To achieve these goals, the Green Kirkland Partnership program includes the following strategies: 1) develop and implement a 20-year restoration plan for the City's open space and natural areas; 2) implement an Environmental Education and Outreach program to educate and engage the community in stewardship projects to remove invasive plants and to replant with native species, seek support from businesses in both funding and stewardship, and seek grants to support stewardship activities; 3) create a sustainable volunteer stewardship program for ongoing restoration and care of our urban forests; and 4) acquire land that has ecological and habitat benefits. The following is a status report on each strategy:

20-year restoration plan: The 20-year strategic plan to restore Kirkland's natural areas outlines the steps and resources necessary to create a sustainable restoration program of Kirkland's publicly owned natural areas, focusing on the forested areas.

The forested areas prove easier in the near term to address with volunteer and staff resources. As the program develops, additional natural areas such as wetlands and shorelines will be addressed. In the meantime, these other natural areas will be part of other City of Kirkland programs such as the Shoreline Master Program, Capital Improvement projects, Surface Water Management projects, critical area regulations, and Vegetation Management Plans including the Juanita Bay Park Vegetation Management Plan.

To date, members of the Green Team, the City's inter-departmental service team on environmental sustainability, have been involved in the review of the draft plan and have provided valuable input.

A final draft of the plan is attached for your review and staff recommends approval to the City Council.

Green Kirkland Partnership update

Environmental Education and Outreach: In the 2007/2008 Biennium Budget, Council funded a 0.5 FTE Environmental Education and Outreach Specialist (Outreach Specialist) position for 12 months. This Outreach Specialist's primary role is to develop and implement long-term environmental stewardship and education strategies to support the Green Kirkland Program. This position began April 16th, 2007.

The Outreach Specialist position is adding value to implementing the Green Kirkland Program, and the Outreach Specialist is working well with both the public and with City Parks, Public Works, and Planning staff involved with the restoration of natural areas.

A total of 54 Green Kirkland events have been held 2005-2007. Increasing number of events means more coordination, more volunteer management, more community involvement, and increased areas of restoration. The growth of the Green Kirkland Program is shown by the increasing number of events by year:

- 7 Green Kirkland events were held in 2005
- 11 Green Kirkland events were held in 2006
- 36 Green Kirkland events were held in 2007

The following descriptions show the events and accomplishments for 2007.

1. 2007 Stewardship/Forest Restoration Volunteer Work Parties

Kiwanis Park. Five Green Kirkland Partnership volunteer events were held at Kiwanis Park (Earth Day April 21, and the last Saturday in June, July, August, and October).

Watershed Park. Ten Green Kirkland Partnership events were held at Watershed Park (2nd Saturday April through November, Northwest University event August 25, and Microsoft Day of Caring September 21).

Other Parks. A total of 21 Green Kirkland events were held to restore natural areas at the following Kirkland parks: Carillon Woods, Everest Park, Heritage Park, Juanita Bay Park, McAuliffe Park, North Rose Hill Woodlands Park, and South Rose Hill Park.

2007 Volunteer Achievements

Over 900 volunteers contributed:

- More than 3,000 hours to restore natural areas in Kirkland parks.
- Removed 47,300 square feet (about equal to one acre) of invasive plants.
- Planted more than 700 native plants.

- Provided a value of almost \$ 60,000 in labor costs (Volunteer dollar equivalent: In 2006 and 2007, \$18.77 per hour: http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html.)

From 2005 through 2007, the total number of Green Kirkland volunteer hours is 4,886, which translates to a labor value of almost \$91,000.

Please see **Table 1** at the end of this reading file for more details on summarized volunteer data.

Peter Kirk Elementary School

In addition to working in natural areas in Kirkland parks, assistance is being provided to Peter Kirk Elementary School to restore 3 acres of upland forest at the school. This assistance includes providing guidance and expertise, demonstrations of forest restoration activities, help with plant acquisition, and the lending of tools.

Sustainable Practices

To set a good public example, sustainable environmental practices have been developed by the Parks Senior Grounds/Urban Forester for use at volunteer events. These practices include:

- Supplying drinking water in large containers instead of individual bottles.
- Providing recycle bins to reduce waste.
- Transporting vegetation debris for conversion to compost.
- Avoiding the use of power tools to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- Purchasing native plants from local nurseries to provide local genetic stock and to reduce miles traveled.
- Using small, city-owned electric vehicles to remove debris piles.
- Providing free wood chips from local tree companies for mulch.
- Returning empty plant pots to nurseries instead of sending them to the landfill.

