



**Parks &
Community
Services
Department**



City of Kirkland



**Comprehensive Park,
Open Space and
Recreation Plan**

2010



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NOTE: The City of Kirkland will be growing substantially in 2011 as a result of a voter-approved annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita, and Kingsgate neighborhoods, adding over 33,000 new residents and several new park properties currently owned by King County. This document is intended to extend the timeline of Kirkland's existing Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) through the year 2012. A new PROS Plan, detailing the goals, needs, and opportunities of the larger community, will be subsequently completed following the effective date of annexation.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

This document is organized into three sections:

- **Section 1** is the foundation of the Comprehensive PROS Plan. It describes the primary goals of the City's Parks and Community Services Department and identifies eleven key philosophies fundamental to the delivery of parks and recreation services in this community. This section also summarizes the public involvement process which provided a framework for identifying important issues which are developed further in this document.
- **Section 2** is the heart of the Comprehensive Plan. It explores major issues and opportunities concerning City parks and recreation services through the year 2012. This is followed by recommendations for implementing the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan encompassing the areas of park acquisition, development and renovation. Costs and funding methods of implementing the Plan are also discussed.
- **Section 3** details existing City park acreage, park classifications, facility standards, and demographic trends in Kirkland. The document concludes with a detailed analysis of the City's neighborhoods, available parks and open spaces; and the identification of specific needs and opportunities

SECTION 1

Department Primary Goals

The three primary goals of the Parks and Community Services Department are to:

- 1) Acquire, develop, and renovate a system of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces that are attractive, safe, functional, and available to all segments of the population.
- 2) Enhance the quality of life in the community by providing services and programs that offer positive opportunities for building healthy productive lives.
- 3) Protect, preserve, and restore publicly-owned natural resource areas.

Philosophy

As a **steward of the City's parks and recreation system, eleven key concepts have been identified** which we believe are fundamental to the delivery of parks and recreation services in this community:

I. QUALITY

Providing high quality parks and recreational services to the community is a core value. It is very important to strive for excellence through efficient, accurate, and skillful performance in every process, service, and product we deliver. To provide high quality services and products, employees must have the necessary means and support.

II. BALANCE

A parks and recreation system should provide its citizens a diversity of open space, parks and recreation facilities, and recreation service opportunities to meet the needs of different age groups, abilities, and interests.

III. RESPONSIVENESS

Listening to, informing, educating, and involving citizens in parks, recreation, and service issues is vital to providing a responsive, effective, and high quality parks system and recreation programs. Citizen participation in decisions that involve facilities and programs ensures that park facilities and recreation programs reflect community needs.

IV. BEAUTY

Parks and open spaces provide settings for people to recreate, and they enhance the beauty and visual character of a City. As new parks are developed and older ones are renovated, it is important to create and retain natural beauty in the parks system for which the City is so well known.

V. HEALTH

City parks and recreation services contribute significantly to the health and well being of a community by providing opportunities and settings for physical and mental health. Physical health needs can be met by fitness activities, organized and supervised recreation programs, and safe and functional trails for walking, jogging, and bicycling. Mental health demands can be satisfied with programs for life-long learning, and open spaces provide relief from stress.

VI. FUTURE ORIENTATION

Admirable foresight on the part of **Kirkland's past** citizens, elected representatives and City officials created the waterfront and park system that we enjoy today. The **City's park system adheres to a** strong future orientation. Parkland should be acquired to meet the demands of a changing population and for future generations. A goal of the Kirkland parks system is to acquire and preserve unique park sites to respond to a diversity of community needs and interests. In the distant future it will be important that Kirkland citizens be able to reflect positively on the actions which were taken to acquire land for parks and facilities, for themselves and for their children. Kirkland has always demonstrated a spirit of vision and strives to keep that spirit alive.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Kirkland is fortunate to have many important natural areas, including wetlands, urban forests, sensitive slopes, and wildlife habit resources in our park system. Preservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of these natural areas are a key element of the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. The existence of these natural areas offers a variety of opportunities for aesthetic, recreational, and educational activities. Wetlands serve as wildlife and recreation resources, and protect water quality by trapping sediments and absorbing pollutants as nutrients. Preserving wildlife habitat, water quality, and forested areas is an important aspect of good park resource management. We will to continue our commitment **to managing and protecting the park system's** natural and fragile resources, as well as working to educate and inform the community as to their ecological and economic value.

VIII. EFFICIENCY

Efficient management of available resources is important in retaining a high quality park system and recreation program. We should provide high quality services; emphasize the design of park areas to reduce long-term maintenance and operating costs; implement improved technology to conserve energy; use modern equipment; use staff effectively; and properly plan maintenance activities. Efficient management also incorporates cost recovery for some parks and recreation services. Through cooperative efforts with the private sector and volunteer groups, greater efficiency and improvement of services can be realized.

IX. OPPORTUNITY

A large segment of the population does not have the opportunity, financial resources or inclination to **participate in private recreation. It is the City's** responsibility to provide parks and recreation facilities and programs that are sensitive to the needs and resources of the community. People with limited financial resources, disadvantaged youngsters, the elderly, the disabled, and others with special needs should have access to programs and facilities. Assistance to those most in need will improve the quality of their lives and also help prevent social problems such as delinquency and alienation.

X. PARTNERSHIPS

The City should forge effective new partnerships and strengthen existing ties with public and private service providers. Partnerships allow the City and other agencies to share resources and avoid duplication of service. Partnerships enable the use of unique and special areas of expertise. Partnerships with the Lake Washington School District, King County, neighboring cities, and other service providers are essential to plan for future open space and recreational needs as land becomes more scarce and funding resources diminish.

XI. SECURITY AND SAFETY

The public needs to feel safe and secure when visiting parks and recreational facilities. Effective signage and regulations lets users know of unwanted activities. Retaining visibility into parks through good maintenance and planting enhances overall safety and security. Cooperation with the Police Department provides safety through the identification of problem areas and the display of visible signage enables effective police enforcement.

Public Involvement

Given the limited scope of this PROS Plan Update, an abbreviated public involvement process was implemented. A full public involvement process will be critical in future updates as the needs and opportunities of the pending annexation area are incorporated into Kirkland's newly-expanded park, recreation, and open space system.

Telephone Survey

In the most recently completed random telephone survey (see Appendix), the great majority (70%) of Kirkland households are "Park Users," which is defined as having someone in the household who has gone to a Kirkland City Park, taken a class or participated in some activity sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Services.

Here is a summary of what these Park Users have to say about Kirkland Parks and Community Services:

1. Kirkland Parks are well used throughout the year:

- 77% have someone in the household who visited a Kirkland Park at least two or three times a month this past summer, and 97% visited a park at least two or three times in the summer.
- 56% have someone in the household who visited a Kirkland Park at least two or three times a month throughout the year; and most (84%) visited a park visit at least every two or three months throughout the year.
- 35% of the Park Users had a household member participate in a class or program offered by Kirkland Parks.
- The waterfront parks have the greatest level of use: 60% of the Park Users named a waterfront park they enjoy visiting; 35% listed a neighborhood park; 34% named a community park; and 30% mention say that they enjoy visiting one of the nature parks.

2. Ninety-four percent (94%) of the Park Users live near, and are frequent visitors to, a Kirkland neighborhood park:

- 69% of these households visited their neighborhood park at least two or three times a month in the summer; and 90% visited it at least two or three times during the summer months.
- Most people (80%) who live near a neighborhood park can get there in less than 10 minutes.

3. Of the Park Users who can compare Kirkland Parks with those in other cities, most believe the Kirkland Parks system is better than what they have experienced elsewhere, and they feel positive about maintenance and many other aspects of the Kirkland Parks and Community Services:

- While 50% rate Kirkland Parks as better, 25% do not have an opinion and 22% say they are about the same; only 3% say there are worse than park systems elsewhere.

- When asked why Kirkland Parks are better, the three descriptions mentioned most often included: They are well maintained, (57%); there are a variety of parks from which to choose (28%); and the classes and programs are excellent (24%).
 - 77% say that Kirkland Parks are very well maintained.
 - Of the small portion (22%) who mentioned some problem relating to maintenance, the most common suggestion (47% who believe some improvements are needed) is to provide more frequent maintenance, especially pickup of trash and litter.
 - Asked about maintenance of the city's natural areas, 38% believe they are less than very well maintained.
- 4. *Park Users appreciate a wide range of features and facilities of the Kirkland Parks, including:***
- 29% Access to the waterfront
 - 28% Playgrounds for children
 - 28% Trails and pathways
 - 15% Beauty and attractiveness
 - 14% Natural environments
 - 12% Clean restrooms
 - 10% Large grassy areas for play
- 5. *The single greatest issue that concerns Park Users is the cost of park maintenance.***
- 6. *When asked to suggest additional needs, most Park Users either felt nothing more was needed or didn't have any ideas.***
- Only 42% of the Park Users had suggestions for additional outdoor facilities, but there even the ones mentioned most frequently – restrooms and covered picnic areas – were named by only 7% each of the respondents.
 - Only 36% had suggestions for additional indoor facilities, and only two items – an indoor pool (15%) and an indoor play space (11%) – were listed by a significant number of respondents.
 - Only 27% had suggestions for new or improved classes or activities, and no one item was mentioned by more than a handful of respondents.
- 7. *From a list of eight possible park features, a majority of Park Users rated four items as "Very Important:"***
- 81% Restrooms/improved restrooms
 - 71% Natural areas
 - 70% Children's playgrounds
 - 67% Benches
- 8. *The four other items that were suggested were considered "Very Important" to only a minority of the respondents:***
- 32% Covered picnic shelters
 - 25% Off-leash dog areas
 - 20% Basketball courts
 - 12% Skate boarding areas

Focus Group

The City also convened a focus group to add additional dimension to public input on our services. Ten participants were selected randomly and screened to assure they had visited a Kirkland Park or participated in a Parks and Recreation activity within the previous year. They were also chosen to represent a range of ages, interests, and representation from various neighborhoods.

The participants were uniformly enthusiastic about Kirkland Parks and Recreation. All visit parks, and most have participated in park classes and activities. They especially praised the variety of parks and park activities for all ages and the excellent maintenance.

Three ideas dominated the discussion:

- Provide more advertising/education about the parks and the activities provided by Kirkland Parks and Recreation;
- Improve the web site to make it easier to find and to use; and
- Plan for the increasing and older population in Kirkland--providing more security at the parks, having more access for older people, and developing new facilities and services that respond to the needs of the larger population.

Many note that the population of Kirkland is aging and that the parks need to provide more facilities for older citizens. Several mentioned the need for more wheel chair access for parks.

The new facilities most desired include (in order of highest priority):

- Year-round covered pool
- New boat launch
- Dog park
- Centrally located indoor gym
- Lighted tennis courts
- More accessible activities for older people
- Improvements to downtown parks
- Improvement to and additional restrooms
- Larger skating park
- More covered activity areas
- Wheel chair access in more parks

SECTION 2

Major Issues and Opportunities

As we look at current City parks and recreation services there are a number of important issues and opportunities facing Kirkland. These are:

1. Acquisition of Additional Park Land & Development of Parks

ACQUISITION

PROS Plan Policy 1.1: (Kirkland Comprehensive Plan (KCP), Policy PR-1.1)
Acquire parks, recreation, and open space facilities in those areas of the City facing population growth, commercial development, and in areas where facilities are deficient.

A major component of the Plan is the need to acquire more park land. Specifically, this includes acquiring land suitable for parks in City neighborhoods with existing and projected deficiencies, and where opportunities arise to make key linkages in the park system.

Another component is to provide neighborhood parks within walking distance of every Kirkland resident. This is best accomplished by providing a system of neighborhood parks which are located within easy reach of Kirkland residents and which meet the diverse recreational needs identified by the community. It is critical that the City be prepared to take advantage of opportunities to obtain properties needed for park and open space purposes.

Although Kirkland is blessed with extraordinary waterfront parks, we should capture opportunities if additional waterfront becomes available. If privately held lakefront parcels adjacent to existing beach parks or at other appropriate locations become available, we should make an effort to acquire these pieces. The City should continue to pursue creative use of waterfront street ends.

DEVELOPMENT

Natural Park Areas

The natural park areas, such as Juanita Bay Park, Yarrow Bay Wetlands, Heronfield Wetlands, Totem Lake Wetlands (King Conservation District), and Watershed Park provide unique natural resources and critical urban wildlife habitat. They are part of providing a balanced park system for citizens. Passive recreation uses such as walking, bird watching, interpretive educational programs and signage, and

non-motorized trail systems are appropriate for these sites. Opportunities exist for improving existing trails, continued reforestation of degraded urban forests, and restoration/enhancement of creeks, wetlands and habitat areas.

Carefully crafted development plans for both Yarrow Bay Wetlands and Heronfield Wetlands are needed to guide appropriate future public access and provide focus for restoration and enhancement of their critical natural resources.

Community Parks

Community parks, including Juanita Beach, Peter Kirk, Everest, Crestwoods, Heritage, and McAuliffe Parks, are usually 15 to 30 acres in size and are generally defined as larger, diverse recreation areas serving both organized active recreation needs and recreation use benefiting the neighborhood surrounding the site. Community parks are where the majority of active recreation occurs. Community parks often include recreation facilities such as playfields, sport courts (such as tennis, basketball, volleyball, skating, etc.) and community centers.

Implementation of adopted master plans for Juanita Beach Park, Heritage Park, and McAuliffe Park will substantially improve the recreation opportunities for citizens throughout the Kirkland community.

Creative and strategic thinking is essential to meet future demand for facilities commonly provided by community parks, especially as the opportunity for acquiring land diminishes as City population grows and vacant land becomes scarce. The PROS Plan promotes a partnership with the Lake Washington School District to utilize existing school lands and facilities more efficiently and effectively for additional playfields and other community recreation and park needs.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve both limited active and passive recreation needs of a residential neighborhood within a quarter-mile radius and are usually no more than 15 acres and no less than 0.5 acres in size.

Areas of the City which are not met by the quarter-mile goal include the northern and central portions of the North Rose Hill Neighborhood, Market Neighborhood, Totem Lake Neighborhood, and the northern and eastern portions of the North Juanita Neighborhood.

2. Trails and Greenways

PROS Plan Policy 1.2 (KCP Policy PR-1.2)

Develop pedestrian and bicycle trails within parks and linkages between parks and the city's major pedestrian and bicycle routes identified in the Active Transportation Plan and between parks and nearby neighborhoods, commercial centers and public facilities, including schools.

Trails provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities, commercial centers and other regional non-motorized facilities. In some cases, public trails provide alternative transportation connections between communities. The citizens of Kirkland have **consistently identified the need for more trails as a top priority.** The City's Active Transportation Plan (ATP) provides the City's strategic goals and policies related to comprehensive trail planning including route designation, classification, funding priorities, and design standards. The ATP was developed by the City's Public Works Department, working cooperatively with the Department of Parks and Community Services, the Planning and Community Development, and the public.

One important goal for recreational and commuter trail planning noted in the Active Transportation Plan is the development of a recreational trail system within the former Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way. This proposed trail is a regional facility traveling through many Eastside cities and providing critical links to other existing regional trails such as the Sammamish River Trail. This project is visionary and would require an inter-jurisdictional effort for planning and implementation. Another goal is development of a north-south recreational trail under the Seattle City Light (SCL) power lines within the SCL easement and various access points to the future trail. This trail would also connect to other communities and neighborhoods.

3. Park Design

Park design should evolve and be able to respond and adapt to the changing needs of park users. Park design should involve all ages, including teens, throughout each step in the planning process. According to the survey, focus group, and public workshops, residents appreciate the opportunity to experience a variety of passive uses including additional benches and picnic shelters.

4. Indoor Recreation Needs

PROS Plan Policy 1.3 (KCP Policy 2.1)

The need for additional community recreation facility space to meet indoor recreation needs for athletics, recreation classes, and meeting space should be examined.

Although the City currently offers a wide variety of activities and classes, the number and types of activities offered is limited by a lack of indoor active recreation space. The demand and interests of the residents cannot be adequately served. Although the City supplements its facilities with the use of school and other non-City facilities, the availability is limited and cannot serve the community need.

At present, Kirkland has three Community Centers; North Kirkland Community Center (NKCC), Peter Kirk Community Center,(PKCC) and the Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB), NKCC and PKCC are heavily used for programs and community rentals, to the point of capacity at peak times. The KTUB is operated by a community partner, and is focused on programs for teens.

In addition, the community has been fortunate in being able to use Lake Washington School District indoor facilities for City-sponsored recreation activities and programs. The use of School District facilities has enabled the City to provide a much higher level of service than would otherwise have **been possible. However, while the City's recreation programs have grown and prospered through the** use of School District facilities, a number of notable changes and facility challenges have taken place which fuels the need for additional City-managed public recreation facility space. These include:

- Interest in City recreation programs increases each year. Facility space at the North Kirkland Community Center is maximized during peak times, making program expansion to meet demands difficult.
- Current facility space is at a premium as more and more agencies and activities compete for limited space.
- School District facilities are only available in the late afternoon and evening times.
- A recent **policy change in the School District's priority guidelines for facility use increases access** for community wide youth opportunities but reduces and limits City sponsored adult programs.
- Increases in School District sponsored athletic programs result in less gymnasium space available for community recreation use.
- School District refurbishment of gymnasium floors and classrooms creates lengthy recreation program cancellations and disruptions of program continuity. Refurbishment is also limited in design, thus limiting the type of program that can be scheduled.

Due to these types of circumstances, the Parks and Community Services Department is limited in the quantity and variety of leisure opportunities it can provide to Kirkland citizens. In order to continue the **City's commitment to encourage active lifestyles, and to respond to the residents needs and interests,** the City recently completed a Kirkland Indoor Recreation Facility Plan in 2007. This plan was completed with the input from leaders in the community, key stakeholders, and residents.

The plan identifies the following goals for developing an Indoor Recreation Facility:

- Enhance the quality of life by providing programs and activities for participants of all ages and abilities;
- Offer a broad range of activities promoting fitness, social interaction, recreation and wellness;
- Create an environment and design that is inviting, warm, and inclusive of all;
- Provide indoor and outdoor connections;
- Reflect the positive attributes and quality of life in Kirkland and help sustain and enhance those qualities for future generations;
- Reinforce community by creating indoor space for the citizens to come together year-round;
- Serve as **the social " heart" of Kirkland;**
- Bring the community together and draw a broad spectrum of residents;
- Contribute to community pride;

- Provide a facility that is financially feasible and can generate substantial revenue to offset operating costs;
- Develop financial and programming partnerships with public and private providers that share the values and goals of community recreation, health and wellness;
- Provide maximum flexibility and multiple use through design and programming that adapts to changing interests and needs;

The City needs to continue progress on developing an Indoor Recreation Facility. Indoor recreation space managed by the City has the following types of advantages:

1. It can be tailored specifically for community use to insure a comprehensive program for all ages.
2. The City would have the ability to more effectively schedule the facility, eliminating problems **that can cause customer service issues and have adverse effects on the quality of the City's** programs.
3. The City could provide community recreation 24 hours a day, seven days a week, thus meeting the growing demand of Kirkland residents.

To a much lesser degree, other indoor recreation facilities, such as tennis courts, a swimming pool, neighborhood recreation centers, and racquetball courts, have been suggested as indoor recreation needs. Providing these kinds of specialized facilities in the future will depend to a large extent on significant public demand and support and whether or not the need is being met elsewhere by other public agencies or the private sector. Accordingly the Parks and Community Services Department should consider the availability of nonpublic facilities to meet community needs.

5. Waterfront Access

Kirkland's parks on the waterfront are the heart and soul of the City's park system. They bring identity and character to the park system and contribute significantly to Kirkland's charm and quality of life. They stretch from the Yarrow Bay Wetlands to the south to Juanita Bay and Juanita Beach Parks to the north, providing Kirkland residents year-round **waterfront access**. **Kirkland's waterfront parks are** unique because they provide citizens a diversity of waterfront experiences for different tastes and preferences. Citizens can enjoy the passive and natural surroundings of Juanita Bay and Kiwanis Park and more active swimming and sunbathing areas of Houghton and Waverly Beach Parks. The waterfront parks truly identify Kirkland as a waterfront community.

The high visibility and use of Kirkland's waterfront parks requires high levels of maintenance, safety and security, and periodic renovation. Swimming beaches, docks, recreational moorage facilities, boat ramps, and shoreline walkways, where issues of liability are very important, must be kept safe and in **good condition for the public's enjoyment and use.**

Kirkland is blessed with extraordinary waterfront parks. However we should never lose sight of capturing opportunities if additional waterfront property on Lake Washington becomes available. If privately held lakefront parcels adjacent to existing beach parks or at other appropriate locations

become available, effort should be made to acquire these pieces. Street ends are wonderful opportunities to expand **the public's access to the waterfront**. The Plan recommends that all waterfront street ends be retained in public ownership for open space purposes.

The Plan identifies development of Forbes Lake Park as an important expansion of the City's commitment to providing waterfront access.

PROS Plan Policy 1.4: (KCP Policy PR-2.3)

Encourage nonmotorized small craft water-oriented activities/programs along the shoreline where appropriate and consistent with public interest and needs.

Kirkland has miles of waterfront with major portions in publicly owned parks. The City should strive to maximize its use to the continued benefit of its citizens. In the future, providing programs for small craft such as canoeing, kayaking, sailing, rowing, and sailboarding should be encouraged. Programs oriented around non-motorized boating activities provide excellent opportunities to teach lifelong **recreation skills in addition to emphasizing water and boating safety**. Kirkland's two public boat launch facilities provide important access to Lake Washington. A small facility in Houghton Beach Park provides for hand launching of non-motorized boats, and at Marina Park in the Downtown area, a one-lane facility exists for trailerable boats.

The City should cooperate with other jurisdictions to assure that this regional need is addressed with regional participation and resources. Such facilities are best located where there is an opportunity for adequate on-site parking and where intrusions into neighborhoods can be kept to a minimum.

The Juanita Beach Park master plan provides for improved non-motorized boat access and activities. Implementation of these new and improved amenities should be completed in the future with careful consideration and mitigation of the potential impacts to wildlife habitat in Juanita Bay.

6. Renovation and Maintenance of Parks and Facilities

PROS Plan Policy 1.5: (KCP Policy PR-1.3)

Ensure adequate maintenance and operation funding prior to development of parks and recreational facilities.

Renovation and maintenance is a very high priority for parks and facilities. There is a significant public investment in developing parks, playgrounds, buildings, and special facilities such as the outdoor pool. Consequently, it is very important to provide adequate maintenance and operation support when new parks and other facilities are developed. By deferring maintenance and operation support and not practicing preventative maintenance, long-term maintenance and operation costs will rise, and facilities will deteriorate quicker, resulting in replacement or significant repair sooner than they should.

PROS Plan Policy 1.6: (KCP Policy PR-1.4)

Renovate parks and facilities in a manner that will conserve the use of energy and other resources and maximize efficient maintenance practices.

As the City's park system matures and requires periodic renovation, emphasis should be placed on developing improved methods of conserving energy, using better equipment and innovative practices, and designing park areas in such a manner as to reduce long-term maintenance and operating expenses.

To maintain efficiency in the areas of renovation and maintenance, the City's parks maintenance program includes:

- A systematic inventory of parks system infrastructure, including site furniture, sports courts, park pathways, playgrounds, and buildings in order to project future budgeting and timing for replacement and repairs.
- Use of modern, efficient and certified equipment.
- Efficient and effective use of seasonal part-time employees.
- A scheduled preventative maintenance management system to efficiently allocate and plan maintenance activities.
- Supplementation of park maintenance with volunteer groups, students, neighborhood groups, and service organizations.
- Ongoing training provided for full-time maintenance staff.
- Use of contract maintenance in selected functions to meet peak demands and help maintenance staff respond to more specialized and urgent work needs.

Renovation is a key component to a healthy park system. As Kirkland grows, and park use increases in frequency and intensity, periodic renovation is essential to keep pace with recreational needs, changes in safety guidelines, demands on use, and the need for continued effective and efficient maintenance.

7. Partnerships

PROS Plan Policy 1.7: (KCP Policy PR-2.4)

Coordinate with neighboring cities, King County, Lake Washington School District and other agencies in the planning and provision of recreation activities and facilities.

Partnership with Lake Washington School District

For years, the City has enjoyed a cooperative relationship with the Lake Washington School District in the use of their indoor facilities for a variety of organized recreation and sports activities. The use of School District facilities has enabled the City to provide a much higher level of service than would otherwise have been possible. The City reciprocates with priority use of its facilities for school activities and by providing scheduling services for outdoor facilities. The Parks and Community Services

Department provides field coordinating and scheduling services for the School District and community sports organizations. These sites range in character from open lawn areas at public schools and parks (originally not intended for sports activities) to formal athletic fields with complete facilities.

The school system is a major partner in the provision of the City's park and recreation services in terms of open space acreage and recreation facilities. There continues to be high demand and insufficient supply for facilities such as practice and game fields. Increase in population growth will aggravate this situation. Conditions will not improve without effective partnerships between sports organizations, the City, the School District, and sub-regional providers of recreation.

To ensure that School District facilities will continue to be available for City sponsored recreation programs, the City and School District entered into a joint-use agreement in the year 2000 setting forth the conditions and understandings necessary for reciprocal use of recreation facilities and joint development of capital projects.

In the future, the City should work more closely with the School District to actively explore opportunities for greater joint use of facilities. A cooperative effort on the part of the School District and the City to renovate existing playing fields on school sites should be continued as a step to providing additional needed playfield space for soccer, softball, and baseball. Independent sports organizations are experiencing a shortage of practice times and space. With facility upgrades and ongoing maintenance, facilities can be more playable and safer to use.

Partnership with King County

As the Eastside continues to urbanize, the role of King County parks becomes more important in acquiring, developing, and maintaining the larger land holdings for the region. In the future, there will be an increasing need for regional parks. The role of King County in providing parks is also changing with a major focus on systems of open space corridors that conserve natural resources, and agriculture lands that provide recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and regional trails that link cities and communities.

8. Recreation Services

PROS Plan Policy 1.8 (KCP Policy 2.4)

Kirkland citizens of all ages and abilities should have the opportunity to participate in diverse, challenging, and high-quality recreation programs that are both accessible and affordable.

Comprehensive recreation opportunities are a major ingredient of a healthy community. By providing services that are creative, productive and responsive to the needs of the public, the City Community Services Division can enhance the quality of life in Kirkland. Citizens can choose from a wide array of activities, including fitness, sports, swimming, outdoor recreation, day camps, cultural programs,

creative movement, and a variety of other programs and special events for all ages. City-sponsored activities continue to be in high demand from the community.. Emphasis should be placed on programs, activities and events that are, safe, appropriately priced, and held at convenient locations and times. The City intends to closely monitor local and national trends to offer the most diverse, accessible, and affordable recreation opportunities possible.

Kirkland citizens are also served by other leisure providers. The City should continue to act as a resource agency for the community to promote, coordinate, develop, and maintain community leisure activities. It is important that the City work with other leisure providers to complement and support each other in the cooperative provision of leisure services. Innovative methods of service delivery can be developed through continued arrangements with the School District, private non-profit agencies such as the Boys and Girls Club and Friends of Youth, private fitness clubs (seeking subsidized general public access for a certain number of hours) and the local businesses in the community. There are several opportunities for City-sponsored recreation programs that can be realized during the next decade including:

Youth Programs

A healthy community emphasizes plentiful recreation opportunities for its youth. The need for recreation programming for children of all ages continues to grow. The City should work to expand its current offerings and work with other leisure providers in the following areas:

- Increased programming that addresses an expanding need for physical activities that are safe, supervised, and productive. Opportunities for low-cost, drop-in recreation activities within neighborhoods should be explored, working in partnership with the School District and other agencies.
- Increased activities for preschool children, including opportunities to be active.
- Ensure the success of the Kirkland Teen Union Building as a recreation and social hub for youth, particularly those interested in music, art and technology activities.
- Increased indoor and outdoor facilities for youth sports programs, particularly baseball, soccer, and basketball.
- Increase programs that support an active, healthy lifestyle, recognizing and helping to impact the national obesity rates

Adult Programs

An increasing need in the following adult program areas must be explored:

- Health and fitness activities that are safe, inexpensive, and easily accessible. A diverse selection should be offered, including fitness classes, swimming programs, trails and facilities for jogging and walking.
- Adult sports programs, both drop in and league play, providing opportunities to stay fit, active and healthy. New facilities will need to be developed to meet this need.
- Lifelong learning (self-improvement) activities.

