



Proposed Pilot Program: Unfenced Designated Off-Leash Areas in Kirkland Parks

Goal: Provide a range of on-leash and off-leash opportunities to accommodate the variety of needs of dogs and their owners, while not overly impacting the needs of other park users.

Realities: The following assumptions are built into managing the use of public recreation areas by dogs and their owners [*Source: Portland, Oregon Off-Leash Program*]:

- Recreating with a dog is a legitimate and appropriate park use.
- Conflict is unavoidable.
- Park managers have the responsibility to design, create, and manage parks in a way that minimizes conflict.
- Park users also have a responsibility to help minimize conflicts with other park users by displaying mutual respect and by following park rules.

Policies and Regulations: Pertinent City and State regulations or policies are provided in the Appendix to this report. City regulations and/or policies may need to be revised in order to implement the pilot program.

What is an "Unfenced Designated Off-Leash Area"?

An unfenced designated off-leash area (DOLA) is a carefully selected area in a city park where dogs can play and exercise off-leash under voice control of their owner. The designated areas are shared with other park users and kept available for other park uses.

What does voice control mean?

Dog owners using unfenced off-leash areas should have their dogs under control at all times. The challenge can be individual interpretation of what "under control" means. It should mean the owner/handler has voice control over the actions of the dog in all situations and it is trained to respond to verbal commands of come, stay, down, sit, and no.

Why consider unfenced off-leash areas?

- Strong demand from Kirkland park users for more off-leash opportunities.
- Off-leash (unauthorized) activity is already widespread in most Kirkland parks.
- Sanctioned use can be more easily monitored and managed.
- Sanctioned use increases likelihood of responsible dog ownership and dog socialization through interaction with positive role models and opportunities for education and outreach.
- Provides expanded opportunities for informal and formal dog training.
- Considerably less expensive than creating a dedicated, fenced off-leash dog park.
- Allows for other park uses throughout the day.
- Provides an opportunity for dog owners to meet, share information, and form community bonds.
- Makes it less likely that dogs will be let loose in undesirable areas.
- Lessens pressure placed upon Jasper's Dog Park as being Kirkland's sole public off-leash opportunity.



What are the Keys for Ensuring Success?

- **Abundant and Dispersed:** More locations are better than fewer. Providing opportunities across all neighborhoods lessens traffic, encourages neighbor-to-neighbor interaction, and lessens the likelihood that a particular park in the community may be overused. Proposed locations are shown in the Appendix.
- **Right Site:** A designated off-leash areas (DOLA) should:
 - Be a minimum of 5,000 square feet
 - Avoid affecting fish and wildlife habitat
 - Avoid risk to water quality
 - Avoid active restoration areas
 - Be relatively level
 - Have minimal impact on adjacent residential areas (off-leash areas should be No Barking Zones)
 - Be away from playgrounds
 - Avoid playfield conflicts
 - Avoid swimming beaches during swimming season
 - Off-leash trails should be wide enough to allow for the passing of dogs and owners
 - If on a school walk route, avoid off-leash activity immediately before/after school hours
 - A park's main pedestrian circulation should not be within the designated off-leash areas
 - Avoid siting DOLAs adjacent to streets with heavy traffic
 - Consider areas currently experiencing high off-leash dog use
 - Be equipped with minimum amenities which include site signs with places for posting notices; fence or boundary markers; garbage cans and dispensers for scoop bags
- **Clear boundaries:** Unfenced designated off-leash areas should be clearly defined through signage and boundary markers such as posts, bollards, or other visible devices. Existing fencing, walls, and vegetation can also help define the areas. Flyers, maps, etc. should also be made available. For examples of printed information, see the Appendix.
- **Right times:**
 - Programming of specific hours provides a balance between the needs of dog owners and other park users.
 - Off-leash hours and seasons should be defined by individual park use patterns and hours of daylight.
 - System considerations, general seasonal definitions, and a summary of park-specific hours of use recommendations are further described in the Appendix.
 - Morning times: 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
 - Evening times: 4:00 p.m. – Dusk
- **Right Enforcement:** Parks and Community Services has a limited ability to enforce off-leash rules and regulations. Current emphasis is placed on education and outreach, with enforcement a secondary priority. It should be noted that the City has a limited capacity to actively enforce all park rules (not just leash laws), and that enforcement of park rules is typically complaint-based. Nonetheless, additional resources are likely to be necessary to ensure program success.



- **Right Rules:** Rules should be clearly posted at off leash sites and written to be easily understood. It is anticipated that additional efforts will need to be made to help all park visitors understand why the rules are important and to encourage them to be considerate of others and to act responsibly.

Learning from the experiences gleaned from Jasper's Dog Park and successful unfenced off leash areas in other communities, the following rules and regulations are proposed for Kirkland's off leash areas:

Rules for dogs:

- Demonstrate appropriate social interaction
- Display tags showing proof of current license and rabies vaccination
- Be considerate of park neighbors by playing quietly in the early morning and evening hours - No Bark Zone
- When off leash, stay in the designated off leash area boundaries

Rules for owners/handlers:

- Dogs displaying aggressive behavior toward people or other dogs must be removed from the DOLA immediately.
 - Bring no more than two dogs to the DOLA at any time.
 - Remain in the DOLA to supervise their dog and keep them within view and under verbal control at all times.
 - To prevent injury, remove pinch or choke collars when playing off leash.
 - For health and safety reasons, do not bring a dog in heat to a public park.
 - For health and safety reasons, do not bring a puppy under six months old to the DOLA.
 - Children must be closely supervised.
 - Accept responsibility for any damage or injury caused by their dog. No digging allowed.
 - Comply with all other park rules.
- **More Education:** The City should partner with advocacy groups such as KDOG to sponsor and promote increased education for dog owners. Experts can be used to provide a variety of on-site trainings and workshops. Topics may include:
 - Canine social development
 - Dog body language-friendly, fearful, and aggressive
 - Basic commands every dog should know
 - Help for leash-reactive dogs
 - Equipment for dogs and how to use it
 - Meeting the needs of your high energy dog
 - Teaching your dog to love a muzzle
 - Dog breeds and behavior
 - Mentally stimulating toys and training
 - The aging dog
 - Dog park drop outs



Trial Period: In order to assess the proposed program over the course of the varying seasons of the year, the trial period should be a minimum of 12 months from date of inception. The program should be formally reviewed by the Park Board at the end of every season to assist Parks staff in making any necessary adjustments and to help determine continued viability.

Parks staff will require approximately 90 days for implementation after the program is formally approved.

Assessment: Data and information used for on-going and final assessment of the pilot program will include:

- Citizen comments log
- Observational reports
- Enforcement data
- Maintenance impact assessments
- Web survey
- Feedback from neighborhood associations

Public Involvement: Public input should be gathered to assess support for the proposed pilot program and refine parameters. Public participation goal should be to work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Recommended public engagement strategies include:

- Outreach to all neighborhood associations, including attendance/presentations by staff and Park Board when possible.
- Web survey to ascertain opinions and attitudes towards pilot program
- News release to media and blogs
- City webpage
- Notices posted at each proposed DOLA site
- Park Board Public Hearing



APPENDIX

- A – Matrix of Proposed Off-Leash Locations and Operating Periods
- B – Designed Off-Leash Area (DOLA) for Proposed Park Sites
- C – Examples of Program Brochures from Other Cities
- D – Relevant Regulations and Policies

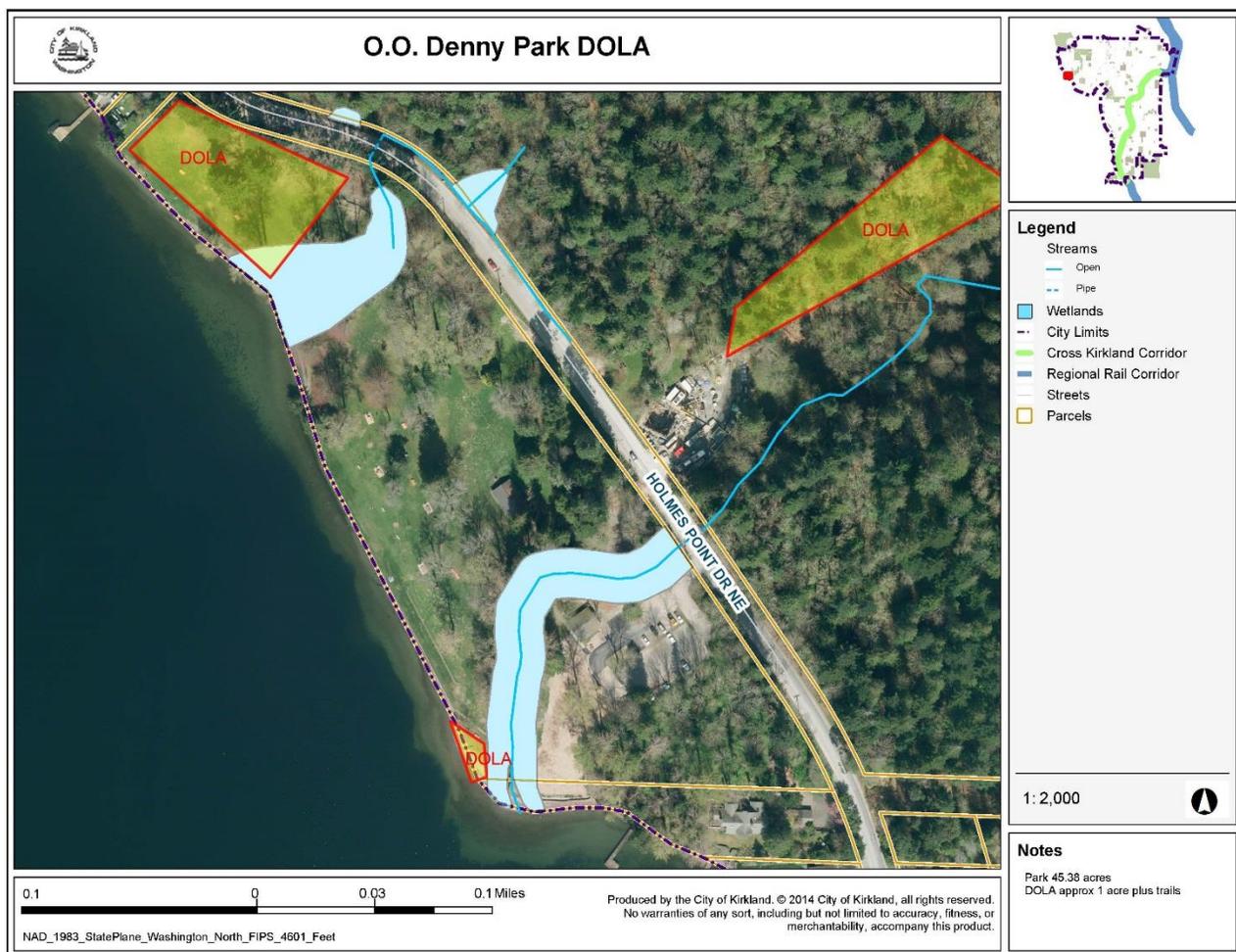
APPENDIX A

WHEN TO OFF-LEASH			Summer July - August		Fall Sept. - Nov.		Winter Dec - Feb.		Spring March - June	
	Neighborhood	Park	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening
1	Finn Hill	O.O. Denny		NO						
2	Juanita	Juanita Beach		NO						NO
3	Juanita	NKCC								
4	Juanita	Brookhaven								
5	Juanita	Edith Moulton			NO		NO		NO	
6	Kingsgate	Kingsgate								
7	Kingsgate	132nd Square								
8	N. Rose Hill	Mark Twain								
9	N. Rose Hill	NRH Woodlands								
10	Market	Waverly Beach	NO	NO						
11	Market	Heritage								
12	Norkirk	Crestwoods								
13	Norkirk	Van Aalst								
14	Highlands	Forbes Creek								
15	Highlands	Spinney Homestead				NO				NO
16	Moss Bay	Peter Kirk Park		NO						NO
17	Everest	Everest								
18	S. Rose Hill	Rose Hill Meadows								
19	S. Rose Hill	South Rose Hill								
20	Bridle Trails	Snyder's Corner								
21	Lakeview	Marsh		NO						
22	Houghton	Terrace			NO	NO	NO		NO	NO
23	Houghton	Watershed								
24	Houghton	Carillon Woods								