2. Education and Outreach

Education is a key component in affecting change. Education is provided in person and through written educational materials distributed at volunteer events to describe restoration activities in natural areas. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation is available to increase awareness and understanding of the adverse effects that invasive plants, such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry, have on the urban forest. The presentation was developed jointly by City staff and CLC to explain the benefits of healthy forests, the consequences of invasive plants if no action is taken to eradicate these plants from our open spaces and natural areas, and what citizens can do to restore natural areas.

Outreach Presentations

From April through November 2007, Green Kirkland Partnership presentations have been made by the Outreach Specialist to:

- East Lake Audubon Society (ELWAS), June 28th.
- Kirkland Sunrise Kiwanis Club, June 21st.
- Kirkland Council Green Tip presentation "Ivy Out-What In", September 4th.
- B.E.S.T. High School, September 17th.
- Society of Ecological Restoration Northwest Chapter, September 26th.
- Carillon Woods Park dedication speech, October 6th.
- South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails Neighborhood Association, November 13th.
- Highlands Neighborhood Association, November 15th.
- Houghton Community Council "Invasive Species Management", November 26th.
- Juanita Bay Rangers, November 28th.

A Green Kirkland Partnership display booth was set up and staffed at:

- Sustainable September Expo, Lake Washington Technical College, September 15th.
- Carillon Woods Park dedication, October 6th.

From April through November 2007, Green Kirkland Partnership presentations have been made by CLC's Green Cities Manager to:

- Kirkland Maintenance Center, August 15th.
- Kirkland Park Board, October 10th.

Peter Kirk Elementary School

From April through November 2007, educational assistance has been provided by the Outreach Specialist by:

- Site visit for guidance on forest restoration, May 23rd.
- Assistance with removal of invasive plants, June 10th.
- Assistance with native plant planting. November 8th.

Eastside Preparatory School (EPS)

EPS has added Watershed Park to its environmental education program. The outdoor classroom will be the gravel borrow pit in the southern portion of the Park. Educators and students will learn and participate in the removal of invasive plants, amend the soils to support the planting of native trees and plants as well as monitor the success of the restoration. Additional partners to assist EPS include the University of Washington, CLC, King County Natural Resources and local compost producers.

3. Advertising/Publicity and Marketing

The City's Communication Manager has helped to identify suitable advertising opportunities for the Green Kirkland Program. Events have been advertised in the following places:

- City of Kirkland Park's Green Kirkland Partnership webpage:
http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/parks/Green_Kirkland_Partnership.htm.
- CLC: www.greenkirkland.org.
- City of Kirkland cable channels.
- City of Kirkland's Green Team and Kirkland Green webpage link: www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/kirklandgreen
- City of Kirkland Parks & Community Services quarterly brochures.
- City of Kirkland volunteer opportunities:
- East Lake Washington Audubon Society (ELWAS) newsletter and announcements.
- E-mail messages to a list of Kirkland Parks volunteers and other interested people. This e-mail list has been developed over the past few years and includes contacts for schools, community groups, churches, and businesses.
- Flyers at Kirkland Library and other public places.
- <http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/CMO/Volunteering/Opportunities.htm>.
- Kirkland Courier Reporter– article monthly Green Kirkland articles by Nona Ganz.
- Kirkland Courier Reporter listing and under Events.
- Kirknet for City employees.
- Sign boards at park entrances.
- Sustainable September through the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce.
- To neighborhood associations and city e-alerts through Kari Page.
- United Way of King County: <http://www.uwkc.org/>.
- Volunteer Match: www.volunteermatch.org.
- Washington Native Plant Society: <http://ivyout.org/>.

4. Partnerships, Volunteer Groups, and Sponsors

Interdepartmental City Partnerships

The Parks Department teamed at Watershed Park with Public Works for a riparian planting June 9, and with Planning and Public Works departments for Arbor Day, November 10.

Parks staff responsible for volunteer management work with the City's Volunteer Coordinator regarding volunteer tracking requirements and safety procedures.

