

APPENDIX A

Habitat Conservation Element

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 and enhancement of the ecological resources found within its borders.

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

Management Objectives

1. Protection of existing open space 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 City of Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation 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.

Existing City of Kirkland Natural Resources

The City of Kirkland is 9.2 square miles in size. Within this area are over 400 acres of City administered parks and open spaces and another 550 acres of State and County parks within its planning area.

The following is a list of City-owned natural park areas:

Forbes Lake Park - 5.5 acres
Heronfield Wetlands - 23.5 acres
Juanita Bay Park - 143.8 acres
North Rose Hill Woodlands Park - 17.9 acres
Watershed Park - 66 acres
Yarrow Bay Wetlands - 66 acres

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Existing City of Kirkland Natural Resources, cont'd.

The City has adjacent to its boundaries the following additional natural park areas:

- Bridle Trails Park - 400 acres
Washington State Park System
- Juanita Beach Park - 35 acres
King County Park System
- Totem Lake Park - 24 acres
King Conservation District

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.

Directions

The City acknowledges that the window of opportunity for acquisition of additional open spaces and parkland is diminishing. 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 non-native species and domestic pets.

Public Attitudes

Formal surveys completed in 1988, 1994 and 2000, and informal surveys held during public meetings and neighborhood workshops, confirm the importance placed by City residents upon the preservation of open spaces and parks. The most recent survey completed in 1994 interviewed 400 households within the City to discern patterns of park usage and concerns among the residents. The survey revealed that nearly nine out of ten of the participants have had at least one member of their household visit a City park within the previous year. This figure is projectable to the entire Kirkland population with 95% statistical validity and represents an increase from the 1988 survey. The 1994 survey showed that 78% of the Kirkland households

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Public Attitudes, cont'd.

consider the presence of "natural areas" to be very important in future park planning. The survey also revealed that 89% of City residents feel that Kirkland Parks are presently well-maintained and managed.

Ongoing and Future Habitat Protection Plan

The City of Kirkland's Parks and Recreation Department has a multi-dimensional management approach to habitat protection. The City utilizes the following elements:

Ongoing Management

Renovation and maintenance of existing natural areas, parks and facilities. The City uses a system of best management practices and best available technologies in the preservation, maintenance, and restoration of environmentally sensitive areas. Kirkland is completing its first natural resources management Plan. Expected Completion is the year 2001.

Public Involvement

Over 135,000 visits are recorded each year at City-sponsored activities and events. The City plays two roles in the public involvement process. In some instances the City provides facilities and coordination, such as the scheduling of sporting events; in other cases the City assumes a more direct role. An example of the second case are activities such as the Juanita Bay Park Volunteer Rangers project which provides information and education regarding environmental issues.

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.
- those located in neighborhoods with identified deficiencies in open spaces and parks.

Future Opportunities for Open Space Expansion

Expansion of this existing system of parks and open spaces is limited by the City's physical setting. Kirkland is bordered by Lake Washington to the west, the City of Bothell to the north, the City of Redmond to the east, and the City of Bellevue to the south. Future growth can only occur through annexation, private land donation, dedication, natural greenbelt protection mechanisms, or the acquisition of existing land made available for purchase.

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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 year-end 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.

Quarter Percent 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, development of a neighborhood park at the North Rose Hill Park site and Juanita Bay Park.
- 1989 - This bond issue was a county-wide bond issue targeting open space and trails project. Four Kirkland projects totaling \$1.7 million were part of this bond issue. Those projects included the renovation of Marina and Houghton Beach Parks, acquisition of property to expand Juanita Bay Park and a half mile interpretive wetland boardwalk trail at Totem Lake.

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Funding Strategies

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. No park projects have yet been funded through this mechanism.

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. King County bonded \$60 million dollars of funding against future CFT revenues and created a grant funding source available for local agencies to acquire open space. The City has been successful in applying for funding assistance through this program to acquire property for Juanita Bay Park, David E. Brink Park, and on Forbes Lake.