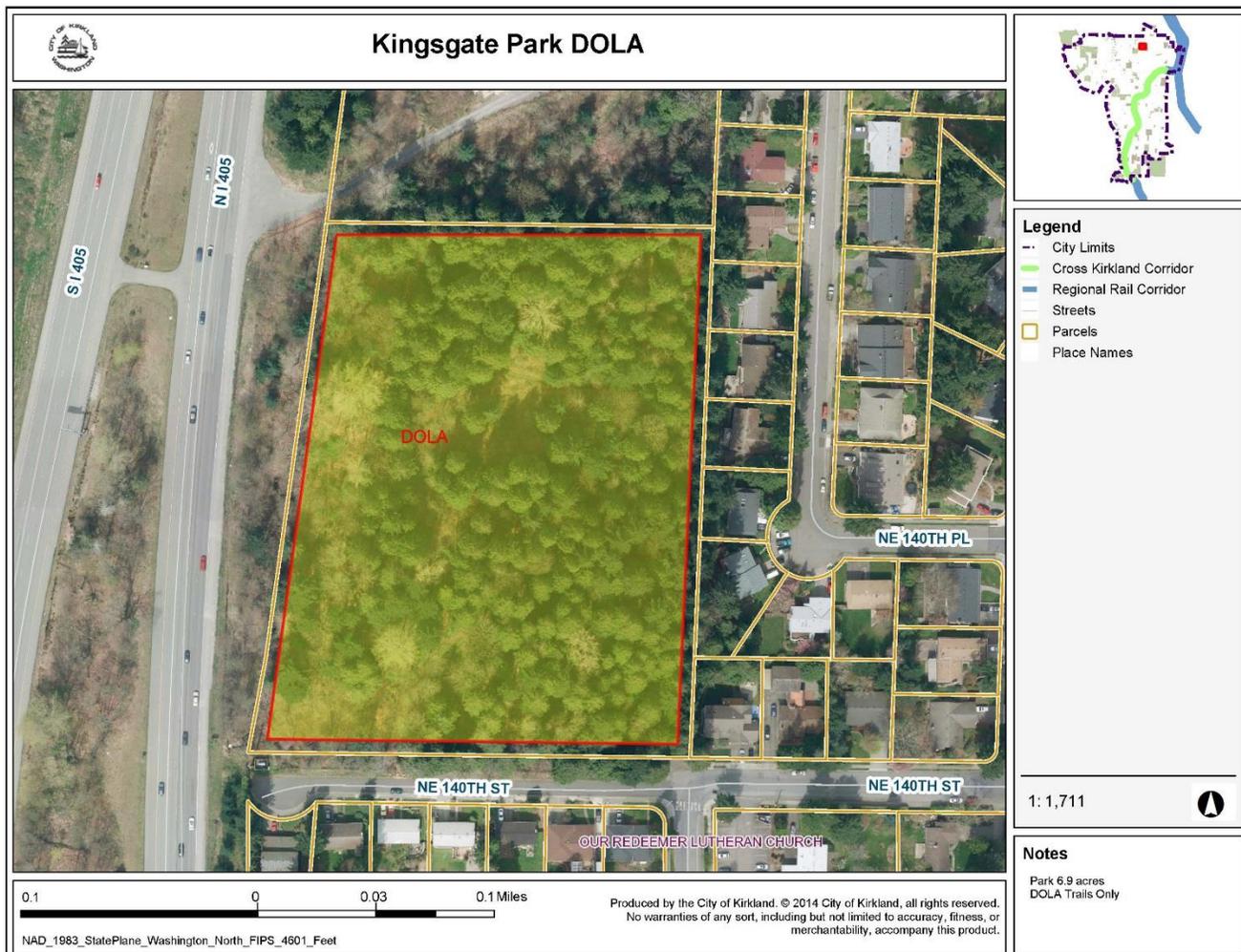
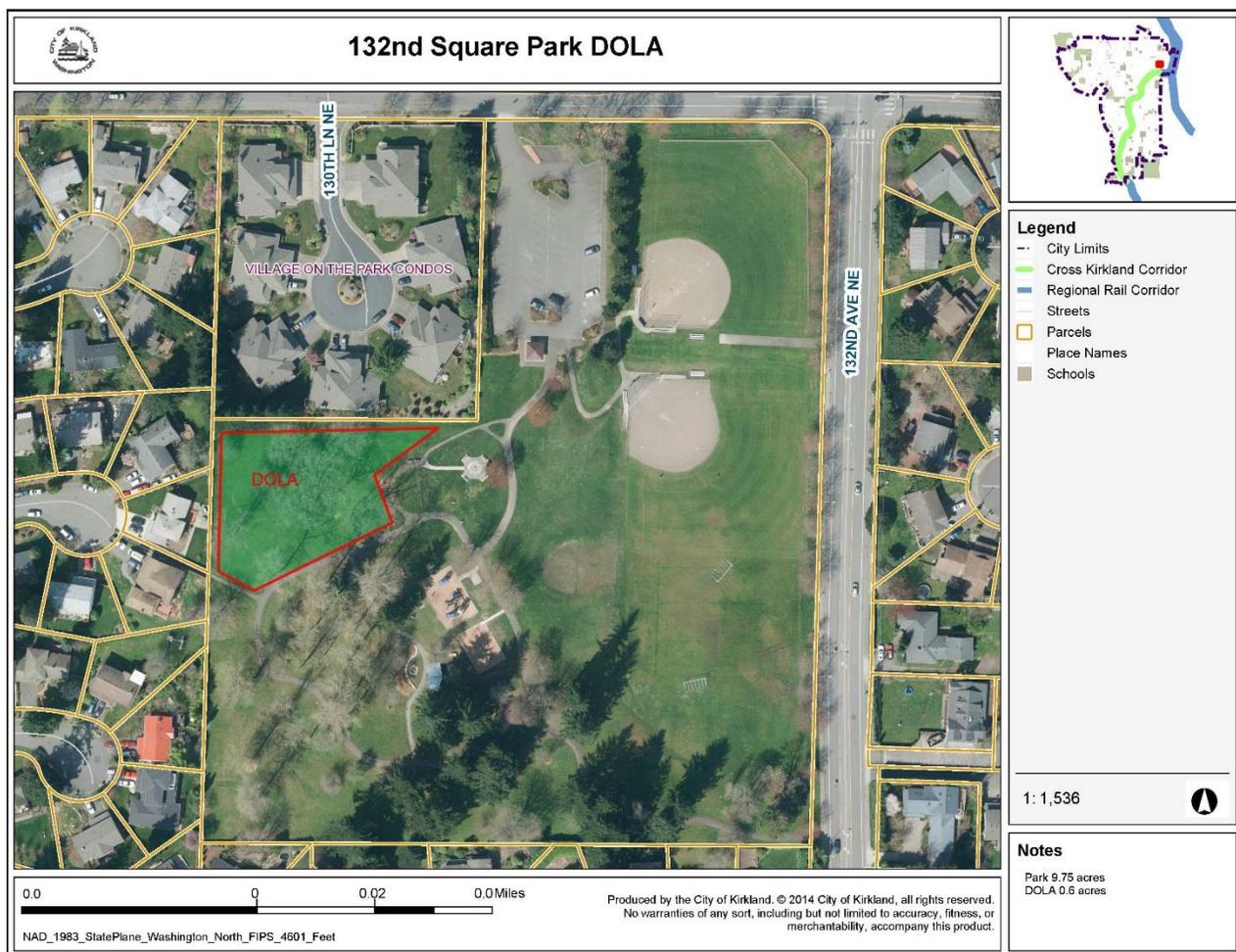
Morning Hours: 6:00 am - 9:00 am

Evening Hours: 4:00 pm - Dusk

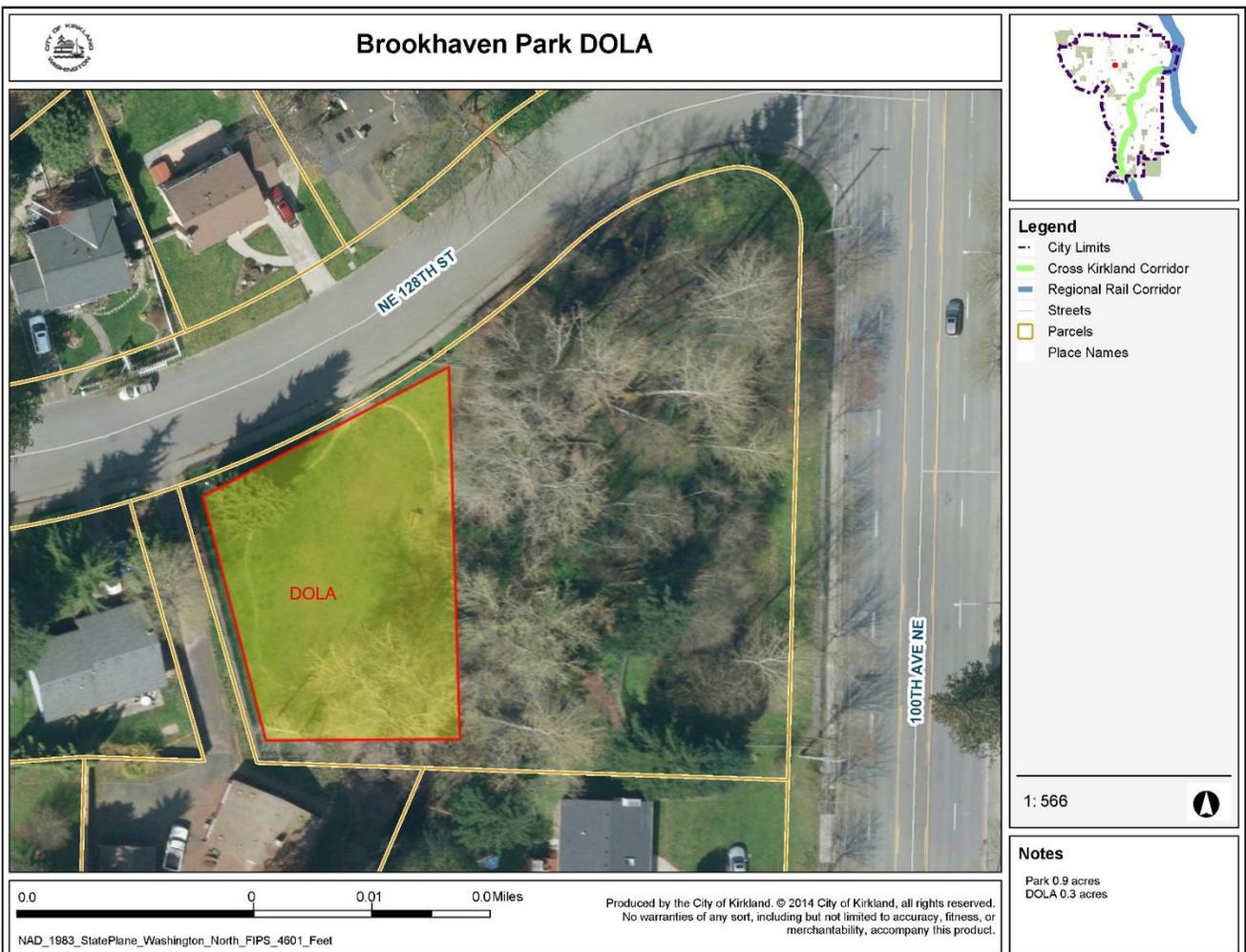
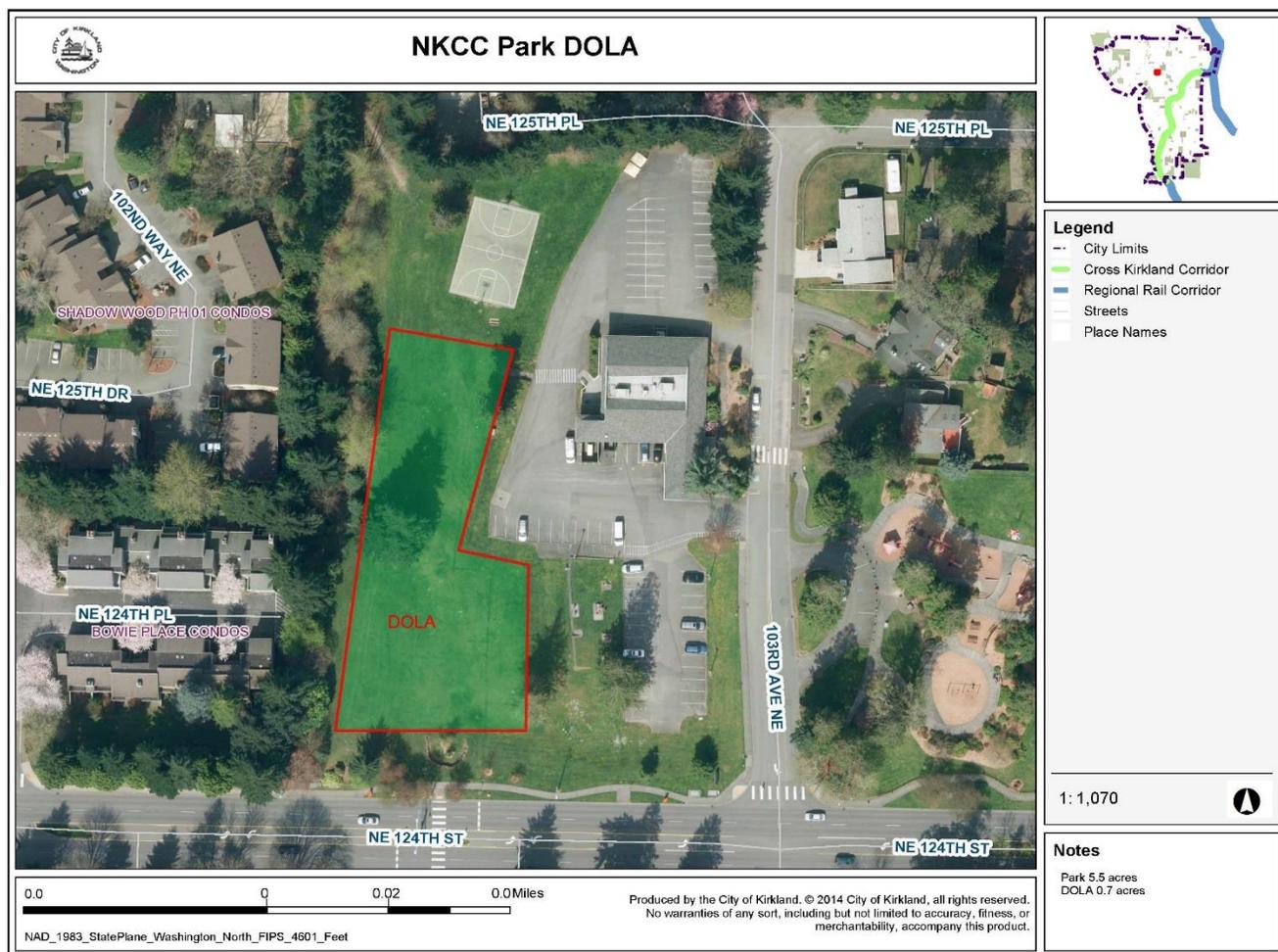
Proposed Designated Off-Leash Areas