2007 Green Kirkland Partnership volunteers

Volunteers included members of the following schools, community groups, non-profit organizations, faith-based groups, youth groups, and businesses:

- Boy Scout Troops 532 & 606
- Cascade Land Conservancy
- Christ Church Academy
- Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints
- City of Kirkland Council members
- City of Kirkland Park Board members
- Clearwire
- Cub Scout Pack 550
- EarthCorps
- East Lake Washington Audubon Society (ELWAS)
- Girl Scouts
- Kirkland Church of the Nazarene
- Kirkland neighborhood association members
- Kirkland Sunrise Kiwanis Club
- Kirkland Youth Council
- Lake Washington School District
- Microsoft
- Northstar Junior High School
- Northwest University
- Outback Steakhouse
- Park neighbors
- The Watershed Company
- Tzu-Chi Foundation

2007 Green Kirkland Partnership sponsors included:

- CLC donated Green Kirkland Volunteer t-shirts at events on August 25 and November 10.
- CLC provided team leaders for most events at Watershed, Kiwanis and Everest Parks
- City of Kirkland provided staff and equipment for events, native plants for planting, and plant bulbs as volunteer gifts.
- Kiwanis Park neighbors donated refreshments at each Green Kirkland Partnership monthly event at Kiwanis Park.
- Park Place QFC donated cookies for Arbor Day/Green Kirkland Nov 10 event.
- Puget Sound Energy donated the Arbor Day tree (10-foot vine maple).
- Starbucks (Park Place, Houghton, and Rose Hill branches) regularly donated coffee for monthly Green Kirkland Partnership forest restoration events at Watershed Park, and for the Earth Day event April 21 at Kiwanis Park.
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources provided Tree City USA recognition.

Green Kirkland Partnership Team Development

Staff responsible for arranging Green Kirkland volunteer events and activities has developed assigned roles. The staff most involved in supporting Green Kirkland Partnership events and activities include: Sharon Rodman (Outreach Specialist), Nicci Osborn (Parks Coordinator), Collins Klemm (Senior Grounds/Urban Forester), and Jeff Rotter (Parks Supervisor).

Please refer to **Table 2** at the end of this document for a list of tasks and their designated lead staff.

5. Volunteer Management

City volunteer waiver forms used at Green Kirkland events have been updated with improved safety information. Event checklists for equipment, education, and safety procedures have also been developed.

A Green Kirkland database has been created to track individual volunteers and their hours, records of invasive species removed, and information on native plants planted. A highly-qualified volunteer experienced with data entry and processing has donated over 80 hours of time since September to develop the database.

Computer and Office Assistance

Two summer interns provided a total of 117 volunteer hours of assistance by entering volunteer data from waiver forms 2005 through 2007, researching park histories, updating website information, and advertising Green Kirkland events.

Another volunteer has contributed 28 hours of assistance with advertising and publicity.

6. Monitoring

The Outreach Specialist is in the process of developing protocols for long-term monitoring in areas targeted for restoration. It is anticipated that volunteers will assist in conducting monitoring activities.

7. Capacity

Staff members have made commendable accomplishments using existing resources, but there is a strong need for more resources to cope with increasing number of events, and for more community outreach and engagement to build and maintain volunteer capacity and participation. There is also the need to train staff in volunteer management, and in scientific monitoring protocols and tracking. The City is not able to maintain support at current levels or grow the program further without additional resources.

The 0.5 FTE Outreach Specialist position is funded with one time funding and in return, as you can see from all the work accomplished this year, that this investment has significantly leveraged volunteer resources in the restoration of the City's natural areas. However, the amount of staff time that is necessary to conduct a well-coordinated volunteer event often exceeds the 20 hours a week that is currently funded. In order to stay within budget, we have for example, had to say no to requests to hold additional volunteer events, or act on several Green Kirkland requests for community involvement. Therefore, staff will continue to evaluate the programs success and develop a schedule of events for 2008 based on the most efficient use of existing resources and continue to explore new funding opportunities to support this growing program.

Acquisition: Public acquisition of land that meets the criteria of open space is action that protects critical habitat, improves air quality, provides recreation benefits and prevents these lands from being lost to development. Once natural areas are lost to development, they are almost impossible to restore to their original condition. Supporting this strategy, in 2007 the City purchased two parcels within the Everest Park Greenbelt (4.59 acres), one parcel in the Cotton Hill park greenbelt (11,386 sq.ft.) and four parcels contiguous to the Yarrow Bay Wetlands (.86 acres).

Grants: In 2007, the City was successful in obtaining a grant from King County Conservation Futures in the amount of **\$100,000** toward the purchase of the Yarrow Bay Wetlands Acquisition. The City received a second grant from the King Conservation District in the amount of **\$36,000** to fund the Green Kirkland 20-year restoration plan. And last, the City received a **\$7,000** grant from King County Natural Resources' "Wild Spaces in Urban Spaces" program for community outreach and stewardship activities.