- Develop new programs to meet the growing demand for both traditional sports and alternative sports, and opportunities throughout the day and evening hours.

Family Programs

The City will need to emphasize opportunities for family recreation. The City will need to implement new, innovative programs allowing family members to participate in leisure activities together. Programming emphasis will be on:

- Outdoor activities that take advantage of the unique physical surroundings of the Kirkland community.
- Lifetime family fitness activities, such as walking and swimming.
- Support and co-sponsor special events for families to foster a greater sense of community, such as the Fourth of July Celebration, outdoor movies, concerts in the park, and other community-wide events.

Older Adult Programs

PROS Plan Policy 1.9: (KCP Policy PR-2.5)

The quality of life for the older adult population should be enhanced by providing opportunities to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional, and health programs designed to encourage independence.

The Peter Kirk Community Center is a valuable community resource which can be managed to meet many of the diverse recreation needs of older adults, and serve as a hub of community life for this population. Emphasis should be placed as follows:

- Partnerships with community agencies to create a variety of daytime older adult services and recreation opportunities at PKCC. In addition, the City needs to explore possible partnerships with other agencies, (i.e. Cascadia Community College, Lake Washington Technical College), to expand programming geographically around the city.
- Expand on classes and programs, appealing to the next generation of older adults, providing programs in the evenings and on weekends. Expand on opportunities for older adults to stay active, healthy and fit.
- Day time classes and programs at both Peter Kirk Community Center and North Kirkland Community Center targeted to meet the needs and interests of senior adults.
- Use of the Parks and Community Services publications and the City web page to create links, provide telephone numbers and general information about community services and lifelong learning opportunities available from local agencies.
- Expansion of programs geared toward taking advantage of the Kirkland Teen Union Building, including those related to the technology lab, the sound studio, and the art room.

Special Populations

PROS Plan Policy 1.10: (KCP Policy PR-2.6)

Provide an on-going analysis of needs and provide continued access to recreation programs for citizens with physical and developmental disabilities.

The need for specialized recreation programs for mentally and physically challenged individuals will continue to be a priority, and be addressed by the following:

1. The City will continue to work with regional partners, such as the City of Bellevue's Highland Center, to support opportunities for Kirkland citizens with special needs.
2. The City has developed some local social recreation opportunities for Adults with special needs, and will continue to expand as demand grows and resources allow.
3. The City will also continue its support of inclusion opportunities in all of our programs.

9. Natural Resources Conservation

Natural areas and open spaces are a vital component of the health and well being of the community. Conservation and enhancement of the ecological resources found within the City is a key component of its land use and park planning. In surveys and workshops, Kirkland citizens have consistently identified natural areas as being a key component of park planning.

Bodies of water in Kirkland, other than Lake Washington, include Forbes Lake, Forbes Creek, Juanita Creek, Cochran Springs Creek, Yarrow Creek, Everest Creek, Totem Lake, and numerous smaller streams and tributaries. These resources provide valuable habitat for wildlife and contribute to water quality. Totem Lake Park is owned by the King County Conservation District. Important portions of Forbes Lake, Forbes Creek, Cochran Springs Creek, Yarrow Creek, and Everest Creek are under City ownership.

Open space corridors serve many important functions, including recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and the connection of individual features that comprise a natural system (e.g., wetlands linked by a **stream within a watershed**). **Kirkland's open space corridors are composed of parks and other publicly owned land, along with sensitive areas and their buffers.**

PROS Plan Policy 1.11: (KCP Policy PR-3.1)

Work cooperatively with numerous resource management agencies and citizens to care for streams, enhance and protect urban forests and wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, and provide limited public access.

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 natural area.** These urban forests provide numerous "green services" such as cleaning our air, filtering our water, and preventing erosion.

However, 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 greenhouse gases. Recognized impacts associated with an ever increasing urban population include the loss of privately owned open spaces, an increase in ornamental and invasive plants which threaten native vegetative communities, and an increase in competitive pressure upon native wildlife by nonnative species and domestic pets.

The City has the opportunity to continue to participate with both State and federal agencies and a variety of citizen groups to maintain and enhance existing resources, provide valuable educational opportunities, and provide a level of public use appropriate for the area.

The Green Kirkland Partnership is an alliance between the City of Kirkland, Cascade Land Conservancy, and the community to restore natural areas in the City.

The following are Green Kirkland Partnership's goals:

- Restore Kirkland's public forested natural areas 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 forested natural areas through increased public awareness of and engagement in, protecting, restoring, and helping to maintain healthy 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 forested natural areas.
- 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.
- Educate citizens and landowners about the benefits and value trees provide and the importance of protecting and stewarding trees and forested natural areas.

PROS Plan Policy 1.12 (KCP Policy PR-3.2)

Preserve opportunities for people to observe and enjoy wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Over 60 percent of the City's parkland inventory provides valuable habitat for urban wildlife. In many cases, these parks also provide opportunities for interpretive education. The City must continue to balance the public benefits of providing access to these areas while limiting potential adverse impacts.

Acquisition is a key component to protection of valuable habitat. The City should review key parcels of land as they become available for inclusion into the existing network of parks and open space. The inclusion of these lands should be prioritized based on the following factors:

- Areas which are intrinsically biologically critical by virtue of their continuity with other, existing natural areas.
- Areas which provide benefits to the greater community, including water quality functions, hydrologic management, and erosion control.
- Areas of unique scenic quality.
- Areas which are culturally significant.
- Areas which provide significant fish and wildlife habitat.
- Areas located in neighborhoods with identified deficiencies in open spaces and parks.

10. Capital Recommendations

PROS Plan Policy 1.13: (KCP Policy 1.5)

Acquire and develop needed park facilities using traditional and new funding sources while maintaining high-level maintenance standards and program quality throughout the system.

The recommendations being made focus on the parks and recreation needs from the year 2010 and through 2012. Beyond that, the City will re-evaluate priorities and resources. In establishing recommendations, all of the competing needs for parks and programs are considered. The proposed recommendations include a mixture of acquisition, development, and renovation.

The three categories of capital improvement projects include acquisition, development, and renovation. This is consistent with how the Parks and Community Services Department currently prepares and identifies its submittal of projects in the City's Six-Year Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Some of the recommended projects have already been identified in the CIP. ***While the Plan is a tool for the next few years, longer term projects have also been identified to address expected community demands and needs.*** The priorities for acquiring, developing, and renovating parks are intended to be fluid and dynamic. Priorities will change continually as opportunities and needs arise. Opportunities will arise in these areas concurrently or at different times, and must be weighed against available resources. The identified list of recommended capital projects is not set or fixed. We expect that over time, new opportunities might present themselves. Therefore, the list does not preclude changing circumstances. Whether or not a project from the list will actually be implemented is determined by a combination of factors: opportunities that surface; funding available; support for the project; and long-term maintenance and operation costs.

Acquisition. A goal of the Kirkland Parks system is to capture opportunities for acquiring and preserving unique park sites. Unique park sites are often located adjacent to existing parks, unusual in size, and exceptional in character. Public surveys place a high priority on acquisition of land for parks and open space.

Development. There is a real need to develop new neighborhood parks in certain areas of the City to provide neighborhood playgrounds, picnic areas, and playcourts within walking distance.

Additionally, there is a need to expand the City's public trail system. In determining when a park should be developed, several key factors should be considered:

- Will park resources be made more accessible?
- Will it respond to an opportunity or demand?
- Will it help to achieve a balance among park types?
- **Will it make the site more accessible, interesting, and safer for the public's use?**

Renovation. One of the most important things that must be done with the park system is to keep it in high quality condition. Practicing preventative maintenance and improving parks and facilities on a **scheduled basis maintains user satisfaction, protects the public's investment and is part of maintaining the community's positive image.** There are key factors that influence the need to renovate parks including:

- Age and condition of facility
- Changing use patterns
- Safety and liability problems
- Unnecessary maintenance costs

Many of the parks and facilities acquired when the system was first developed are in need of renovation now and others will have to be renovated in the future to extend their usefulness to the **public. The City's recent renovation work to restrooms, playgrounds, docks, and other facilities has** proven to stabilize or reduce maintenance and operation costs through improved design and use of better materials.

Financing the Plan

On a biennial basis, the City prepares a Six-Year Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The State Growth Management Act also requires that the City adopt a Six-Year Capital Facilities Plan. Within the CIP, parks capital project needs and funding sources are identified. Financing capital projects comes from a variety of sources such as current operating funds, reserve funds, impact fees, grants, private sector support, and general obligation voter-approved bonds. Several funding sources are available to accomplish capital projects listed in the CIP. The following is a list of many of those funding sources.

- Reserves
- Quarter Percent Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)
- General Obligation Bonds
- Councilmanic Bonds
- Conservation Futures Tax (CFT)
- Fee-in-Lieu of Park and Open Space Fees
- Impact Fees
- Grants
- Donations

Capital Recommendations

Acquisition

✓ **Community Parks**

Pending Annexation Area
Expansion of McAuliffe Park

✓ **Natural Areas**

Creek buffers
Wetlands adjacent to existing parks
Habitat corridors
Potential Annexation Areas

✓ **Waterfront**

Lake Washington
Forbes Lake

✓ **Neighborhood Parks**

North Juanita (East of Juanita High School)
North Rose Hill (West of Mark Twain Park)
North Rose Hill (North West of Mark Twain Park)
South Juanita (East of Juanita Bay Park)
Market (South of Juanita Bay Park)
Totem Lake Neighborhood
North Juanita (South West of Brookhaven Park)
Pending Annexation Area

✓ **Special Areas**

Land for Community Recreation Center

Development

✓ **Community Parks**

McAuliffe Park
Pending Annexation Area
Heritage Park

✓ **Natural Areas**

Watershed Park
Yarrow Bay Wetlands
Heronfield Wetlands

✓ **Waterfront**

Forbes Lake Park
Kiwanis Park
Lake Ave West Street End

✓ **Neighborhood Parks**

Snyder's Corner Park Site
Totem Lake
Pending Annexation Area
Neighborhood Open Space Tracts
North Juanita (Southwest of Brookhaven Park)
North Juanita (East of Juanita High School)
North Rose Hill (West of Mark Twain Park)
North Rose Hill (Northwest of Mark Twain Park)
South Juanita (East of Juanita Bay Park)
Market (South of Juanita Bay Park)

✓ **Special Areas**

Community Indoor Recreation Center
AG Bell Elementary Playfields
International School Playfields
Juanita High School Playfields
Off-Leash Dog Area(s)

Renovation

✓ **Community Parks**

Everest Park Restroom
Peter Kirk Park Restroom
Lee Johnson Field Synthetic Turf and Re-Lighting

✓ **Natural Areas**

Green Kirkland Forest Restoration
Juanita Bay Park Wetland Restoration

✓ **Neighborhood Parks**

Reservoir Park
Terrace Park
Spinney Homestead Park
Ohde Avenue Park Site
Mark Twain Park

✓ **Waterfront**

Shoreline Restoration and habitat enhancement
Waverly Beach Park
Juanita Beach Park
Marsh Park Restroom
Houghton Beach Restroom

✓ **Special**

Renovation of Playgrounds, Sport Courts, Tennis Courts, Pathways and Parking Areas
Dock/Pier Renovations
Peter Kirk Pool Upgrades/Code Compliance

SECTION 3

Park Classifications

Kirkland defines its parks based upon the type of need the particular park serves. Occasionally a park may fulfill a combination of needs, and may be classified accordingly. There are four main classifications of parks in the City park system. The City defines its parks as (a) neighborhood, (b) community, (c) waterfront, or (d) as nature park areas. County and State parks are also within the city limits and the Kirkland planning area.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are usually no more than 15 acres, depending upon a variety of factors such as location, need, opportunity, and available funding sources. Typically, neighborhood parks are readily accessible to nearby residents and are geographically positioned within safe walking and bicycle access. Neighborhood parks are designed to provide for the needs of a variety of different age groups. Neighborhood parks feature amenities such as paths or trails for walking and jogging, playgrounds for **children's play, open lawn areas for informal recreation** activities, and tennis or basketball courts. During non-school hours, public elementary school properties provide functions very similar to neighborhood parks. Consequently the Park Plan acknowledges a partial contribution of these public lands to the level of service provision in terms of acreage and geographic location.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are usually 12 to 30 acres in size and are generally defined as larger, diverse recreation areas serving both formalized, active recreation needs and recreation uses benefiting the surrounding neighborhood. Community parks often include facilities such as sports fields, pools, and/or community centers. Level of service standards for community parks includes public secondary schools and other public land containing active recreation facilities (such as Taylor Fields at the former Houghton Landfill).

WATERFRONT PARKS

Waterfront parks are uniquely valuable public resources. By their very nature, waterfront parks serve a regional need for public access to **water. Because Kirkland's waterfront parks vary in character, size, and location**, they tend to serve a wide variety of needs, including those of the neighborhood in which they are located.

OPEN SPACE / NATURAL PARK AREAS

Natural park areas are acquired to preserve the special natural and unspoiled character of a particular location that is also an important Habitat Conservation Area. Common areas of preservation in Kirkland include wetlands and wooded areas. Passive recreation uses are appropriate for these sites, such as walking, bird-watching, interpretive educational programs and signage, and non-motorized trail systems.

Park, Open Space, and Community Facility Inventory

	Park Name	Park Address	Acreage
Neighborhood Parks			
1	Brookhaven Park	100th Ave NE & about 126th/128th	0.95
2	Carillon Woods	NE 55th & 106 Ave NE	8.71
3	Cedar View Park	11400 NE 90th St	0.20
4	Cotton Hill Park (undeveloped)	NE 100th & 110 Ave NE	2.16
5	Forbes Creek Park	11615 NE 106th Lane	2.02
6	Highlands Park	11210 NE 102nd Street	2.73
7	Houghton Neighborhood / Phyllis Needy	10811 NE 47th Street	0.50
8	Mark Twain Park	10625 132nd Avenue NE	6.60
9	North Kirkland Community Center	12421 103rd Avenue NE	5.49
10	North Rose Hill Woodlands Park	9930 124th Avenue NE	20.96
11	Ohde Pea Patch	300 Ohde Avenue	0.89
12	Reservoir Park	1501 Third Street	0.62
13	Rose Hill Meadows	8300 124th	4.10
14	Snyders Corner Park Site	NE 70th & 132nd Avenue NE	4.50
15	South Rose Hill Park	12730 NE 72nd Street	2.19
16	Spinney Homestead	11710 NE 100th Street	6.54
17	Terrace Park	10333 NE 67th Street	1.81
18	Tot Lot	111 Ninth Avenue	0.52
19	Van Aalst Park	335 13th Avenue	1.59
	Neighborhood Park Subtotal:		73.08
Community Parks			
20	Crestwoods Park	1818 Sixth Street	26.63
21	Everest Park	500 Eighth Street S	23.17
22	Heritage Park	111 Waverly Way	10.12
23	McAuliffe Park	11609 & 11615 108th Avenue NE	11.60
24	Peter Kirk Park	202 Third Street	12.48
	Community Park Subtotal:		84.00
Waterfront Parks			
25	David E. Brink Park	555 Lake Street S	0.87
26	Forbes Lake Park (undeveloped)	9500 124th Ave NE	8.81
27	Houghton Beach Park	5811 Lake Washington Blvd	3.80
28	Juanita Beach Park	9703 Juanita Drive	21.94
29	Kiwanis Park	1405 10th Street W	2.57
30	Lake Avenue West Park	Lake Avenue West	0.25
31	Marina Park	25 Lakeshore Plaza	3.59
32	Marsh Park	6605 Lake Washington Blvd NE	4.18
33	Settlers Landing	10th Street	0.10
34	Street End Park	501 Lake Street South	0.10
35	Waverly Beach Park	633 Waverly Park Way	2.76
	Waterfront Park Subtotal:		48.97

Open Space/Natural Parks

36	Heronfield Wetlands	NE124th and 120th	28.12
37	Juanita Bay	2201 Market Street	110.83
38	Watershed	4500 110th Avenue NE	73.37
39	Yarrow Bay Wetlands	NE Points Drive	74.19
40	South Norway Hill Park	NE 145th & 124th Ave NE	9.80
Open Space/Natural Park Subtotal:			296.31

Kirkland Parks Total: 502.36

Other City-Maintained Sites	Address	Acreage
Kirkland Cemetery	12036 NE 80th	6.82
Woodinville Water Tower Park	Kingsgate	2.00
Totem Lake Wetlands	Totem Lake Blvd	17.18
Subtotal:		26.00

City-Owned Open Space Parcels	Approximate Address	Acreage
Parcel Number 3295730200	NE 107th Place & 116th Ave NE	1.53
Parcel Number 6639900214	NE124th Ave NE & NE 101 Lane	1.11
Parcel Number 3326059150	NE 116th St & 115th Lane NE	1.45
Parcel Number 3558910830	NE 123rd St & 103rd Ave NE	1.94
Parcel Number 1138020240	NE 125th PL & 95th Place NE	0.46
Parcel Number 1437900440	NE 129th St & 113th Place NE	0.85
Parcel Number 1015500370	100th Ave NE & NE 140th	0.67
Subtotal:		8.01

County-Owned Open Space Parcels	Approximate Address	Acreage
Parcel Number 2564900550	NE 114th Place & 126th Ave NE	1.09
Parcel Number 2423010420	NE 109th Place & 126th Place NE	0.69
Parcel Number 1737101010	NE 110th Place & 132nd Ave NE	1.25
Subtotal:		3.03

City/School Partnership Sites	Address	Acres Maintained
Kirkland Junior High School	430 18th Ave	3.50
Mark Twain Elementary School	9525 130th NE	3.50
B.E.S.T. High School	10903 NE 53rd St	3.00
Juanita Elementary School	9635 NE 132nd	2.00
Ben Franklin Elementary School	12434 NE 60th	5.50
Rose Hill Elementary School	8110 128th NE	2.00
Lakeview Elementary School	10400 NE 68th	1.50
Subtotal:		21.00

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Park and Recreation standards are developed to guide those responsible for planning park and recreation services. Communities should develop their own standards based upon the community's unique characteristics, needs, interests, and traditions. This section will identify both general and specific needs, including needs for park acreage, needs for specific types of parks, as well as the need for specific park features. (*per capita analysis based on official Kirkland population of 49,010*)

A) NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

➤ Neighborhood Park Service Standards:

- Geographic Area: One Quarter Mile Radius Within Each Kirkland Household
- Desirable Population Service Level (DLOS): 2.06* acres per 1,000 population served
- Acquisition Guideline: up to 15 acres

** Includes public elementary school lands calculated at 50% of available open space.*

➤ Neighborhood Park Needs Analysis

Geographic Area Deficit Locations:

- ✓ North Juanita (East of Juanita High School)
- ✓ North Rose Hill (West of Mark Twain Park)
- ✓ North Rose Hill (North West of Mark Twain Park)
- ✓ South Juanita (East of Juanita Bay Park)
- ✓ Market (South of Juanita Bay Park)
- ✓ Totem Lake Neighborhood
- ✓ North Juanita (South West of Brookhaven Park)
- ✓ Pending Annexation Area

Acres Per Capita Analysis:

Total acreage (neighborhood parks):	73.08
<u>Total acreage (elementary schools @ 50%):</u>	<u>15.05</u>
<i>Total existing neighborhood park acreage:</i>	<i>88.13</i>

Desired Level of Service Acreage: 100.94

Neighborhood Park Acreage Need: 12.85 acres

B) COMMUNITY PARKS

➤ **Community Park Service Standards:**

- Desirable Population Service Level (DLOS): 2.095* acres per 1,000 population served
 - Acquisition Guideline: 12 to 30 acres
- * Includes public secondary schools at 100% of available open space.*

➤ **Community Park Needs Analysis:**

Acres Per Capita Analysis:

Total acreage (community parks):	84.00
Total acreage (secondary schools @ 100%):	<u>61.00</u>
Total existing community park acreage:	145.00
 Desired Level of Service Acreage:	 102.70

Community Park Acreage Need: (0) Surplus Exists

C) WATERFRONT PARKS

➤ **Waterfront Park Service Standards:**

- Population Service Level (DLOS): No applicable standard
- Acquisition Guideline: No applicable standard

➤ **Waterfront Park Needs Analysis:**

Acres Per Capita Analysis:

Total acreage (waterfront parks):	48.97
 Desired Level of Service Acreage:	 No applicable standard

Waterfront Park Acreage Need: (0) No applicable standard

D) NATURAL PARKS /OPEN SPACE AREAS

➤ **Natural Park Service Standards:**

- Desirable Population Service Level (DLOS): 5.70 acres per 1,000 population served
- Acquisition Guideline: 5% of total land area of City

➤ **Natural Park Needs Analysis:**

Acres Per Capita Analysis:

Total acreage (natural parks): 296.31

Desired Level of Service Acreage: 279.30

Natural Park Acreage Need: (0) Surplus Exists

Indoor Recreation Space

Indoor recreation space provided and managed by the City consists of meeting room space in a variety of configurations and sizes to accommodate a multitude of activities targeting pre-school, teen, and senior populations. Currently, City-owned indoor recreation space cannot accommodate indoor sports activities for either youth or adults. Indoor recreation space of significant size is typically found in community parks. Opportunities may exist to utilize public school facilities to a greater extent through closer partnership arrangements with the Lake Washington School District.

City Recreation Facilities	Address	Square Feet
North Kirkland Community Center	12421 103rd Ave NE	12,000
Peter Kirk Community Center	352 Kirkland Ave	9,800
Kirkland Teen Union Building	348 Kirkland Ave	6,885
Heritage Hall	203 Market St	1,390
Subtotal:		30,075
Kirkland Performance Center (leased)	350 Kirkland Ave	17,200

INDOOR RECREATION SPACE: LEVEL OF SERVICE AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

➤ **Indoor Recreation Space Service Standards:**

- Desirable Population Service Level (DLOS):
Indoor non-athletic: 700 square feet per 1,000 population served
Indoor athletic (gym): 500 square feet per 1,000 population served

➤ **Indoor Recreation Needs Analysis:**

Square Feet Per Capita Analysis:

Non-athletic Square Footage:	30,075
<i>Desired Level of Service Square Feet:</i>	<i>34,300</i>
<i>Non-athletic Space Need:</i>	<i>4,225 square feet</i>

Athletic (Gym) Square Footage:	0
<i>Non-athletic Space Need:</i>	<i>24,500 square feet</i>

Recreation Facilities/Amenities

Park and recreation facilities include features found within parks that fill a specific need for a certain segment of our population. Athletic fields for adults and youth, and tennis courts are excellent examples.

The standards presented here are meant to serve as a guide to prepare for meeting community needs and demands. These standards were formulated based upon current National Recreation and Park Association guidelines and, in some cases, modified to **reflect Kirkland's distinct needs, demands, goals, and traditions.**

Recreation Facilities Inventory

<i>Facility Type</i>	<i>Guideline (per population)</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Current Inventory</i>	<i>Deficit/Surplus</i>
Baseball fields	1/5000	10	15	+5
Softball fields	1/10000	5	5	0
Soccer /football	1/7500	7	7	0
Tennis courts	1/2000	25	25	0
Skate parks	1/20000	2	1	-1
Outdoor pools	1/35000	1	1	0
Indoor pools	1/20000	2	1	-1

NEIGHBORHOOD ANALYSIS

The neighborhood analysis provides a description of each neighborhood within the City. This examination is made from the perspective of determining Parks and Recreation needs and making capital improvement recommendations for specific geographic areas within the City.

This section also contains an inventory of facilities and conditions that exist in the three neighborhoods **located in unincorporated King County just north of the City's present city limits**. These neighborhoods represent a pending annexation area and will be incorporated into the City effective June 1, 2011. This plan does not detail the needs for parks in these neighborhoods since they still remain within County jurisdiction at the time this document was created. It is anticipated that a PROS Plan update will be necessary soon after the annexation effective date.

Bridle Trails Neighborhood

Parks

Bridle Trails State Park

Bridle Trails State Park comprises a 480-acre facility that provides primarily equestrian recreational facilities on a regional scale. In addition, the park serves a broader public interest as it is used by joggers, hikers, nature groups, and picnickers. This large, mostly wooded tract also serves as a significant open space for local residents.

Snyder's Corner Park Site

Snyder's Corner Park Site is an undeveloped park located at the southeast corner of NE 70th and 132nd Avenue NE and was included within the boundaries of a small residential annexation in 2009.

Public Schools

Ben Franklin Elementary School

Ben Franklin Elementary School sits on 9.7 acres and, in a joint development agreement with the School District, serves as a de-facto neighborhood park for Bridle Trails residents. The City developed park improvements and maintains much of the site, which provides playfields for little league baseball, softball, and youth soccer as well as space for informal recreation activities for adjacent residents. The school features **children's** playground equipment, a small picnic shelter, trails and group gathering areas, and interpretive features. Indoor recreation is provided on a limited basis in the school multi-purpose room.

Private Non-Profit Recreation

Taylor Playfields

Owned by King County, the former Houghton Landfill and current solid waste transfer station is used in part by little league, who maintain several fields on the site.

BRIDLE TRAILS NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Develop a master plan and construct improvements at the Snyders Corner Park Site

Central Houghton Neighborhood

Parks

Watershed Park

Watershed Park is a 73.37 acre undeveloped heavily wooded nature park area created when the watershed was taken out of service in 1967. It contains a primitive trail system. Access is limited.

Phyllis Needy Houghton Neighborhood Park

This 0.5 acre neighborhood park has been developed to include a children's playground, basketball court, picnic area, open lawn area, and a restroom.

Carillon Woods

This 8.71 property has been carefully developed to preserve existing forested areas and protect sensitive areas. It features a small playground and walking trails.

Public Schools

International Community School and Community School

The school site is comprised of approximately 11 acres which include playfields for students and other organized recreation activities, such as youth baseball, softball, and soccer. Additionally, the school site includes a small running track.

B.E.S.T. High School

The B.E.S.T. High School is a 10-acre site which, as part of the City's partnership with the School District, includes a multi-purpose playfield built and maintained by the City. The school also has a small gymnasium which provides limited public recreation opportunities subject to availability.

Private Nonprofit Recreation

Northwest University

Northwest University is a private four-year institution located at 11102 NE 53rd Street. The college provides indoor recreation space to the community on a limited basis as well as practice playfields for organized recreation activities such as youth baseball and softball.

CENTRAL HOUGHTON NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Complete Green Kirkland Forest Restoration activities at Carillon Woods and Watershed Park
- ✓ Complete a park master plan for Watershed Park
- ✓ Develop new/improved playfields at International School in conjunction with modernization

Everest Neighborhood

Parks

Everest Park

The central portion of the Everest Neighborhood is dominated by the 23.17 acre Everest Park located at 500 Eighth Street South. Everest Park was originally developed in the mid-1960s and subsequently redeveloped to include four regulation little league fields. These facilities provide game fields for little league baseball and softball. Everest Park improvements also include a trail system, a creek, a tennis court, a picnic shelter, children's play equipment, picnic tables, and a public restroom.

