



PROJECT NUMBER: #05-13-PK
PROJECT NAME: Kirkland PROS Plan

ISSUE DATE: June 13, 2013

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the Public
Staff from Kirkland Parks & Community Services
Members of the Kirkland Parks Board
Project Tem Members from Conservation Technix & SvR

SUBJECT: KPROS Open House Meeting Notes: Community Planning Day (06/08/13)

Several long-range and strategic plans are being updated and developed that will shape Kirkland's future in land use, housing, transportation, parks and trails. Community members were invited to a Planning Day on Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kirkland City Hall. Information and interactive activities occurred to engage residents and businesses in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan Update, and the Transportation Master Plan, in addition to other on-going projects such as the Urban Forestry Management Plan, Juanita Drive Study and Totem Lake Master Plan.

As part of the PROS Plan update, the project team prepared informational displays covering four major themes for parks and recreation. These display stations included Indoor Recreation, Outdoor Recreation, Green Linkages (trails/connections) and Conservation. City staff, Parks Board members and project team staff engaged with participants to explore current issues, needs and interests related to park and recreation services.

RECURRING COMMENTS FOR SYSTEM-WIDE ENHANCEMENTS

The following represents a synthesis of recurring or common comments received at each station.

Category	Considerable Interest	Moderate Interest	Some Interest
Indoor Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pool & Aquatic Facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gym Indoor fitness space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialized activities: archery, climbing wall, dance, covered spaces, indoor track
Outdoor Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N Kirkland & Juanita Hill area parks Off Leash Areas Sports fields & School access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community gardens - farm to table Sunday Parkways style street closures / bike events
Green Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finn Hill & Juanita area trails Sidewalks & pedestrian friendly routes More multi-use trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CKC for pedestrians and bikes Connections to Burke Gilman, Puget Sound Electric and Sammamish River Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water trails Signage / wayfinding I-405 pedestrian bridge connecting Edith Moulton & Kingsgate
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiet places to think/ walk/hike Connecting natural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature classes & outdoor education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance natural area acquisition with other needs

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DETAILED COMMENTS PER DISPLAY STATION

Indoor Recreation Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

1. How satisfied are you with Kirkland's public indoor recreation facilities?

- 1.1. Juanita Pool is at risk, St Edwards pool is closed. Can Kirkland find ways to partner with State and Lake Washington School District to maintain indoor pool facilities?
- 1.2. Preserve Juanita High School Pool and field house!
- 1.3. Need gym! Indoor pool! Weight/exercise!
- 1.4. South Kirkland community center/pool please!
- 1.5. I love the indoor pool at Juanita HS – and it is at risk of loss when school is rebuilt!
- 1.6. Keep an indoor pool in Kirkland

2. A wide array of activities exist today – from sport courts, to aquatics, to fitness, to walking/running. What recreation opportunities are missing?

- 2.1. Please save the cannery
- 2.2. Archery indoor range or outdoor
- 2.3. Indoor pool like Bellevue & Edmonds
- 2.4. Places near Houghton like the old BCC campus near park & ride to take classes and exercise
- 2.5. Most rec fields are baseball, which is great, but there is also a need for other fields for sports such as soccer and ultimate Frisbee
- 2.6. Greater variety of dance classes in downtown Kirkland
- 2.7. We need an indoor water aerobics pool, instructors & schedules. Only one on eastside at the YMCA in Bellevue!
- 2.8. 365 day swimming – competitive lanes, cool down pool, diving
- 2.9. We need to maintain/expand/upgrade an indoor aquatic facility
- 2.10. Spray park! Zip-line short one see Seward Park
- 2.11. Climbing gym & racquetball/squash courts like Edmonds
- 2.12. More covered spaces –shelters, benches. All season multi-function space, i.e. canopy over rec area that can be lifted in good weather

3. Are there specific ages or age groups that need access to additional programs? What types of activities/programs should be available to them?

- 3.1. We love Seattle's toddler gym. 10a-1p for \$3, drop-in Sat. Peter Kirk? need weekend
- 3.2. Indoor bouldering or climbing for teens. Indoor playground for very young. Indoor skate park preteen & teen. Therapeutic (warm) pool for older adults or anyone for physical therapy
- 3.3. Consider subdividing NHAs into smaller neighborhood units – maybe based on political precinct boundaries
- 3.4. All ages
- 3.5. All ages/families. Combine facilities. Full time day care facility with facility for after school activities & facility for adult gym to reduce after school/work car trips
- 3.6. More off-leash areas for dogs in more parks