Next steps and milestones for 2008

- Continue the Outreach Specialist position through 2008
- Complete the 20-year plan and submit to the Council for approval February 5th

- Continue coordinating work parties and recruiting volunteers for restoration events in the following parks: Carillon Woods, Kiwanis, and Watershed
- Begin restoration activities and events at Cotton Hill Park by partnering with the Highlands Neighborhood Association
- Begin implementation of the Juanita Bay vegetation management plan restoration work
- Identify and expand advertising and marketing opportunities
- Arrange restoration activities by contractors in areas unsuitable for volunteers, e.g., wetland areas and steep slopes. (Earth Corps, Veterans Conservation Corps and others)
- Develop appropriate protocols for monitoring restored areas
- Partner with Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) to find funding for conducting a Natural Area Stewardship Program for volunteer leaders in 2009
- Continue volunteer development
- Continue to seek grants to support Green Kirkland Partnership
- Submit 2009/2010 service package to continue ongoing support of the Environmental Education on Outreach Specialist position

**Table 1. Summary of Volunteer Achievements
2005 – 2007**

Park	Date	Volunteers	Hours	Number Planted	Removed Sq. Feet Invasives	Removed Acres	Trees Girdled of ivy	Invasive Trees Removed	*Dollar Equivalent
Carillon Woods	2005	234	666						\$12,014.64
Carillon Woods	2006	154	462						8,671.74
Carillon Woods	2007	30	90	0	1000	0.0230	0	0	1,689.30
		418	1218	0	1000	0.0230	0	0	\$22,375.68
Everest	2005	100	400						\$7,216.00
Everest	2006	45	113						2,121.01
Everest	2007	198	681	0	7000	0.1607	28	0	12,782.37
		343	1194	0	7000	0.1607	28	0	\$22,119.38
Kiwanis	2005	0	0						0.00
Kiwanis	2006	0	0						0.00
Kiwanis	2007	178	615.6	97	13200	0.3030	12	60	\$11,554.81
		178	615.6	97	13200	0.3030	12	60	\$11,554.81
Juanita Bay	2005	0	0						0.00
Juanita Bay	2006	0	0						0.00
Juanita Bay	2007	26	95	17	750	0.0172	12	12	\$1,783.15
		26	95	17	750	0.0172	12	12	\$1,783.15
Watershed	2005	0	0						0.00
Watershed	2006	0	0						0.00
Watershed	2007	427	1307	508	19000	0.4362	60	80	\$24,532.39
		427	1307	508	19000	0.4362	60	80	\$24,532.39
Other Parks	2005	468	1332						\$24,029.28
Other Parks	2006	346	1000						18,770.00
Other Parks	2007	170	560	0	0	0.0000	0	0	10,511.20
		984	2892	0	0	0.0000	0	0	\$53,310.48
Totals for	2005	334	1066	0					\$19,230.64
Totals for	2006	237	651	0					12,219.27
Totals for	2007	969	3169	729	47,269	1.0851	128	168	59,474.62
TOTALS: all sites, all years		1,540	4,886	729	47,269	1.0851	128	168	\$90,924.53

Volunteer dollar equivalent: In 2005 \$18.04 per hour; in 2006 \$18.77 per hour; in 2007 \$18.77 per hour
http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

Table 2: Green Kirkland Partnership 2008 Volunteer Event Organizing

Tasks and Lead Staff

Note: The following table lists lead Parks staff responsible and it should be acknowledged that other staff members are also involved.