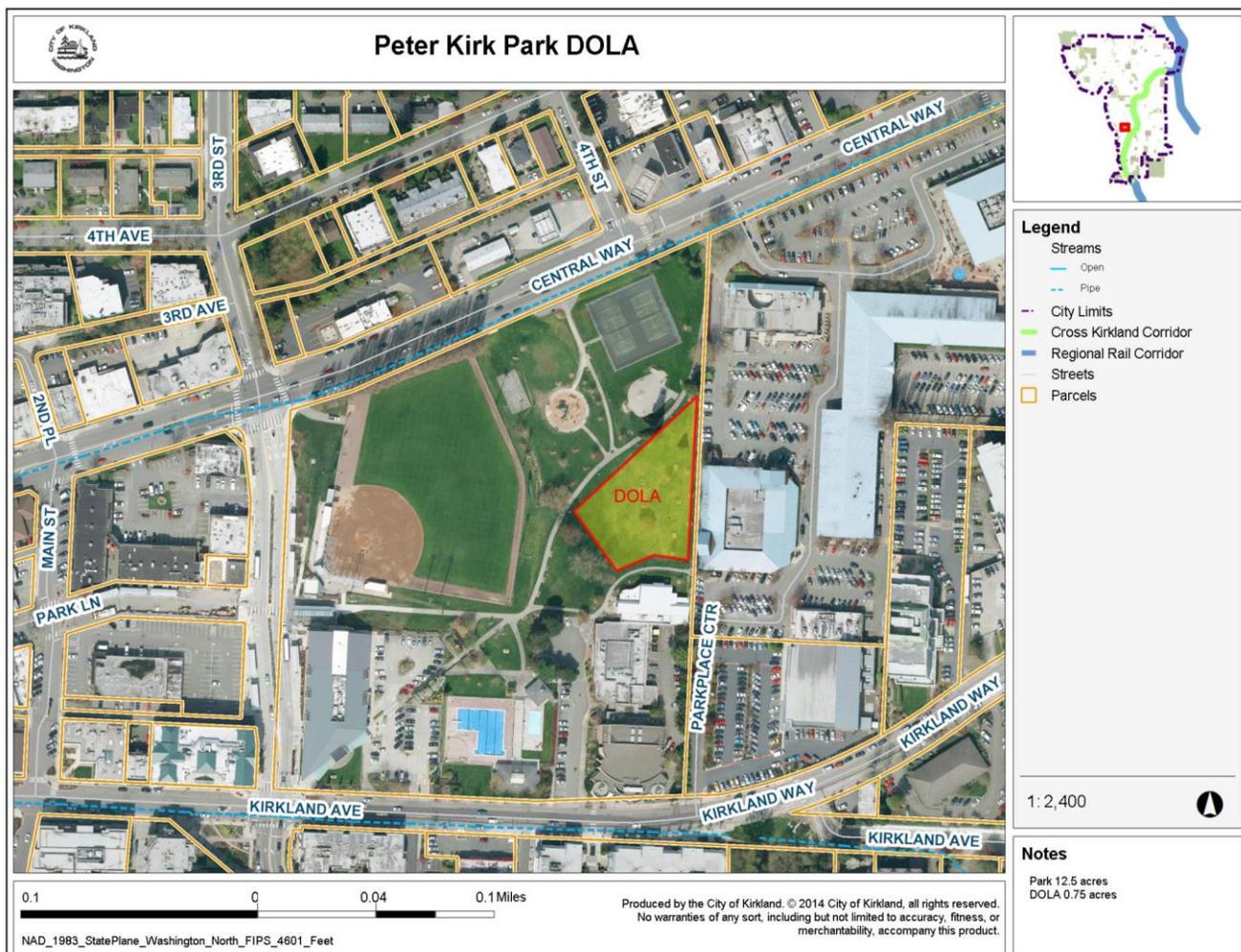
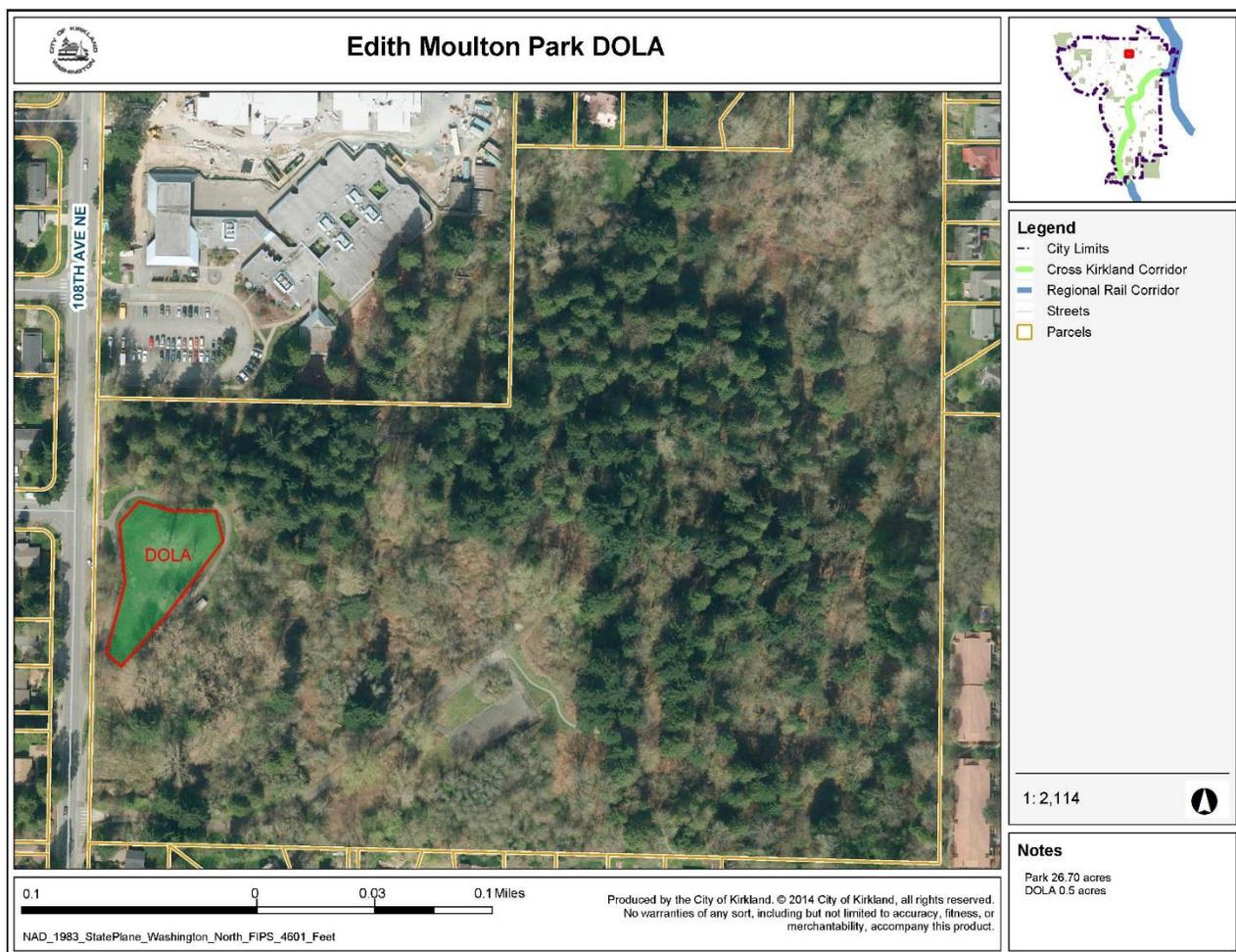
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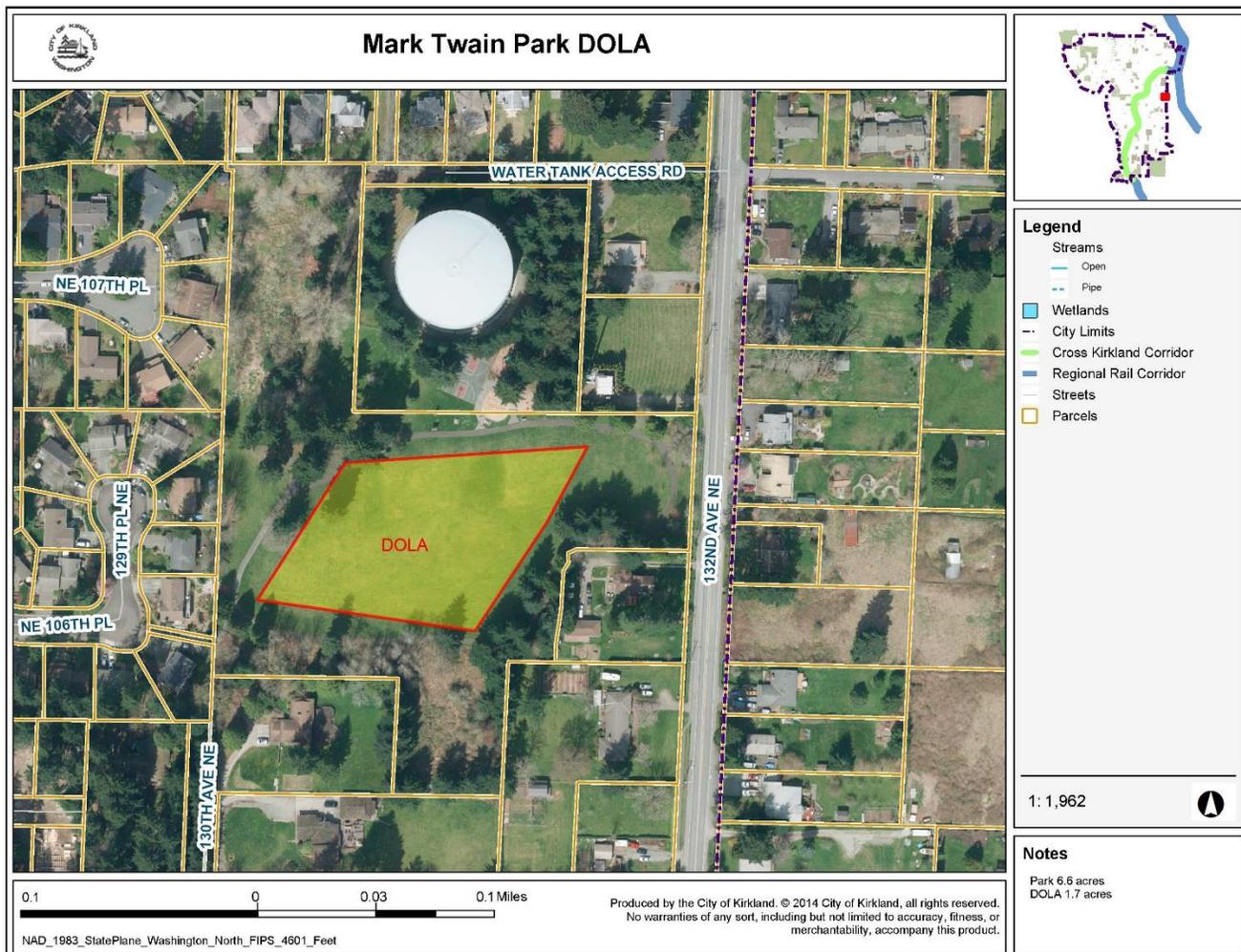
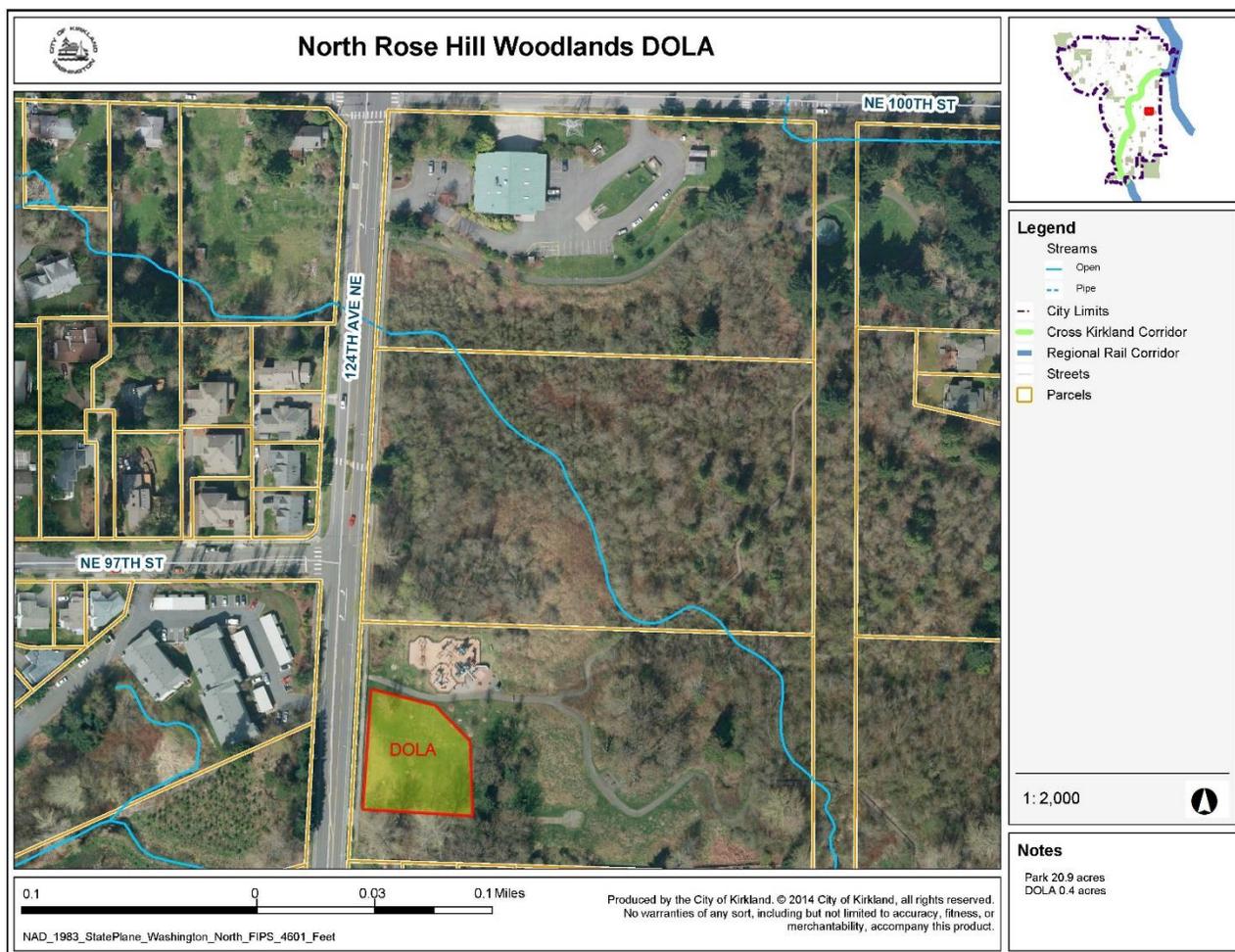
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