-- Photo Board (tally of red dots) --

- 12 - indoor pool
- 4 – indoor track

- 3 – climbing wall
- 2 – exercise rooms
- 1 - play rooms
- 1 - adult classrooms
- 0 “votes” – dance floors, indoor gathering spaces, school gyms, performances, indoor play facility, fitness equipment

Green Linkages Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

1. What streets or other rights-of-way do you use to access or get between parks?

- 1.1. Hike over the Tundra private property to get from the top of Finn Hill to Juanita Beach
- 1.2. I never walk from park to park. Connecting them is a nice idea, but is not of great value. Create linear recreation using existing routes and destinations
- 1.3. Sidewalks used to be even with driveways. Now they dip making it harder to walk/unsteady
- 1.4. At 60th street, across railroad, to get down to Houghton Beach park. Public access alley at 105th and 58th street to get to Carillon Woods
- 1.5. With rail corridor, provide enough access points for pedestrian safety & emergency access

2. What are the key routes you would take, but don't because of access restrictions or other concerns?

- 2.1. I don't walk down Juanita Drive because of traffic – would love a way down Finn Hill to Juanita
- 2.2. An illegal sign by a neighbor has been posted on the Woodinville Water District ROW that connects Kirkland-Woodinville rail trail with 135th Ave NE at NE 135 street. The sign was not erected by the water district but claims to be. It “prohibits” pedestrian connectivity.
- 2.3. From upper Watershed Park down creek (Cochran Springs?) to Yarrow Bay Business District. No good path currently
- 2.4. Cross Kirkland is hard to walk right now

3. Where are the missing links?

- 3.1. More pedestrian friendly routes to get to parks
- 3.2. Better sidewalk/path linkage Central Houghton to 108th to park & ride. Bikes & Peds. Corridor will help
- 3.3. End of Forbes Creek
- 3.4. Pedestrian bridge between Edith Moulton & Kingsgate Park over I-405
- 3.5. Sidewalk on 7th Ave (Norkirk) is not complete. Hard to walk it to Peter Kirk
- 3.6. A linkage (on the water) maybe between Juanita Bay Park & the Beach Park. Without use of the street

4. What improvements to streets would encourage you to walk or bike more frequently?

- 4.1. Pedestrian corridor down Finn Hill to Juanita
- 4.2. Please have our new cross corridor pedestrian friendly, not just bike friendly as with Burke Gilman
- 4.3. Allowing bikes on sidewalks when no pedestrians are present at 5 mph max speed, stopping/yielding to pedestrians as needed
- 4.4. Sidewalks that are continuous on 1 side of the street at least
- 4.5. Street corners that are lighted, especially at arterials, that would allow drivers to see pedestrians on sidewalks crossing streets. This is especially a conflict in winter when drivers make a turn
- 4.6. Lack of sidewalks impacts walking safety
- 4.7. Transit stops at playfields, so preteen daughter could get to things without me driving

-- Photo Board (tally of red dots) --

- 12 – multi-use trail
- 5 – rail corridor
- 5 – utility corridor trails
- 4 – neighborhood access paths
- 3 – neighborhood greenways
- 1 – on-street bike paths
- 1 – creek corridors
- 1 – bike lanes
- 1 – bike boulevards
- 0 “votes” – the waterfront, neighborhood walking maps, street parks

-- Map Board (sticky note comments) --

- Mountain bikes in Finn Hill; better trails to other parks
- Juanita Drive touring bikes need safer
- Water trail for paddle boarders and kayakers
- Lake Washington Boulevard sidewalk widening would be nice – very crowded on sunny days
- Lake Washington Boulevard walkability use as a joyful connection
- Informal linkages in Finn Hill area on private
- Bike on 100th to Burke Gilman Trail
- Links to regional trails especially Sammamish River Trail (Cross Kirkland Corridor)
- Better signage and wayfinding (to bridges)
- Stairs & ramps on 100th at Slater
- Formalize connections to Puget Sound Energy trail
- Trails through Forbes Creek Park (JBP) (red dot added)

Outdoor Recreation Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

- 1. How satisfied are you with your neighborhood’s parks? How about other Kirkland parks that you visit?**
 - 1.1. We need more developed parks in the Juanita High School area
 - 1.2. Bonfire facilities like they have at Golden Gardens Park in Seattle
 - 1.3. Need doggy poop bags @ parks. Get a neighborhood person to adopt a park & pick up poop
 - 1.4. I am loving the early morning lap swim @ Peter Kirk pool
- 2. Is there a demand for more park space in your neighborhood? Where?**
 - 2.1. 109th area near Juanita HS
 - 2.2. Soccer fields tennis courts in Houghton
 - 2.3. More dog off-leash areas in various neighborhoods – water access and trails where families can get exercise with their dogs
- 3. What other types of outdoor activities or park uses should Kirkland provide? What is missing? What is needed?**
 - 3.1. The corridor being developed will help
 - 3.2. More exercise stations like at Crestwoods Park