Category	Tasks	Regular Monthly Events (City advertises for volunteers)	Other Events (organized in response to requests)
Policies	Natural Area Management	Overall – Parks Director Parks Maintenance – Operation Manager	Overall – Parks Director Maintenance – Operation Manager
Policies	Contracts with Nonprofits (e.g., Cascade Land Conservancy)	Contracts – Parks Director	Contracts – Parks Director
Advertising/Publicity	Advertising – Parks brochures, Park sign boards	Outreach Specialist	Parks Coordinator
Advertising/Publicity	Communications with Volunteers & Public	Outreach Specialist	Parks Coordinator
Advertising/Publicity	Notify Marie Stake & media, e.g. Kirkland Reporter	Outreach Specialist	Parks Coordinator
Advertising/Publicity	Website updates	Outreach Specialist & Accounts Associate	Parks Coordinator & Accounts Associate
Coordinating & Planning	Communications with staff	Outreach Specialist notifies Parks Coordinator & Senior Grounds/Urban Forester about events	Parks Coordinator notifies assigned staff & Outreach Specialist about events
Coordinating & Planning	Coordinating maintenance equipment, supplies	Parks Coordinator	Parks Coordinator
Events	Arrange refreshments at events	Water – Senior Grounds/Urban Forester; Other refreshments – community groups	
Events	Volunteer on-the-ground instructions	Senior Grounds/Urban Forester	Parks Coordinator/Crew
Events	Welcome and Volunteer Orientation	Outreach Specialist	Assigned by Parks Supervisor/Parks Coordinator
Events	Designated field staff	Senior Grounds/Urban Forester with others as needed	Assigned by Parks Supervisor/Parks Coordinator
Events	On-the-ground Volunteer Management	Senior Grounds/Urban Forester	Senior Grounds/Urban Forester and other crew
Events	Volunteer Supervision	Senior Grounds/Urban Forester and Outreach Specialist	Senior Grounds/Urban Forester or other assigned crew
Outreach/Marketing	Contact groups, make presentations	Outreach Specialist	
Volunteer Management	Court-appointed Community Service Management	Parks Coordinator communicates with Outreach Specialist	Parks Coordinator
Volunteer Management	Volunteer Database	Outreach Specialist – supervises data entry and keeps original waiver forms	Outreach Specialist – supervises data entry by volunteer. Parks Coordinator – keeps original waiver forms

Preliminary Executive Summary
Section - Layout/Design
incomplete

VISION

“Conserving and sustaining natural areas for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.”



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Kirkland has a considerable wealth of open space, parks and greenbelts. These natural areas strengthen local neighborhoods, improve property values, and make communities more attractive and vibrant. Over half of Kirkland's open space is forested parklands. These urban forests provide numerous "GREEN SERVICES" such as cleaning our air, filtering our water, and preventing erosion.

Historically, development was seen as the biggest threat to natural areas. Public agencies, governments, land trusts and nonprofits have all worked steadily over the years to reduce this threat by purchasing and "preserving" these properties— setting them aside to allow nature to function on its own. However, we are quickly learning that the mindset of *leave nature to itself* does not work in the urban environment. Invasive plants, litter, changes in surrounding land use, pollution, and passive management are reducing nature's innate ability to function naturally. Our urban natural areas are disappearing and with them go critical services such as reduced storm water flows and lower amounts of green house gases.

The City of Kirkland is fortunate to have 503 acres of publicly owned parklands that include 372 acres of natural areas. Natural areas are places that have native habitat—forests, streams and associated vegetation, wetlands and their buffers, or lakes and shoreline plants. Natural areas, as defined by the City of Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan (2001), provide unique natural resources and critical urban wildlife habitat. They are part of offering our citizens a balanced park system. Appropriate use for these sites includes passive recreation like walking, bird watching, interpretive educational programs and signage, and non-motorized trail systems.

KIRKLAND'S FORESTED NATURAL AREAS

The people of Kirkland care about their forests. Kirkland's parks and natural areas make the city a great place for families. They revitalize neighborhoods. Research conducted by the University of Washington shows that homes adjacent to open space areas have property values 15% higher than other areas (WOLF 2007).

It is easy to see why parks and natural spaces are so valued. Trees sequester carbon—remove it from the atmosphere reducing greenhouse gases and purifying the air. Wetlands and streams naturally retain and filter water, preserving water quality for our drinking supply and fish and wildlife. Forests throughout the city intercept rain water and slow the rate of stormwater flows. In fact, it has been estimated that if forested natural areas were removed from the Seattle area, roughly \$1 billion of constructed infrastructure would have to be built (GREEN SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP 2006).

Our green spaces also have a less measurable, but no less important, impact on the well-being of the community. It is healthy and enjoyable for people to be able to walk in parks and connect with nature: a connection that research shows can improve both mental and physical health.

WHY DO OUR FORESTED NATURAL AREAS NEED HELP?