Ohde Avenue Park

The Ohde Avenue Pea Patch is a 0.89-acre community garden located at 11425 Ohde Avenue. Residents are allowed to use garden plots to grow flowers and vegetables. It is one of three pea patches in the City.

Public Schools

None

EVEREST NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Seek acquisition opportunities to preserve and protect the Everest Park Greenbelt and associated Everest Creek watershed
- ✓ Develop neighborhood-park related amenities at Ohde Avenue Pea Patch
- ✓ Replace Everest Park Restroom/Storage Building

Highlands Neighborhood

Parks

Cedar View Park

This 0.20 acre former unopened street right-of-way includes a small playground, seating, picnic tables, and territorial views.

Cotton Hill Park

This park is an undeveloped 2.16 acre parcel containing deciduous and evergreen trees and wetlands. Volunteer work parties have created connecting trails and continue to pursue reforestation.

Forbes Creek Park

A 2-acre neighborhood park created and developed as part of a planned unit development, this park was deeded to the City in 1981 and became its 18th park. Principal elements of the park are two unlighted tennis courts, one outdoor **basketball court, a children's playground, open lawn areas, and** pedestrian pathways.

Highlands Park

Once the only public park serving the Highlands neighborhood, this 2.73 acre neighborhood park offers striking views of Lake Washington and the Olympic Mountains. Principal elements of Highlands Park **include open space, a children's playground, basketball court, and a** baseball/softball backstop for informal play and organized practices.

Spinney Homestead Park

Spinney Homestead Park is a 6.54 acre neighborhood park consisting of open lawn areas used for organized practice by youth little league and soccer teams on a limited basis as well as informal recreation activities by neighborhood residents. The **park also contains a children's playground** and a paved loop trail and a 10 stall parking lot.

Public Schools

None

HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Renovate Spinney Homestead Park
- ✓ Continue restoration efforts at Cotton Hill Park

Lakeview Neighborhood

Parks

Marsh Park

Marsh Park is a 4.18 acre waterfront park consisting of 575 lineal feet of shoreline and includes a fishing/pedestrian dock, public shoreline access, public restroom, picnic areas, and open space. The park also features panoramic views of Lake Washington, the Seattle skyline, and Olympic Mountains.

Houghton Beach Park

Houghton Beach Park is located at 5811 Lake Washington Boulevard and is one of two City waterfront parks lifeguarded during the summer. This waterfront park is 3.8 acres in size and offers over 900 lineal feet of shoreline. Houghton Beach Park also **includes picnic areas, open space, a children's playground, volleyball, fishing and sunbathing dock, walking paths, public restrooms, public art, hand launch for non-motorized boats, and panoramic views of Lake Washington.**

Terrace Park

Terrace Park is a 1.8 acre neighborhood park located at 10333 NE 67th Street. Formerly the site of the Houghton Town Hall, Terrace Park now serves the Lakeview Neighborhood and to a limited degree the Houghton Neighborhood. It **features a children's playground, sport court, and open space for informal recreation, organized youth soccer, and baseball team practice.** The park also contains a small off-street parking lot.

Yarrow Bay Wetlands

The Yarrow Bay Wetlands, located at NE Lake Washington Boulevard and Points Drive, is one of the largest remaining wetlands on Lake Washington. This 74.19 acre site was dedicated to the City by the developer of an adjacent office complex. Public access is available, yet limited.

Public Schools

None

LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Renovate Terrace Park
- ✓ Pursue acquisition of additional property adjacent to Yarrow Bay Wetlands
- ✓ Complete shoreline restoration and habitat enhancement at Houghton Beach and Marsh Parks
- ✓ Remove upland and underwater invasive plants in and near Yarrow Bay Wetlands
- ✓ Develop a master plan for Yarrow Bay Wetlands
- ✓ Renovate/replace restrooms at Marsh Park and Houghton Beach Park

Market Neighborhood

Parks

Juanita Bay Park

Much of this 110.83 acre nature park is contained within the Market Neighborhood. It includes one of the largest remaining wetlands on Lake Washington and is inhabited by many forms of wildlife. The principal features within the park include an 1/8 mile pedestrian causeway, interpretive wetland boardwalks, interpretive trails, public restroom, and views of Juanita Bay and the Seattle skyline.

Waverly Beach Park

This 2.8-acre waterfront park with over 490 lineal feet of shoreline provides one of two City lifeguarded beaches and features a public fishing and pedestrian dock, picnic areas, children's playground and public restrooms. Windsurfing is also a popular activity at this park.

Heritage Park

This 10.12 acre community park occupies a bluff above Lake Washington and offers commanding views of the Kirkland shoreline along Moss Bay, the Seattle skyline, the Olympic Mountains, and Mount Rainier. The park houses Heritage Hall, a historic community meeting facility, and features a small playground, tennis courts, a flower garden, and a combination of lighted asphalt and gravel trails.

Kiwanis Park

Kiwanis Park is a 2.57 acre undeveloped waterfront park containing 450 feet of shoreline and is one of the oldest City parks. The land was deeded to the City of Kirkland in about 1920. In 1954 the City Council voted to rename the park, formerly known as **Scout Park**, to **"Camp Kiwanis."** **Kiwanis Park** has remained in its natural state since its dedication in 1920 and is the location of a volunteer-led forest restoration effort.

Lake Avenue West Street End Park Site

This small (0.25 acre) waterfront street end offers views of Lake Washington and Seattle. The property provides lake access.

Public Schools

None

MARKET NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Complete development of Heritage Park
- ✓ Prepare and implement a development plan for Lake Ave. W. Street End
- ✓ Continue forest and wetland restoration efforts at Kiwanis Park and Juanita Bay Park
- ✓ Renovate Waverly Beach Park including shoreline restoration and shoreline habitat enhancement
- ✓ Develop a neighborhood park in the northeast portion of neighborhood
- ✓ Develop a master plan for Kiwanis Park

Moss Bay Neighborhood

Parks

Marina Park

Marina Park is a 3.59 acre waterfront park located at the foot of Kirkland Avenue and Market Street, bordered by Lake Shore Plaza. Marina Park includes over 695 feet of shoreline, a 66-slip transient moorage facility, temporary moorage for Commercial tour boats, a single-lane boat ramp, fishing, performing arts pavilion, picnic areas, and public restrooms.

Street End Park

Street End Park is located at Lake Street South and Fifth Avenue South and is an approximately .02 acre park overlooking 60 feet of shoreline. This park provides pedestrian seating and views of Moss Bay and the Olympic Mountains.

David E. Brink Park

David E. Brink Park is a waterfront park located in the 700 block of Lake Street South and includes 0.87 acres of waterfront as well as 660 feet of shoreline. The park features a pedestrian and fishing dock, large lawn area, public art, and panoramic views of Lake Washington, Seattle, and the Olympic Mountains.

Settler's Landing Park

Settler's Landing Park is a waterfront park of approximately .10 acres in size including 60 feet of shoreline. The park features a pedestrian walkway, public access to a dock, and views of Lake Washington.

Peter Kirk Park

Peter Kirk Park is a 12.48 acre community park located near the heart of the Central Business District at Third and Central Way. Peter Kirk is among the most developed **of Kirkland's parks**. Principal features of Peter Kirk Park include one lighted athletic field for baseball, an outdoor swimming pool, a skate court, Peter Kirk Community Center, Teen Center, Library, public art, two tennis courts, **basketball court, children's playground**, pedestrian paths, and public restrooms.

Public Schools

Lakeview Elementary School

Lakeview Elementary School is located at 10400 NE 68th just northwest of the railroad bridge crossing NE 68th. The Lakeview Elementary School site is comprised of approximately eight acres. This site provides practice playfields for little league baseball, softball, and youth soccer as well as informal recreation activities. The school site **also provides children's playground** equipment and indoor recreation space on a limited basis for organized activities.

Other

Peter Kirk Community Center

The Kirkland Senior Center is located within Peter Kirk Park at 406 Kirkland Avenue. The facility offers a variety of recreational, educational, and health programs.

Kirkland Public Library

The Kirkland Public Library is located at 308 Kirkland Avenue (within Peter Kirk Park) and is part of the King County Library system.

Peter Kirk Pool

Peter Kirk Pool is an outdoor public swimming pool owned and operated by the City and is located within Peter Kirk Park. The facility provides swim instruction for both youth and adults and public swimming during the summer months.

Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB)

The Teen Center is located adjacent to the Peter Kirk Community Center and provides year-round programming for Kirkland area youth.

Kirkland Performance Center

Located at 350 Kirkland Avenue in downtown, KPC is billed as “the Eastside’s Bridge to the Performing Arts.” The 400-seat facility is home to more than 300 events annually, including a wide variety of professional music, dance, and drama productions.

MOSS BAY NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Renovate restroom, tennis courts and pathways in Peter Kirk Park
- ✓ Replace lighting at Lee Johnson Field and install synthetic turf for year-round play
- ✓ Install habitat-friendly decking material at Marina Dock
- ✓ Retrofit Peter Kirk Pool mechanical systems for efficiency and code compliance
- ✓ Complete shoreline restoration and habitat **enhancement along shoreline within neighborhood’s** waterfront parks

Norkirk Neighborhood

Parks

Crestwoods Park

Principal features of this 26.63 acre park include paved and unpaved trails, two adult softball fields, one regulation little league **field, one soccer field, children's playground, public restrooms,** picnic tables, basketball court, parking, wildlife habitat and natural areas.

Reservoir Park

This small 0.62 acre neighborhood **park has a children's** playground, lawn areas, benches and picnic tables.

Juanita Bay Park

Approximately 19 acres of Juanita Bay Park, primarily undeveloped forest and wetlands, is contained within the boundaries of the Norkirk Neighborhood. The property is located between Forbes Creek Drive and 20th Avenue.

Tot Lot Park

The 0.52 acre Tot Lot Park is a neighborhood park that also features a community pea patch garden. The fenced park contains playground equipment intended for very young children.

Van Aalst Park

Van Aalst Park is located in the middle of the Norkirk Neighborhood at 13th Avenue and Fourth Street. This 1.59 **acre neighborhood park includes a children's** playground, basketball court, and open space for informal recreational activity.

Public Schools

Kirkland Junior High School

The school site is over 15 acres in size and complements the adjacent Crestwoods Park in supplying valuable open space for the neighborhood. **The school's gymnasium** provides valuable indoor recreation space for the **City's community**-wide recreation program. Additionally, the junior high grounds include one baseball/softball field, one small practice softball field, a quarter-mile running track, one football field, and four outdoor unlighted tennis courts. The City renovated and maintains playfields at the school as part of its partnership agreement with the School District.

Peter Kirk Elementary School

The 11-acre Peter Kirk Elementary School site is located on Sixth Street at approximately 13th Avenue. The Peter Kirk School site provides playfields for little league baseball/softball and youth soccer, as well as space for informal recreation activities for nearby residents. Additionally, the school provides **children's playground equipment and indoor** recreation space on a limited basis.

NORKIRK NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Renovate Reservoir Park
- ✓ Improve trails in Crestwoods Park
- ✓ Implement forest restoration efforts at Crestwoods Park
- ✓ Partner with the School District to improve playfields at Peter Kirk Elementary School

North Juanita Neighborhood

Parks

North Kirkland Community Center and Park

The North Kirkland Community Center and Park, 5.5 acres in size, is located at 12421 103rd Avenue NE. The Community Center is open seven days a week and provides facilities for adult and youth recreation programs, and community meeting rental rooms. The site contains a 16,000 square foot accessible playground, sport court, and open lawn areas for informal play and picnicking.

Brookhaven Neighborhood Park

This 0.95 acre neighborhood park was developed jointly with neighborhood residents in 1998. The park contains a gravel loop pathway, bench, picnic table, fencing, and an interpretive viewing platform overlooking Juanita Creek, which bisects the park.

Public Schools

Juanita High School

This 54-acre site includes outdoor facilities such as a one quarter mile track, football/soccer stadium, two softball fields, and one regulation high school baseball field. The site includes six unlighted tennis courts and a large fieldhouse which can accommodate a wide variety of organized community indoor recreation programs. **The community's only public indoor swimming pool is also located at Juanita High School.**

Juanita Elementary School

Juanita Elementary School is an eight-acre school site which provides practice playfields for little league baseball/softball and youth soccer, and informal outdoor recreation activities. The City maintains the playfields as part of its partnership agreement with the District. The school also **provides children's** playground equipment and indoor recreation space on a limited basis.

NORTH JUANITA NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Develop a neighborhood park in the west and northeast portions of the neighborhood
- ✓ Partner with School District on playfield improvements at Juanita High School

North Rose Hill Neighborhood

Parks

Forbes Lake Park

Forbes Lake Park is an 8.81 acre waterfront which contains several non-contiguous parcels with a combined over 400 lineal feet of shoreline. The park site is currently undeveloped.

Mark Twain Park

This 6.60 acre **neighborhood park** features walking and jogging paths, children's playground, basketball court, and open lawn area for informal recreation activities.

North Rose Hill Woodlands Park

This neighborhood/nature park 20.96 acres and contains over a half-mile of paved trails, wetland boardwalks, interpretive signs, picnic shelter, two **children's playgrounds**, benches, wetlands, and an open lawn area for informal play.

Public Schools

Mark Twain Elementary School

The 8-acre site **includes children's play equipment, and open space for informal recreation.** The City jointly developed playfields at the school as part of its partnership agreement with the School District. The school's multipurpose room also provides indoor recreation space on a limited basis.

Lake Washington Technical College

Lake Washington Technical College occupies 54 acres of land at approximately 132nd Avenue NE and NE 120th. With the exception of the instructional buildings and associated parking, the site is heavily wooded and provides open space.

Private Nonprofit Recreation

Kirkland Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club is a private non-profit organization whose primary mission is to serve youth. The Club provides recreation services in an approximately 8,000 square foot facility which includes a large multipurpose room, game room, a gymnasium, and related facilities. The site also includes a small playfield and playground intended to serve Club members.

NORTH ROSE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Implement the 2009 Development Plan for Forbes Lake Park
- ✓ Renovate Mark Twain Park
- ✓ Develop new neighborhood parks in the northwest and northeast portions of neighborhood

South Juanita Neighborhood

Parks

Heronfield Wetlands

The Heronfield Wetlands is primarily a 28.12 acre wildlife habitat and nature park located at NE 124th Street and 107th Place NE. The southern portion of the park contains developable uplands. A portion of this park is located in the South Juanita Neighborhood (the bulk of the park is within the Totem Lake Neighborhood).

Juanita Bay Park

About 38 acres of this 110-acre park are contained within the South Juanita Neighborhood, including a significant portion of the Forbes Valley, which is dissected by Forbes Creek.

Juanita Beach Park

Kirkland's largest waterfront park, Juanita Beach Park is an historic 21.94 acre site featuring an extensive sand beach, two lighted tennis courts, two little league baseball/softball fields, two public restrooms, picnic facilities and shelters, and a **children's playground**. **The park also contains an over-water walking pier and extensive open space.** The historic Forbes House has been retained in the park. A 2005 master plan for the park details future improvements including a skate park, playfield renovation, and extensive habitat restoration.

McAuliffe Park

This 11.60 acre former nursery property contains an array of historic farm artifacts, a century-old wooden barn, several former residential buildings, and extensive ornamental plantings. Intended as a **community park, a pea patch is also located on the site, as is a children's playground and picnic tables/benches.**

Public Schools

Alexander Graham Bell Elementary School

Alexander Graham Bell School is an 11.5-acre school site which includes playfields for little league and youth soccer and open space for informal recreation activities. The A.G. Bell School site includes a **children's playground and a wooded area with trails.** Indoor recreation space is also available in the school multipurpose room on a limited basis.

SOUTH JUANITA NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Implement the 2005 master plan for Juanita Beach Park
- ✓ Develop a neighborhood park in the southeast portion of the neighborhood
- ✓ Develop community uses for existing buildings at McAuliffe Park
- ✓ Complete a site development plan for Heronfield Wetlands
- ✓ Partner with School District for playfield improvements at A.G. Bell Elementary

South Rose Hill Neighborhood

Parks

Rose Hill Meadows

Park improvements for this 4.10 acre neighborhood park were completed in 2009 and include play meadows, walking trails, picnic areas and a shelter, and a planned playground.

South Rose Hill Neighborhood Park

Mature fir trees dominate this 2.19 acre park which contains a playground, half-court basketball area, and extensive forest trails. A small restroom is also located within the park.

Public Schools

Rose Hill Elementary School

The school site is approximately 10 acres and contains playfields for little league and youth soccer and open space for informal recreational activities. The school also has a playground and a small gym for limited indoor recreation activities.

Lake Washington High School

Lake Washington High School property is approximately 38 acres. Outdoor amenities include a large stadium, baseball and softball fields, and six outdoor unlighted tennis courts. Recent facility improvements will provide for expanded gymnasium use with limited public recreation opportunities.

SOUTH ROSE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Partner with School District to improve playfields at Lake Washington High School
- ✓ Complete wetland enhancements at Rose Hill Meadows

Totem Lake Neighborhood

Parks

Heronfield Wetlands

The Heronfield Wetlands is primarily a 28.12 acre wildlife habitat and nature park located at NE 124th Street and 107th Place NE. The southern portion of the park contains developable uplands.

Totem Lake Park (owned by King Conservation District)

Under an interlocal agreement, the City constructed and maintains a half-mile interpretive trail and a lake observation deck. This 24-acre piece of property is the headwaters for one of Juanita Creek's many tributaries.

Public Schools

None

TOTEM LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ✓ Develop a neighborhood park in the neighborhood
- ✓ Partner with Conservation District on trail and boardwalk improvements at Totem Lake Park

Finn Hill Neighborhood

(A Pending Annexation Neighborhood – No Recommendations Included)

Parks

O.O. Denny Park

O.O. Denny Park is owned by the City of Seattle and is managed by the Finn Hill Park and Recreation District. This 45.6-acre park has over 1,500 lineal feet of waterfront, which includes picnic facilities, public restrooms, and open areas for informal recreational activities

Big Finn Hill Park

Big Finn Hill Park is a 220-acre regional King County Park that is partially developed with two regulation little league baseball/softball fields, one combination adult baseball/softball field, a soccer field, public restrooms, primitive trail system, and large natural wooded areas

Juanita Heights Park

Juanita Heights Park is a 3.2 acre open space located at NE 124th Street and 89th Place NE. The park is on a steep, heavily wooded hillside and includes a dirt trail loop.

Juanita Triangle Park

This small, 0.50 acre undeveloped wooded site is adjacent to Juanita Woodlands and features steep slopes.

Juanita Woodlands

This property is 36.24 acres of heavily wooded land containing a mix of conifer and deciduous trees.

Public Schools

Finn Hill Junior High School

Finn Hill Junior High School is nearly 29 acres located at 8040 NE 132nd Street, adjacent to Big Finn Hill Park. The site includes a gymnasium used on a limited basis for indoor community recreation. There also is a quarter mile track, four outdoor tennis courts, and two combination baseball/softball fields.

Carl Sandburg Elementary School

The 11-acre Sandburg elementary site contains playfields for little league baseball/softball and youth soccer, as well as open space for informal recreation. **The school provides children's playground equipment and indoor recreation space on a limited basis.**

Henry David Thoreau Elementary School

This school site is nearly 10 acres and includes a playground and playfields for little league baseball/softball and youth soccer, and open space for informal recreation activities. Thoreau Elementary School also provides indoor recreation space on a limited basis.

Juanita Neighborhood

(A Pending Annexation Neighborhood – No Recommendations Included)

Parks

Edith Moulton Park

Edith Moulton Park is a 26.71 acre heavily wooded park owned by King County. The park is located next to Helen Keller Elementary School. Principal features include a primitive trail system, small picnic shelters, loop dirt trail, and open lawn area for informal play.

Windsor Vista Park

This linear 4.83 parcel is tightly bordered by single family residences and is undeveloped. A creek travels through the property.

Public Schools

Helen Keller Elementary School

Helen Keller Elementary School occupies approximately 10 acres and includes a gymnasium providing indoor recreation opportunities on a limited basis and playfields for little league baseball/softball and youth soccer practices, and children's play equipment.

Kingsgate Neighborhood

(A Pending Annexation Neighborhood – No Recommendations Included)

Parks

Kingsgate Park

Kingsgate Park is an approximately 7-acre undeveloped and heavily wooded King County park located at 116th Avenue NE and NE 140th Street. Principal features include natural areas and a primitive trail system.

132nd Square Park

132nd Square Park is a 9.76-acre King County Park located at the intersection of 132nd Avenue NE and NE 132nd Street. Principal features of this park include two little baseball fields, one soccer field, a primitive trail system, and a public restroom. A playground is also included.

South Norway Hill Park Site

South Norway Hill Park Site is a Kirkland-owned natural park site obtained from King County as surplus property. It is a 9.8 acres heavily forested

Public Schools

Kamiakin Junior High School

This school occupies nearly 26 acres and includes school buildings and a field house used extensively in the evenings for community-based recreation programs. Facilities are available for outdoor recreation such as a quarter mile track, football field, two combination baseball/softball fields, four unlighted tennis courts, wooded areas, and open space.

Robert Frost Elementary School

Robert Frost Elementary School is approximately 9.5 acres and provides playfields for little league baseball/softball and youth soccer practices and open space for informal recreation activities. The site **provides children's playground equipment and indoor** recreation space on a limited basis.

John Muir Elementary School

The 10-acre John Muir school site provides playfields for little league baseball/softball and youth soccer, and open space for informal recreation activities. The **school also provides children's** playground equipment and indoor recreation space on a limited basis.

Private Non-Profit Recreation

Kingsgate Private Homeowners Association Parks and Pools

There are three private parks within the Kingsgate development that were constructed to provide open space benefits to nearby residents. Each park averages approximately three acres in size. The Association operates several small outdoor pools for use by Kingsgate residents during the summer months.

HABITAT CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Purpose

The City of Kirkland recognizes that natural areas and open spaces are a vital component of the health and well being of the community. A goal of the City of Kirkland is the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the ecological resources found within its borders.

A framework of management objectives has been created to ensure that this conservation, restoration, and enhancement goal is met.

Management Objectives

1. Protection of existing open space and natural areas through ongoing management and maintenance.
2. Continuation and expansion of educational and recreational programs intended to support the existing levels of environmental sensitivity shared by City residents.
3. Acquisition of additional parcels of open space or natural areas with the focus placed on the expansion of ecological corridors.

These objectives are presented and discussed within the Kirkland PROS Plan and are defined as among **the primary goals of the City's Parks and Community Services Department.** The successful implementation of these objectives also relies on additional management guidelines and regulations promulgated by County, State, and Federal agencies.

Through far-sighted management and enhancement programs initiated in the 1960's, and maintained to this day, the City has balanced economic growth and expansion while providing habitat opportunities for a diversity of plant and animal species. These **habitat opportunities are also a result of the City's** geographic setting and natural landforms. Two productive salmonid-bearing streams are located within the City (Juanita and Forbes Creeks) which, in association with Lake Washington, provide habitat for Coho and Sockeye salmon, and Cutthroat and Steelhead trout. The City contains nearly 4.2 miles of shoreline with a diversity of associated wetland and riparian ecosystems. Over one hundred species of birds have been documented within the City, primarily in association with wetland and riparian areas. Land mammals such as black-tailed deer, coyote, beaver, and raccoon are still observed within the **City's borders.** Forty-seven of the species documented or expected to be present within the City are listed as Priority Species by the Washington Department of Wildlife. Included within this Priority List are species such as the Western Pond Turtle, the Spotted Frog and Cascades Frog; and the Bald Eagle, Osprey, and cavity nesting ducks such as Wood Ducks and Buffleheads.

The City is committed to maintaining the vitality and viability of the ecosystems which support the health and diversity of these species.

Acquisition of New Parcels

The City routinely and regularly reviews parcels of land as they become available for inclusion into the existing network of parks and open spaces. The parcels which are considered most heavily for acquisition are:

- ✓ areas which are intrinsically biologically critical by virtue of their continuity with other, existing natural areas within the City;
- ✓ areas which provide benefits to the greater community. These benefits include such items as water quality, hydrologic management, and erosion control;
- ✓ areas of unique scenic quality;
- ✓ areas which are culturally significant;
- ✓ and those areas located in neighborhoods with identified deficiencies in open spaces and parks.

Kirkland's Parks

The city of Kirkland is fortunate to have 503 acres of park lands that includes 372 acres of natural area. Natural areas refer to areas of natural or native habitat – such as forests, streams and associated vegetation, wetlands and their buffers, and lakes and associated shoreline vegetation. Natural areas provide unique natural resources and critical urban wildlife habitat. They are part of providing a balanced park system for citizens. Appropriate uses for these sites include passive recreation uses such as walking, bird watching, interpretive educational programs and signage, and non-motorized trail systems.

Kirkland's Natural Areas

Kirkland's parks and natural areas make the city a great place for families. They revitalize neighborhoods—for example, research conducted by the University of Washington shows that homes adjacent to open space areas have property values that are 15% higher than other areas. Trees sequester carbon—they take it out of the atmosphere and thus reduce greenhouse gases and purify the air. Wetlands and streams provide natural water retention and filtration, preserving water quality for our drinking supply and for fish and wildlife. Forests throughout the city intercept rain water and slow the rate of storm water flows.

Many of our forested natural areas are suffering from dying trees. Often the dominant trees in these areas are big-leaf maples that are 80 to 100 years old and reaching the end of their life spans. Historically, the longer-lived conifers in our natural areas were removed by logging or development and those that remain are all approximately the same age. In addition, the understory in many of the forested parklands is heavily infested with invasive species like English ivy, blackberry, bindweed, and clematis. These invasives have blanketed the understory and prevented native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plant species from growing.

Green Kirkland Partnership

Green Kirkland Partnership has been developed in response to this crisis in our urban forested parks. Many different 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, and various corporate, youth, faith-based, and non-profit organizations – the community.

Green Kirkland Partnership Goals

- 1) Develop 20 year restoration plan;
- 2) Engage the community;
- 3) Restore forested parklands by 2028; and lastly
- 4) Ensure sustainability.

Goal 1: 20 year plan

The 20 year plan included an analysis of Kirkland's forested natural areas through the Natural Area Environmental Quality and Land Use Assessment and an assessment of Stewardship Capacity within the city and the community through the City and Community Stewardship Capacity Assessment. This plan outlines the strategic steps necessary to create a sustainable restoration program in Kirkland.

Conifer forests are the target forest composition because they provide better long term benefits than short lived deciduous trees. Conifer forests are also representative of the typical climax Pacific Northwest forests that were present in these parklands prior to human development. In these forests, as the pioneering deciduous trees die out, they are replaced with longer living conifers. Lacking conifer trees in the overstory and understory has greatly impaired the forests ability to move into the next stage of succession.

According to the evaluation, less than 13% of the city's forested parklands fall under "high invasive threat". While more than half (60%) of Kirkland's natural areas fall within low invasive threat only 10% of the acreage is classified as High value 'Conifer' stand , which is the desired condition for forested parklands. A majority 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.

Goal 2: Community engagement

In 2009, Green Kirkland Partnership volunteer restoration events had the following results:

- ✓ Over 1800 volunteers contributed more than 5800 hours to restore natural areas
- ✓ 25.40 acres of natural areas were under restoration in 2009
- ✓ Volunteers planted over 2800 native plants (including trees)

Goal 3: Restore natural areas

The four phases of restoration include 1) removing invasive species, 2) replanting natives, 3) evaluating the areas in terms of how the native re-plantings are doing and to what extent the invasive species have been eradicated, and, 4) sustaining the new health of the park by providing routine maintenance and stewardship.