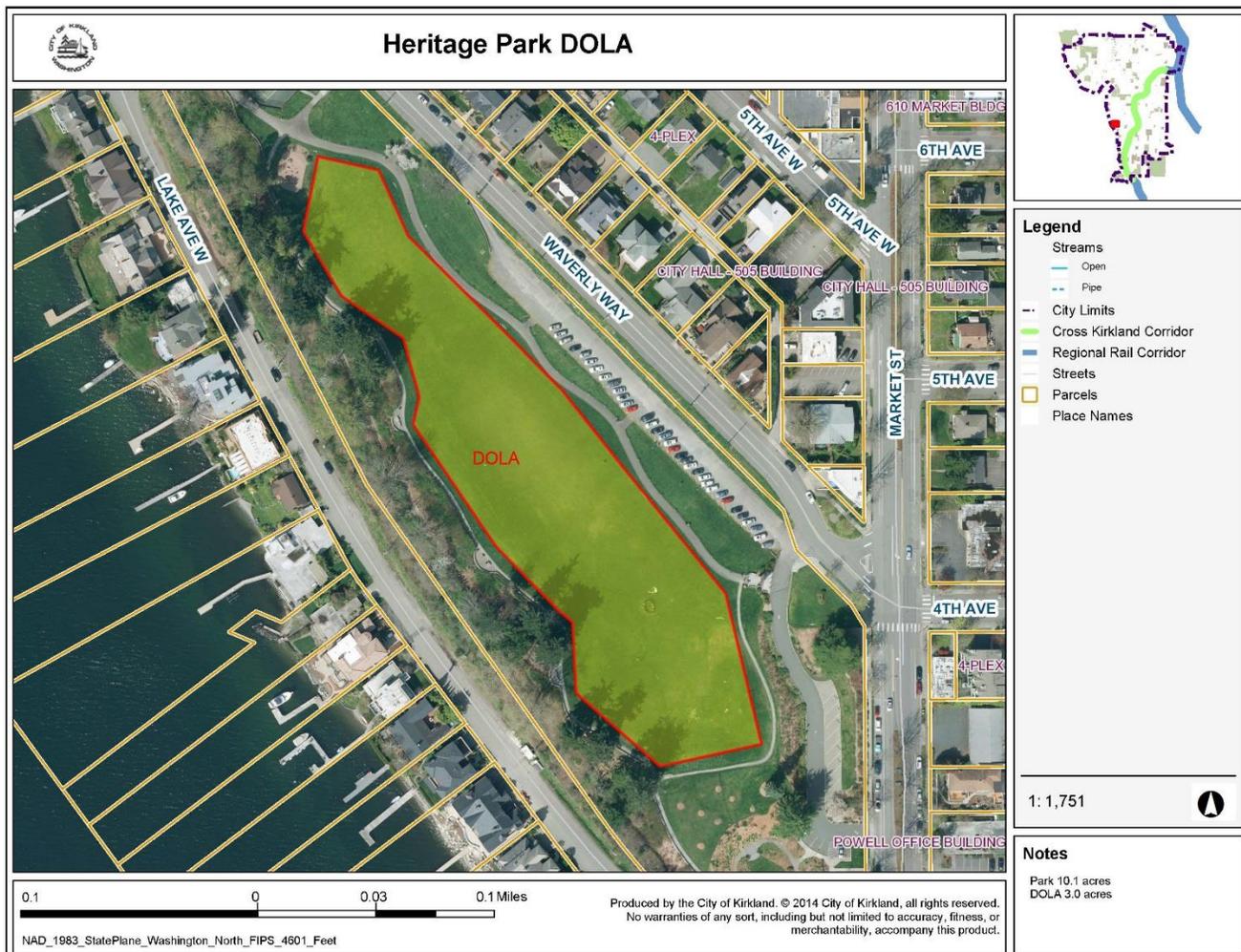
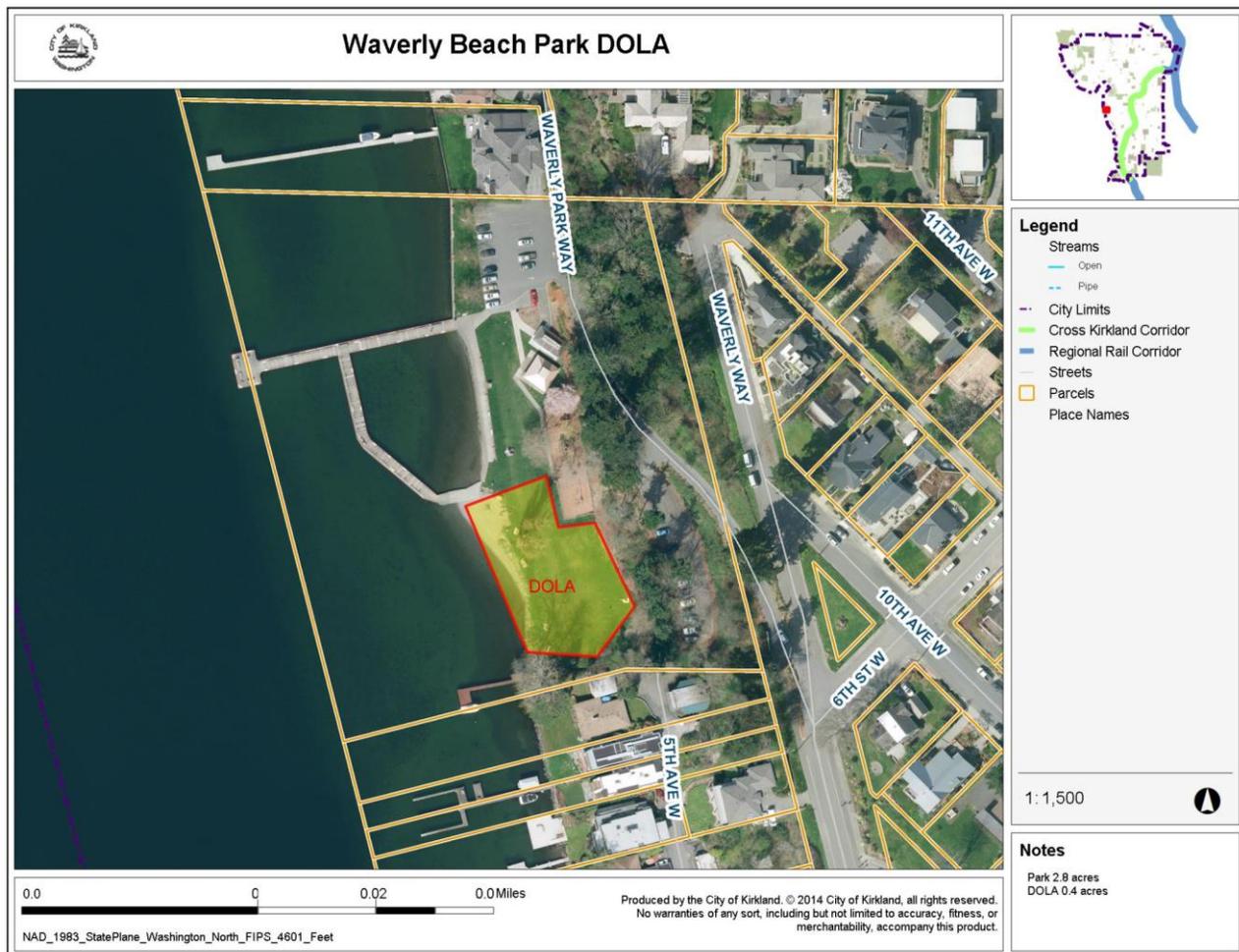
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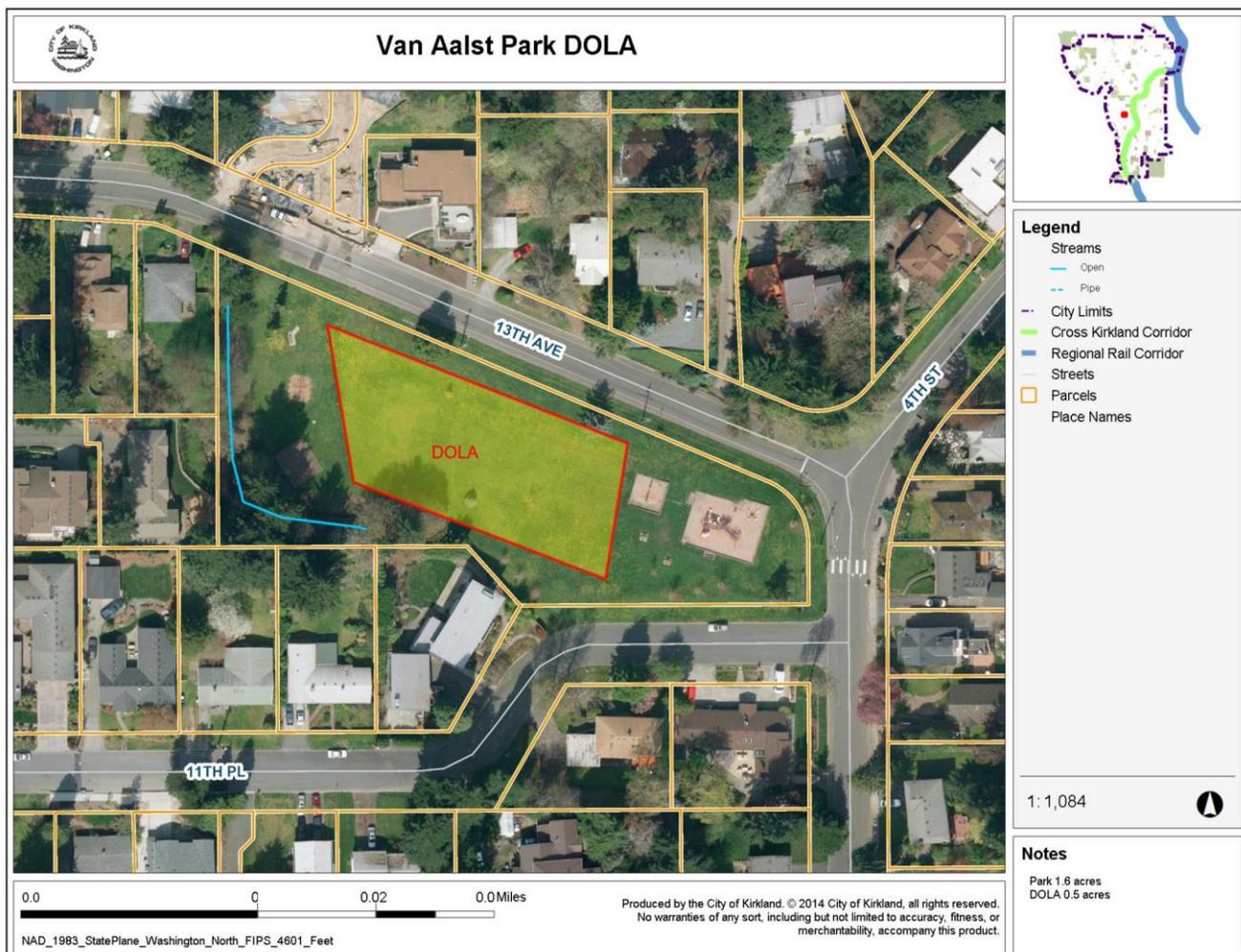
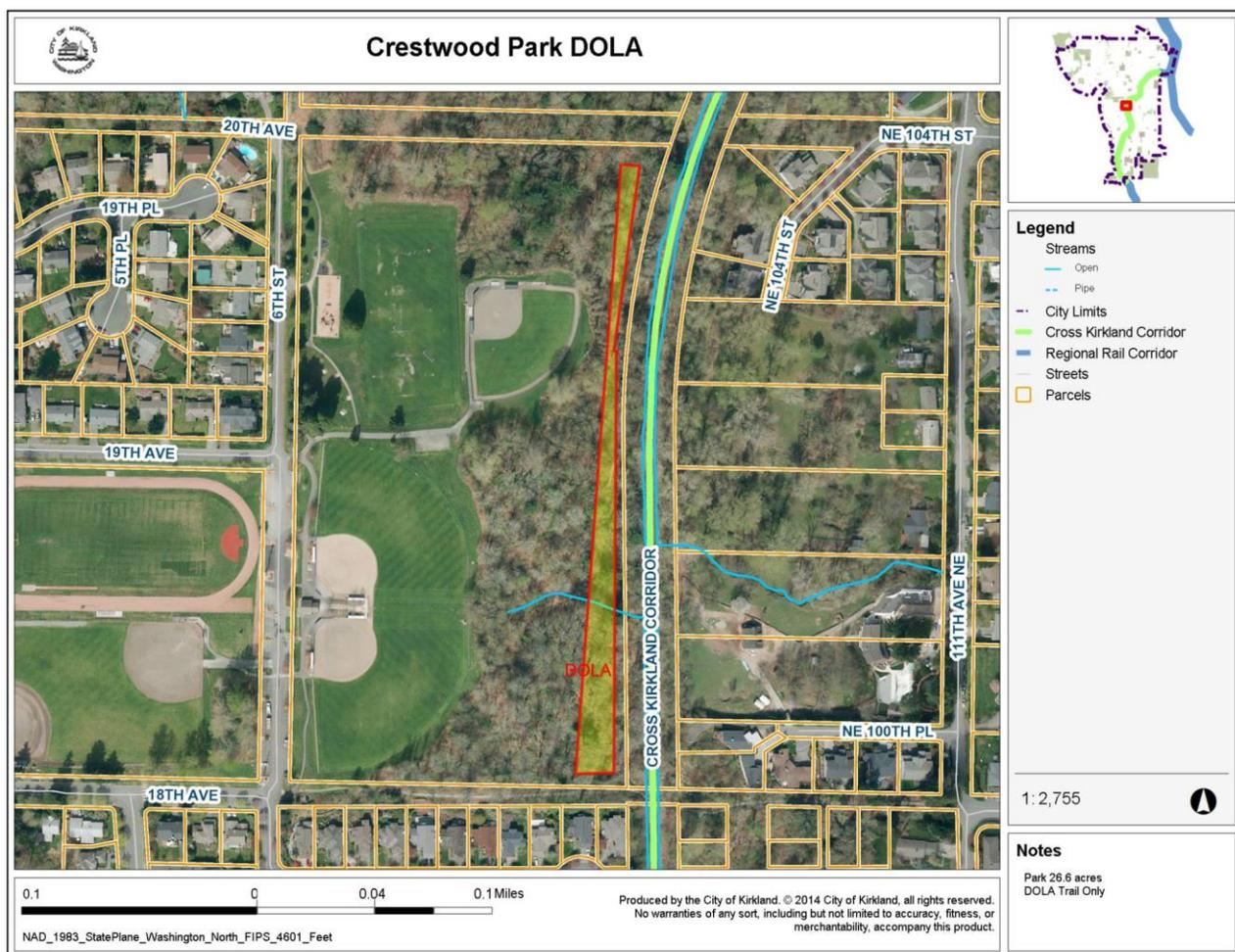