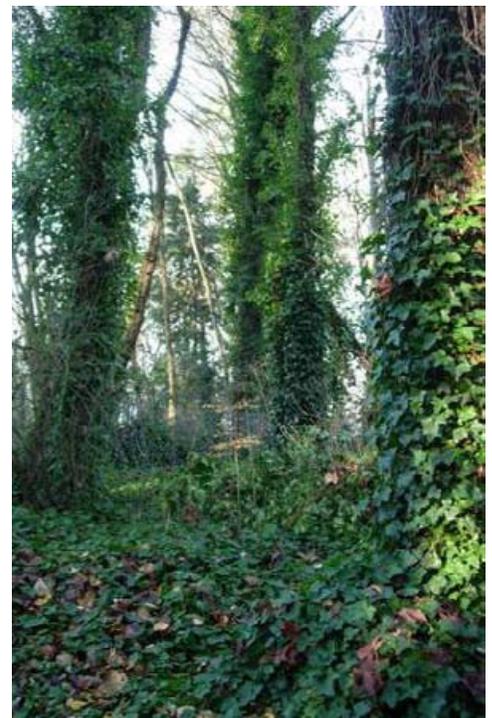
Trees in our parks are dying. Many of Kirkland's forested natural areas are dominated by big-leaf maples that are 80 to 100 years old and reaching the end of their lifespans. Historically, typical conifers (Douglas firs and Western red cedars) were removed by logging or development. Those evergreens that remain are all about the same age. In addition, the understory in many forested parklands are heavily infested with invasive plants species such as English and Atlantic ivy, blackberry, and bindweed. These invasives have blanketed the understory and prevented native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants from taking hold.

Research based on the Green Seattle Partnership and analyses conducted by Seattle Urban Nature (SUN) indicate that if we do nothing to help our forests, most trees will die within the next 20 years. After 100 years, we will be left with an "ivy desert." Parks will likely be devoid of other natural vegetation and covered only by invasive species.

WE MUST REVERSE THE TREND

Results of the tremendous volunteer effort at Carillon Woods Park.

Left is the site before volunteers work. Right is the site after volunteers pulled ivy and cleared ground for planting with native species.



THE SOLUTION: THE GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

The Green Kirkland Partnership was developed in response to the crisis in our urban forests. The partnership is a 20-year program that will draw on City of Kirkland resources, volunteers and partners such as the Cascade Land Conservancy to restore city and publicly-owned forests. Under the program, we will 1) restore and maintain our public forest; 2) educate and engage the community in ongoing forest stewardship and 3) ensure sustainability. Elevated by civic and community leadership and the vision and skill of our public agencies, we will in the next two decades restore all of Kirkland's forested natural areas.

An important element of livable, attractive communities is greenspace. The parks, trails, and greenways that give city residents recreation opportunities and a connection to nature help sustain a vibrant urban life. At the heart of the Cascade Land Conservancy's *Cascade Agenda*, a 100-year vision for conservation and economic growth in the Pacific Northwest, is building vibrant urban communities. With its focus on forested parkland, the Green Kirkland Partnership will play a key role in meeting that goal.

The Green Kirkland Partnership will first focus on forested natural areas. These areas prove easier in the near term to address with volunteer and staff resources. As the program develops, additional natural areas such as wetlands and shorelines will be addressed. In the mean time, these other natural areas will be part of other City of Kirkland programs such as the Shoreline Master Program, Capital Improvement projects, Surface Water Management projects, critical area regulations, and Vegetation Management Plans including the Juanita Bay Park and Forbes Creek Vegetation Management Plans.

THE PARTNERS

Many groups contribute to the Green Kirkland Partnership, each important to the future of our green spaces. These groups include the citizens of Kirkland, the City of Kirkland, the Cascade Land Conservancy, park visitors, as well as business, youth, faith-based, and nonprofit organizations and the greater Kirkland community.

THE PLAN

This 20-year strategic plan to restore Kirkland's forest uses the Green Seattle Partnership as a model. The Green Kirkland Partnership plan, which is presented in this document, outlines the steps necessary to create a sustainable forest restoration program in Kirkland. The plan includes the partnership's goals and objectives and defines the resources needed for implementation.

Planning for this document included an analysis of Kirkland's publicly-owned forested natural areas and the ability of our citizens to contribute as stewards to that effort. We held a public meeting and surveyed the community for input on where and how we should develop the program both for restoration and for building volunteerism. The feedback was exceptional, and these ideas have been used throughout the document. Public comments will further help determine goals and objectives for annual plans.

The document is divided into four basic sections:

1. The Problem: Invasive species: overviews of the threat to Kirkland's forests
2. The Solution: The Green Kirkland Partnership: description of partners and their roles
3. Implementation: Detailed description of the program
4. Adaptive Management: Brief overview of this concept.

The Executive Summary and the appendices offer, respectively, a synopsis of the program and in-depth information on some of the work completed to prepare the plan.

GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP GOALS

The following are Green Kirkland Partnership's goals:

- Restore Kirkland's public urban forests by removing invasive plants and replanting native trees, shrubs, and ground covers for the sustainability of the forest and its habitat
- Build the community's capacity for long-term stewardship of the urban forest through increased public awareness of and engagement in, protecting, restoring, and helping to maintain healthy urban forests
- Implement an Environmental Education and Outreach program to educate and engage the community in stewardship projects
- Create a sustainable volunteer stewardship program for ongoing restoration and care of our urban forests
- Identify and protect additional forested natural areas that provide important ecological and public benefits
- Establish resources to sustain the program for the long-term.
- In the future, extend the program to non-forested natural areas such as emergent wetlands and shorelines.