Goal 4: Ensure Sustainability

Long term sustainability requires thinking and planning long term. To this end the 20-year vision involves clear annual goals/benchmarks, biodiversity assessment and evaluation, citizen stewardship, ongoing coordination, tracking and monitoring, and coordination between a variety of partners. Sustained healthy park lands and green spaces require investment of our civic organizations and citizens to maintain these assets. The Green Kirkland Partnership envisions the parks being cared for by more stewards, and requiring less formal parks maintenance and operations over time. A community-driven park project can convert an area from a nuisance to city gem.

FUNDING STRATEGIES

RESERVES

Reserves are accumulated over a period of years for specific projects. Contributions from reserves can be made either from donations, property sales or unspent yearend resources. The City Council designates by resolution the purposes for which reserve contribution or property sales will be dedicated. General purpose reserves are not available to fund capital projects unless the City Council determines that they be utilized for a specific project.

REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX (REET)

This is a tax levied on the sale of real property within the City of Kirkland. It is legally restricted for capital purposes, including park acquisition, renovation, and development. The Growth Management Act of 1990-91 stipulates that the City must use the REET primarily for projects contained in the Capital Facilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

These bonds are proposed by a County or City Council for acquisition or development. These are voter-approved bonds typically repaid through an annual excess property tax levy. The maturity period of these bonds are normally 15 to 20 years and generally corresponds to the expected life of the improvement. For a general obligation bond to pass it must receive at least 60 percent voter approval as well as pass a validation requirement. The validation requirement is for at least 40 percent of the number voting to have also voted in the previous general election.

Recent examples of successful City and County general obligation bonds issues to support park projects include:

1976 - This bond issue included four propositions. Two of the four propositions received voter approval including Juanita Bay Park land acquisition and Senior Center Development.

1984 - This bond issue included \$1.6 million for the acquisition of the Waverly Park Site, and additional property for Juanita Bay Park.

1989 - This bond issue included \$5.76 million for acquisition and development funding for the North Kirkland Community Center and Neighborhood Park, renovation and development of Everest and Crestwoods Parks, acquisition of neighborhood parks for the South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails and Houghton neighborhoods, acquisition of property on Forbes Lake, and development of North Rose Hill Woodlands Park.

2002 – This \$8.4 million bond funded acquisition and development of Carillon Woods, improvements to Juanita Beach Park and North Rose Hill Woodlands Park, playfield improvements at several public schools, and acquisition of open space. A companion maintenance levy was also approved by voters.

COUNCILMANIC BONDS

These bonds are general obligation bonds issued by the City Council without voter approval. Under State law repayment of these bonds must be financed from general revenues since no additional property taxes can be levied to support related debt service payments. Councilmanic bonds were used by the City to acquire McAuliffe Park.

CONSERVATION FUTURES TAX (CFT)

This tax is based on the States's Current Use Taxation Law passed in 1970 which enabled counties to levy a tax of up to 6.25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation for the purpose of acquiring various types of open space. King County has levied the full amount authorized by the State and has collected the tax since 1987.

FEE-IN-LIEU OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE FEES

Until 1999 these fees were collected from Subdivision Developments. Subdivisions were obligated to partially provide for the recreational and open space needs of the eventual residents of the plat. Developers could elect to meet this obligation by dedicating at least five percent of the usable land within or outside the plat to the city for park purposes or by depositing three hundred fifty dollars per new lot created in to a fund to be used for acquisition and development of park land within the area (neighborhood) of the plat.

IMPACT FEES

Impact fees for parks were adopted in 1999 as a source for funding parks capital projects. Impact fees are authorized only for roads, parks, fire protection and schools. The City cannot rely solely on impact fees. These fees can only be collected for system improvements which:

- a. reasonably relate to the new development,
- b. do not exceed a proportionate share of the costs related to the new development,
- c. are used to reasonably benefit the new development, and
- d. are not for existing level of service deficiencies.

GRANTS

Grants for funding park projects are generally supplemental in nature. They typically require the jurisdiction applying for funding assistance to match a proportion of the projects cost to remain eligible. Grants enable the City to leverage or supplement its traditional resources.

DONATIONS

The City has had a successful history receiving gifts and donations. Gifts and donations to the city have included land such as Marsh Park, and public art such as that found in Peter Kirk, Marina, Marsh and Houghton Beach Parks. A recent example is the picnic shelter at Everest Park contributed by Kirkland Rotary.

Appendix A

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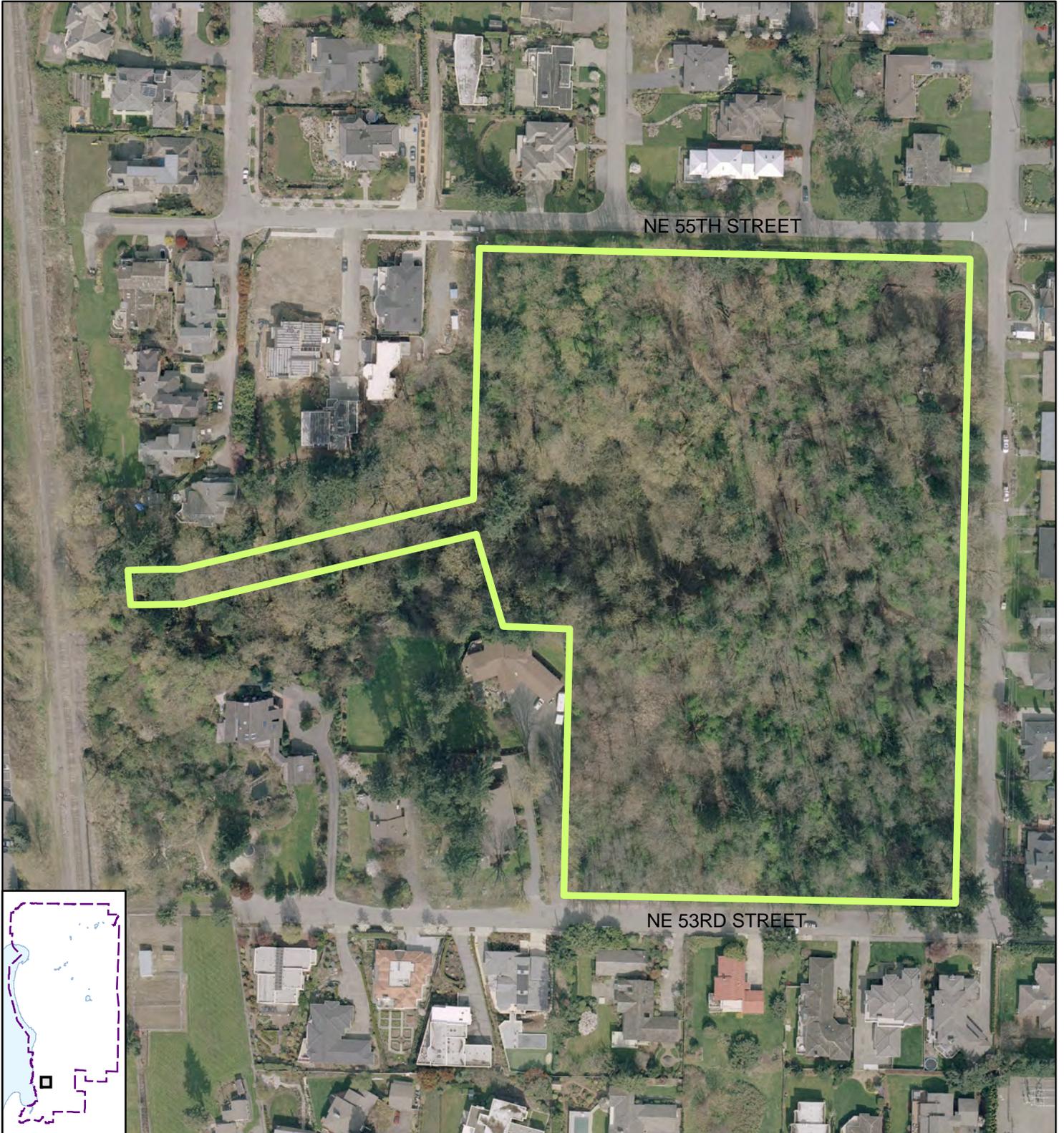
Brookhaven Park



Neighborhood: North Juanita
Location: 9911 NE 128th Street
Status: Developed
Size: .95 Acre
Facilities: Gravel walking path, open lawn area, interpretive overlook of Juanita Creek, gated perimeter fence



Carillon Woods



Neighborhood: Central Houghton
Location: 5429 106th Avenue NE
Status: Developed
Size: 8.71 Acres
Facilities: Pathways and trails, children's playground, public art, overview, interpretive sign, benches, wooded areas, Carillon Creek



Cedar View Park



Neighborhood: Highlands

Location: 11401 NE 90th Street

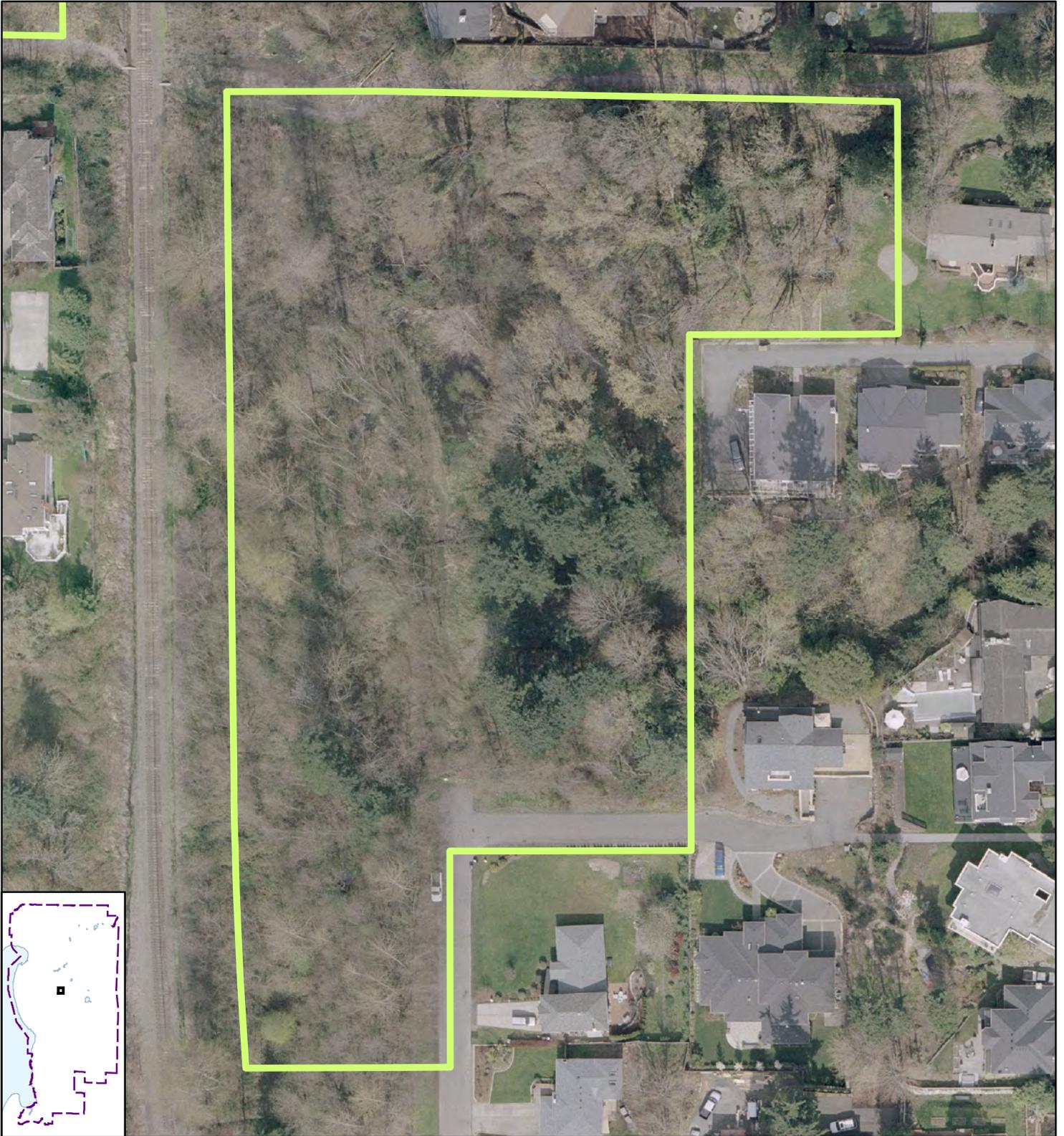
Status: Developed

Size: .20 Acre

Facilities: Gravel walking path, woodchip play surface, swings, picnic table, bench



Cotton Hill Park



Neighborhood: Highlands
Location: 110th Avenue NE & NE 98th Street
Status: Undeveloped
Size: 2.16 Acres
Facilities: Trail



Crestwoods Park



Neighborhood: Norkirk

Location: 1818 6th Street

Status: Developed

Size: 26.63 Acres

Facilities: Children's playground, basketball court (1), baseball field (1), soccer field (1), softball fields (2), public restroom, on-site parking, forested areas, picnic tables, benches, pathways and trails



David E. Brink Park



Neighborhood: Moss Bay

Location: 555 Lake Street South

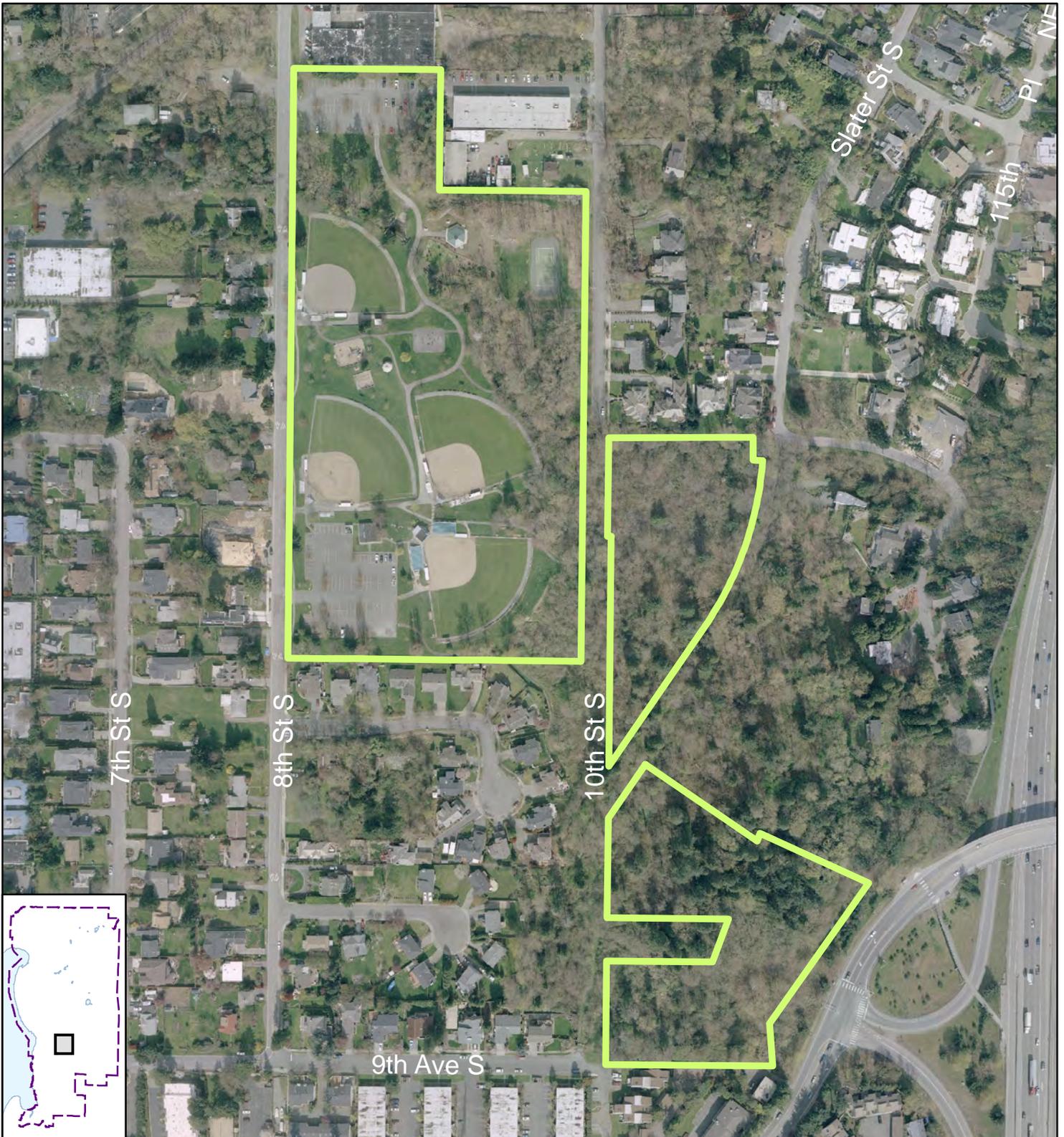
Status: Developed

Size: .87 Acres

Facilities: 660 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, public dock, shoreline trail, benches, picnic tables, open lawn area, public art



Everest Park



Neighborhood: Everest

Location: 500 Eighth Street South

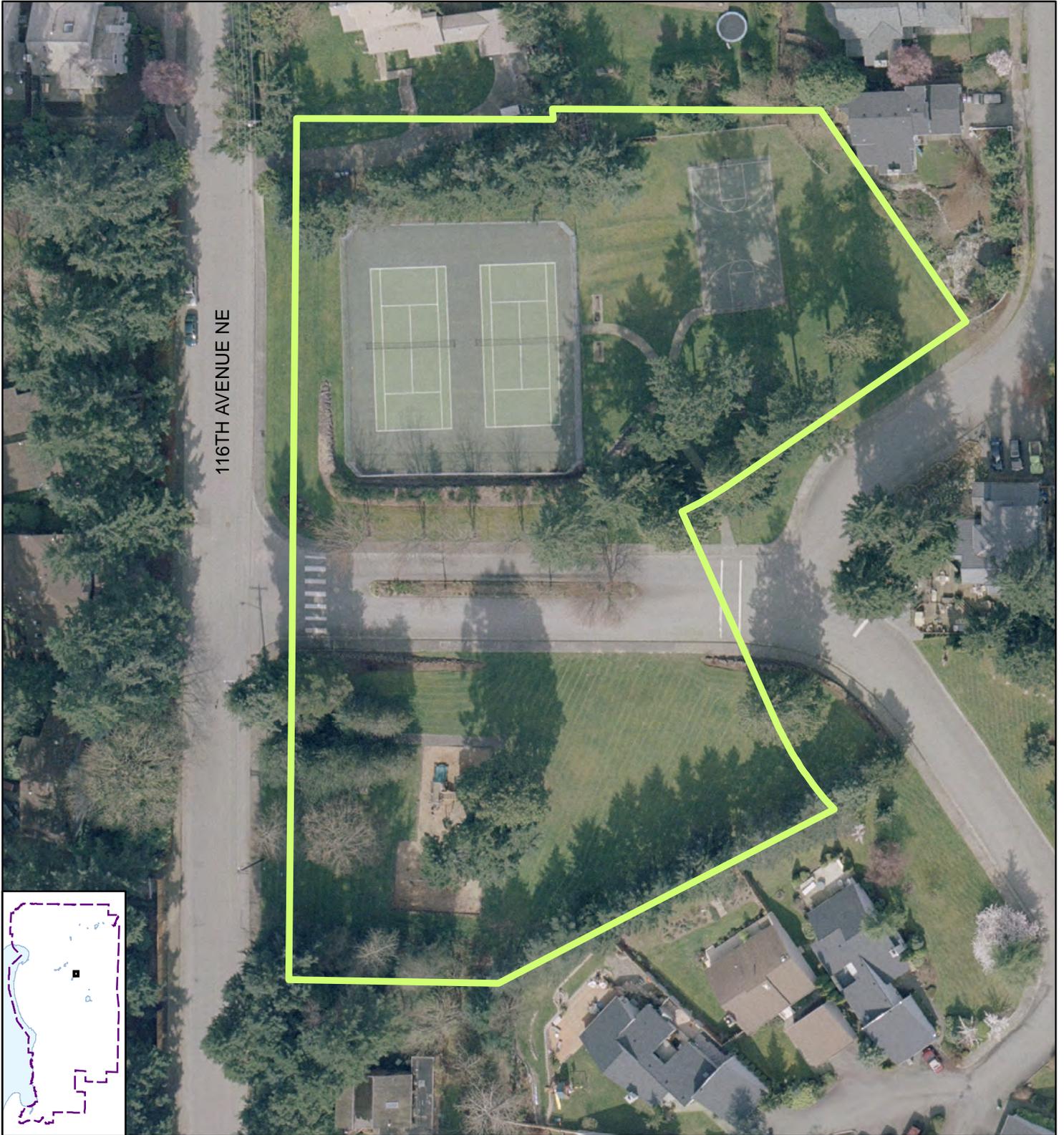
Status: Developed

Size: 23.17 Acres

Facilities: Children's playground, basketball court (1), little league baseball/softball fields (4), tennis court (1), concession stand, picnic shelters (2), benches, public restroom, on-site parking, Everest Creek, pathways and trails, forested areas



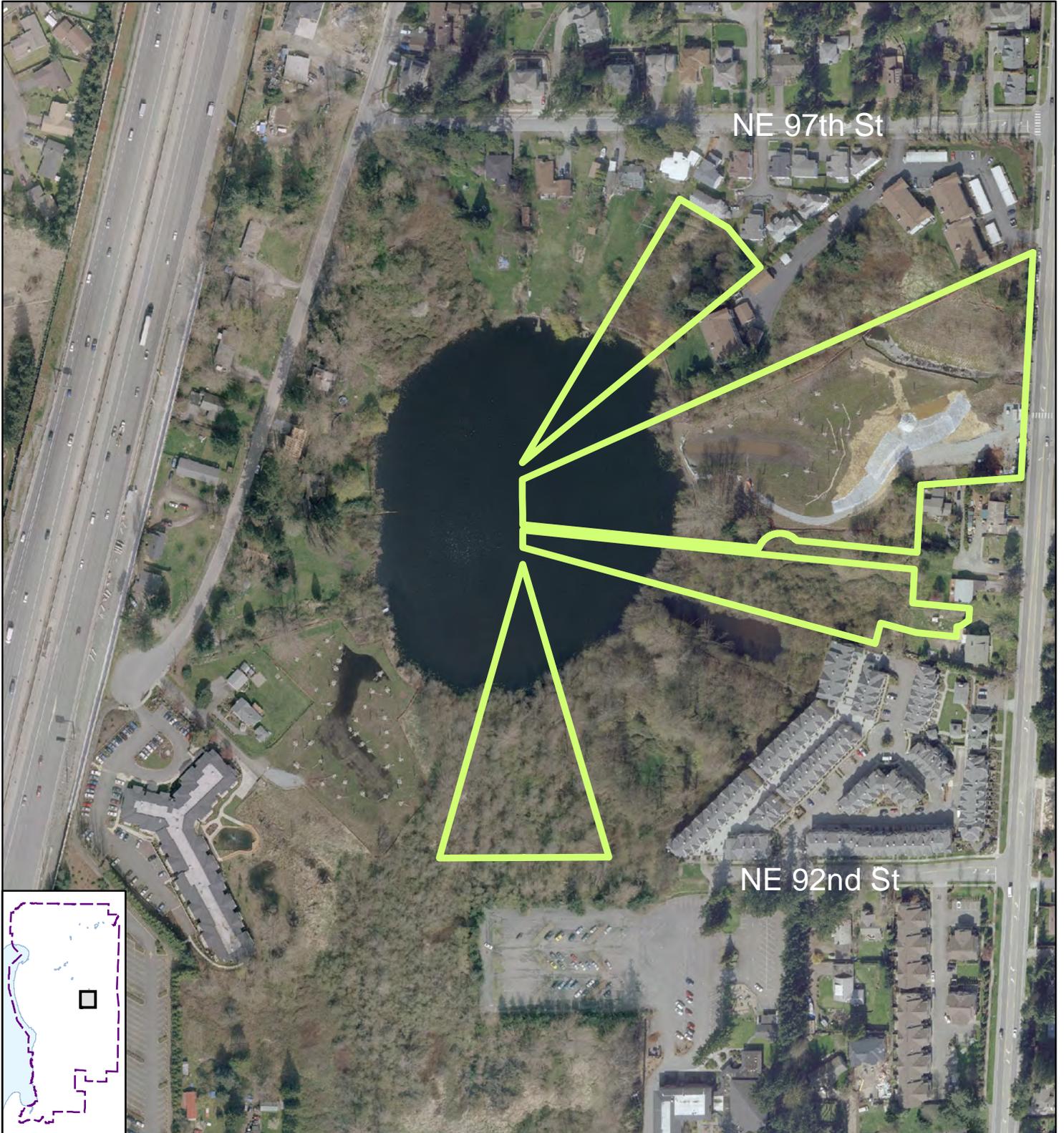
Forbes Creek Park



Neighborhood: Highlands
Location: 11615 NE 106th Lane
Status: Developed
Size: 2.02 Acres
Facilities: Basketball court (1), tennis courts (2), children's playground, open lawn area, picnic tables, benches.



