



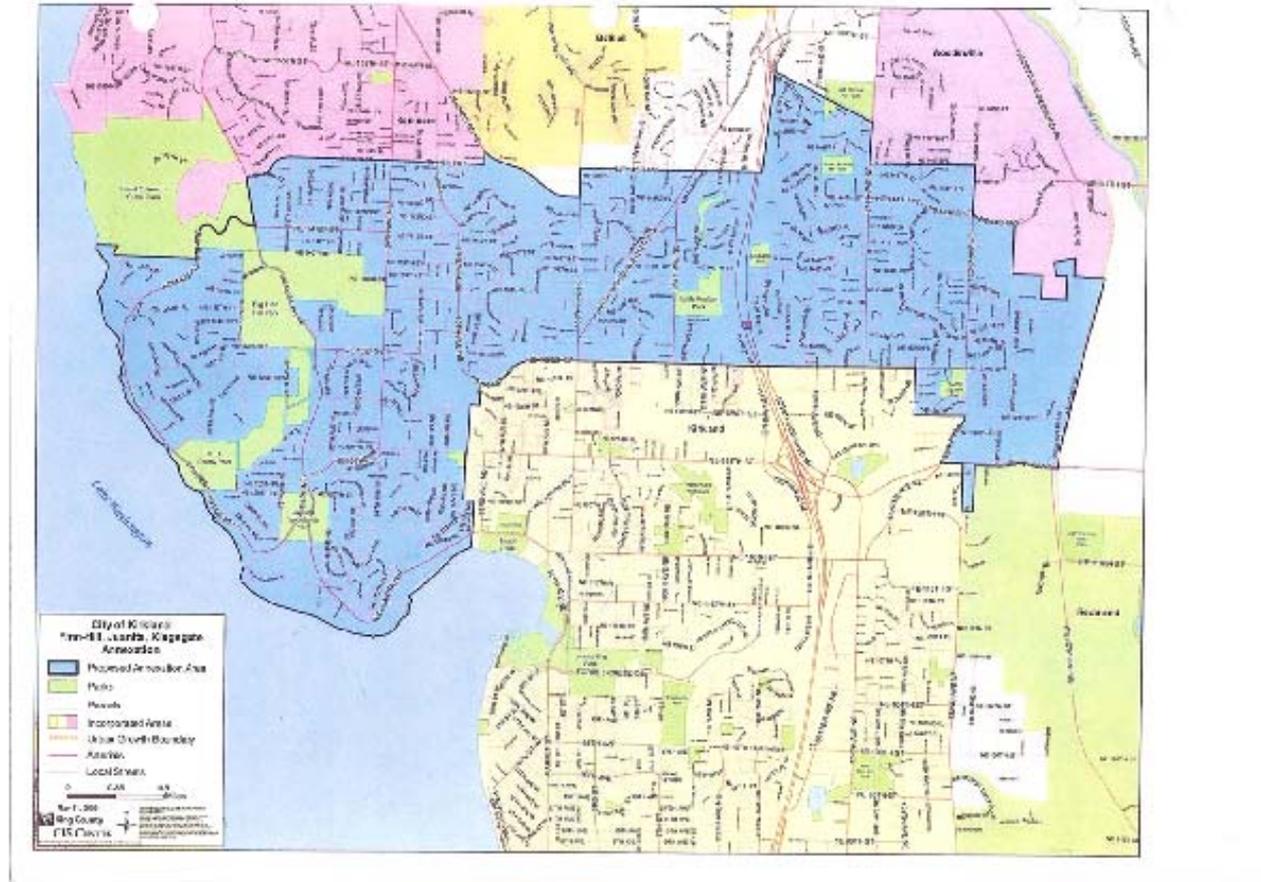
Finn Hill Park and Recreation District and O.O.Denny Park