IMPLEMENTATION

To track the success of the Green Kirkland Partnership, a “balanced scorecard” (a commonly used business tool) will be used to outline key steps in reaching the desired outcomes of the program. By conducting fieldwork, engaging the community, and obtaining sufficient resources, the 20-year plan calls for restoring 372 acres of natural areas by 2028 and creating a long-term practice of community stewardship.

WHERE TO PUT RESOURCES: USING THE TREE-IAGE METHOD

Prioritizing where to devote resources is necessary to reach the Green Kirkland Partnership goals. In the first 5 years of the plan, restoration will focus on areas of high ecological value and high community interest, and equal distribution across neighborhoods. As community involvement grows and we develop a Natural Area Steward program, more resources will be available for acres that are not the highest priority.

Urban forests are highly variable habitats not adequately managed with typical forestry practices. Given this variability, the Green Seattle Partnership developed an evaluation methodology known as the Tree-iage model.

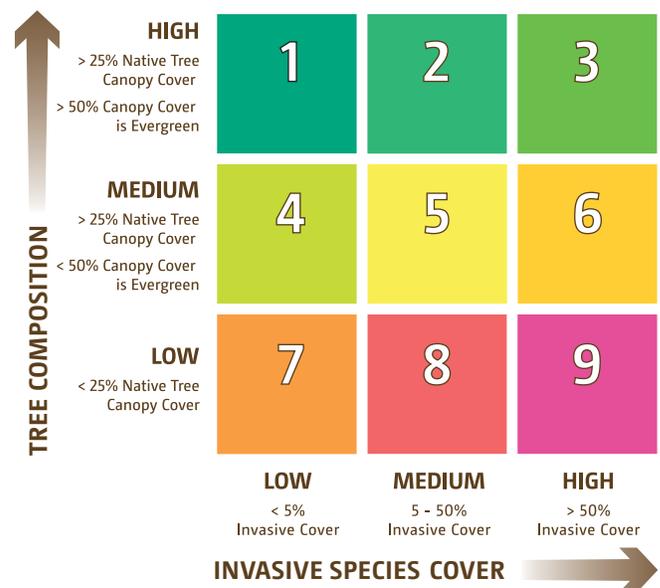
The Tree-iage model evaluates forested natural areas in terms of forest composition and level of invasive species coverage. As part of the Natural Area Assessment, the Green Kirkland Partnership used the Tree-iage model to evaluate all 372 acres of forested natural areas in Kirkland.

Conifer forests are the target forest composition for restoration because they provide greater long-term benefits than do shorter-lived deciduous trees. Conifer forests were the typical Pacific Northwest forests in our parklands before development. In forest succession, as the pioneering deciduous trees die out at around 60 to 80 years, they are replaced with longer-living conifers that can survive 200 or more years. However, lack of conifer trees in the over- and under-story has greatly impaired the forest’s ability to move into the next stage of succession. Without a seed bank or a supply of growing conifers, the tree cover of the parks is drastically reduced as the alder and big leaf maple reach the end of their natural lifespans.

According to the evaluation for the plan, less than 13% of the Kirkland’s forested parklands fall under “high” invasive threat. While more than half (60%) of the city’s natural areas fall within “low” invasive threat, only 10% is classified as “high” value conifer, which is the desired condition for forested parklands. Most of Kirkland’s forested parklands (60%) are within the “medium” value forest (predominantly native deciduous canopy) categories with low to medium threat of invasive species.

The Tree-iage model categories indicate forest condition

TRIAGE CATEGORIES





The size of ivy vines makes it easy to see how this invasive plant brings down trees

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2005 and 2006, the Green Kirkland Partnership logged 1,100 volunteer hours, with 388 participants. In 2007, events held between April and November in Watershed Park and Kiwanis Park included 600 volunteers and contributed nearly 2,000 hours to stewardship.

Community members, community-oriented groups, and corporate sponsors are coming together to rid our parks of invasive species and help sustain them for the future. Community engagement is one of the most rewarding steps in a successful restoration movement. There are many opportunities to engage the community in ivy removal, to raise awareness of the problem, to help neighbors meet each other, to train community members to take action in their own backyards and their local parks, and to develop overall stewardship of parklands.