Forbes Lake Park



Neighborhood: North Rose Hill
Location: 9501 124th Avenue NE
Status: Undeveloped
Size: 8.81 Acres
Facilities: 6,917 lineal feet of waterfront on Forbes Lake



Heritage Park



Neighborhood: Market

Location: 111 Waverly Way

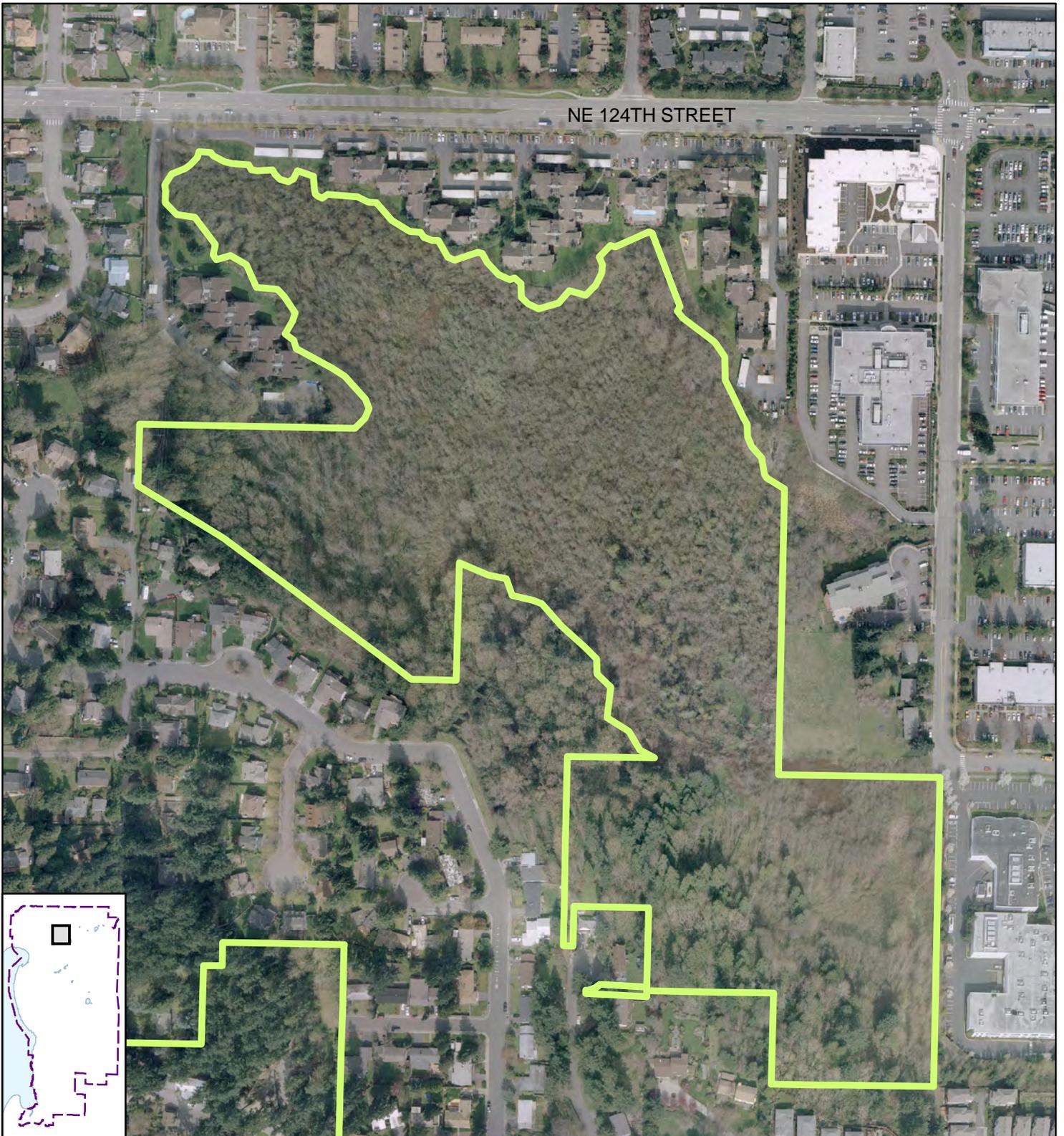
Status: Developed

Size: 10.12 Acres

Facilities: Historic landmarks (2), tennis courts (2), interpretive signs, pathways, centennial garden, courtyard, view point, view finder, open lawn areas, children's natural playground, benches, on-site parking, boat trailer parking



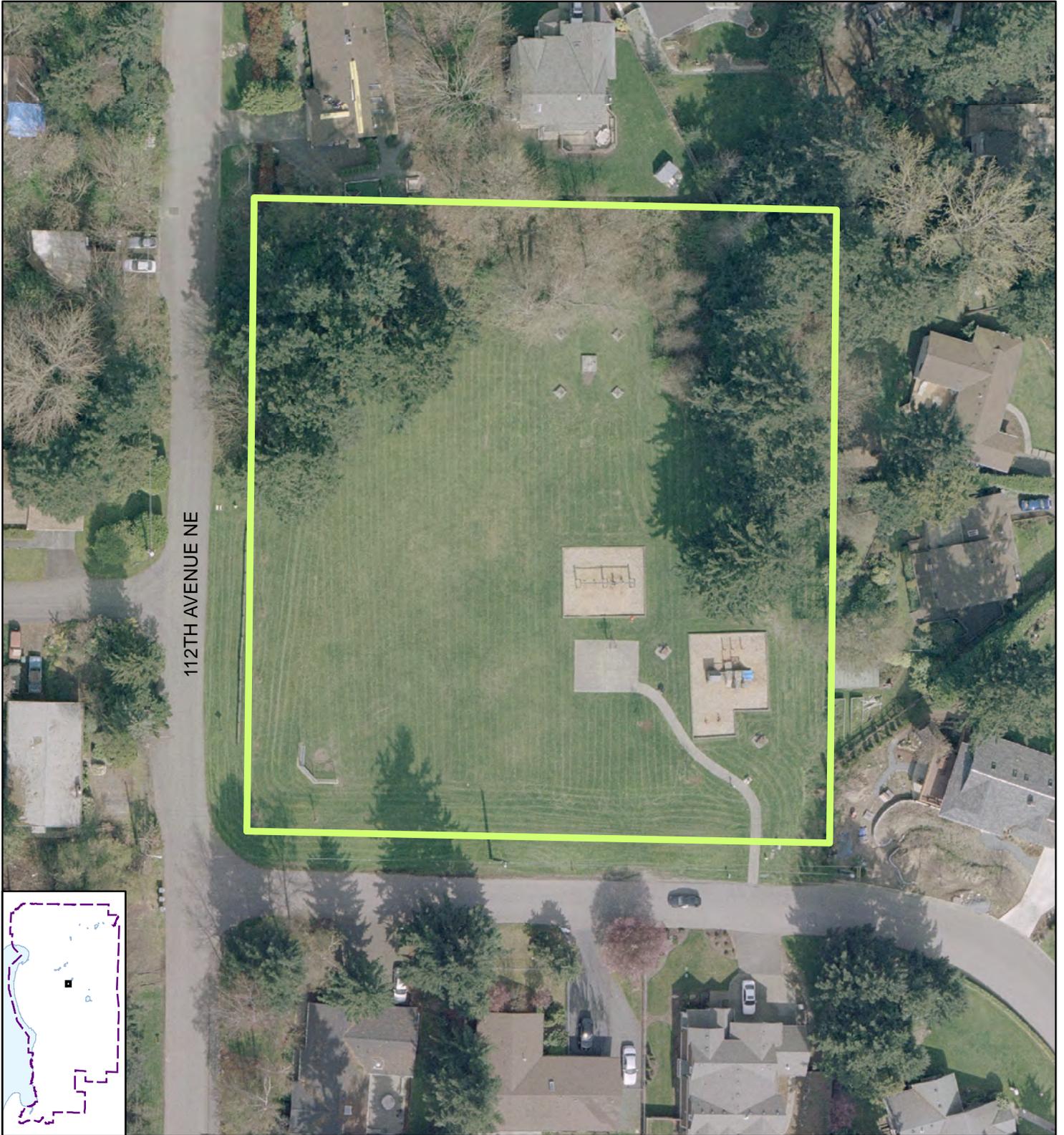
Heronfield Wetlands



Neighborhood: Totem Lake
Location: NE 124th Street and 107th Place
Status: Undeveloped
Size: 28.12 Acres
Facilities: Wetlands and urban wildlife habitat



Highlands Park



Neighborhood: Highlands

Location: 11210 NE 102nd Street

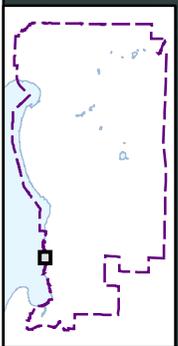
Status: Developed

Size: 2.73 Acres

Facilities: Basketball court (1), children's playground, open lawn area, picnic tables, benches



Houghton Beach Park



Neighborhood: Lakeview

Location: 5811 Lake Washington Boulevard

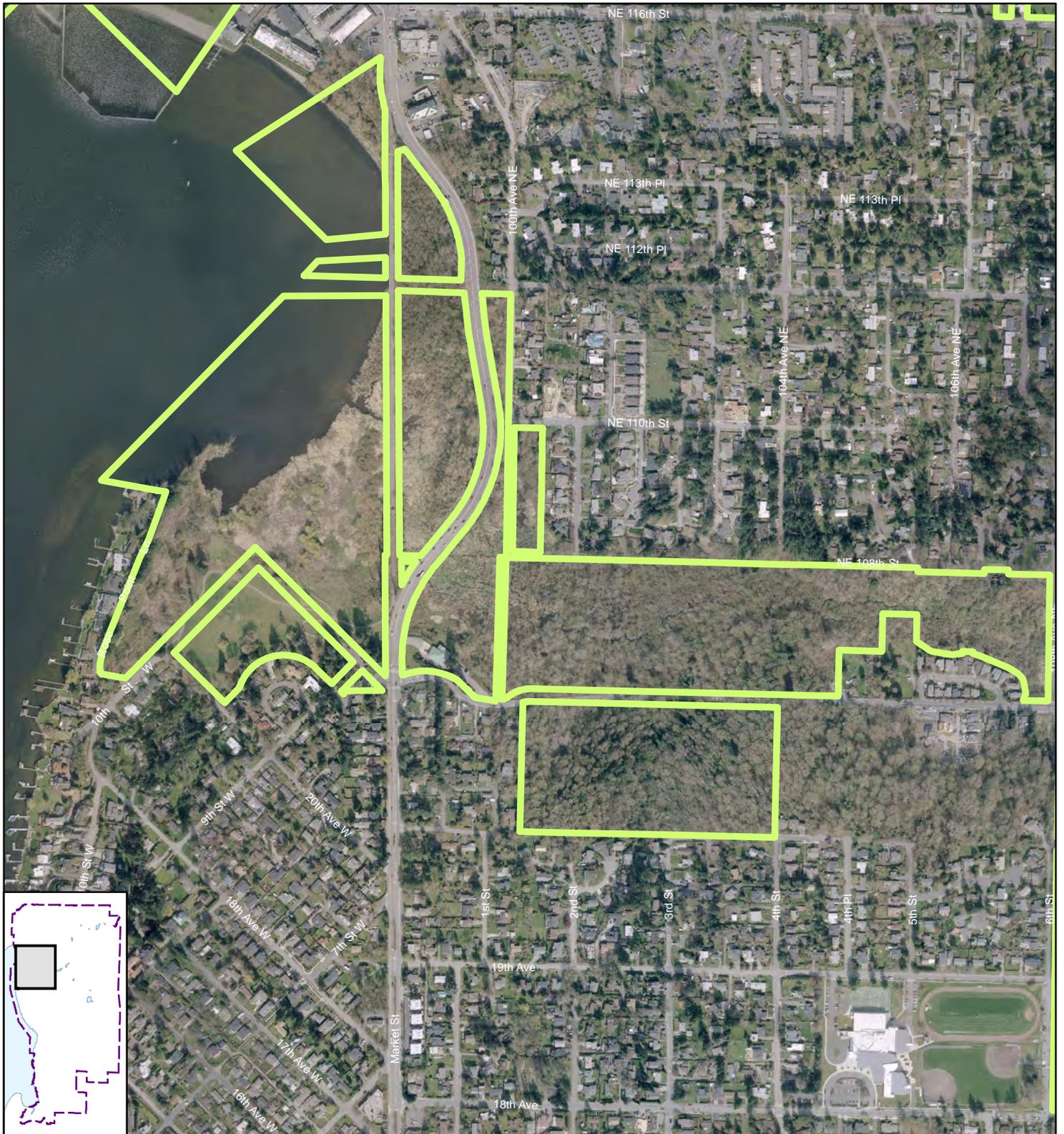
Status: Developed

Size: 3.8 Acres

Facilities: 900 lineal feet on Lake Washington, children's playground, swimming beach, public dock, hand launch boat ramp for nonmotorized boats, canoe/kayak concession, public restroom, beach volleyball, public art, picnic tables, benches, on-site parking, open lawn areas



Juanita Bay Park



Neighborhood: Market & South Juanita

Location: 2201 Market Street

Status: Developed

Size: 110.83 Acres

Facilities: 3000 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, interpretive trails and boardwalks, public restroom, on-site parking, urban wildlife habitat, wetlands, open lawn areas, interpretive displays, benches, picnic tables



Juanita Beach Park



Neighborhood: South Juanita

Location: 9703 Juanita Drive

Status: Developed

Size: 21.94 Acres

Facilities: 1000 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, picnic shelters, children's playground, public dock, swimming area, beach volleyball, on-site parking, public restroom, changing rooms, lighted tennis courts (2), little league baseball/softball fields (2), Juanita Creek, open lawn areas, picnic tables, benches, historic building



Kiwanis Park



Neighborhood: Market
Location: 1405 10th Street West
Status: Undeveloped
Size: 2.57 Acres
Facilities: 450 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, picnic table, trail



Lake Avenue West Street End Park



Neighborhood: Market
Location: 297 Lake Avenue West
Status: Undeveloped
Size: .25 Acre
Facilities: 160 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington



Marina Park



Neighborhood: Moss Bay

Location: 25 Lakeshore Plaza Drive

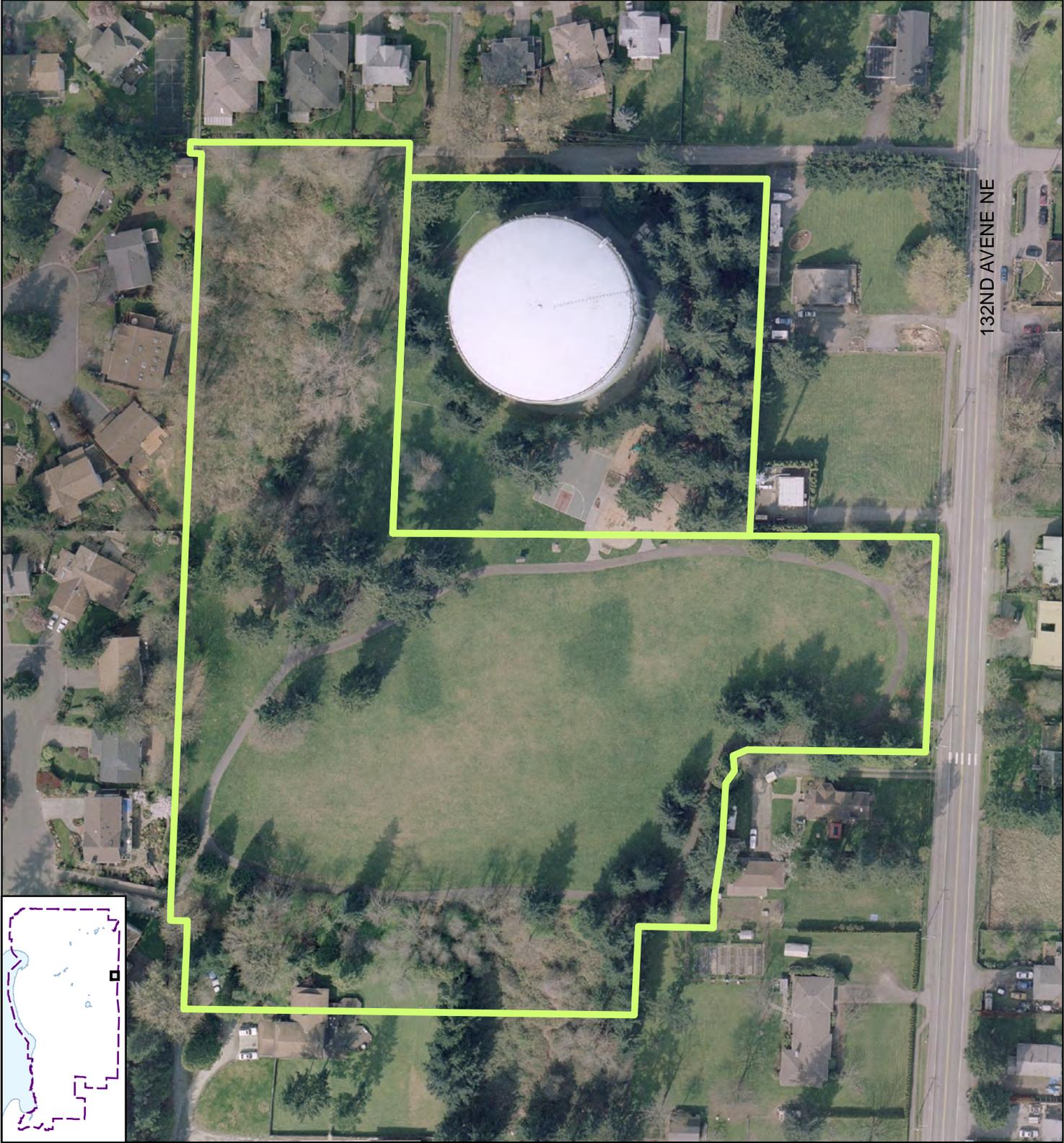
Status: Developed

Size: 3.59 Acres

Facilities: 695 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, transient boat moorage, boat launch, picnic tables, benches, pavilion, ampitheather, public art, public restroom, beach, public dock



Mark Twain Park



Neighborhood: North Rose Hill
Location: 10625 132nd Avenue NE
Status: Developed
Size: 6.6 Acres
Facilities: Basketball court (1), children's playground, open lawn area, benches, picnic tables, pathways



Marsh Park



Neighborhood: Lakeview

Location: 6605 Lake Washington Boulevard NE

Status: Developed

Size: 4.18 Acres

Facilities: 575 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, public dock, beach, open lawn area, public art, picnic tables, walking path, benches, on-site parking public restroom, interpretive display



McAuliffe Park

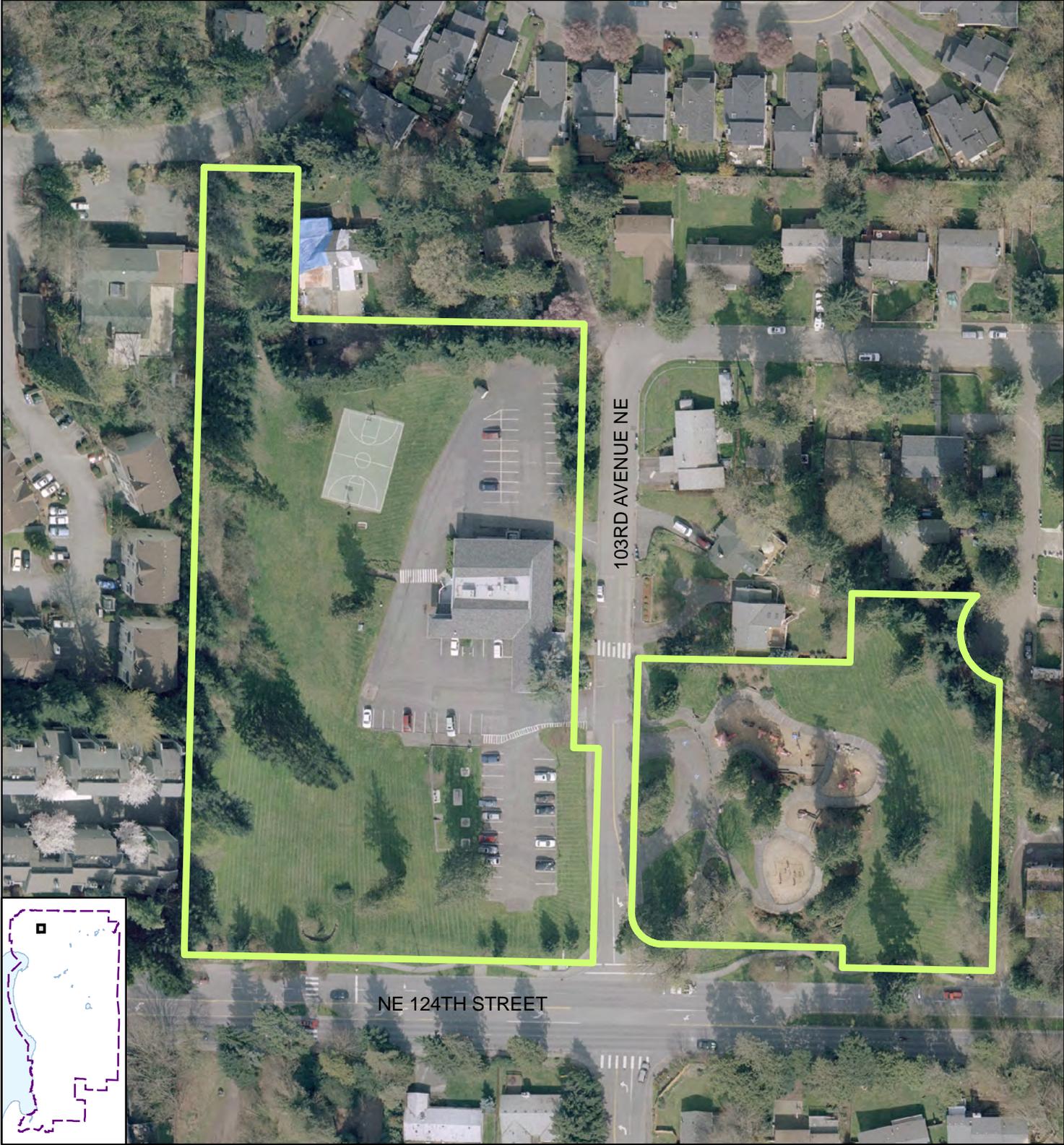


Neighborhood: South Juanita
Location: 10824 NE 116th Street
Status: Developed
Size: 11.6 Acres

Facilities: Residences, outbuildings, gardens, historic barn, windmills, wells, community pea patch, children's playground, benches, picnic tables, plant nursery, restroom, forested area, lawns, on-site parking



North Kirkland Community Center and Park



Neighborhood: North Juanita
Location: 12421 103rd Avenue NE
Status: Developed
Size: 5.49 Acres
Facilities: Community Center, children's playground, basketball court (1), benches, picnic tables, pathways, open lawn area, on-site parking



North Rose Hill Woodlands Park



Neighborhood: North Rose Hill

Location: 9930 124th Ave NE

Status: Developed

Size: 20.96 Acres

Facilities: Children's playgrounds, pathways, raised boardwalks, picnic shelter, open meadow areas, benches, picnic tables, wetlands, interpretive signs, public restroom, on-site parking



Ohde Avenue Pea Patch



Neighborhood: Everest
Location: 11425 Ohde Avenue
Status: Developed
Size: .89 Acre
Facilities: Community garden plot



Peter Kirk Park



Neighborhood: Moss Bay

Location: 202 Third Street

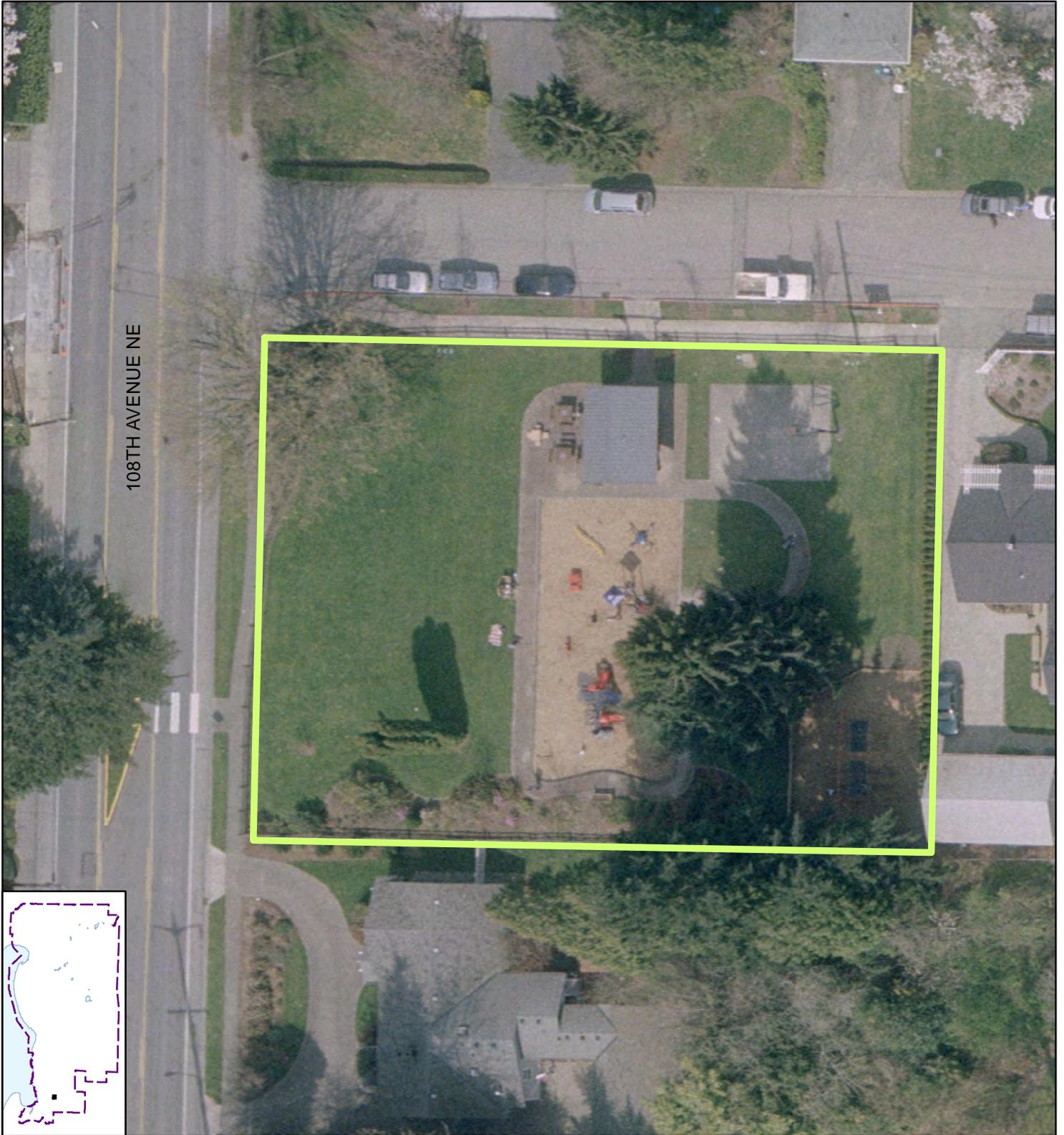
Status: Developed

Size: 12.48 Acres

Facilities: Lighted baseball field (1), children's playground, skate court, basketball court (1), tennis courts (2), pathways, open lawn areas, outdoor swimming pool and bathhouse, community center, performing arts center, library and parking garage, concession stand, public art, public restroom, picnic tables, benches



Phyllis A. Needy Houghton Neighborhood Park



Neighborhood: Central Houghton
Location: 10811 NE 47th Street
Status: Developed
Size: .5 Acre
Facilities: Basketball court (1), children's playground, open lawn area, benches, picnic tables, public restroom, pathways



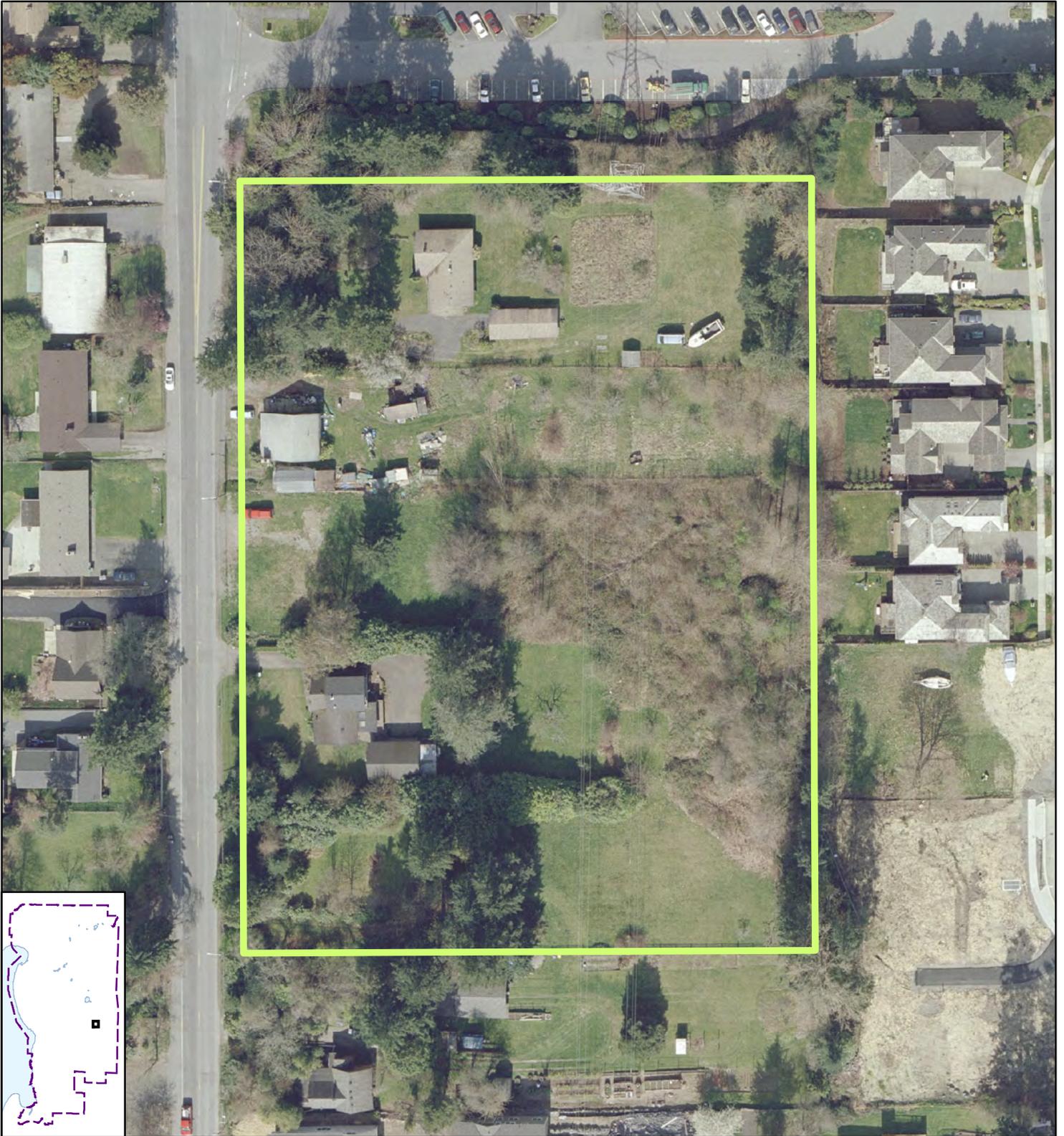
Reservoir Park



Neighborhood: Norkirk
Location: 1501 3rd Street
Status: Developed
Size: .62 Acre
Facilities: Children's playground, open lawn areas, benches