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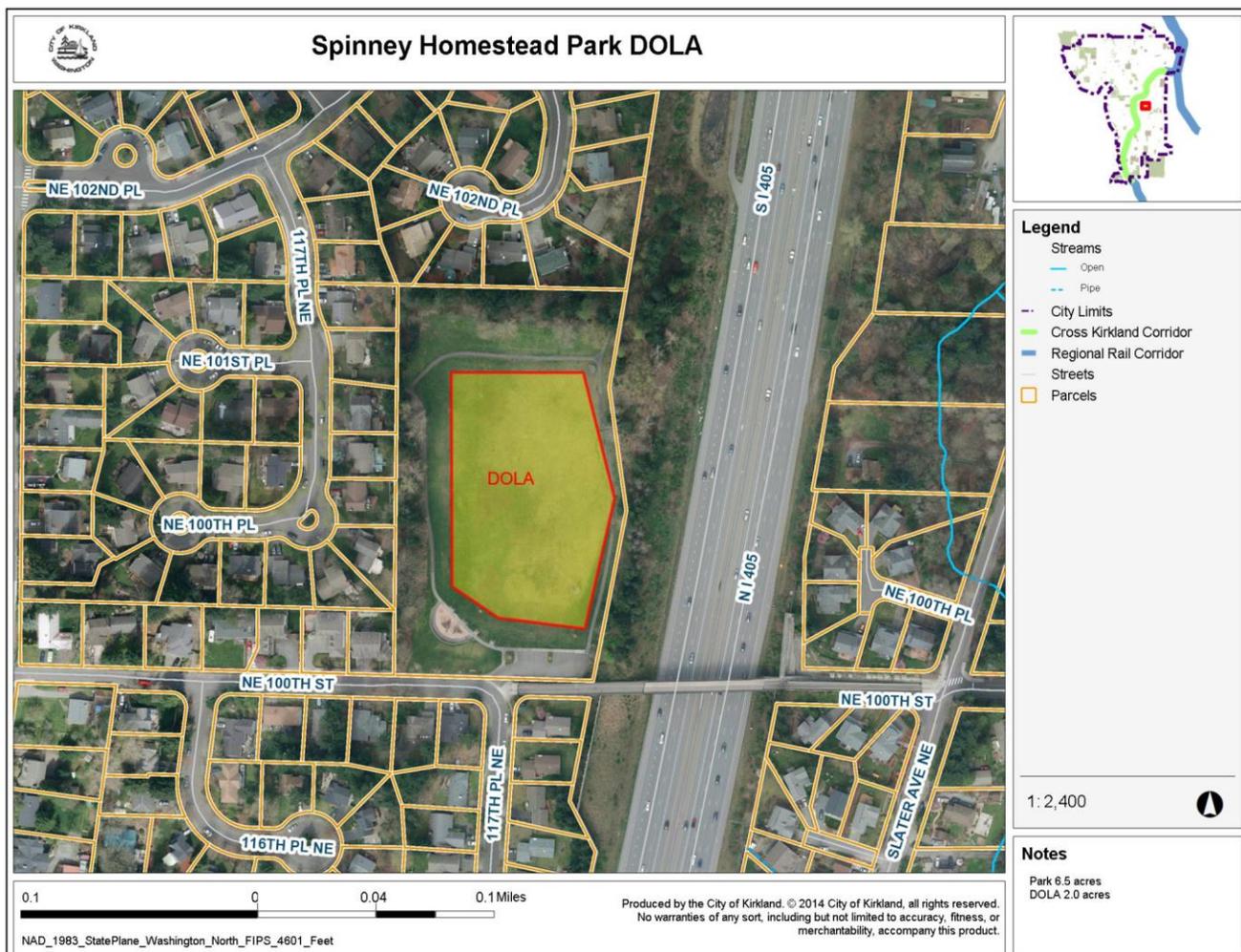
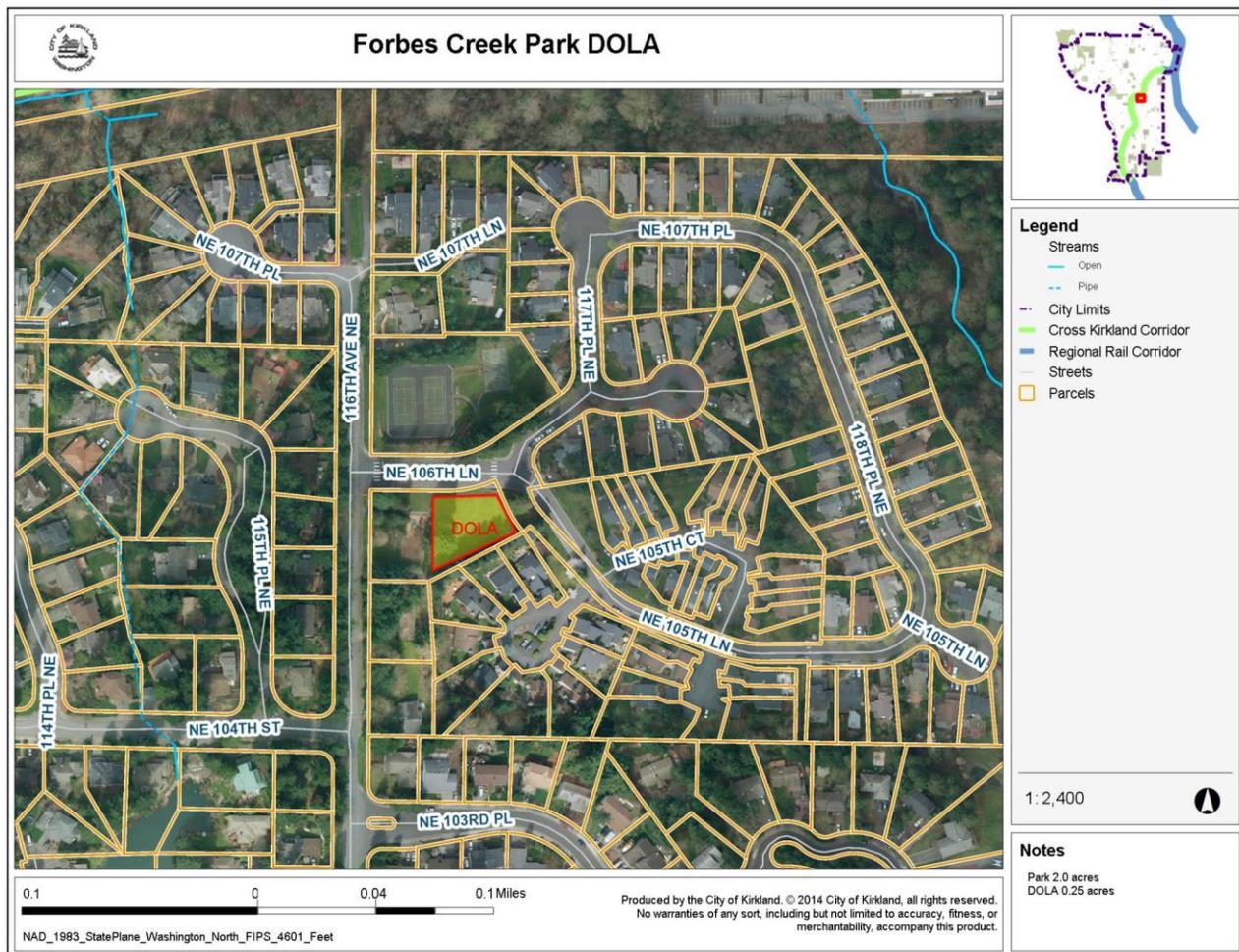
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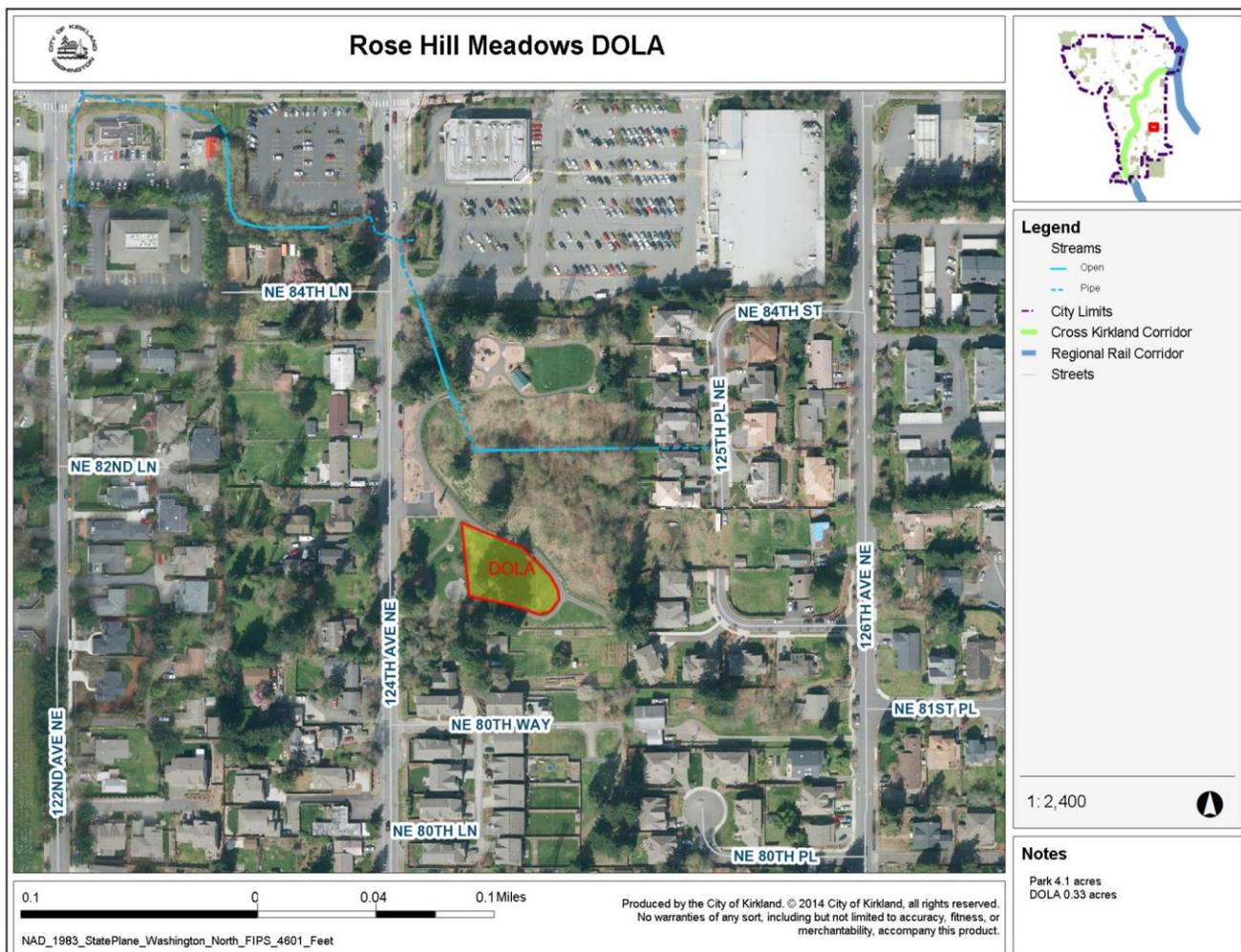
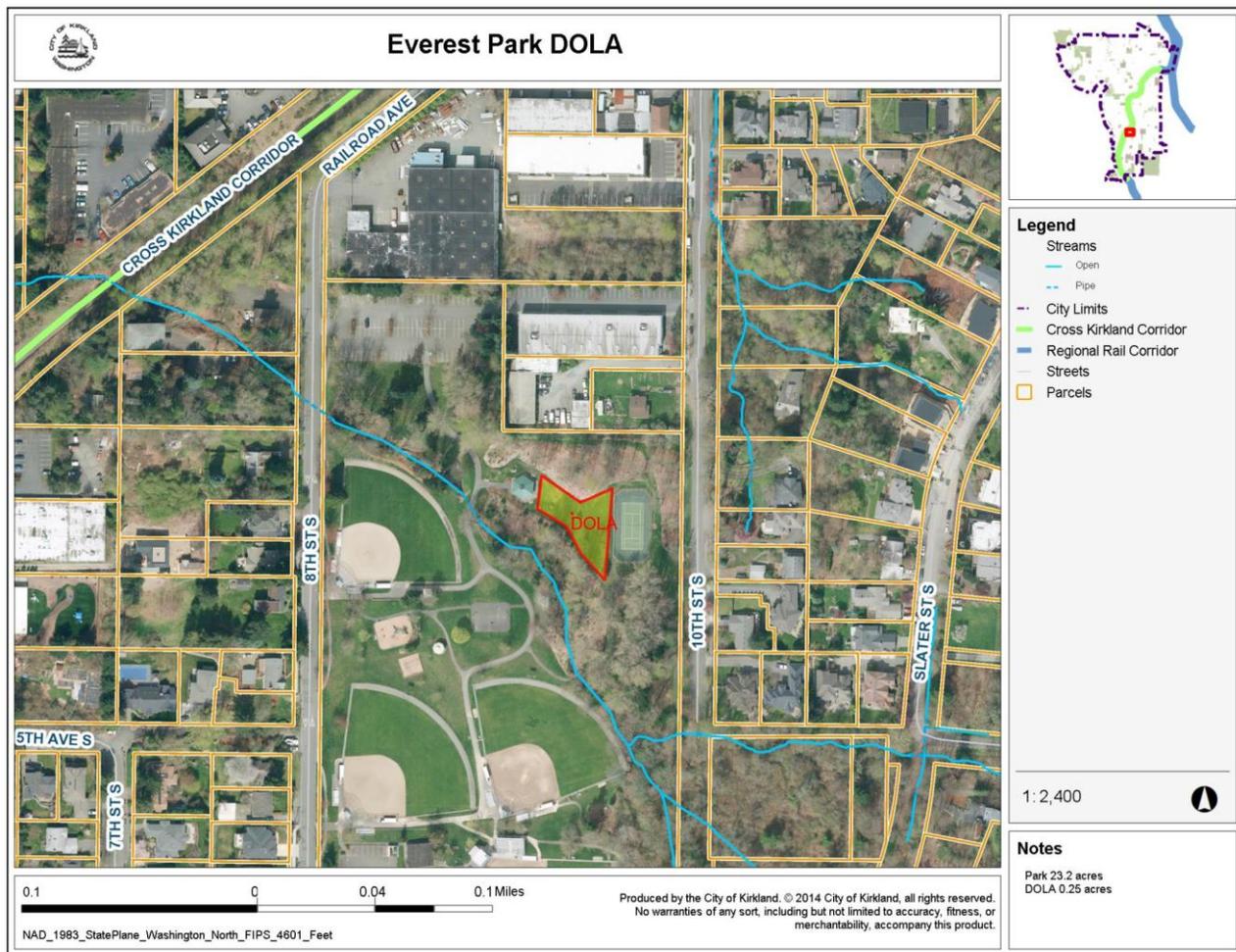