- 3.3. Off-leash hours for dogs am, pm
- 3.4. Bicycle-free streets events, like Sunday in Seattle
- 3.5. Indoor pool like Bellevue, Edmonds
- 3.6. For everyone's use we need more facilities near ICS & Emerson School & Lakeview School
- 3.7. Swings & other moving play equipment that increase vestibular development in kids
- 3.8. More partnerships with schools to use facilities as parks
- 3.9. More soccer fields

4. Are today's parks sufficient to keep our growing population healthy, active and engaged in 2035? How should the park system serve a changing Kirkland?

- 4.1. More parks with more amenities for relaxation and native study
- 4.2. Partnership with YMCA to develop a facility in Kirkland
- 4.3. A large indoor recreation facility with lap & therapeutic pools, maybe housing recreation department in Totem Lake. Could serve our urban growth area
- 4.4. Further develop school field-park partnership to offer more options for outdoor sports. Also master plan for Big Finn Hill and include playfields possibilities
- 4.5. Transit access to parks for those who don't drive, i.e. older adults, young kids
- 4.6. "Mixed Use" creates extra need for outdoor recreation (no backyards to play in!) Developers of mixed use should provide adequate outdoor facilities

5. What are your top priorities for Kirkland's parks, facilities and amenities?

- 5.1. Open areas to be enjoyed by all. They have to be a place where people feel safe
- 5.2. Live within basic funding; No more levies
- 5.3. Bathrooms
- 5.4. Restroom funding should be available – too many restrooms closed
- 5.5. Increased number of parks in North Kirkland (annexation area). Continued maintenance and operations at the high level we expect for our parks
- 5.6. Garbage service should be reinstated for picnic waste and dog waste
- 5.7. Yes, no more levies

-- Photo Board (tally of red dots) --

- 4 - farm-to-table facilities (added note on dot: "community garden & food bank")
- 4 – organized exercise classes
- 3 – youth playfields
- 3 – parklets
- 3 – tree top zip line
- 2 – dog park
- 2 – exercise stations
- 2 – bike skills park
- 1 – waterfront docks
- 1 – baseball + softball fields
- 0 "votes" – playgrounds, swimming pool

-- Map Board (sticky note comments) --

- Mountain bikes in Finn Hill; better trails to other parks
- Fire station opportunity to connect the park – with pedestrian overpass (northwest corner of Big Finn Hill Park)
- Trail markings, directions, usage
- Gondola - Juanita up to Finn Hill (Juanita Bay area)

- Orienteering/"adventure races"
- I second orienteering more permanent courses
- More swimming facilities (in/outdoor) (downtown vicinity?)
- Close down major corridors (to cars) ne Sunday afternoon per month for biking/street life (like Portland)
- Incorporate space for dogs off-leash
- Joint use playfields at International Community School
- Playground access at/near schools
- Watershed Park incorporate space for dog off-leash area (Watershed Park)
- Provide funding for invasive species removal throughout the park system. Would be youth employment opportunity
- Joint use contracts – extend park maintenance beyond playfields to habitat around schools. Emerson playfields (Emerson HS area)
- Plus ability to get lost (arrow pointing to Watershed Park)
- Bike skills park (impromptu) (arrow pointing to natural areas - east of 90th street & SE of Mark Twain Elementary School – actually outside city limits)
- Make this vacant wetland a nature park! (arrow pointing to area near Ohde pea patch)
- Monday going N – garbage bin obstacles + grates + parking (arrow pointing to N/S road at Mark Twain Park)
- Plants, exercise station, places to sit walkway/path "Iota Park" (arrow pointing to near 127th & 109th)
- Missing link on bike route (arrow pointing to 124th & 124th)
- Street scramble. categories for bike or walking. Mergio.com. learn about neighborhood. Aim people toward safest routes – i.e. neighborhood greenways.