Rose Hill Meadows



Neighborhood: South Rose Hill

Location: 8212 124th Avenue NE

Status: Developed

Size: 4.10 Acres

Facilities: Children's playground, picnic shelter, benches, picnic tables, pathways, meadow area, wetland, on-site parking



Settler's Landing



Neighborhood: Moss Bay

Location: 1001 Lake Street South

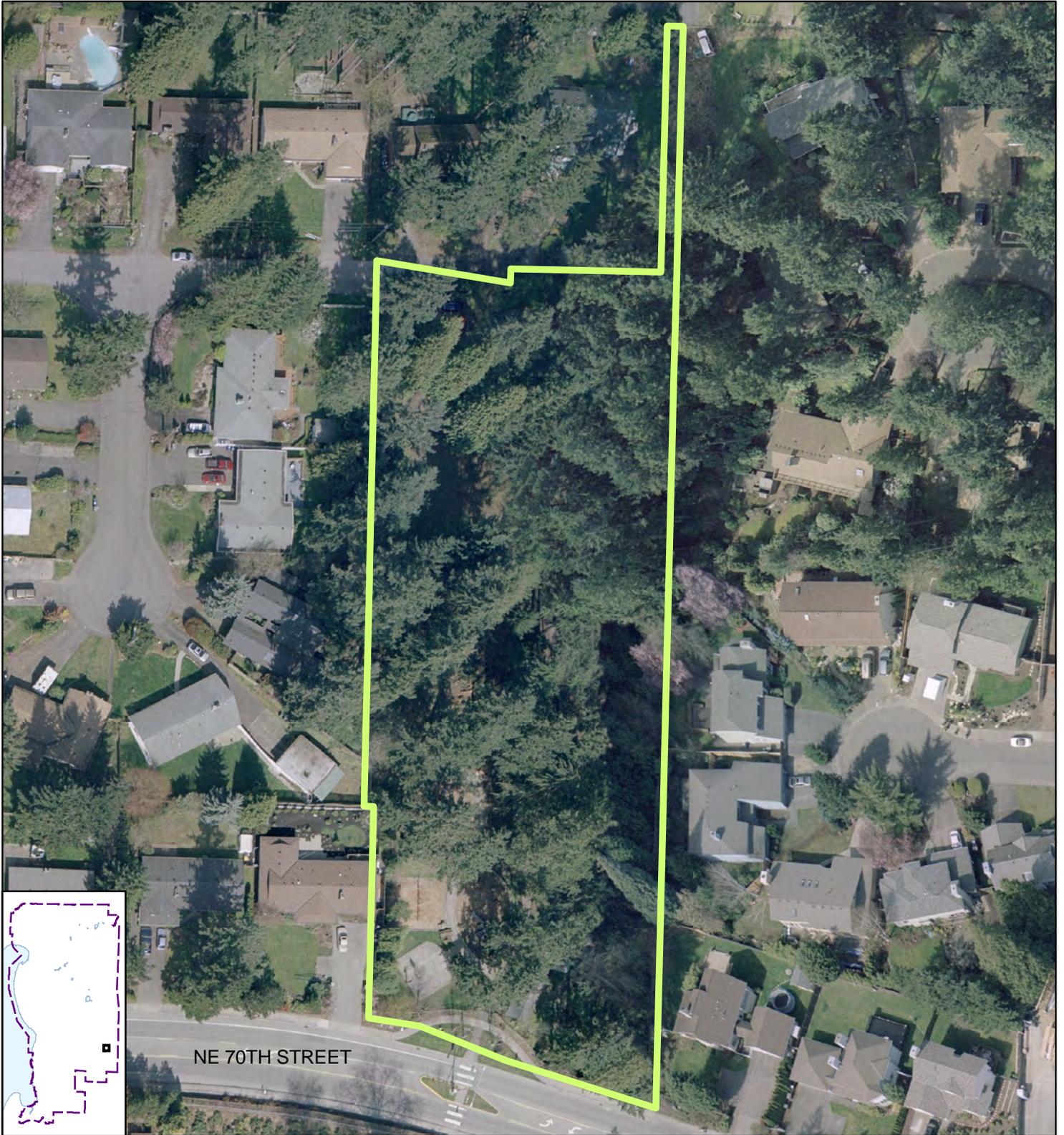
Status: Developed

Size: .27 Acre

Facilities: 60 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, landscaping, walking path, bench, public dock



South Rose Hill Park



Neighborhood: South Rose Hill

Location: 12730 NE 72nd Street

Status: Developed

Size: 2.19 Acres

Facilities: Basketball court (1), children's playground, public restroom, benches, picnic tables, pathways and trails, on-site parking, gated perimeter fence, forested area



Spinney Homestead Park



Neighborhood: Highlands

Location: 11710 NE 100th Street

Status: Developed

Size: 6.54 Acres

Facilities: Children's playground, pathways, picnic tables, benches, open lawn area, on-site parking



Street End Park



Neighborhood: Moss Bay
Location: 501 Lake Street South
Status: Developed
Size: .1 Acre
Facilities: 60 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, benches



Terrace Park



Neighborhood: Lakeview
Location: 10333 NE 67th Street
Status: Developed
Size: 1.81 Acres
Facilities: Children's playground, basketball court, benches,
open lawn area, on-site parking



Totem Lake Park (King Conservation District)



Neighborhood: Totem Lake

Location: 12207 NE Totem Lake Way

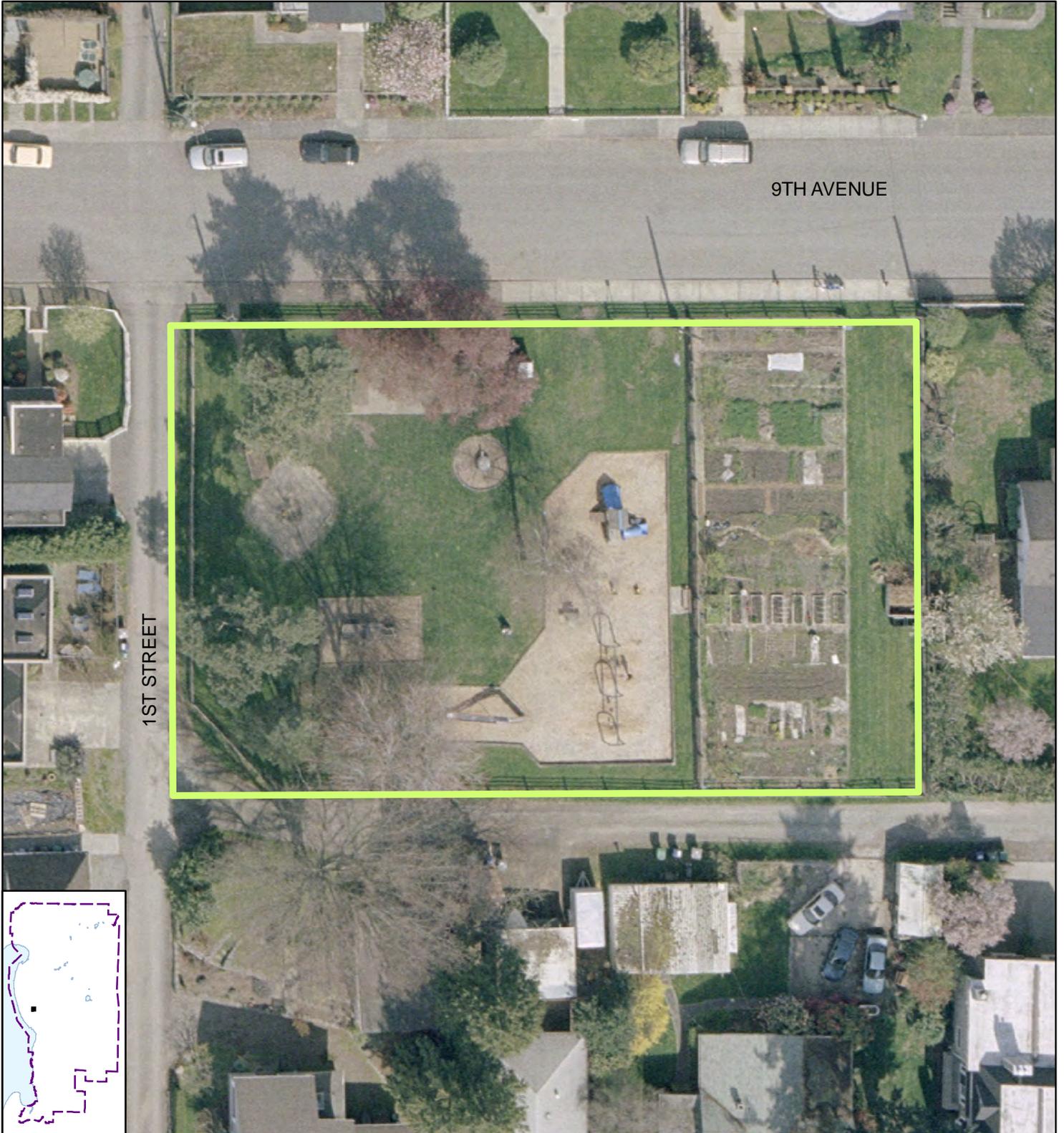
Status: Developed

Size: 24 Acres

Facilities: Wetland boardwalk trails, interpretive displays, wetlands, urban wildlife habitat



Tot Lot Park



Neighborhood: Norkirk
Location: 111 Ninth Avenue

Status: Developed

Size: .52 Acre

Facilities: Children's playground, perimeter fence; community garden plots, picnic tables, benches



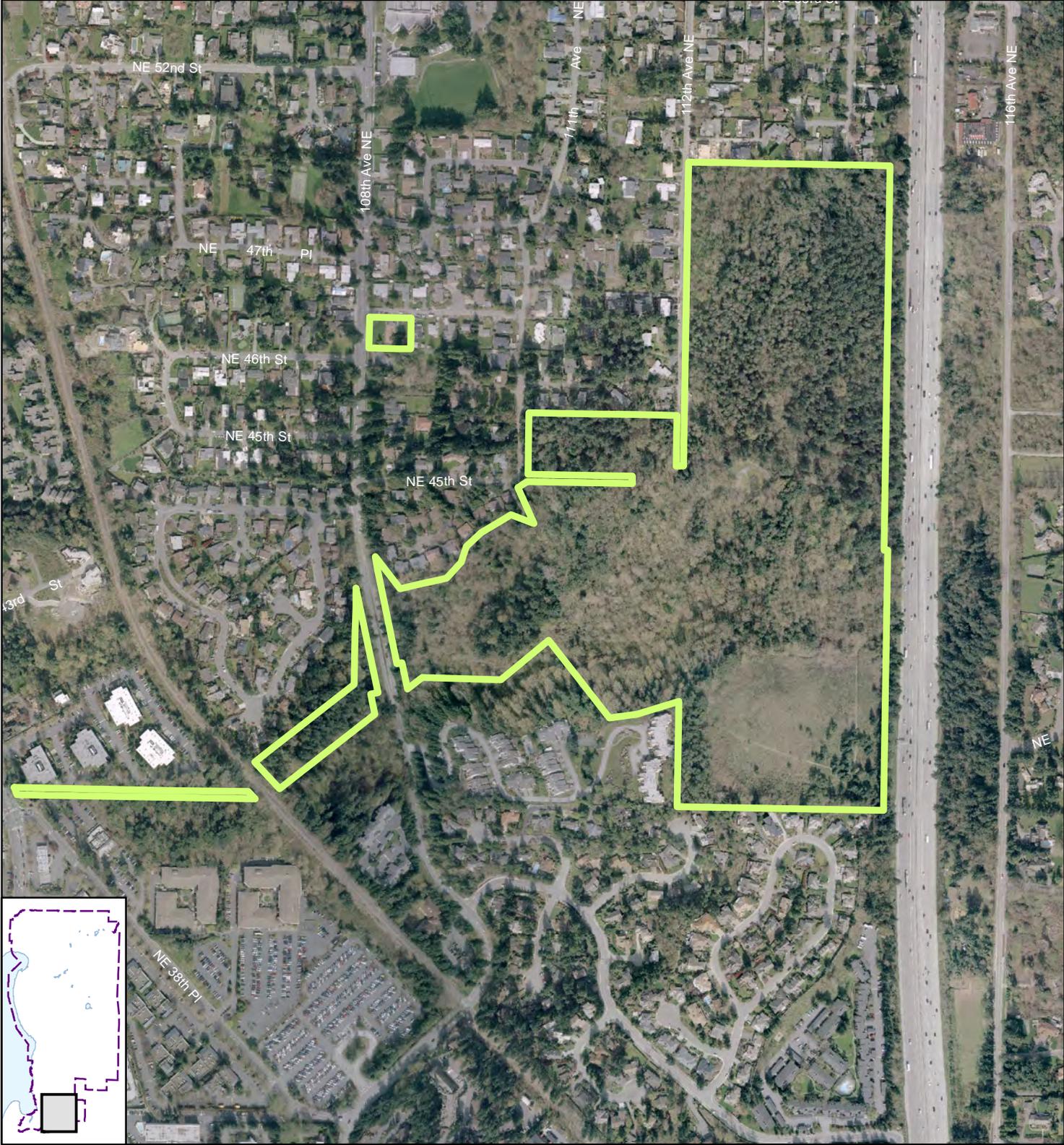
Van Aalst Park



Neighborhood: Norkirk
Location: 335 13th Avenue
Status: Developed
Size: 1.59 Acres
Facilities: Children's playground, basketball court (1), benches, picnic tables, open lawn area



Watershed Park



Neighborhood: Central Houghton
Location: 4500 110th Avenue NE
Status: Undeveloped
Size: 73.37 Acres
Facilities: Hiking trails, upland forested areas, Cochran Springs Creek



Waverly Beach Park



Neighborhood: Market
Location: 633 Waverly Way
Status: Developed
Size: 2.76 Acre
Facilities: 490 lineal feet of waterfront on Lake Washington, public dock, benches, public restroom, children's playground, public art, open lawn, on-site parking, windsurfing, swimming, fishing



Yarrow Bay Wetlands



Neighborhood: Lakeview
Location: NE Points Drive
Status: Undeveloped
Size: 74.19 Acres
Facilities: 3000 lineal feel of waterfront on Lake Washington, wetlands, wildlife habitat





city of
kirkland
washington

Kirkland PROS Plan Update 2010

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC SURVEY AND FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY REPORTS



Carolyn Browne Associates

3420 Camano Vista St. • Greenbank, WA 98253 • 360-222-6820

KIRKLAND PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SURVEY OF CITY RESIDENTS: ATTITUDES AND USAGE

Conducted October 2007

Prepared for

**City of Kirkland
Parks and Community Services
505 Market Street, Suite A
Kirkland, WA 98033**

Prepared by

**Carolyn Browne Tamler, Principal
Carolyn Browne Associates**

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**City of Kirkland
Parks and Community Services
Survey of Kirkland Park Users
Conducted October 2007**

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Purpose of the Study

The City of Kirkland is preparing an update of its Comprehensive Plan for Parks and Community Services. As part of this process, Kirkland Parks and Community Services (hereinafter referred to as "Kirkland Parks") wanted to learn more about current the usage patterns and attitudes of Kirkland residents.

Survey Design & Methodology

The City contracted with Carolyn Browne Associates, a local community involvement and marketing research consulting firm, to conduct the survey. The criteria for classification as a Park User was based on a "yes" response to the question, "Have you or a member of your household been to a Kirkland city park, taken a class, or participated in any activity sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Services within the last year?"

Telephone interviews for Kirkland Parks were conducted from October 5 through 13, 2007 with 400 randomly selected male and female heads of households residing within the Kirkland City Limits. The phone numbers were pulled from the Experian (credit reporting agency) database. Calling was done from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from 10:00AM to 6:00 PM. Interviewers were instructed to ask to speak with a head of household and to target about the same proportion of men and women. After qualifying as a possible survey candidate, the person was asked the question about park usage. Of those contacted who were willing to do the survey, 70% qualified as "Park Users."

The 10- to 12-minute interview included questions about awareness and usage of park facilities and services, and attitudes toward improving these facilities and services. Demographic data for the respondent and his or her household was also collected.

Interviews were conducted from the supervised telephone bank of GMA Research of Bellevue, WA. Calls were monitored and validated throughout the data collection process. GMA Research also was responsible for coding and tabulation. Carolyn Browne Tamler completed the questionnaire design, coordinated the data collection and coding, analyzed the data, and prepared this report.

Many questions were asked in an open-end format with no suggested responses supplied by the interviewers. Thus, the responses for many of the questions accurately reflect what was on peoples' minds at the time they were surveyed. For many of the tables, a statement in parenthesis - "Multiple, open-end responses; do not add to 100%" - indicates that people were allowed to answer the questions without any prompting or suggestions. Responses were coded based upon the patterns in the answers. The responses that did not fit into coding patterns (in other words, where few others had the same response) are listed for each question in the Appendix of this report.

The random sample of 400 provides data that is projectable to the total population from which it is drawn, with an error range of +/- 5% and a 95% confidence level. For sample sizes of 200

the responses will be accurate, at the same confidence level, with an error range of +/- 7.1 percent. Where data is reported based on sample sizes of less than 200, care should be taken in drawing conclusions, as the error range increases sharply when the sample size drops below 200.

Definitions and Report Organization

Tables in this report include data for the 400 total residents interviewed. Comparisons are also provided for households with “Children” and “No children,” because of the many significant differences in the responses of these two segments.

For purposes of clarity, the following terms, shown in *Italics*, are used in this report:

Total Sample/Park Users – all of the Kirkland heads of households who were contacted met the definition of Park User and were willing to be interviewed for this survey.

Households with children/those who have children - households having at least one child under 18

Households without children/those who have no children – households having no children under 18

The Detailed Survey Results include tables that document the information contained in each section. Detailed Survey Tabulations, which include cross-tabulations of the survey questions, are in a separate bound volume at the City of Kirkland. Individual responses to the open-end questions and a copy of the survey questionnaire are in the Appendix.

Executive Summary – Major Themes

The great majority (70%) of Kirkland households are “Park Users,” which is defined as having someone in the household who has gone to a Kirkland City Park, taken a class or participated in some activity sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Services.

Here is a summary of what these Park Users have to say about Kirkland Parks and Community Services:

Kirkland Parks are well used throughout the year:

- 77% have someone in the household who visited a Kirkland Park at least two or three times a month this past summer, and 97% visited a park at least two or three times in the summer.
- 56% have someone in the household who visited a Kirkland Park at least two or three times a month throughout the year; and most (84%) visited a park visit at least every two or three months throughout the year.
- 35% of the Park Users had a household member participate in a class or program offered by Kirkland Parks.
- The waterfront parks have the greatest level of use: 60% of the Park Users named a waterfront park they enjoy visiting; 35% listed a neighborhood park; 34% named a community park; and 30% mention say that they enjoy visiting one of the nature parks.

Ninety-four percent (94%) of the Park Users live near, and are frequent visitors to, a Kirkland neighborhood park:

- 69% of these households visited their neighborhood park at least two or three times a month in the summer; and 90% visited it at least two or three times during the summer months.
- Most people (80%) who live near a neighborhood park can get there in less than 10 minutes.

Of the Park Users who can compare Kirkland Parks with those in other cities, most believe the Kirkland Parks system is better than what they have experienced elsewhere, and they feel positive about maintenance and many other aspects of the Kirkland Parks and Community Services:

- While 50% rate Kirkland Parks as better, 25% do not have an opinion and 22% say they are about the same; only 3% say they are worse than park systems elsewhere.
- When asked why Kirkland Parks are better, the three descriptions mentioned most often included: They are well maintained, (57%); there are a variety of parks from which to choose (28%); and the classes and programs are excellent (24%).
- 77% say that Kirkland Parks are very well maintained.
- Of the small portion (22%) who mentioned some problem relating to maintenance, the most common suggestion (47% who believe some improvements are needed) is to provide more frequent maintenance, especially pickup of trash and litter.
- Asked about maintenance of the city’s natural areas, 38% believe they are less than very well maintained.

Executive Summary – Major Themes - continued

Park Users appreciate a wide range of features and facilities of the Kirkland Parks, including:

- 29% Access to the waterfront
- 28% Playgrounds for children
- 28% Trails and pathways
- 15% Beauty and attractiveness
- 14% Natural environments
- 12% Clean restrooms
- 10% Large grassy areas for play

The single greatest issue that concerns Park Users is the cost of park maintenance.

Park Users still rely on a range of sources for information about Kirkland Parks, but the flyers and brochures they receive in the mail are mentioned most often. A large number of Park Users also mention the Kirkland Courier Reporter, the Internet, the Kirkland Parks Guide, flyers and brochures distributed through the city and visits to the parks.

- Half (50%) mentioned the flyers and brochures they were mailed as a source of information.
- 40% have looked at the Kirkland Parks web site within the last year, but only 38% say the site is “Very user-friendly.”
- 75% recall receiving the Fall Parks and Recreation Guide, and most (87%) at least looked at the contents and 9% saved it to review it at a later time.

When asked to suggest additional needs, most Park Users either felt nothing more was needed or didn’t have any ideas.

- Only 42% of the Park Users had suggestions for additional outdoor facilities, but there even the ones mentioned most frequently – restrooms and covered picnic areas – were named by only 7% each of the respondents.
- Only 36% had suggestions for additional indoor facilities, and only two items – an indoor pool (15%) and an indoor play space (11%) – were listed by a significant number of respondents.
- Only 27% had suggestions for new or improved classes or activities, and no one item was mentioned by more than a handful of respondents.

From a list of eight possible park features, a majority of Park Users rated four items as “Very Important:”

- 81% Restrooms/improved restrooms
- 71% Natural areas
- 70% Children’s playgrounds
- 67% Benches

The four other items that were suggested were considered “Very Important “ to only a minority of the respondents:

- 32% Covered picnic shelters
- 25% Off-leash dog areas
- 20% Basketball courts
- 12% Skate boarding areas

Executive Summary – Major Themes - continued

Demographics of the Park Users who were surveyed:

- **Age:** 50% are under 55 and 50% are 55 and over.
- **Household size:** 57% live in one or two-person households; 43% live in households with three or more people.
- **Children:** 35% have children in the household.
- **Years in Kirkland:** 47% have been residents of Kirkland for 15 years or less; 53% have lived in Kirkland for more than 15 years.
- **Type or residence:** 74% live in a single-family home, 21% live in a condominium and 5% live in an apartment; 91% own and 9% rent.
- **Internet access:** 94% have access to the Internet; 63% have access both at work and at home, 28% have access only from their home, and 3% have access only at work.
- **Education:** 72% are college graduates.
- **Income:** 74% have household incomes of \$60,000 or more; 57% have incomes of \$80,000 or more (Of the 83% who responded to the question).
- **Voted:** 81% voted in a city election in the last two years.
- **Sex of respondent:** 60% are female and 40% are male.

Park Users who have children in the household, compared with those who do not:

- Are more likely to be frequent visitors to Kirkland Parks in the summertime and throughout the year, and are more likely to have someone in the household who has participated in a class or program;
- Are far more likely to be frequent visitors to neighborhood parks in the summer;
- Are far more likely to mention playgrounds for children as an appreciated park facility;
- Are far more likely to look to the Internet for information about Kirkland Parks;
- Are more interested in having an indoor pool.

**DETAILED
SURVEY RESULTS
AND
SUPPORTING TABLES**

USE OF KIRKLAND PARKS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES (Tables 1 and 2)

Visits to Kirkland Parks in the summer

Kirkland citizens enjoy their city parks in the summertime. Over half (52%) of the Park Users said that someone in the household visited a Kirkland City park at least once a week in the past summer; an additional 25% made visits at least two to three times a month; and 20% went two or three times in the summer; only 3% did not go to a city park.

Frequent visitors to Kirkland Parks in the summertime are considerably more likely to be households with children. Two-thirds (65%) of households with children had someone visit a park at least once a week, compared with just 45% of the households without children.

Visits to Kirkland Parks throughout the year

Throughout the year, Kirkland residents enjoy visiting their city parks. During the year, 29% of the Park Users households have at least weekly visits to a Kirkland Park; 27% visit a park two or three times a month; 28% go to a park every one to three months; and only 16% rarely go to a Kirkland Park.

Households with children are more likely to be frequent park visits year round: 65%, compared to 50% of the households without children, go to a Kirkland City park at least a few times a month. While 21% of those without children rarely visit a park, this is true for only 8% of the households with children.

Participation in classes or programs of Kirkland Parks and Community Services

Just over a third (35%) of those surveyed have a household member who participated in a class or program offered by Kirkland Parks and Recreation this last year.

Some 45% of the households with children, compared with 30% of those without children, participated in a Kirkland Parks class or program.

Most visited City parks

Of the four categories of city parks, it is the Waterfront Parks that are most popular with Kirkland citizens. Of the total residents surveyed, 60% visit Waterfront parks – like Juanita Beach (28%) and Houghton Beach (22%) most often. Thirty-five percent (35%) visit their neighborhood parks; 34% like to go to a community park (Peter Kirk, 34%, and Waverly, 11%); and 30% like visiting nature parks (Juanita Bay, 27%).

While Waterfront parks are popular with all households, the neighborhood parks are visited more by those with children (50% vs. 27% of those without children), as are community parks (45% vs. 29%). A slightly higher proportion of those without children visit the nature parks (32% of those without, compared to 25% of those with children).