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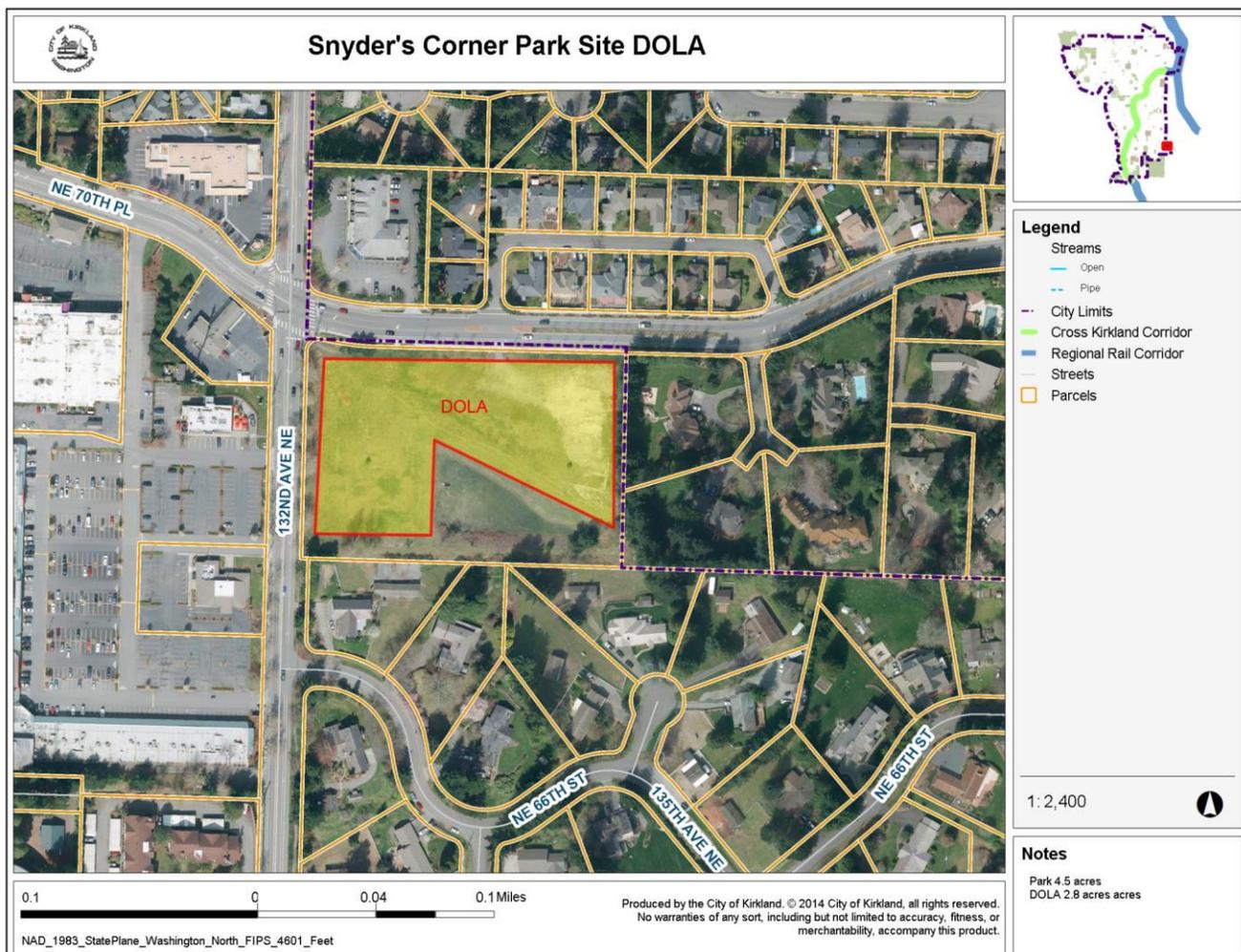
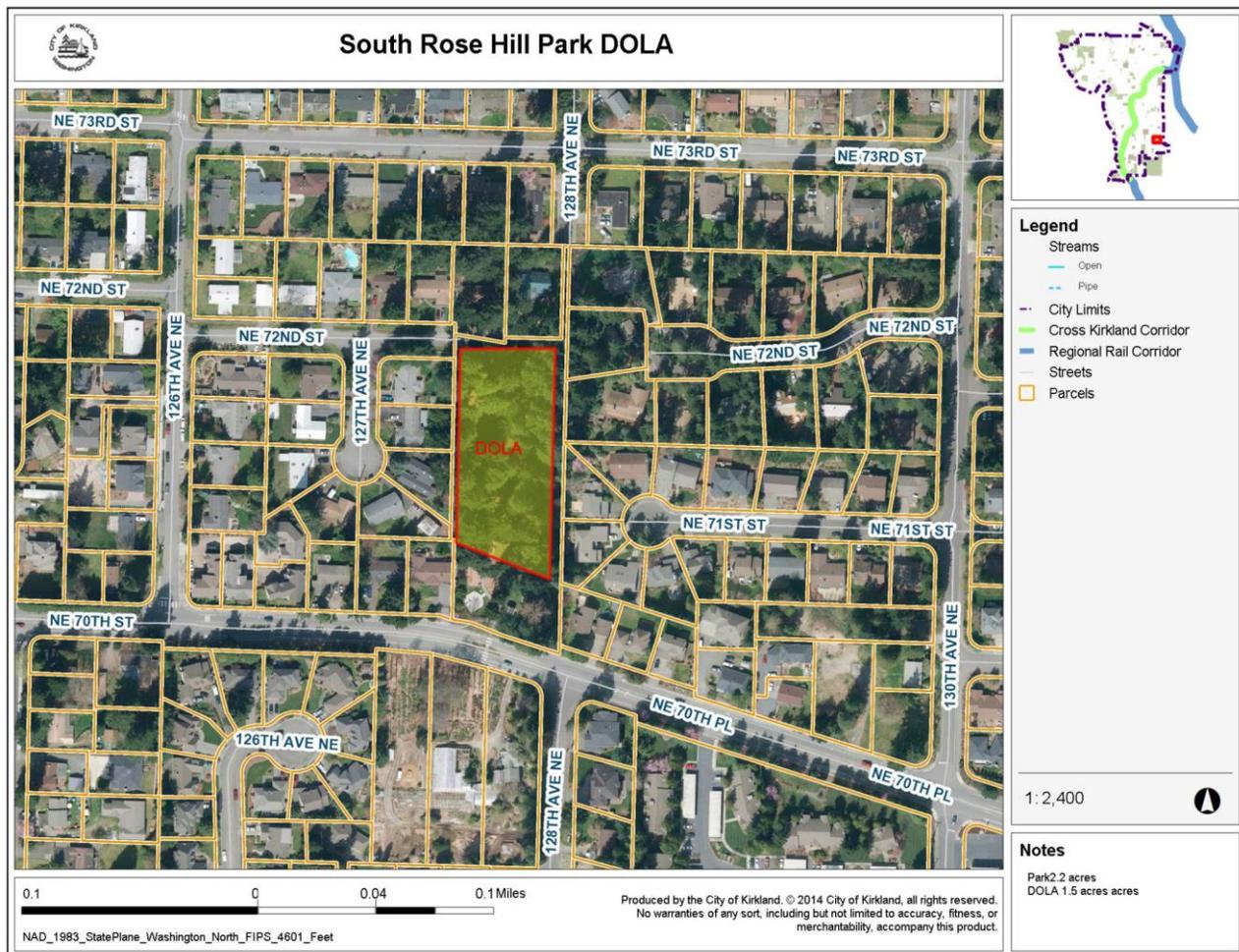
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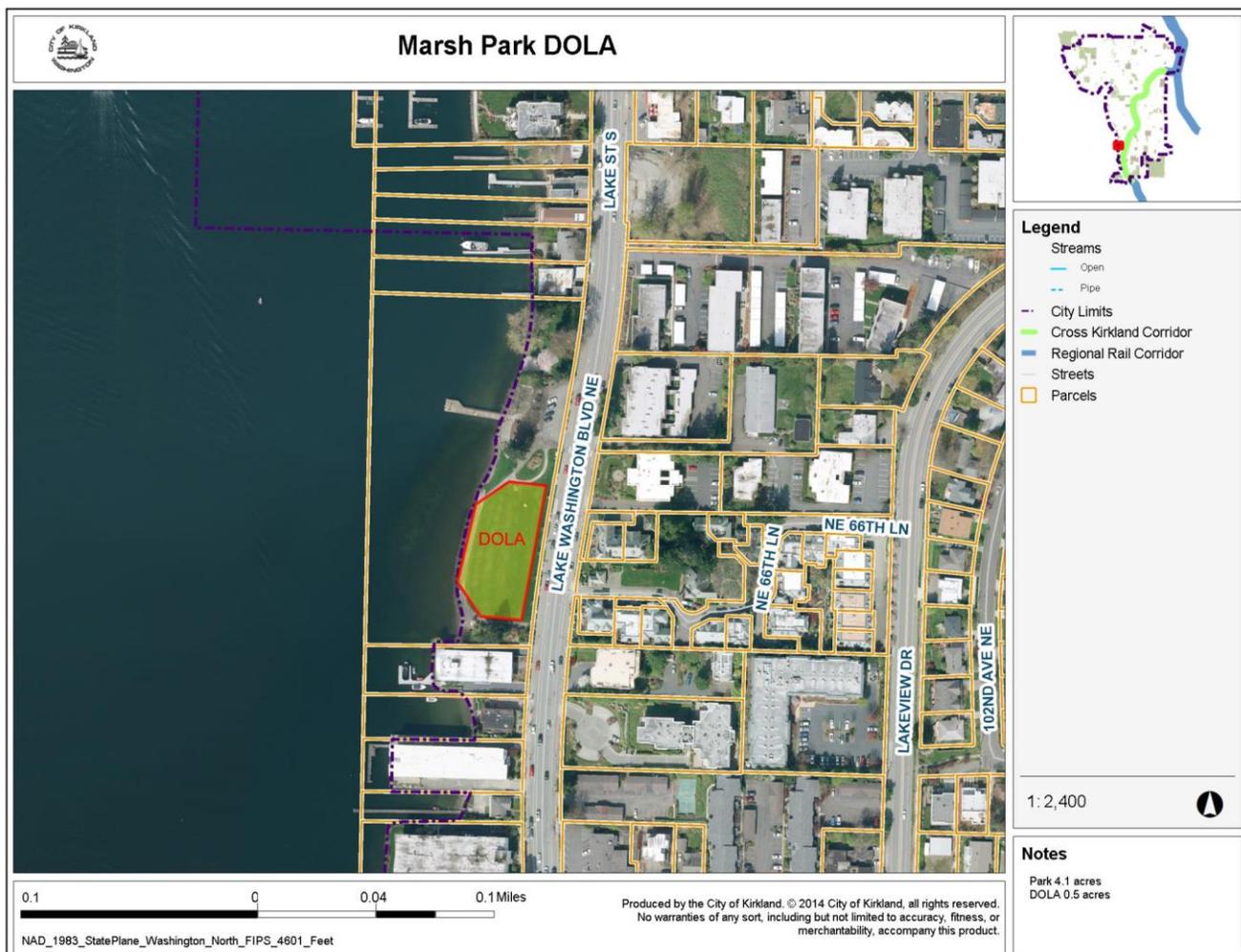
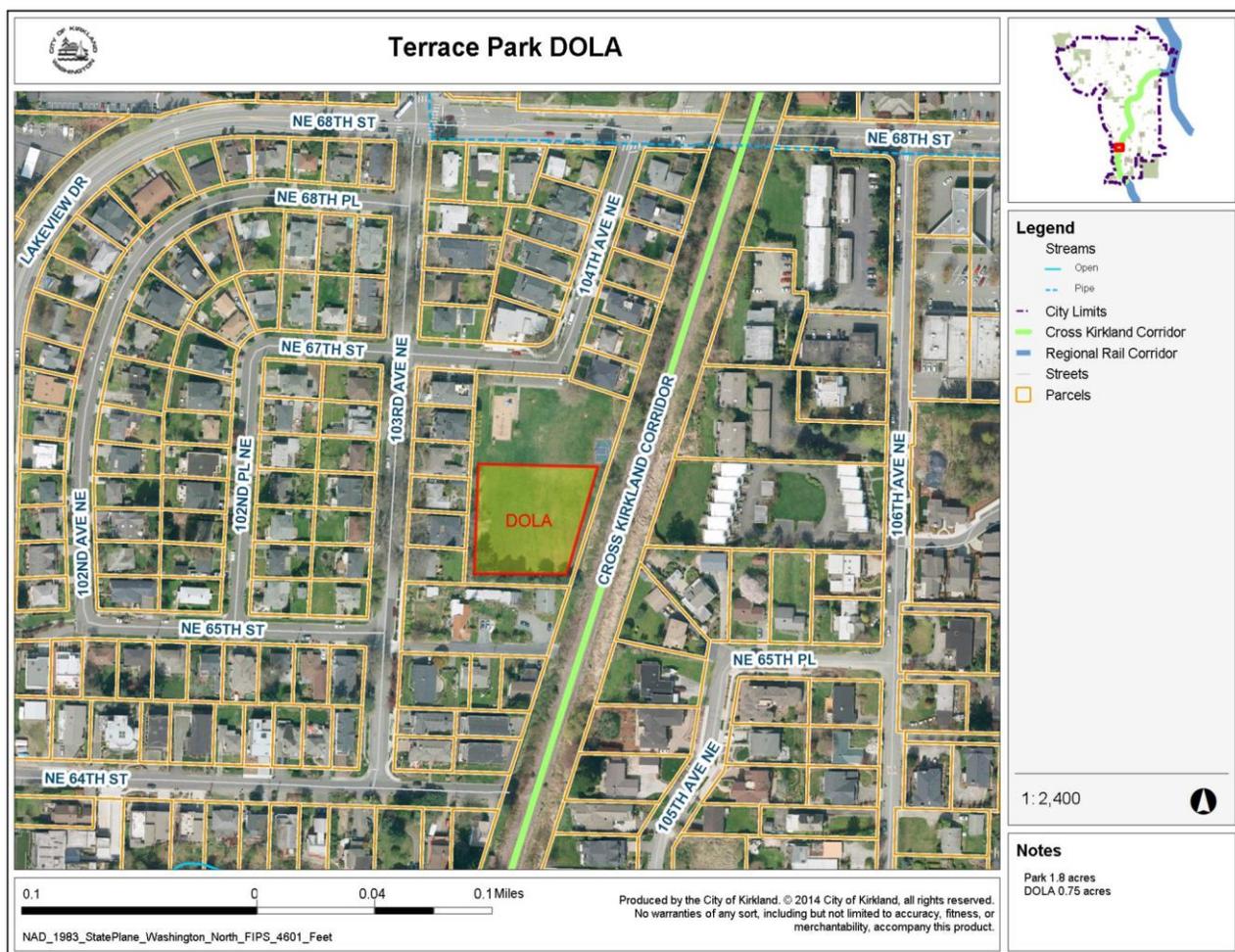