Fee-in-Lieu of Park and Open Spaces 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 its traditional resources. Following are the grant programs that the City has used successfully in the past:

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation

The IAC is a state agency that combines funds from several federal and state sources to distribute in the form of grants to eligible agencies for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. The amount of funding available for grants statewide varies

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from year to year and require that monies be used for specific types of projects. Grants are awarded to state and local agencies on a competitive basis. Since 1966 the city has received several million dollars of grant funding assistance through the IAC. Much of Kirkland's waterfront park system was acquired with funds available through this program. Marina, Marsh, David E. Brink, Houghton Beach, and Juanita Bay Park are all examples of parks receiving this type of grant funding assistance.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

This funding source is available from the State Department of Natural Resources and is a grant program requiring local matching funds. The program has two key components, one for Public Access and another for Interpretive programs. Both these sources were used to fund portions of the Juanita Bay Park Development project. The program also contains a new program known as the Wetland Stewardship Grant Program. This program offers financial assistance on a matching fund basis for the acquisition of significant wetlands. This program is limited in scope and available funds.

Transportation Equity Act – Tea-21 - Formerly known as ISTEA, this act was passed by Congress in 1998 and provides \$150 million for recreational trails projects through the year 2003.

Community Development Block Grants

These grants are administered by King County through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These funds are used most often to supplement other City funding for eligible projects.

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. In December of 1993, the City developed a Gift Catalog entitled "Sharing." The catalog was created to assist individuals, groups or companies wishing to donate services or goods to improve the city park facilities or recreation programs. Since its publication, the City has received over \$100,000 of donations for benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, hand dryers, volunteer labor, and recreation program scholarships.

Other Alternatives

In addition to the traditional methods of financing park projects (e.g., bond issues, operating funds, reserves, and grants), the Park Plan also recommends exploring other supplemental and creative financing alternatives. Development of a Parks and Community Services Foundation for the City of Kirkland is such an alternative. This foundation would assist the department in providing alternative funding opportunities for the various programs currently being offered and to assist in major project and program development.

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APPENDIX C**Level of Service**

LEVEL OF SERVICE METHODOLOGY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS

Neighborhood Parks

Level of Service acknowledges elementary school lands as providing contribution toward neighborhood park type elements to the community.

Assumptions

City population at full build-out (existing City limits)

56,500 approx.

Year 2000 neighborhood park acres

68.26 acres

Year 2000 elementary school outdoor recreation acres

30.1 x 50% contribution = 15.05 acres

(B.E.S.T. School (5 acres), Ben Franklin (7.8 acres @ 100%)

lease agreements allowing full use of grounds during day

Geographic Service Area

1/4 mile radius

General Neighborhood Size

2 acres

Number of Projects and Acres Needed at Build Out

(12) 32.82 acres

Existing acres + new acres needed ÷ population at buildout / 1000

83.31 + 32.82 ÷ 56.5 = L.O.S Acres / 1000

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Level of Service

Community Parks

Level of service is recreation facility based considering active facilities including athletic fields, sport courts, tennis courts playgrounds and support facilities such as restrooms, parking and open space. For community parks, public secondary schools acreage for outdoor recreation was factored and considered at 100%.

Assumption

Recreation Facilities Level of Service and Size

Baseball Fields	1/5,000	120,000 s.f.
Softball Fields	1/10,000	84,000 s.f.
Soccer Fields	1/7,500	72,000 s.f.
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	6,600 s.f.
Sport Courts	1/5,000	2,900 s.f.
Open Space		
Restroom	1/park	800 s.f.
Playground	1/park	6,000 s.f.
Parking	8 stall/active acre	157 s.f. / stall

Population at Full Build-Out

56,500 approximate

Year 2000 acres community parks

69.14 acres

Year 2000 outdoor recreation areas secondary schools and Santana Fields

60.93

Calculation

Existing Acres + new acres needed ÷ population at buildout

$130.07 + (11.69) \div 56.5 = \text{L.O.S.}$