Table 1. Use of Kirkland Parks, Facilities and Services			
Question/ Response	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=251)
<i>Q1a. Last summer, about how frequently did someone from your household go to a Kirkland City Park?</i>			
At least once a week	52%	65%	45%
Two – three times/month	25	24	26
Two – three times in the summer	20	9	26
Didn't visit in the summer	3	2	3
<i>Q1b. During the rest of the year, about how often did someone from your household visit a Kirkland City park?</i>			
At least once a week	29%	29%	28%
Two – three times/month	27	36	22
About once a month	16	14	17
Once every 2 – 3 months	12	13	12
Only once or twice	7	6	7
Only in the summer	8	1	11
Don't know	1	1	3
<i>Q2. Within the past year, have you or a member of your household participated in a class or program offered by Kirkland Parks and Community Services?</i>			
Yes	35%	45%	30%
No	65	55	70

Table 2. Kirkland Park Visits			
Question/ Response	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=251)
Q10. Which Kirkland City parks do you enjoy visiting most often? (Multiple, open-end responses; do not add to 100%)			
Waterfront parks (net):	60%	60%	60%
Marina	28	27	29
Juanita Beach	22	22	21
Houghton Beach	13	16	11
Waverly Beach	10	9	10
March	4	4	4
Waterfront parks – general	5	4	6
Other waterfront parks – See Appendix			
Neighborhood parks (net)	35%	50%	27%
Woodlands	7	13	3
So. Rose Hill	6	8	4
Houghton Neighborhood	4	5	4
Mark Twain	4	4	4
No. Kirkland (Train)	4	5	3
Tot Lot (Turtle)	3	7	1
Highlands	3	5	1
Forbes Creek	3	1	3
Spinney Homestead	3	4	2
Other neighborhood parks – See Appendix			
Community parks (net):	34%	45%	29%
Peter Kirk	22	29	18
Waverly	11	11	11
Crestwoods	5	9	2
Everest	4	6	2
Nature parks (net)	30%	25%	32%
Juanita Bay	27	22	29
Other nature parks – See Appendix			

VISITS TO NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (Table 3)

Proximity to a neighborhood park

Of those surveyed, nearly all (94%) live near a Kirkland neighborhood park.

Frequency of visits to neighborhood park

Those who live near a park tend to visit the park regularly. Nearly half (48%) of those live near a neighborhood park when there at least once a week this past summer; 21% visited the park two or three times a month; 21% went two or three times in the summer; and only 10% didn't go there.

Households with children, compared to those without children, are considerably more likely to be weekly visitors in the summer (58% vs. 43%).

Getting to the neighborhood park

Most (76%) of the neighborhood park visitors walk to their local park; 15% drive; 7% vary their method of travel to the park; and 2% bicycle there.

The great majority (80%) of those who visit a neighborhood park can walk there in 10 minutes or less. A somewhat greater proportion of those with children are just five minutes or less from their neighborhood park (43% compared with 33% of those without children).

Table 3. Visits to Neighborhood Parks			
Question/ Response	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=251)
Q7a. Do you live near a Kirkland neighborhood park?			
Yes	94%	92%	94%
Q7b. About how often did someone from your household visit this neighborhood park last summer?			
	(Base=375)	(Base=130)	(Base=239)
At least once a week	48%	58%	43%
Two – three times/month	21	21	21
Two – three times/summer	21	16	23
Didn't go there in the summer	7	5	9
Never have been there	3	--	4
Q7c. When you visit this neighborhood park, do			
Walk	76%	74%	78%
Drive	15	13	16
Varies	7	11	5
Bicycle	2	2	1
Q7d. About how long does it take you, one way, to get from your home to this park?			
	(Base=375)	(Base=130)	(Base=239)
Less than five minutes	36%	43%	33%
Five – 10 minutes	44	40	46
More than 10 minutes	20	17	21

OVERALL ATTITUDES TOWARD KIRKLAND PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (Table 4)

In general, Kirkland citizens are pleased with the facilities and services of Kirkland Parks and Community Services, and they can easily call to mind many qualities and the elements of the parks that they appreciate. While they feel the parks are well maintained, they did express concerns about current and future costs of maintenance.

Ratings of Kirkland Parks compared with other park systems

Overall, half (50%) of those surveyed believe that Kirkland Parks and Community Services is a better park and recreation system than those in other communities; 22% feel it's about the same; and only 3% say it is worse (25% have no opinion).

Why Kirkland Parks are better

Those who say that Kirkland Parks are better than park systems in other communities listed a wide variety of reasons for their opinions but three are mentioned most often: well maintained parks (57%); variety of parks (28%); excellent classes and programs (24%).

Park maintenance

Asked to specifically rate the maintenance of Kirkland Parks, more than three-fourths (77%) say they are "Very well maintained," and an additional 21% say they are "Somewhat well maintained."

The most frequently mentioned improvement in park maintenance that is desired is to provide more frequent maintenance included more trash and litter pickup (47% of those who responded); 14% mentioned improving restroom maintenance; and 12% each suggested solving problems with the ducks and geese and updating facilities.

Those with, compared to those without children tend to be somewhat more concerned about more frequent maintenance (55% vs. 41%).

Park users are less confident that the city's natural areas are being maintained appropriately. Only 41% said they are "Very well maintained," and 33% said they are "Somewhat well maintained." While only 5% said they are not well maintained, one-fifth (21%) said they didn't know.

Features and facilities that are most appreciated

When the Park Users were asked about the features and facilities they appreciate most, they provided a range of responses. Heading the list are: Access to the waterfront (29%); playgrounds for children (28%); and trails and paths (28%). A smaller proportion of respondents suggested: The beauty and overall attractiveness of the parks (15%); the natural environments (14%); clean restrooms and an appreciation that there are restrooms in the parks (12%); and large grassy areas for play (10%).

Those with children select playgrounds (52%) as their top item, while those without children head their list with trails and paths (32%) and access to the waterfront (30%).

Major issues for future planning for Kirkland Parks and Community Services

One theme dominates peoples' concerns for Kirkland Parks being able to continue to offer the high level of facilities and services it currently does and that is the cost of park maintenance (26% suggested this is a major issue for the future). However, over one-third (37%) of those surveyed had no major issues to suggest.

Table 4. Attitudes toward Kirkland Parks and Community Services			
Question/ Response	Total Sample <i>(Base=400)</i>	Children in Household	
		Children <i>(Base=141)</i>	No Children <i>(Base=251)</i>
Q3a. Overall, do you believe Kirkland Parks and Community Services is better than, about the same or worse than park and recreation systems elsewhere?			
Better	50%	53%	49%
About the same	22	22	21
Worse	3	4	2
Don't know	25	21	28
Q3b. Why are Kirkland Parks better?	<i>(Base=200)</i>	<i>(Base=74)</i>	<i>(Base=123)</i>
Well maintained parks	57%	54%	60%
Variety of parks to choose from	28	28	26
Classes/programs are excellent	24	36	15
Parks are nearby	13	11	15
Programs/activities for children	13	19	10
Access to waterfront	10	7	11
Children's play areas	6	4	7
Other mentions: See Appendix			
Q8a. Do you believe Kirkland City Parks are very well maintained, somewhat well maintained or poorly maintained?	<i>(Base=400)</i>	<i>(Base=141)</i>	<i>(Base=253)</i>
Very well maintained	77%	73	79%
Somewhat well maintained	21	25	19
Poorly maintained	1	1	2
Not sure	1	1	--
Q8b. What improvements in park maintenance are needed? <i>(follow-up to question 8a; multiple open-end responses)</i>	<i>(Base=92)</i>	<i>(Base=38)</i>	<i>(Base=54)</i>
More frequent maintenance (trash/litter pickup)	47%	55%	41%
Improve restroom maintenance	14	*	*
Solve problems with ducks and geese	12	*	*
Update facilities	12	*	*
Other mentions: See Appendix			
Don't know	20	*	*

* Sample size too small for significance.

Table 4. Attitudes toward Kirkland Parks and Community Services - continued			
Question/ Response	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=251)
Q9. How well do you believe the city's natural areas are being maintained?			
Very well maintained	41%	43%	40%
Somewhat well maintained	33	36	31
Not very well/poorly maintained	5	5	5
Don't know	21	16	24
Q11. What features and facilities do you appreciate most in the Kirkland Parks you visit? (Multiple open-end responses; do not add to 100%)			
Access to waterfront	29%	26%	30%
Playgrounds for children	28	52	14
Trails/paths	28	21	32
Beauty/attractiveness	15	13	17
Natural environment	14	11	16
Clean restrooms/restrooms	12	9	14
Large grassy areas for play	10	15	7
Docks/boat launch areas	8	9	7
Picnic areas/gazebos	7	7	8
Ball fields	6	8	4
Close to home	5	6	4
Variety of activities	4	5	3
Swimming areas	4	4	4
Other mentions: See Appendix			
Q12. What are the major issues to be resolved in order to continue to offer a high level of facilities and services? (Multiple open-end responses; do not add to 100%)			
Cost of park maintenance	26%	23%	27%
Keep doing what they are doing	6	10	4
Parking problems	4	5	4
Land for additional parks	4	3	5
More to meet growing demand	4	3	4
Other mentions: See Appendix			
Don't know	37	32	40

LEARNING ABOUT KIRKLAND PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (Table 5)

Sources of information

Kirkland Park Users learn about the parks and programs that are offered from a wide variety of sources. The most frequently mentioned sources for finding out about Kirkland Parks and Community services are flyers and brochures received in the mail (50% of the respondents). Other common sources of information include: the Kirkland Courier Reporter (23%); the City web site/the Internet (22%); Kirkland Parks Guide (19%); flyers and brochures at locations around the city (12%); and visits to the parks (10%).

Households with children are more likely to notice the materials that come in the mail (55% compared with 47% of those without children), and are far more likely to get their information via the Internet (37% vs. just 12% of those without children).

Response to the Kirkland Parks and Community Services web site

Overall, 40% of the respondents say they have looked at the Kirkland Parks web site; however, 62% of those with children have checked out the web site, compared with only 27% of those without children in the household.

Of those who have looked at the web site, only 38% say it is “Very user friendly;” and 50% say it is “Somewhat user friendly.”

Response to the Kirkland Parks Fall Recreation Guide

Kirkland’s Recreation Guide is a well-used source of information for Park Users.

Three quarters (75%) of those surveyed recalled receiving the Fall Kirkland Parks and Recreation Guide.

Of those who recalled receiving the Guide, most (87%) looked through it: 21% just glanced at it; 36% skimmed it looking for the areas in which they were interested; 30% looked through it more thoroughly to see what was available. An additional 9% said they kept the Guide for later use.

Table 5. Sources of Information for Kirkland Parks and Community Services			
Question/ Response	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=251)
Q4. What are your sources of information for learning about Kirkland Parks and Community Services? (Multiple, open-end responses; do not add to 100%)			
Flyers/brochures in the mail	50%	55%	47%
Kirkland Courier Reporter	23	21	25
City web site/Internet	22	37	12
Kirkland Parks guide	19	22	16
Flyers/brochures around city	12	6	16
Visits to parks/observation	10	9	11
Word-of-mouth	7	9	6
Seattle P-I/Times	6	7	6
Cable TV	3	1	4
Other mentions: See Appendix			
None named	6	3	7
Q5a. Have you looked at the web site for Kirkland Parks and Community Services within the last year?			
Yes	40%	62%	27%
Q5b. How user-friendly is the web site? (Follow-up to question 5a)			
	(Base=158)	(Base=87)	(Base=69)
Very user-friendly	38%	40%	35%
Somewhat user-friendly	50	52	49
Not very/not at all user-friendly	6	5	9
Don't know	6	3	7
Q6a. Do you recall receiving the Kirkland Parks and Recreation Guide in the last two months?			
	(Base=400)	(Base=141)	(Base=253)
Yes	75%	74%	75%
Q6b. How thoroughly did you look through the Fall Recreation Guide? (Follow-up to question 6a)			
	(Base=299)	(Base=105)	(Base=191)
Just glanced at it	21%	16%	23%
Skimmed through it looking for particular areas	36	33	38
Looked through it to see what was available	30	33	29
Didn't look through it but saved it for later use	9	12	7
Tossed it without looking through it	4	6	3

INTEREST IN NEW OR IMPROVED FACILITIES AND SERVICES (Tables 6, 7a and 7b)

Overall, Kirkland Park Users seem to be satisfied with the outdoor and indoor recreational services and classes and activities that are currently provided. When asked to name new facilities they believe are needed, 58% of the respondents could not name an additional outdoor facility, 64% offered no suggestions for additional indoor facilities, and 74% did not suggest any new classes, activities or services.

More opinions were expressed when people were asked to comment on eight suggested features for designing or improving parks.

Outdoor facilities wanted

Of the many suggestions from the 42% of respondents who named an additional outdoor facility that is needed in Kirkland, there was no single item that commanded a significant proportion of the responses. The two most popular suggestions included restrooms or improved restrooms and covered picnic tables and picnic areas (7% for each of these two items).

Those with children, compared to those without children, were more likely to offer an idea for a new outdoor facility (53% vs. 39%), but there were no strong patterns in the broad list of suggestions.

Indoor facilities wanted

There were many people who suggested a need for an indoor pool (15%) or an indoor play space or gymnasium (11%), but overall only 36% offered ideas for new indoor facilities.

Among households with children, there was more interest. While 51% of those with children offered suggestions, only 28% of the households without children did so. An indoor pool was suggested by one quarter (26%) of those with children compared to just 9% of the households without children, and there was also a significant difference concerning the need for an indoor play space (15% of those with children compared to 8% of those without children).

New or improved classes, activities and services wanted

The great majority (74%) of respondents had no suggestions for improved classes, activities or services, and no single item was selected by a significant number of respondents.

However, 25% of those without children did offer suggestions, most notably, 7% of the respondents without children requested new or improved services and activities for seniors.

Importance of different park features when building new, or improving existing, parks

Respondents were given a list of eight possible features in designing new, or improving existing, Parks. The list was rotated to eliminate bias. Based upon those who rated an item as “Very important,” four items were definitely preferred:

- 81% Restrooms
- 71% Natural areas
- 70% Children’s playgrounds
- 67% Benches

Four other items seemed to generate little interest:

- 32% Covered picnic shelters
- 25% Off-leash dog areas
- 20% Basketball courts
- 12% Skateboarding areas

The differences in the ratings between those with, and without, children are small. There are statistically significant differences between households with children for children's playgrounds (74% vs. 68%) off-leash dog areas (31% vs. 22%) and basketball courts (25% vs. 17%). Those without children have a slightly higher interest in natural areas (73% vs. 67%).

Table 6. New or Improved Facilities and Services Wanted			
Question/ Response	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=251)
Q13. What types of additional outdoor facilities do you believe are needed in the Kirkland Parks? (Multiple, open-end responses; do not add to 100%)			
Restrooms/improved restrooms	7%	4%	9%
Covered picnic tables/picnic tables and areas	7	4	8
Trails/pathways	4	2	5
Children's play equipment	4	6	2
Lighted tennis courts	3	6	2
Soccer fields/football fields	3	4	2
Off leash dog parks	3	4	2
Year-round, covered pool	3	5	1
Other mentions: See Appendix			
Nothing more need	34	26	36
Don't know	24	21	25
Q14. What types of additional indoor facilities do you believe are needed in the Kirkland Parks? (Multiple, open-end responses; do not add to 100%)			
Indoor pool	15%	26%	9%
Indoor play space/gymnasium	11	15	8
Restrooms	4	6	3
Basketball courts	3	6	1
Tennis courts	3	5	1
Other mentions: See Appendix			
Nothing more need	23	18	26
Don't know	41	31	46
Q15. What new or improved classes, activities or services are needed? (Multiple, open-end responses; do not add to 100%)			
Senior services/activities	4%	--	7%
Indoor art/music/theater classes	3	5	2
Adult exercise classes	3	6	2
Other mentions: See Appendix			
Nothing more need	25	30	21
Don't know	49	40	54

Table 7a. Ratings of Suggested New or Improved Park Features

Q16. When designing new, or improving existing parks, which of the following features do you believe are most important to include? Would you say this item is "Very important," "Somewhat important," or "Not important?" (List was rotated to prevent bias; arranged in order of highest percentage of "Very important" ratings)

Responses below are shown for "Very Important" Ratings

Suggested Park Feature Rated "Very Important"	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=251)
Restrooms/improved restrooms	81%	83%	79%
Natural areas	71	67	73
Children's playgrounds	70	74	68
Benches	67	65	69
Covered picnic shelters	32	30	33
Off-leash dog areas	25	31	22
Basketball courts	20	25	17
Skate boarding areas	12	8	13

Table 7b. Importance Ratings of New/Improved Park Features

Q16. When designing new, or improving existing parks, which of the following features do you believe are most important to include? (List was rotated to prevent bias; arranged in order of highest percentage of "Very important" ratings)

Suggested Park Feature	Importance Rating			
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Opinion
Restrooms	81%	16%	3%	*
Natural areas	71	22	7	*
Children's playgrounds	70	24	6	*
Benches	67	29	4	*
Off-leash dog areas	25	38	34	3
Covered picnic shelters	32	49	19	*
Basketball courts	20	51	27	2
Skate boarding areas	12	44	44	*

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS (Table 8)

Age of Respondent

The ages of the respondents split evenly, with half (50%) being under age 55 and half (50%) 55 and over. Only 8% of those surveyed are under 35, 15% are 35 to 44, 27% are 45 – 54, 25% are 55 to 64 and 25% are 65 and over.

As would be expected, respondents from households with children, compared to those without children, are mostly under 55 years of age (92% vs. 27%) and 50% are under 45 years of age.

Number in Household

Over half (57%) of the respondents live in one or two person households; 17% live in households with three people, and 26% have four or more people in the household.

Of those households with children, 94% have three or more and 64% have four or more in the household.

Children in Household

Just over a third of the Kirkland Park Users have at least one child under 18 in the household. There is a fairly even distribution of the ages of the children; 42% have at least one child under 6, 34% have a child between the ages of 6 and 12, and 44% have a child in the 13 to 17 age range.

Years residing in Kirkland

About half (47%) of the Park Users have lived in Kirkland for less than 16 years; 27% have been residents for 16 to 25 years; and 26% have lived in the city for more than 25 years.

Households with children are considerably more likely to have been residents for less than 16 years (61% vs. 38% of those without children).

Type of Residence/Own or Rent

Although considerable effort was made to contact as many households as possible living in multi-family housing, this group is still much more difficult to obtain without doing extensive additional calling. Of the total Park Users surveyed, 74% live in single-family homes, 21% in condominiums and 5% in apartments.

Among Park Users who have children, 91% live in single-family homes compared with just 64% of those who do not have children in the household; those without children are far more likely to live in condominiums (30% vs. 6% of the households with children).

Over nine out of 10 of those surveyed (91%) own their homes.

Access to the Internet

Most (63%) of the respondents have Internet access at both their home and at work; 28% have access only at home; only 3% have access only at work; only 6% have no Internet access.

Nearly every one of the households with children (99%) have Internet access at home; and 84% have access at work and home. Since many of those without children are retired, it is far more common for them to Internet access at their home only (35% vs. 14% of those with children); 52% have access at work and home; 4% have access only at work; 10% have no access.

Education

Kirkland residents tend to be highly educated. Of the total respondents, 72% have at least a four-year college degree and 26% have an advanced degree.

Respondents from households with children are more likely to hold a college degree (78% compared with 68% of the households without children).

Income

With 17% of the respondents refusing to divulge information about income, the data may be less reliable than where most participants provided answers. Removing the refusals, 43% of the respondents said they have household incomes of less than \$80,000, while 57% have incomes of \$80,000 or more.

Income levels among those with children are considerably higher than those without children with 90% falling into the \$80,000 or more income category compared with 64% for those without children (this is also likely a reflection of the proportion of people who are retired).

Voted in a City election

Of the total people surveyed, 81% said they voted in a city election in the last two years.

Sex of Respondent

Since it is usually much easier to engage women in phone surveys, the interviewers were instructed to be sure to request talking to the male head of the household to bring the total sample of men to 40%.

Neighborhood

Phone numbers were randomly selected from neighborhoods through the city. The complete list of neighborhoods (neighborhood names were provided by the respondents) is shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Demographics of Respondents			
Question/ Response	Total Sample (Base=400)	Children in Household	
		Children (Base=141)	No Children (Base=253)
Q17. Age of respondent			
Under 35	8%	14%	4%
35 - 44	15	36	3
45 - 54	27	42	20
55 – 64	25	6	36
65 and over	25	2	37
Q18. Number in household			
One	20%	--	32%
Two	37	6%	53
Three	17	30	9
Four or more	26	64	6
Q19a. Children in household			
Yes	35%		
Q19b. Ages of children			
Under 6		42%	
6 to 12		34	
13 – 17		44	
Q20. Years living in Kirkland			
5 years or less	17%	18%	16%
6 to 10 years	16	21	12
11 to 15 years	14	22	10
16 to 20 years	14	16	13
21 to 25 years	13	12	13
More than 25 years	26	11	36
Q21. Type of residence			
Single family	74%	91%	64%
Condominium	21	6	30
Apartment	5	3	6
Q22. Own or rent			
Own	91%	94%	89%
Rent	9	6	11
Q23. Internet access			
Home only	28%	14%	35%
Work only	3	1	4
Both at home and work	63	84	52
Don't have Internet access	6	--	10

Table 8. Demographics of Respondents - continued			
Question/ Response	Total Sample <i>(Base=400)</i>	Children in Household	
		Children <i>(Base=141)</i>	No Children <i>(Base=253)</i>
Q24. Level of education completed (Excluding 3% who refused to answer the question)			
High school graduate	9%	9%	10%
Community college or trade school	19	13	22
College graduate (4 year)	46	52	42
Post graduate degree	26	26	26
Q25. Total gross annual income (Excluding 17% who refused to answer the question)			
	<i>(Base=334)</i>	<i>(Base=126)</i>	<i>(Base=208)</i>
Less than \$40,000	14%	4%	20%
\$40,000 – 59,999	12	6	16
\$60,000 – 79,999	17	12	20
\$80,000 or more	57	78	44
Q26. Voted in a city election in the last two years			
Yes	81%	77%	83%
Sex of respondent			
Female	60%	63%	58%
Male	40	37	42
Q27. Neighborhood of respondent (Asked as an open-end question)			
North Rose Hill	12%	15%	10%
North Juanita	11	6	14
Houghton/Central Houghton	9	5	11
South Juanita	9	11	8
Totem Lake	9	7	10
Norkirk	9	9	8
Moss Bay (Downtown/Central)	8	3	10
Highlands	7	9	5
Market	6	9	5
Bridle Trails	6	11	3
South Rose Hill	5	6	5
Other mentions: See Appendix	9	9	11

COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS KIRKLAND PARKS SURVEYS (Table 9)

Similar surveys to identify usage patterns and attitudes toward the facilities and services provided by Kirkland Parks and Community Services were conducted in 1994 and in 2000.

Visits to parks

- Visits to Kirkland Parks during the summer months increased considerably from 1994 to 2000 and the 2007 survey is showing about the same high levels of usage.
- The proportion of people visiting Kirkland Parks on a frequent basis (at least two to three times a month) throughout the year has continued to rise: from 37% in 1994, to 44% in 2000, to 56% in this most recent survey.

Ratings of the parks

- In the 1994 and 2000 surveys, a large majority of people (63% and 62%) respectively said that Kirkland Parks are better compared with parks in other cities. In the 2007 survey, only 50% said they were better; a significantly higher proportion (25% compared with 18% and 14% in the previous surveys) said they did not know.
- Of those who rated Kirkland Parks “Better,” a significantly higher proportion of the respondents had specific positive comments to share including about nearly every positive attribute mentioned in previous years.
- The great majority (77%) still say that Kirkland Parks are “Well-maintained,” but this percentage is down somewhat from 89% in 1994 and 83% in 2000.

Facilities and features most appreciated

- All the same features have been suggested by respondents in each of the surveys when asked what they appreciate most in the Kirkland Parks, however the proportion of people providing positive descriptions are considerably larger than those who offered suggestions in 1994, and higher in most cases than the suggestions from 2000. In addition, a significant proportion of people (12%) in this current survey mentioned the clean restrooms or simply an appreciation for the restrooms that are in the parks.
- Given a list of design features to rank, Park Users are still have the same items at the top of their lists – restrooms, natural areas, children’s playgrounds and benches – although the percentages have gone down slightly from those in the previous surveys.

Sources of information about Kirkland Parks

- About the same proportion of respondents say they recall receiving the Kirkland Parks and Recreation Guide (75% in the current survey).
- Readership of the Parks and Recreation Guide is also roughly the same, although a somewhat higher proportion (36% in 2007, 25% in 2000 and 1994) say that they skim through it looking for particular areas of interest. Compared with the 2000 survey, smaller portions of people (4% compared with 11%) toss without looking at it.

Demographics

- Data from the current survey suggests that the Kirkland population is aging (50% are 55 and over compared with 38% in 2000 and only 27% in 1994).
- About the same proportion of households (35% in the current survey) have children under 18 in the household. Compared with the previous surveys, while the proportion of children under six has stayed about the same (42% of those with children in the current survey), those with children in the 6 to 12 age group has gotten smaller (34% compared to 48% in 1994 and 45% in 2000). In addition, the proportion of households with teenagers has gotten larger again after shrinking in 2000 (48% in 1994, 36% in 2000 and 44% in 2007).

Table 9. Comparisons with Previous Surveys			
Question/ Response	1994	2000	2007
Summertime park visits:			
At least once a week	44%	55%	52%
At least a few visits during the summer	42	42	45
Year-round park visits:			
At least two-three times/month	37%	44%	56%
Six to 12 times during the year	44	37	28
Rating of Kirkland Parks compared with other cities:			
Better	63%	62%	50%
About the same	18	22	22
Not sure/don't know	18	14	25
Reasons for positive opinion: (open-end)			
Well-maintained parks	33%	45%	57%
Variety of parks	19	17	28
Classes/programs are excellent	10	5	24
Parks are nearby	8	9	13
Programs/activities for children	8	6	13
Access to waterfront	9	10	10
Rating of Kirkland Parks level of maintenance:			
Very well-maintained	89%	83%	77%
Facilities/features most appreciated: (open-end)			
Access to waterfront/waterfront parks	28%	33%	29%
Playgrounds for children	15	26	28
Trails/paths	18	14	28
Beauty/attractiveness	25	16	15
Natural environment	10	5	14
Clean restrooms/restrooms	--	--	12
Large grassy areas for play	13	12	10
Design features rated "Very important:"			
Restrooms	90%	85%	81%
Natural areas	78	73	71
Children's playgrounds	79	76	70
Benches	72	76	67
Off-leash dog areas	--	--	25
Covered picnic shelters	36	37	32
Basketball courts	43	21	20
Skate boarding areas	--	--	12

Table 9. Comparisons with Previous Surveys - continued			
Question/ Response	1994	2000	2007
Recall receiving the Parks and Recreation Guide:			
Yes	76%	69%	75%
Readership of the Parks and Recreation Guide: (Of those who recall receiving it)			
Looked through it to see what was available	42%	37%	30%
Skimmed it for areas of interest	25	25	36
Glanced at it	19	22	21
Saved it to look at later	12	5	9
Tossed it without looking at it	2	11	4
Demographics of respondents:			
Age:			
Under 35	29%	16%	8%
35 to 54	44	46	42
55 and over	27	38	50
Children under 18 in the household:			
Yes	32%	37%	35%
Age of children:			
Under 6 years	44%	43%	42%
6 to 12 years	48	45	34
13 to 17 years	48	36	44

Appendix:

Individual Responses to Open-End Questions
Survey Questionnaire

ADDITIONAL RESPONSES FROM OPEN-END QUESTIONS
(Number of responses, beyond one, shown in parenthesis)

Q3b. Why are Kirkland Parks better?

Good about updating/always trying to improve parks (7); Parks Department aggressive in obtaining more park land (6); more parks than other cities (4); safe (3); like their brochures (3); Kirkland Parks better than Seattle Parks (2); excellent world class Little League ball fields (2); photography and art classes; preserved areas for parks; appreciate the Senior Center; they are active in environmental protection; loves the Farmer's Market in Juanita; like the outdoor movies; Kirkland offers a lot and they do a good job; good swimming programs; city takes pride in its parks; arts and music at Marina are great

Q4b. What are your sources of information?

Neighborhood Community Association; Historical Society meetings; medical clinic; speakers at the PTA.

Q8b. What improvements in park maintenance are needed?

Horse manure problem at Bridal Trails; problems in the summertime; Children's play area at park on 132nd is not very interesting; Old Farm House; gravel parking across from Spud's should be taken out; better lighting at night; parks need to be finished; make sure all have handicap accessibility; need more pooper scoopers for people with their pets; year-round multi-sport artificial turf.