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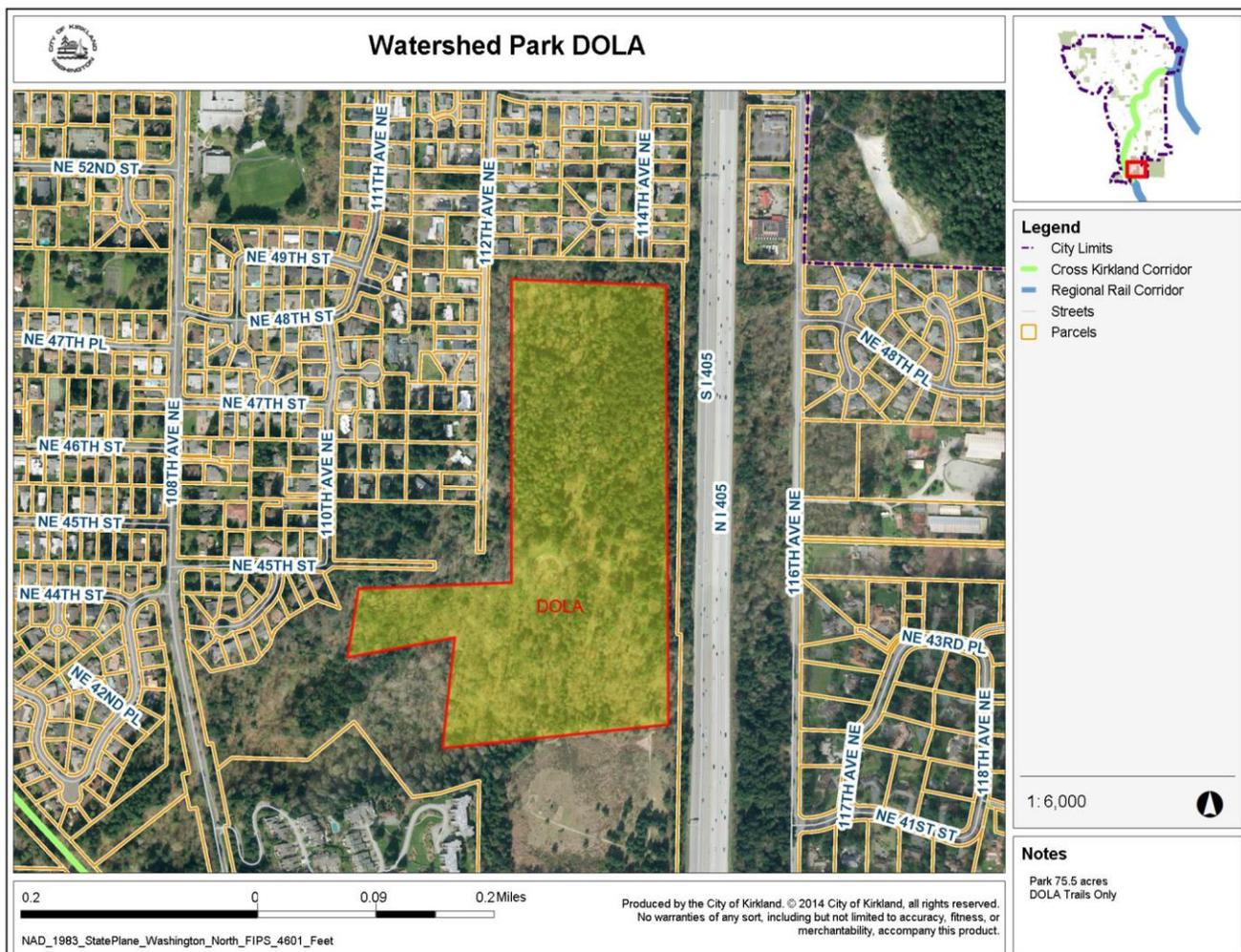
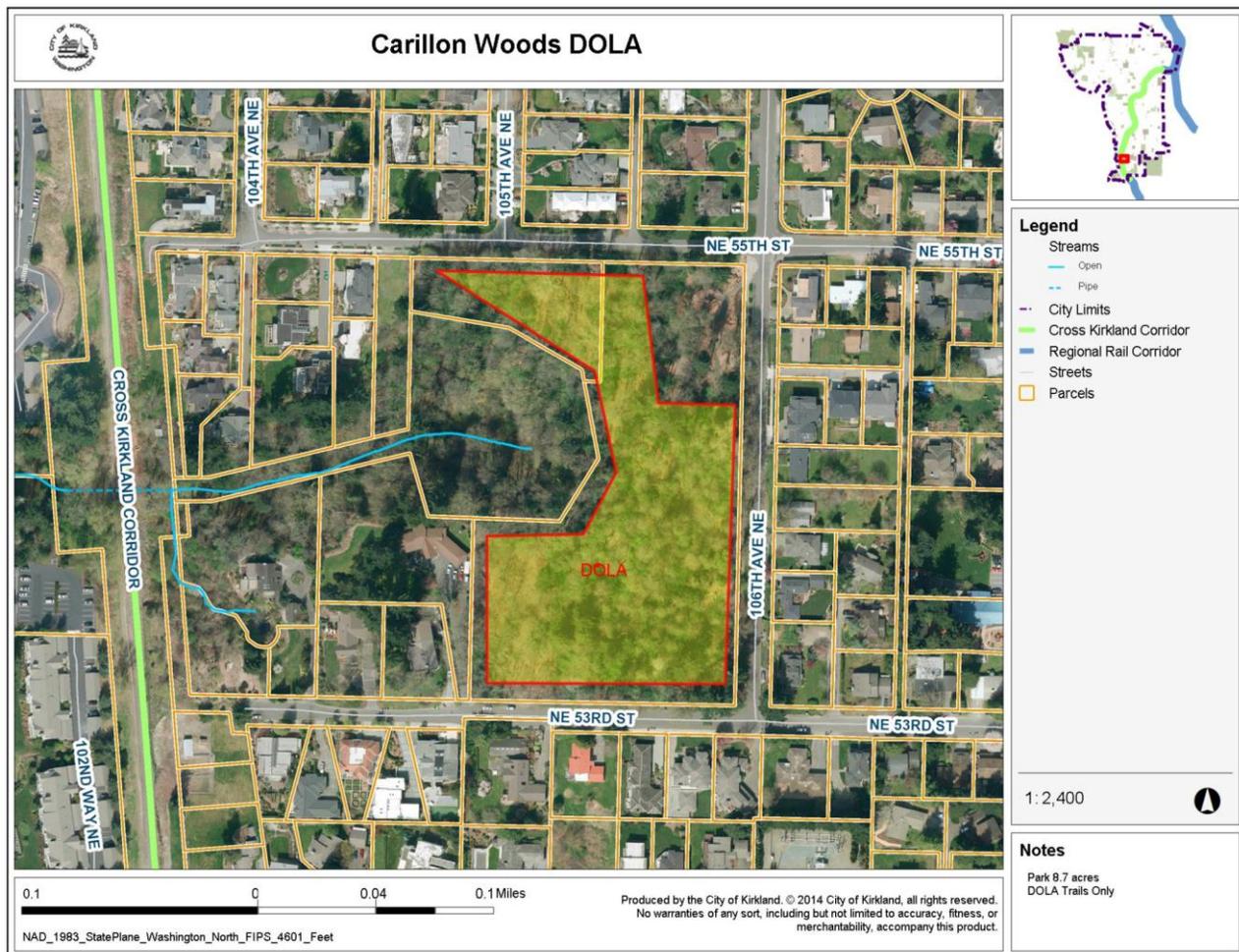
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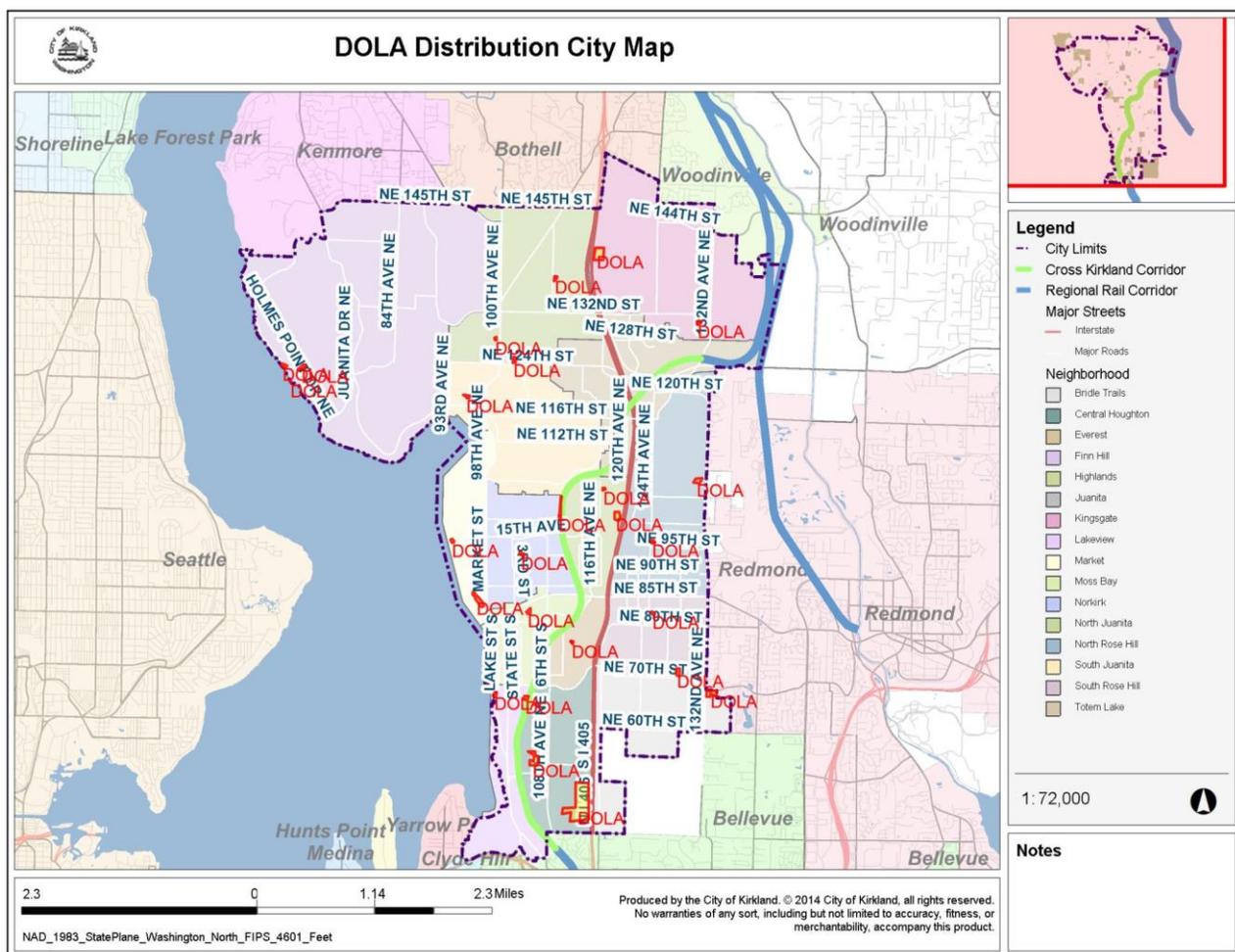
Proposed Designated Off-Leash Areas