October 11, 2011

Park Overview

- **46 acres located on Holmes Pt. Dr.**
- **Owned by City of Seattle, cannot be sold**
- **Really two parks**
 - **Semi-urban, picnic area w/ extensive waterfront, including wetlands**
 - **Hot summer weekend sees 800+ patrons, mid-winter days see handful of neighbors**
 - **Heavily wooded hills, creek valley w/ trails, minimal impact, wilderness feel**
 - **Flavor: wild and natural rather than developed and manicured**
 - **Reflects preferences of neighborhood around it**
- **Covered picnic shelter (reservable) + scattered picnic tables**
- **No formal athletic fields, no lighting except restrooms**
- **Denny Creek flows through entire park**
- **Part of wonderful green necklace of interconnected parks on Finn Hill**
 - **Big Finn Hill Park (King Co)**
 - **Juanita Woodlands (King Co)**
 - **St. Edwards (State of Washington)**

Kirkland Annexation Area



O.O. Denny Park part of unique green necklace of beautiful eastside parks

O.O. Denny Park





Semi-urban picnic area and heavily wooded, hilly backcountry

History of FHPRD

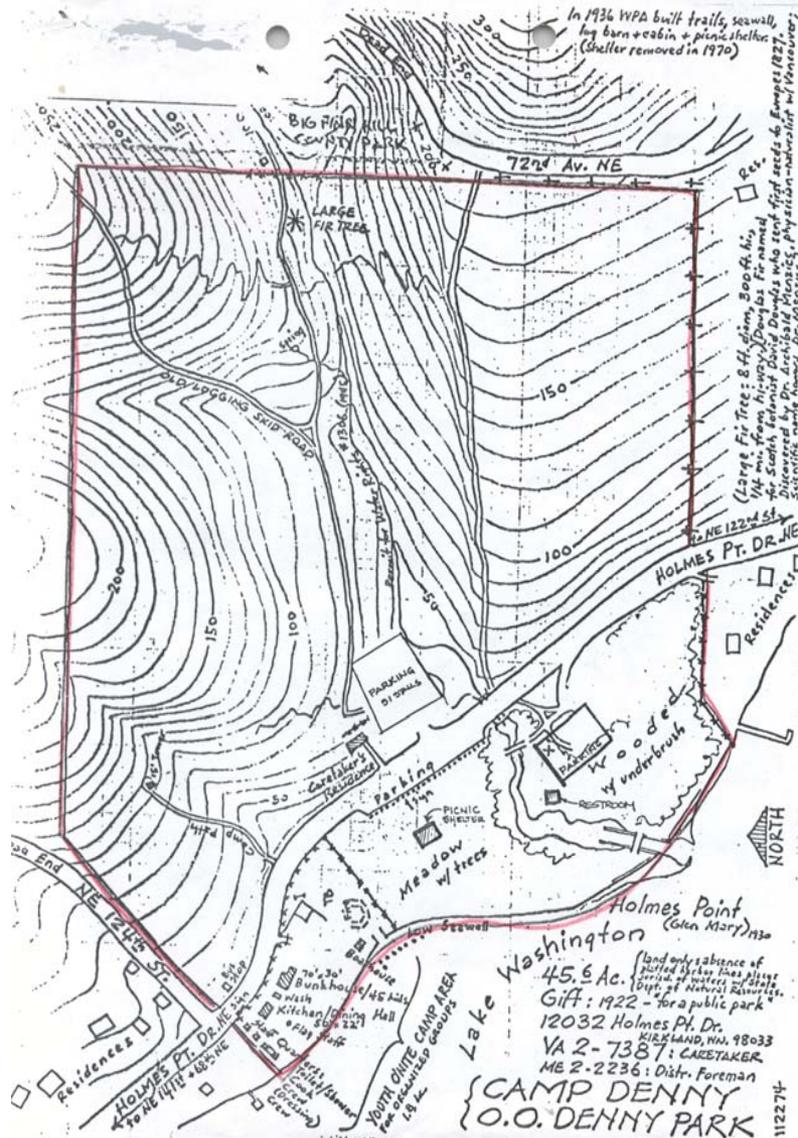
- **O.O. Denny park owned by City of Seattle, cannot be sold**
 - **Willed to city by Helen V. Denny in 1922, to be used as park in perpetuity**
 - **If ceases to be used as park, property reverts to Children's Home Society**