Q10. Which Kirkland Parks do you enjoy visiting most often?

I know them driving by, but don't know their names; at 148th and Old Bel-Red.; St. Edmonds State Park; Bridle Trails; T Dock; Sand Point; not sure of name; St. Edwards; 7th near I-405; Grass Lawn.

Q11. What features and facilities do you appreciate most in the Kirkland Parks you visit?

Pet friendly (waste bags, places for dogs) (9); ample parking (6); entertainment at Marina Park (5); people watching (4); wildlife (4); statues (2); volleyball (2); feel safe (2); nice tennis courts (2); appreciate it all (2); gating for some children's play equipment near roads; nice places to walk; movie night at Juanita Beach; Boardwalk at Juanita Bay; July 4th parade; concession stands; blackberries; basketball; wetlands trails; water fountains; love Marina Park; field at Crestwood; Duck race; Bite of Kirkland; the swings; historical markers; Christmas boats coming by; sidewalks.

Q12. What do you believe are the major issues Kirkland Parks and Community Services must resolve in order to continue to offer a high level of facilities and services?

more picnic tables at Juanita Beach; budget issues/funding (6); more diverse programming and activities (2); problems with teenagers and transients (2); need more waterfront parks (2); parking; better access walking to the parks; park needed near Juanita High; personal greeters needed at parks; more activities for adolescents (2); housing going where parks should be; more off-leash dog areas (2); need indoor or covered pool (3); reduce population density; boat launch; preservation of natural areas/wildlife habitat; getting more people to use the parks; attracting high quality people for park jobs; pay parking lots not clearly marked; extend summer activities; traffic congestion (2); public accountability (2); more parks out of the downtown area; more community activities; ladders going into lake are too narrow and hurt your feet; no boat trailer parking available; poor boat launch area; no charges for parking; resist big developers taking over parks and wetlands; water lilies; more children's play areas; more seating for kids in park at 124th and 97th; having adequate staff for maintenance; balance between recreational and natural areas.

Q13. What types of additional outdoor facilities do you believe are needed in Kirkland Parks?

Drinking fountains (6); herb/botanical garden/flower garden (4); restrooms open year round (4); more parking (3); turn old N. Kirkland Golf Course into a golf course again/another golf course (2); performance stage (2); showers at the waterfront (2); beach rental space for small, non-motorized boats (2); volleyball courts (2); safe sidewalks to and from parks (2); year-round turf fields (2); rock climbing; children's water play areas; place where you can do chin ups; more signs for trails; more open fields; boat rentals; food stalls; connectivity between Forbes Creek and Juanita Bay or Beach; gazebo at Juanita Beach; larger parks; boat launch; more trash cans; cricket field; senior service area; sand boxes; better policing of pets; finish the plan for Juanita Beach Park; more funding; deal with rowdy teens; large outdoor area for Frisbee or movies; more events; jogging trails; batting cages; doggie bags; have codes of conduct for the beach; woodlands; grasslands; more recycling; water feature/public art; covered cooking shelter; natural parks with native plants and trees; good soccer field; exercise trail; more large play structures; bicycle trail; more gated parks; more security in the parks for young children

Q14. What additional indoor facilities do you believe are needed?

Teen center close to Downtown and positive activities for teens (3); water fountains (2); parking (2); soccer court; ice rink; showers at beach parks; ballroom; pool tables; information booth; fitness and wellness center; wheel chair access; swimming pool; soup and bread kitchen for kids; athletic center; roller rink; badminton court; something like Crossroads Community Center that accommodates a diversity of ages and activities; sports center for young people; senior center; computer room for kids; BMX bike track; drop-in play areas for toddlers; larger space for lectures and classes.

Q15. What new or improved classes, activities or services are needed?

More school-age and teen activities and classes (4); More computer classes (2); cooking classes (2); classes for younger children (ages 5 and under); gardening and nature classes; expand the Library; self-improvement classes for adolescents; kayaking; things specifically for those who home school; fishing classes; better management of swimming programs; adult soccer; parent get togethers; increase capacity of classes; more swimming classes for kids in the summer; apprentice engineering programs; more music concerts; canoe and sailing classes; horseback riding; subject matter with anything other than sports; more variety; transportation from schools to daycare and after school programs; summer camp for 11 year olds; year-round swim team; ice hockey; figure skating; drama camp; afternoon classes; unstructured play areas for kids; art classes for older teens; more classes for the disabled; adult aerobics; senior classes year round at Peter Kirk pool; more child-parent classes; recruit young people to help in the parks as volunteers; longer sailing classes; bike racks; evening classes for toddlers; classes for kids offered east of the freeway; more boating classes at North Community Center; boating safety; have translator at Community Center to help; water slide at the Downtown Kirkland Park; Spanish language class for young children.

KIRKLAND PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Survey of Kirkland Residents
October 2007

Hello, I'm _____ and I'm calling from GMA Research in Bellevue, a local marketing research firm. We are calling for the City of Kirkland to learn about your attitudes toward Kirkland Parks and Community Services. Are you a male/female head of the household? (IF NOT, ASK TO SPEAK WITH A MALE OR FEMALE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD OR FIND OUT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO CALL BACK TO TALK WITH THAT PERSON.)

Have you or a member of your household been to a Kirkland city park, taken a class or participated in any activity sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Services within the last year?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No) TERMINATE POLITELY
- 3 Not sure)

1a. Last summer, about how frequently did someone from your household go to a Kirkland city park? Was it....

- 1 At least once a week
- 2 Two or three times a month
- 3 Two or three times during the summer
- 4 Didn't visit a Kirkland Park last summer (DON'T READ)

1b. During the rest of the year, about how often did someone from your household visit a Kirkland city park? Was it...

- 1 At least once a week
- 2 Two or three times a month
- 3 About once a month
- 4 Once every two or three months
- 5 Only once or twice
- 6 Only in the summer

2. Within the past year, have you or a member of your household participated in a class or program offered by Kirkland Parks and Community Services, including activities at the Peter Kirk Senior Center and the North Kirkland Community Center?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

3a. Overall, do you believe Kirkland Parks and Community Services is better than, about the same or worse than park and recreation systems in other cities?

- 1 Better
- 2 About the same
- 3 Worse
- 4 Not sure/no opinion

3b. Why do you feel this way?

4. What are your sources of information for learning about Kirkland Parks and Community Services?

5a. Have you looked at the web site for Kirkland Parks and Community Services within the last year?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No) SKIP TO QUESTION 6a
- 3 Not sure)
- 4 Tried to find it, but couldn't (DON'T READ))

5b. In general, how user friendly would you say the Kirkland Parks web site is? Is it...

- 1 Very user friendly
- 2 Somewhat user friendly
- 3 Not very user friendly
- 4 Not at all user friendly
- 5 Don't know (DON'T READ)

6a. Do you recall receiving the Kirkland Parks Fall Recreation Guide in the last two months?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No) SKIP TO QUESTION 7a
- 3 Not sure)

6b. How thoroughly did you look through the Fall Recreation Guide. Would you say you:

- 1 Just glanced at it
- 2 Skimmed through it looking for particular areas of interest
- 3 Looked through it reasonably thoroughly to see what was available
- 4 Didn't look through it, but saved it for later use
- 5 Tossed it out without looking through It

7a. Do you live near a Kirkland neighborhood park?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No) SKIP TO QUESTION 8a
- 3 Not sure)

7b. About how often did someone from your household visit this neighborhood park last summer? Would you say it was about:

- 1 At least once a week
- 2 Two or three times a month
- 3 Two or three times during the summer
- 4 Didn't go there in the summer (DON'T READ)
- 5 Never have been to this park (DON'T READ) – SKIP TO QUESTION 8a

7c. When you visit this neighborhood park, do you usually walk, bicycle or drive there?

- 1 Walk
- 2 Bicycle
- 3 Drive
- 4 Varies

7d. About how long does it take you, one way, to get from your home to this park? _____ min.
(READ FROM LIST ONLY IF PERSON HESITATES)

- 1 Less than 5 minutes
- 2 5 to 10 minutes
- 3 More than 10 minutes
- 4 Not sure

8a. In general, do you believe the Kirkland city parks are very well-maintained, somewhat well-maintained or poorly maintained?

- 1 Very well maintained - SKIP TO QUESTION 9
- 2 Somewhat well-maintained
- 3 Poorly maintained
- 4 Not sure

8b. What improvements in park maintenance are needed?

9. How well do you believe the city's natural areas, including undeveloped parklands, urban forests and wetlands are being maintained? Would you say they are being...

- 1 Very well maintained
- 2 Somewhat well maintained
- 3 Not very well maintained
- 4 Poorly maintained
- 5 Not sure (DON'T READ)

10. Which Kirkland city parks do you enjoy visiting most often? (DON'T READ; MARK ALL THAT APPLY; WRITE IN NAME IF NOT LISTED BELOW)

01A	Brookhaven	13D	Marina	24A	Spinney Homestead
02A	Carillon Woods	14A	Mark Twain	25A	Terrace
03C	Crestwoods	15D	Marsh	26A	Tot Lot (Turtle Park)
04D	David Brink	16A	No. Kirkland Com.Ctr.	27B	Totem Lake
05C	Everest	17A	No. Rose Hill	28A	Van Aalst
06A	Forbes Creek	18A	Ohde Ave. P-Patch	29B	Watershed
07A	Highlands	19C	Peter Kirk	30C	Waverly Park Site
08D	Houghton Beach	20A	Reservoir	31D	Waverly Beach
09A	Houghton Nbrhood.	21A	So. Juanita Nbrhood.	32A	Woodlands Park
10B	Juanita Bay	22D	Settler's Landing	33B	Yarrow Bay Wetlands
11D	Juanita Beach	23A	So. Rose Hill	30	Other names
12D	Kiwanis				

(Note for coding: A = Neighborhood; B= Nature; C=Community; D=Waterfront)

11. What features and facilities do you appreciate most in the Kirkland parks you visit?

12. What do you believe are the major issues Kirkland Parks and Community Services must resolve in order to continue to offer a high level of facilities and services? (DON'T READ)

13. Thinking about the facilities that are in Kirkland Parks now, in your experience, what types additional **outdoor facilities**, if any, do you believe are needed in the Kirkland parks?

14. Now, I would like your opinion about the **indoor** facilities that Kirkland Parks and Community Services needs? What additional indoor facilities, if any, do you believe are needed?

15. What new or improved **classes, activities or services** are needed? (DON'T READ; MARK ALL RESPONSES)

16. When designing new or improving existing parks, which of the following features do you believe are most important to include? First, how about _____, do you

believe this is Very Important, Somewhat Important, or Not Important to include in future park development? (ROTATE LIST)

Features	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>No Opinion/ D.K.</u>
Restrooms	1	2	3	4
Children's playgrounds	1	2	3	4
Natural areas	1	2	3	4
Picnic shelters	1	2	3	4
Natural areas	1	2	3	4
Basketball courts	1	2	3	4
Skate boarding areas	1	2	3	4
Off-leash dog areas	1	2	3	4
Benches	1	2	3	4

Now, I would like to ask you a few questions for comparative purposes only. These answers will in no way be identified with your name.

17. What is your age? _____ (IF PERSON HESITATES, READ THE RANGES)

- 1 Under 25
- 2 25 - 34
- 3 35 - 44
- 4 45 - 54
- 5 55 - 64
- 6 65 and older

18. How many people, including yourself, are in your household? _____
(IF 1, SKIP TO QUESTION 20)

19a. Are there any children, under 18 residing in your household?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No - SKIP TO QUESTION 18

19b. And, what are their ages (is the child's age)? (MARK ANY THAT ARE APPROPRIATE)

- Under age 6 _____
- Age 6 to 12 _____
- 13 to 17 _____

20. How many years have you been a a resident of the City of Kirkland? _____

21. Do you reside in a single family home, an apartment, or condominium?

- 1 Single family
- 2 Apartment
- 3 Condominium

22. And, do you own or rent?

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent

23. Are you using an Internet provider?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Will be soon (DON'T READ)

24. What level of education were you able to complete? _____
 (READ LIST ONLY IF PERSON HESITATES)

- 1 Less than high school
- 2 High school graduate
- 3 Community college or trade school
- 4 College degree (4 year)
- 5 Post graduate degree
- 6 Refused (DON'T READ)

25. Is your total gross annual household income:

- 1 Less than \$40,000
- 2 \$40,000 - \$60,000 (59,999)
- 3 \$60,000 - \$80,000 (79,999)
- 3 More than \$80,000
- 4 Refused (DON'T READ)

26. Did you vote in a city election in the last two years?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Can't recall
- 4 Refused

27. Finally, in what neighborhood do you reside?

01	Bridle Trails	08	Norkirk
02	Central (Downtown)	09	North Juanita
03	Everest	10	North Rose Hill
04	Highlands	11	South Juanita
05	Houghton/Central Houghton	12	South Rose Hill
06	Lakeview	13	Totem Lake
07	Market	14	Other: _____
		15	Can't recall

Sex of respondent:

- 1 Male
- 2 Female



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**FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH
KIRKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION USERS**

Conducted September 26, 2007

Prepared for

**Kirkland Parks and Community Services
505 Market Street, Suite A
Kirkland, WA 98033**

by

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FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH KIRKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION USERS

Conducted September 26, 2007

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The City of Kirkland is working with Triad Associates of Kirkland on the 2007 Update of the Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan. The update includes a current inventory of parks and facilities and an assessment of possible options for future park service and facilities improvements.

As part of this update process, the City of Kirkland contracted with Carolyn Browne Tamler of Carolyn Browne Associates to conduct a focus group discussion with city residents to learn more about their usage of park facilities and services and their attitudes about future improvements.

The discussion was held in the Rose Hill Room at Kirkland City Hall on September 26, 2007, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. GMA Research of Bellevue recruited the participants. People were screened to assure they had visited a Kirkland Park or participated in a Parks and Recreation activity within the previous year. They were also chosen to represent a range of ages, Kirkland communities. There was also an intention to have the group equally divided between male and female heads of households.

Facilitation of the discussion and preparation of this report were done by Carolyn Browne Tamler.

PARTICIPANTS

The discussion participants included four men and six women from several different communities in Kirkland. Several have lived in the City for 25 years or more, while three have been residents for less than 10 years. Their ages range from under 35 to 55 and over.

Name	Community	Years in Kirkland	Occupation	Age Range
Rita	Houghton	38	Retired	55+
Candice (Candy)	Totem Lake	35	Evergreen Hospital	55+
LeAnne	Highlands	8	Teacher	35 - 54
Tim	Market	31	Attorney	35 - 54
Ed	Totem Lake	25	Interpreter	55+
Shane	Houghton	5	Teacher	35 - 54
Mike	Juanita	15	Apparel sales	35 - 54
Debbie	Totem Lake	11	Nurse	Under 35
Shirley	Juanita	40	Retired	55+
Susannah	Norkirk	8	Homemaker	35 - 54

DISCUSSION THEMES

The participants were uniformly enthusiastic about Kirkland Parks and Recreation. All visit parks, and most have participated in park classes and activities. They especially praised the variety of parks and park activities for all ages and the excellent maintenance.

Three ideas dominated the discussion:

- Provide more advertising/education about the parks and the activities provided by Kirkland Parks and Recreation;
- Improve the web site to make it easier to find and to use; and
- Plan for the increasing and older population in Kirkland--providing more security at the parks, having more access for older people, and developing new facilities and services that respond to the needs of the larger population.

There is concern about the increasing growth of the area and the increasing traffic as a result. They understand that it may be necessary for Kirkland to seek more money from taxpayers to pay for improvements to the parks to meet the increasing demands.

Many note that the population of Kirkland is aging and that the parks need to provide more facilities for older citizens. Several mentioned the need for more wheel chair access for parks.

The new facilities most desired include (in order of highest priority):

- Year-round covered pool
- New boat launch
- Dog park
- Centrally located indoor gym
- Lighted tennis courts
- More accessible activities for older people
- Improvements to the Downtown Park
- Improvement to and additional restrooms
- Larger skating park
- More covered activity areas
- Wheel chair access in more parks

New services desired include (in order of highest priority):

- Better advertising and education about the parks and park facilities
- Increased security in the parks
- Improved web site
- More Saturday classes
- System-wide pass, good for any Kirkland recreation classes
- Improved lighting in the parks
- Babysitting service during classes
- Nutrition classes and programs
- Language classes

If Kirkland Parks adequately presents its case to the public about the necessity for more funds to pay for added facilities and services, discussion participants believe the public will support a tax increase to cover the needs.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

AWARENESS AND IMPRESSIONS OF KIRKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

Impressions of Kirkland Parks

The participants were extremely enthusiastic in their praise of Kirkland Parks. Most have visited parks in other cities. They were eager to share their responses. A young mother, with two preschool-age children, commented, "It's amazing! I love the parks here. I'm walking distance from five parks. It's wonderful." Many nodded in agreement. Another person said she is walking distance from four parks, and she is always impressed with how well maintained they are. Someone else added, "The Kirkland parks are fabulous." One older man said he has lived in Hawaii and Australia, and he never saw the kinds of parks that are in Kirkland. Another shared, "I seek out parks wherever I am, and it's easy to find lots of interesting parks in Kirkland." A woman participant said she especially appreciates the waterfront parks: "They are very special." A man who grew up in West Seattle where he was surrounded by many large parks added, "Living here is like being home for me; there are great similarities between the parks here and those in West Seattle."

Parks visited and park impressions

A young mother said she takes her four-year old boy to the Downtown Skate Park every day: "It's so convenient." A father said that he has taken his sons to the park by Bridal Trails, and "My sons really enjoy going there." Several noted that the parks they visit are well maintained and are well supervised. A young woman described using the stairs at Crestwood Park to train for mountain climbing; she said there is a whole community that uses these stairs for training.

At Waverly Beach Park young mothers take turns watching each other's children. A woman said she is very pleased with the classes she takes at North Community Center – I take classes four days a week.

Participation in classes offered by Kirkland Parks

Most of the participants have taken classes, or has someone in their household who has taken classes, offered by Kirkland Parks and Recreation. A woman is currently taking classes four days a week at North Community Center, and she is very satisfied with her experiences there.

Participants have taken a wide variety of classes through Kirkland Parks including: tennis, kayaking, swim lessons for children and adults; aerobic and strength and stretch, volleyball, and preschool classes.

What is valued most about the Park system?

The participants are very satisfied with just about everything in the current Kirkland Parks and Recreation system. The qualities that are most appreciated are the level of maintenance, very reasonably priced classes and the variety of parks and activities for all ages.

CHANGES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT IMPACT PARKS

There was agreement that the whole Kirkland area has changed a great deal in recent years, and these changes naturally impact Kirkland Parks. The largest impact to Parks and Recreation is likely to come from the increased traffic as more people travel to and from the parks. There is considerable concern about possible development scheduled to happen at Juanita Beach. One person commented, "I have concerns about the traffic as the parks attract more people traveling from the Totem Lake Area to Juanita Beach."

One person noted he really misses Moss Bay Days and he was sorry to see this celebration end.

Several expressed the need for more boat launch areas. The current boat launch is too small and cannot handle the demand.

Some make the effort to use the parks during times when there are fewer people there.

ISSUES/CONCERNS ABOUT PARKS

Members of the group raised several questions about the future of Kirkland Parks and Recreation: Will the parks survive the growth changes that will occur in the next 10 to 20 years? How will they respond to the population and traffic increases? How is Kirkland Parks going to cater to the aging demographics of the area? How will older or disabled people have access to the parks? What kinds of activities will be offered to people when they are less mobile? Will Parks and Recreation have the budget to handle the increased needs of the community in the future? While some were concerned about the needs of the aging population, a person who works at the Senior Center was able to describe many of the services currently being provided.

Some wanted to talk about problems in particular parks they frequent. One person noted a particular problem at Juanita Beach where he twice this past summer observed boats hitting railings because they were allowed to be too close to the dock. He believes that better marine policing is needed, and/or boundaries need to be extended to protect the dock area. The young mom in the group said that there is a toy in the sandbox at Turtle Park that is too heavy for children to use. Someone else has heard a rumor that the swings will be taken away from Spinney Homestead Park, and she doesn't want to see this happen.

Someone asked, "Is there a dog park in Kirkland?" Several agreed that one is needed.

Several were concerned about the cost of maintaining the parks in the future. While members of the discussion group felt positive about the ways their tax dollars are used for parks, they said they know some people who are resistant to any increases in taxes for any purpose. All noted that Kirkland is changing a lot. One man summed up the feelings in the group: "I don't want to see Kirkland ruin a good thing." In commenting about the growth in the area, a man talked about "core values" of the city and asked whether development would be allowed near the parks that would impact the look and feel of the parks.

DESIRED NEW PARK FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Two lists were created from participant suggestions for new park facilities and services. Then, the participants were asked to prioritize by choosing five items on each list that were most important.

Several times people would ask about whether a particular service or facility existed, or they would simply suggest a need for something new, not realizing that the service or facility already exists within Kirkland Parks and Recreation. As the discussion continued, a major theme evolved relating to lack of information about what is offered. The participants were offered a current map of Kirkland Parks, and several were excited to see that the map is available. One person suggested, "I'd rather have this great map than go on line for information."

NEW FACILITIES DESIRED

Four items were given priorities by half or more of the participants:

Facilities Suggested (In order of number of priority ratings)	No. Giving It Priority
• Year round covered pool	7
• New boat launch	6
• Dog park	5
• Centrally located, indoor gym <i>(There does not seem to be a good gym owned by Parks and Recreation, although the schools are currently being used. There is also a need for a facility to keep kids busy after school.)</i>	5
• Lighted tennis courts <i>(There was considerable discussion and confusion over where tennis courts are located and which are lighted.)</i>	4
• More accessible activities for older people <i>(This will be needed as the population ages.)</i>	4
• Improvements to the Downtown Park <i>These would include a larger pool, a climbing wall, and other new facilities. There will be a need for more activities for an increasing population.)</i>	3
• Improve/add restrooms	3
• Larger skate park, or second one, to provide more space for older and younger users <i>The current skate park is used by teenagers after 3 PM and is not appropriate at that time for younger children.)</i>	3
• More covered activity areas in parks <i>(The need is especially for children's activities like a play area; someone commented that none of the parks have covered activity areas at present.)</i>	2
• Wheel chair access in more of the major parks <i>(There was special concern voiced about Juanita Beach.)</i>	2

NEW SERVICES DESIRED

Nearly all of the participants strongly favor having more advertising or education about what facilities and activities are provided by Kirkland Parks and Recreation. Four other services were given high priorities by half or more of the discussion participants.

Services Suggested <u>(In order of number of priority ratings)</u>	No. Giving It <u>Priority</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better advertising and education about Kirkland parks, including where they are located and what they offer; and what kinds of plants, birds, marine life are at the different parks <i>(Note: many in the group were surprised and pleased to get a copy of the Park system map; there was considerable discussion about people not knowing a lot of what Kirkland Parks currently provides.)</i> 	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased security in parks as number of people using the parks and number of activities increase 	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the web site and make it easier to use. <i>(Several mentioned problems with using the current password system; they would like to see better on-line services for getting maps and other information about the parks; someone commented that it was hard to find the web site)</i> 	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Saturday classes for youth and adult. <i>(The current catalogue seems to have few offerings for Saturday and it is difficult for working people to go to, or take their children to classes)</i> 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System pass that will be good for use with any Kirkland classes. 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve lighting system in the parks <i>(There needs to be an on-going evaluation about lighting; running paths and other spaces need to be lit.)</i> 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babysitting service during classes/drop-off <i>(A reference service would also be helpful; if a parent cannot find babysitting classes during day, many may not be able to take classes.)</i> 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition classes and programs <i>(A person asked if any are being offered.)</i> 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language classes (in addition to Spanish) 	2

ATTITUDES TOWARD INCREASING TAXES, IF NECESSARY, TO PAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS

The moderator asked the group members how they believe the public will respond if they are asked to approve a bond issue to provide more money for park improvements. There was consensus that the public will support a bond issue as long as there is a need. One person quickly commented, "It's all about the presentation. The public in Kirkland has the money; if the information is presented properly, it should be fine." Most of the Kirkland residents use the parks, and if they believe something will really help improve the park experience, they will support the city. Group members agreed with a person who commented: "We are content and we are proud of our community."

One person added that there is always resistance to more taxes, especially with the cost of so many things going up.

When asked what will encourage people to vote for a tax increase to pay for additions to Parks and Recreation, the participants repeated, "If the City can prove the need, people will support it." The City needs to show how the money will be used. People will appreciate knowing that the City is planning adequately for future growth.

SUMMARY: IF YOU HAD TO PRIORITIZE THE FUNDING TO ATTEND TO THREE MAJOR FUTURE NEEDS FOR THE CITIZENS OF KIRKLAND, WHAT THREE IMPROVEMENTS OR ADDITIONS WOULD YOU MAKE TO THE FACILITIES OR SERVICES?

Asked to summarize their opinions about what improvements were most needed by Kirkland Parks and Recreation, six items were mentioned most often:

- Better advertising and education about Kirkland Parks and Recreation;
- New boat launch;
- Improved web site;
- Activity areas that are lit at night;
- Greater wheel chair accessibility; and
- Year-round covered pool.

Shirley: New boat launch; better advertising about what is in the parks and where they are; and improving the web site, especially the password system.

Debbie: Accessibility for wheelchairs; improve the web site; and provide lights for activity areas to make them accessible in the evenings.

Shane: More Saturday classes; indoor gym; and year-round covered pool.

Ed: Better advertising; improve the web site; and more wheel chair accessibility.

Susannah: Improve the web site; have lit activity areas at night; and covered pool or play area; also a boat launch is very important.

Tim: Dog park; more areas lit at night; and better advertising so people will understand what is offered.

Mike: Better advertising; boat launch; and wheel chair accessibility.

LeAnne: Better education/advertising; boat launch; and year round pool.

Candace: More education about the parks and park facilities; Saturday classes; and better security and maintenance (suggestion for funding: have neighborhood associations partner with businesses to help with maintenance).

Rita: Continuation of waterfront walking areas as much as is possible; dog park; covered pool; and more tennis courts.

**Focus Group Discussion with Kirkland Residents
September 26, 2007
Discussion Guide**

I. Introduction

- a. Opening remarks – CT
- b. Name, community, years living in Kirkland, occupation

II. Overall, what is your impression of Kirkland Parks and Recreation, especially compared with the parks and recreation services you have experiences in other cities?

III. I'd like to know about the Kirkland Parks and Receptions facilities you and your family are using.

- a. What are parks you and your family visit most often? What do you especially appreciate about these parks?
- b. What activities or classes have you participated in? What impressed you about the way these activities were fun?

IV. What do you value most in the facilities and services provided by Kirkland Parks and Recreation?

V. I'd like you to think about the changes you have noticed in the City since you first moved here, particularly those changes that affect the services provided by Parks and Recreation. What changes or new trends have you observed?

VI. What do you believe are the most pressing issues or concerns relating to Kirkland Parks and Recreation?

Thinking about your concerns...

VII. Are there any new facilities that you believe are needed? (Make a list.)

VIII. Are there any new services that are needed? (Make a list.)

IX. I'd like to ask you to prioritize the new facilities needs and the service needs that you listed. (Ask the people to come up and select 3-5 items as priorities for facilities and services.)

X. I notice that several of you see a need for some facilities or services which would require a major investment of public money. Do you believe voters would be willing to approve a park bond issue to pay for these new facilities? What would make this issue most acceptable to voters?

XI. Summary: Imagine you are the Director of Kirkland Parks and Recreation and you have been given the funding to attend to three major, future needs for the citizens of Kirkland. What three improvements or additions would you make to the facilities or services?

Thank you very much for sharing you ideas and opinions tonight.