Conservation Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

1. **Why do you value Kirkland's natural areas? As a place to hike or walk? Part of a great view? For their contributions to wildlife and stormwater quality?**
 - 1.1. An opportunity to get exercise, walk my dog and think about my day and contemplate. Love the trails in Kirkland.
 - 1.2. Hike The green space is important to balance the anxiety that affects us all living in the U.S.
 - 1.3. Our family regularly walks/hikes on the trails along the lake & in Watershed Park & Big Finn Hill. They are recreation AND water quality significant
 - 1.4. Hike & walk. Commune with nature
 - 1.5. They are areas to relax, walk, think and meet friends without having to drive too far or at all!!
 - 1.6. Natural resource protection and preservation
 - 1.7. I enjoy the surprising encounters with wildlife!
 - 1.8. Trails as part of natural areas
 - 1.9. Carillon Woods –for swings/play structure – for just hanging out in nature, as a break – walk dog – headwaters for Carillon Creek
2. **How important is it to acquire and preserve lands as natural areas compared to other uses of parkland and City resources?**
 - 2.1. Imperative
 - 2.2. Very! (two dots added)

- 2.3. Very important to provide wide spectrum of uses. Natural areas opportunity for education
- 2.4. Not that important given the other needs and limited resources
- 2.5. To me this is not important. Other than wetlands, natural areas with no access by people is a waster of undeveloped land for the city. The land does not have to be all mowed lawn , but there should at least be trails. It should be for use by people.
- 2.6. It's one of the key variables that set this and any "good" urban area apart!! Very important!
- 2.7. I think Kirkland has done a good job in "older" Kirkland. It is very important to continue this effort in our "new" annexed areas.

3. Have you participated in natural area restoration through Green Kirkland or other restoration opportunities? What would make you want to participate if you haven't already?

- 3.1. Green Kirkland – greater involvement with Cascadia Community College students – expand their existing MLK day to year-round opportunities
- 3.2. Yes, I've helped with Green Kirkland & would be interested in doing more when I retire
- 3.3. Stewardship partnerships with local schools
- 3.4. Concern about maintaining areas in restoration. Keeping up with returning invasive plants
- 3.5. Extend invasive plant removal to the Corridor. Blackberries out organize volunteers. I have participated before
- 3.6. 20-year forest restoration plan – is this online

4. What do you want kids to remember about growing up in Kirkland?

- 4.1. To respect and care for place they live – learn to extend globally
- 4.2. Need an environmental center to teach kids about natural areas and their critical ecological benefits
- 4.3. Respect for how fragile the forests are – humans deeply impact the health of our forests
- 4.4. Healthy forests, great parks for users, clean waterfront parks
- 4.5. A backyard where they can play with friends
- 4.6. "I love natural areas" 2 kids
- 4.7. All the memories! Beach walks, nature hiking, etc.
- 4.8. Parks, pedestrian quiet community that appreciates the environment
- 4.9. It is safe fun outdoors place to be
- 4.10. That Kirkland had soooo many options for activity: out in parks, sport fields, downtown (library, shops, etc.) recreation, swimming, just playing in neighborhood, that they as kids had access to.

-- Photo Board (tally of red dots) --

- 4 – mitigation banking (plus 1 comment on dot: "for Totem Lake")
- 3 – environmental education classes
- 3 – creek corridors
- 3 – wetland boardwalks
- 2 – wildlife corridors
- 2 – habitat restoration
- 2 – tool library
- 1 – historic sites
- 1 – shoreline restoration
- 1 – online restoration tracking tool
- 0 "votes" for educational signage, soft shorelines

Additional sticky notes on Photo Board

- Remember crime prevention thru environmental design of parks and OS
- Nature classes designed for families – similar to the Padilla Bay Preserve classes in Bayview, WA.
- Neighborhood car sharing run by city

- Connecting natural areas to protect & enhance their value and function

-- Map Board (sticky note comments) --

- Sustainable trail use needed for Big Finn Hill Park
- Need parking and/or access from Juanita Drive to OO Denny trail (upper)
- Status of wetland east of high school? Connection opportunity with N-S power lines (east of Juanita HS)
- Garbage cans & dog waste bags at entrances to Watershed Park

Other sticky notes (not oriented to specific questions)

- O.1 Juanita Bay restaurant pad (once a Jack-in-the-Box) has poor access and fails to sustain business – convert to park land?
- O.2 Big Finn Hill maps are confusing – easy to get lost. Wayfinding needed. Some concerns about conflicts with cyclists (mtn bikers)
- O.3 Consider need to provide spill over for events from Marina Park – Peter Kirk? Juanita Beach?
- O.4 Vegetation mgt along Cross Kirkland corridor?
- O.5 interpretive signs are valuable additions on trails in natural areas
- O.6 Connecting natural areas & access to and from Cross Kirkland
- O.7 Night lights affect nocturnal animals – need a policy to protect nocturnal wildlife
- O.8 remove poison hemlock. It's a danger to the public.

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- *End of Notes* --

cc: Michael Cogle
File