- **Operated as Camp Denny for underprivileged Seattle youth**

- **King Co. operated as park from 1968 to 2001**
 - **Funding shortfall caused King Co. to close park**
 - **Children's Home Society stated they would sell it for development**
 - **Neighbors, led by DCNA, organized to pass levy for park maintenance**

- **Levy passed Nov 5, 2002, responsibility started Jan 1, 2003**
 - **Formed Finn Hill Park and Recreation District (FHPRD)**
 - **FHPRD operates park under contract to City of Seattle**

- **Levy funding not available until Jan 1, 2004!**
 - **Borrowed 1st year's operating expenses from King Co.**



**O.O. Denny Park operated for many years as Camp Denny
 Day camp for disadvantaged youth**

Current Commission

- **Five elected, unpaid commissioners**
- **Official, public commission meetings once a month**
- **Day-to-day operations handled by sub-contractors**
 - **Day-to-day maintenance & cleanup**
 - **Security (opening and closing)**
 - **Tree trimming and removal**
 - **Plumbing**
 - **Animal control**
- **Commissioners divvy up responsibilities for contractor oversight**
- **Commissioners also handle numerous incidental responsibilities**
 - **Insurance**
 - **Accounting, paying invoices, tracking tax receipts**
 - **Special events (e.g. Christmas Ships bonfire)**
 - **Interface with various municipalities**
 - **Special projects**
 - **Major NUD sewer project this entire winter season**
 - **KC Shoreline Improvement Project scheduled this winter**
 - **Volunteer activities**
- **Commission have operated park under budget every year**

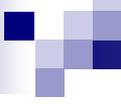
Park Levy Details

- **Finn Hill Park and Recreation District boundaries coincide with those of the newly-annexed Finn Hill Neighborhood of Kirkland**

- **Original levy passed in Nov, 2002**
 - \$0.072 per \$1000 valuation → \$28.80/yr for \$400K house
 - “One latte per month to save your beautiful park”
 - Passed with nearly 70% approval

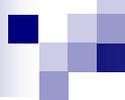
- **Current levy passed in Nov, 2008**
 - \$0.060 per \$1000 valuation → \$24/yr for \$400K house
 - Reduction due to budget history noted in voters’ pamphlet
 - Commission elected to place on ballot 1 yr early in presidential year
 - Barely passed with 60.1% approval

- **Current budget ~ \$180K/yr**
 - Includes tax receipts + modest income from shelter rentals
 - As in past years, substantial projected under run in 2011



Park Levy Details (cont'd)

- **For financial reasons, upon annexation City of Kirkland elected not to take over maintenance of O.O. Denny Park**
- **After annexation, residents of FHPRD are now taxed twice for parks!**
 - **FHPRD levy supports O.O. Denny for use by all of Kirkland**
 - **Kirkland taxes support parks for use by all of Kirkland**
- **Current levy expires in 2014**



Park Levy Options (there may be others)

1. Kirkland agrees to support O.O. Denny Park

- Prior to park bond levy**
 - **Levy has higher probability of passage in Finn Hill neighborhood**
 - **Financial & operational handoff from FHPRD manageable**
- Included only in park bond levy**
 - **Levy has higher probability of passage in Finn Hill neighborhood**

2. Kirkland again declines to support O.O. Denny Park

- Double taxation of Finn Hill neighborhood continues**
- Passage of levy in Finn Hill Neighborhood less likely**
- FHPRD forced to put levy renewal on ballot in 2013 or 2014**

3. Kirkland park bond levy includes O.O. Denny but fails in 2012

- **Double taxation issue highlighted in campaign, increased awareness**
- **FHPRD forced to put levy renewal on ballot in 2013 or 2014**
 - **Effect on FHPRD levy passage uncertain**