Proposed Designated Off-Leash Areas



Proposed Designated Off-Leash Areas



Rules and Regulations

For the enjoyment of City residents and their dogs, the following rules apply in City parks and dog exercise areas:

- 🐾 All dogs must be under the owner's/handler's control.
- 🐾 Only three dogs per person (owner/handler) are allowed.
- 🐾 All dogs must be on a leash, unless in a designated dog area.
- 🐾 No female dogs in heat are allowed in public areas.
- 🐾 Only dogs 4 months and older are allowed in public areas.
- 🐾 Dogs must be legally licensed, vaccinated and wearing both current tags.
- 🐾 Dog owners/handlers must keep their dog(s) in view at all times.
- 🐾 Dogs are not allowed to bark incessantly or to the annoyance of the neighborhood.
- 🐾 Dog owners/handlers must immediately pick up and dispose of, in trash receptacles, all dog feces.
- 🐾 Aggressive dogs, posing a threat to human beings or other dogs, are not allowed at any time.
- 🐾 Any bite of a person or other dog must be immediately reported to Alexandria Animal Control and parties involved must wait for an officer to respond, except in the case where immediate medical care is needed.
- 🐾 Owners/handlers are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injury or damage to facilities caused by them.

In addition to the above rules, the following applies at fenced dog parks:

- 🐾 Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult when inside a fenced dog park.
- 🐾 Food is not allowed inside the fenced dog park. Non-alcoholic beverages are allowed.

To report use inconsistent with these regulations, please contact Alexandria Animal Control at 703.746.4774.

Appendix C



City of Alexandria
Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
Department of Recreation,
Parks & Cultural Activities

DOG OWNER'S GUIDE

to enjoying
the parks of
Alexandria



Dogs in Alexandria Parks

Open Space Areas

Dogs are welcome in public parks but are to be kept secured by a leash unless in a designated dog exercise area or dog park. Dogs are not permitted in certain areas as marked by official City signage, including athletic fields, playgrounds, and school grounds.

The leash may be removed from a dog on private property, provided that the owner or person in control of such private property has permitted such dog to be present without a leash.

Off-Leash Areas

The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities provides eighteen dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks for the convenience and enjoyment of City residents.

Unfenced off-leash dog exercise areas have defined boundaries marked by bollards and are designated locations for dogs and their owners to exercise and recreate without disrupting other uses of the parks.

Dog owners who believe their pets are not safe in an open exercise area are encouraged to visit a fenced dog park.

Please remember that regardless of whether a dog is in an off-leash or open area, if it defecates on public property the owner/handler of the dog must immediately remove the waste and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.

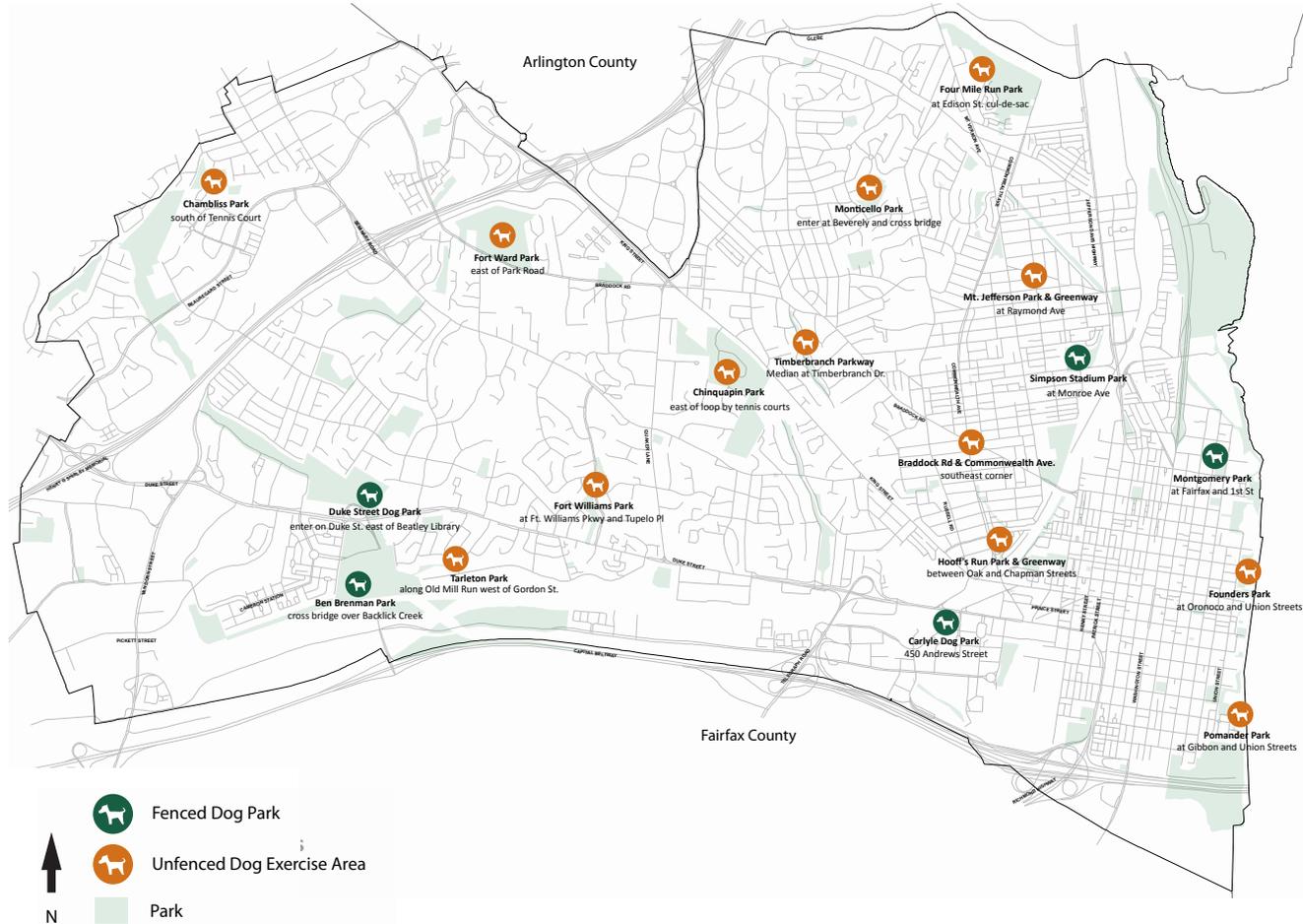
For additional information on:

 City of Alexandria rules and regulations regarding pets refer to City Code Sec. 5-7 and visit www.municode.com

 Pet ownership in Alexandria, contact the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria at 703.746.4774 or www.alexandrianimals.org

 Dog exercise areas or public parks visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation

Appendix C Designated Dog Areas



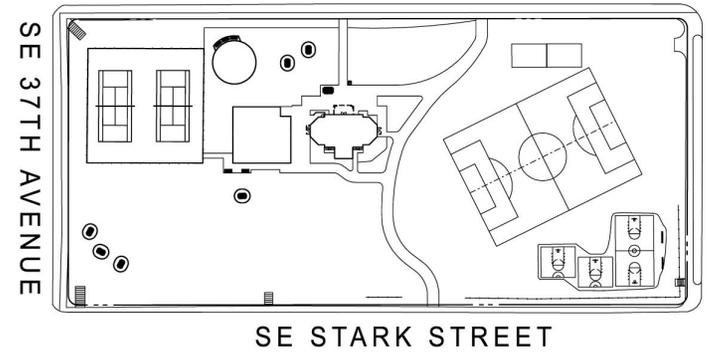
Dog water fountain in Dog Run at Carlyle



Double gated entrance at Duke Street Dog Park

Signs and bollards define unfenced dog exercise areas





PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Laurelhurst Park
Off-Leash Program
503-823-DOGS (3647)

Laurelhurst Park OLA Hours

Summer: June 15 – September 1

Weekends

5:00-10:00 AM

7:00-10:30 PM

Weekdays

5:00-10:00 AM

6:00-10:30 PM

Fall/Winter/Spring: September 2 – June 14

Weekends

5:00-10:00 AM

4:00-10:30 PM

Weekdays

5:00 AM-10:30 PM

OLA Rules of Use

- Dogs must demonstrate appropriate social interaction.
- Dogs displaying aggressive behavior toward people or other dogs must be leashed and removed from the OLA immediately.
- Owners and handlers must accept responsibility for any damage or injury caused by their dog.
- Dogs must display tags showing proof of current license and rabies vaccination.
- Bring no more than three dogs to the OLA at any time.
- Owners and handlers must remain in the OLA to supervise pets, and keep them within view and under verbal control at all times.
- To prevent injury, remove pinch or choke collars when playing off-leash.
- For health and safety reasons, do not bring a dog in heat to a Portland park.
- For health and safety reasons, do not bring a puppy without a complete cycle of vaccinations to a Portland park.
- Children must be closely supervised.
- Be considerate of park neighbors by playing quietly with dogs in the early morning and evening hours.
- Comply with all other park rules.



RCW 16.08.040

Dog bites — Liability.

(1) The owner of any dog which shall bite any person while such person is in or on a public place or lawfully in or on a private place including the property of the owner of such dog, shall be liable for such damages as may be suffered by the person bitten, regardless of the former viciousness of such dog or the owner's knowledge of such viciousness.

(2) This section does not apply to the lawful application of a police dog, as defined in RCW 4.24.410.

[2012 c 94 § 1; 1941 c 77 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 3109-1.]

ORDINANCE 3998

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL AND THE REGULATION AND PROHIBITION OF ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE.

The City Council of the City of Kirkland do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Section 8.04.010 of the Kirkland Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

8.04.010 Regulations and enforcement.

~~Except as otherwise provided, King County Code Chapter 11.04 is adopted as part of this chapter except as follows: that King County Code Section 11.04.190 is not adopted, subject to the following modifications in definitions:~~

- (1) "Animal control authority" means the city police department or the animal control authority of King County, as agent for the city, acting alone or in concert with other municipalities for enforcement of the animal control laws of the city, King County and the state and the shelter and welfare of animals;
- (2) Unless the context indicates otherwise, "King County" means the city;
- (3) "County department of planning" means the Kirkland planning department;
- (4) "King County board of appeals" means the Kirkland city council; provided, however, that at such time as the city may enter into a contract with King County for the enforcement of the animal control ordinance, the contract may provide for the use of the King County board of appeals in which case the King County board of appeals means the King County board of appeals.

Section 2. Section 8.04.030 of the Kirkland Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

8.04.030 Running at large prohibited.

It is unlawful for an owner or keeper of any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to permit such dog to run at large. For the purposes of this section "at large" means off the premises of the owner or keeper and off of a leash; provided, that if both the dog and the owner or other person accompanying the dog have completed organized dog training classes, then the dog may be off of a leash so long as the dog is under control by verbal voice or signal. This section shall not apply to any blind person using a trained seeing-eye dog. A dog which is permitted to be off of a leash within a vehicle shall not be considered at large.

Section 3. A new Section 8.04.035 of the Kirkland Municipal Code is hereby created to read as follows:

8.04.035 Civil Penalty and Appeal Process.

The owner or keeper of any dog who violates Kirkland Municipal Code Section 8.04.030 shall be guilty of a civil infraction. The civil penalty for dog leash law violations shall be \$66.00 regardless of whether the violation is a first violation or a successive violation. A person who has been issued a civil infraction for violation of Section 8.04.030 may appeal the civil infraction to the Kirkland Municipal Court in accordance with the procedures set forth in the civil infraction.

Section 4. Section 11.80.060 of the Kirkland Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.80.060 Animals at large prohibited.

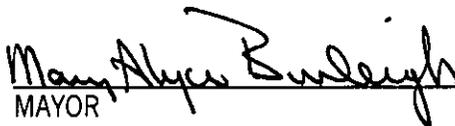
~~Dogs must be on a leash that is held by the owner or possessor of the dog at all times.~~ The provisions of Chapter 8.04 of the Kirkland Municipal Code, including all portions of the King County Code adopted by reference, shall apply in all city parks. It is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any animal owned by him or within his possession or under his control, to run at large in any park or enter any designated swimming area located therein. The Director, acting pursuant to KMC Section 11.80.220, may adopt rules prohibiting dogs or other types of domesticated animals from entering certain parks or certain portions of parks after consultation with the City Council.

Section 5. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be in force and effect five days from and after its passage by the Kirkland City Council and publication, as required by law.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 5th day of July, 2005.

Signed in authentication thereof this 5th day of July, 2005.


MAYOR

Attest:


City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


City Attorney

Ord\Dogs off leash penalties final1

RESOLUTION R- 4478

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND APPROVING THE PARK BOARD RECOMMENDATION REGARDING DOGS AND PARKS.

WHEREAS, in response to several requests that the City of Kirkland provide pet owners with an off-leash recreational area, the City Council held a joint study session with the Park Board, in April 2003, to discuss dogs and parks; and

WHEREAS, the Council directed the Park Board to form a Dogs and Parks Committee, which committee was formed in May 2003, and included representatives from the Park Board, K-Dog, Lake Washington School District, Audubon Society, Juanita Bay Ranger Program, Kirkland American Little League, and citizens at-large; and

WHEREAS, the Committee was charged with developing recommendations concerning: leash law enforcement priorities; park use policy relating to pets; and off-leash recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Committee looked at existing off-leash areas in Seattle and throughout King County to learn about size criteria, maintenance needs, infrastructure elements, enforcement, and other concerns; and

WHEREAS, because the Committee determined that City designation of a single park for off-leash use would effectively create a destination dog park, the Committee recommended off-leash areas be provided in multiple park sites; and

WHEREAS, the Committee presented a list of selection criteria to the City Council in February 2004 and has continued to work to refine those criteria over the last six months; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the Park Board Recommendation at its meeting on October 19, 2004;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The Kirkland City Council hereby approves the Kirkland Park Board Recommendations Regarding Dogs and Parks, as amended and set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 16th day of November, 2004.

Signed in authentication thereof this 16th day of November, 2004.


MAYOR

Attest:

City Clerk
Reso\Dogsreso

EXHIBIT A

Park Board Recommendation

1. Include off-leash dog areas as a program element for public consideration as part of all future park master planning projects.
2. When a stewardship group steps forward to champion an off-leash area, the following criteria should be followed:
 - Conduct a Public Hearing.
 - Involve Neighborhood Associations in the public process
 - Funding for start-up costs and ongoing maintenance should be offset by user fees, donations, and volunteer stewardship.
3. Amend Kirkland Municipal Code Chapter 11.80, "Park Rules" to prohibit pets from entering, McAuliffe Park, Peter Kirk Pool, Tot Lot Park, Ohde Pea Patch and that pets are allowed in the cemetery provided they are on a leash, stay on roads and pathways and under close control.