At Carillon Woods Park in 2006, volunteers spent 462 hours, an amount equal to a total capital improvement cost of \$8,672 based on labor valued at \$18.77 per hour (Corporation for National and Community Service 2006). Carillon Woods Park is nearly 9 acres, however, and volunteers spent those hours working in only one acre.

It's easy to get overwhelmed by the numbers and the work ahead, but through community engagement we can tackle such a large project.

In the past 10 years, groups like Seattle Parks and Recreation, Cascade Land Conservancy, Washington Native Plant Society, EarthCorps and others have conducted more than 30 pilot projects in Seattle. From these projects comes knowledge of the specific skills and timing necessary for success and development of best management practices (BMPS) for field work.

PHASES OF RESTORATION

One of the unique BMPs developed by Green Seattle Partnership is a 4-phase approach to restoration field work. The approach has been highly successful for several reasons. It recognizes that it takes several years to restore a site, and that restoration activities fall into four major categories: 1) removing invasive species, 2) replanting native plants and secondary invasive removal, 3) plant establishment and, 4) sustaining restoration through maintenance and monitoring.

Field work under the Green Kirkland Project will be phased.

Phase	Task(s)	Range of labor investment (hours/acre)	Average labor investment (hours/acre)
1	Invasive plant removal	50 to 1400	700
2	Planting and secondary invasive removal	50 to 200	100
3	Plant establishment	25 to 100/year for up to 3 years	40/year for up to 3 years
4	Long-term monitoring and maintenance	0 to 20 annually	5 annually



In Phase 1, the focus is on hand weeding, with an average of 700 person hours needed per acre. Phase 2 requires an average of 40 hours of hand weeding in the spring followed by an average of 100 hours of fall planting. By Phase 3, the required total hand weeding, watering, and mulching should average 40 hours. Phase 4 involves stewardship maintenance as necessary, which is an average of 4 hours per acre.

According to Green Seattle Partnership analysis, in 2005 average restoration costs (for crew time only) was \$20,000 for a single acre, depending on site conditions and Tree-iage category.

The Green Kirkland Partnership has estimated restoration costs based on the Seattle analysis, which covers staff time only to remove invasive plants, plant native plant species, and maintain new plants. Field work to restore Kirkland’s forested natural areas is expected to cost about **\$5.2 million**.

Although that may seem like a lot, it is an economical means for improving our park system. Purchasing new parklands within Kirkland is expensive—current land values are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars per acre, so \$20,000 per acre is great value for the resource created.

Tree-iage category	Average restoration cost	Acres	Total cost / category
1	\$2,800	13.16	\$36,848
2	\$9,500	22.32	\$212,040
3	\$15,400	1.73	\$26,642
4	\$9,500	139.86	\$1,328,670
5	\$16,100	76.95	\$1,238,895
6	\$22,000	6.84	\$150,480
7	\$15,400	70.56	\$1,086,624
8	\$22,000	4.2	\$92,400
9	\$27,900	36.48	\$1,017,792
		TOTAL	\$5,190,391

The estimated cost of city staff and crew time for restoring Kirkland’s forested natural areas is about \$5,200,000.

ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY

Long-term sustainability requires thinking and planning for the future. To this end, the Green Kirkland Partnership’s 20-year program involves clear annual goals and benchmarks, biodiversity assessment and evaluation, citizen stewardship, tracking and monitoring, and coordination among many partners. Sustained healthy parklands and greenspaces require an investment of our civic organizations and citizens to maintain these assets. The Green Kirkland Partnership envisions parks that are cared for by more stewards and require less formal parks maintenance and operations over time. A community-driven park project can convert an area from a nuisance to city gem.

GETTING INVOLVED: LEAVING A LEGACY

The implementation of this plan will require community education and training, volunteer coordination, city and staff resources, and funding. The City of Kirkland cannot restore the forested natural areas alone. Community assistance is needed to turn the current trend of forest decline.

Kirkland residents can do many things to help out:

- Volunteer for a work party
- Find new new community partners
- Sponsor events
- Identify priority restoration sites at a nearby park
- Start a local work party group
- Join the Natural Area Steward Program
- Remove invasives from a backyard or right-of-way
- Tell a neighbor or school about the problem.

Our forested natural areas greatly benefit the people who live in Kirkland. They inspire community engagement and leadership through the opportunities they create for education, meeting neighbors, and training youth groups in how to become better stewards of the environment and natural resources. But above all, our forests create great neighborhoods.



Kiwanis Park: Earth Day 2007