

DRAFT



City of Kirkland

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Internal DRAFT | February 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section Pending

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Overview 01

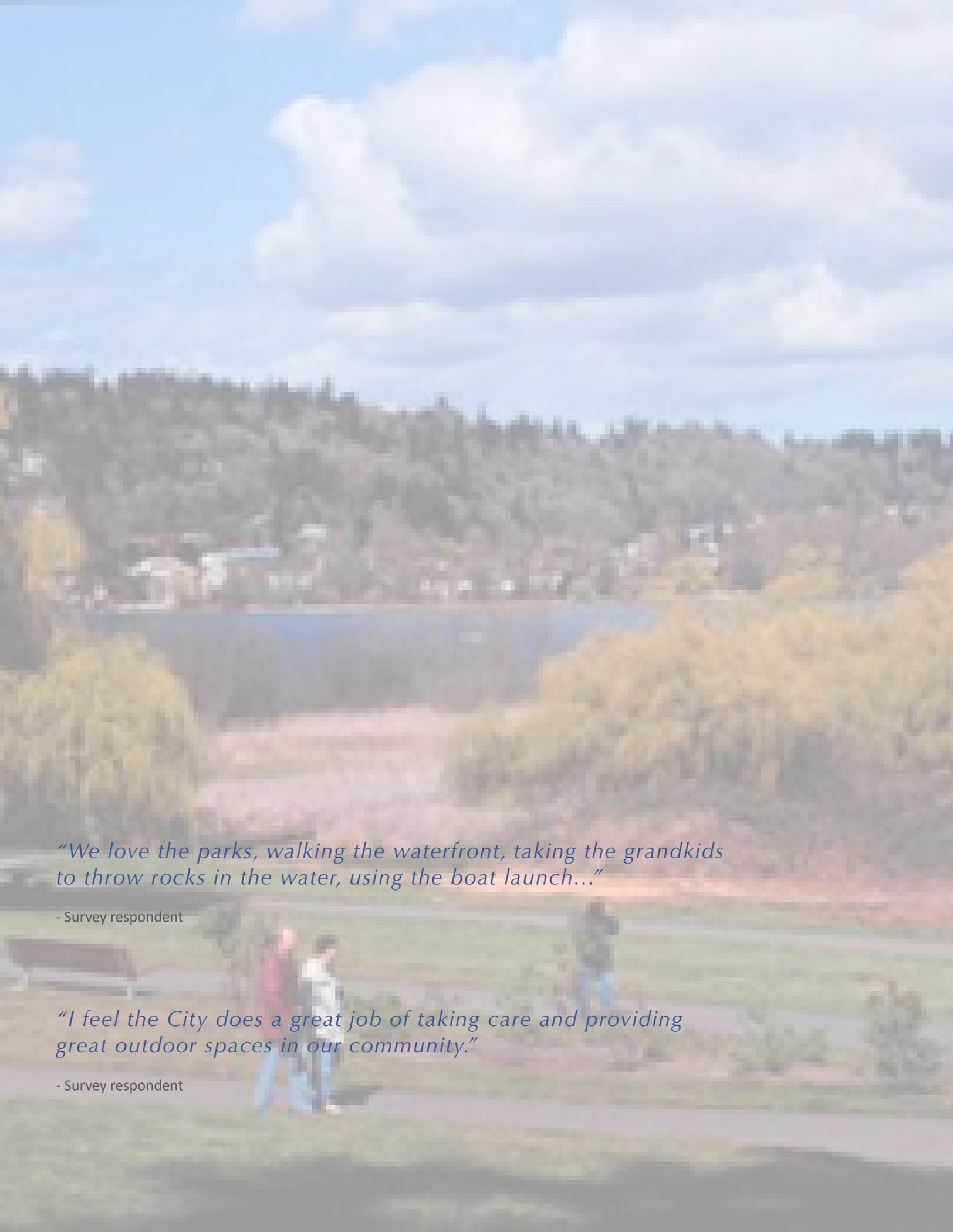
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"We love the parks, walking the waterfront, taking the grandkids to throw rocks in the water, using the boat launch..."

- Survey respondent

"I feel the City does a great job of taking care and providing great outdoor spaces in our community."

- Survey respondent



INTRODUCTION

About Kirkland

Location

Kirkland is located in northern King County, Washington, along the eastern shore of Lake Washington. Its waterfront downtown and miles of lake shoreline offer outstanding scenic and recreational amenities, while giving Kirkland a character unique to Eastside cities. Kirkland is a suburb of Seattle, which can be seen across Lake Washington from the Kirkland lakefront.

Kirkland is bordered to the north by the cities of Bothell and Kenmore, as well as Saint Edwards State Park; to the east by Redmond, Woodinville and portions of unincorporated King County; to the south by the City of Bellevue and Bridle Trails State Park; and to the southwest by the City of Yarrow Point. Interstate 405 runs north-south through the city, connecting to other eastside cities, including Bellevue, Renton and Bothell. State Highway 520 travels just south of the city and links Kirkland to Seattle to the west and Redmond to the east.

Natural Setting

Kirkland's approximately 17 square miles encompasses urban areas, residential developments and natural habitat. The City has extensive shoreline along Lake Washington along Moss, Juanita and Yarrow Bays. The City is also home to two minor lakes, Totem Lake and Forbes Lake, located in the eastern portion of the city. Kirkland's multitude of streams and creeks contribute to its topography and riparian resources and provide habitat to salmonids and other wildlife. The City's multiple large wetlands provide additional critical habitat.

Large portions of the city contain steep slopes and mature vegetation. Much of the city has developed on gravelly sandy loam, with slopes ranging from 6 to 30 percent. Over half of Kirkland's open space consists of forested natural areas. Historically, this sizable urban forest would have been comprised of conifers, primarily Douglas firs and Western red cedars, deciduous trees such as big-leaf maples and alders, as well as an understory of shrubs and herbaceous plants. However, many of Kirkland's native conifers have been lost to historic logging or development, leaving forests dominated by big-leaf maple and increasingly by invasive species such as English and Atlantic ivy, blackberry and bindweed. As the existing deciduous canopy ages, invasive species will pose an increasing threat.

Kirkland's climate is typical of the Pacific Northwest with wet, mild winters and dry, warm summers. The Olympic Mountains and Cascade mountain range help to create Kirkland's 40 inches of annual rainfall. While most of the city's precipitation comes in the form of rain, the area receives an average of 3 inches of snow annually.

History

The eastern shore of Lake Washington was initially settled by the Duwamish Indians who built a village at Juanita Creek and several longhouses at Juanita Bay and Yarrow Bay. This native community thrived on the area's bountiful fish and wildlife populations until the 1830s, when smallpox brought to the area by fur traders killed much of the population. A smaller community continued in the area until 1916, when the building of the Ship Canal lowered Lake Washington and eliminated salmon and wildlife populations on which native peoples depended.

Euro-American settlement of the area began in the 1860s to 1880s when homesteads were established between Yarrow and Juanita Bays. Early homesteaders relied on farming, logging, shipping, hunting and fishing for survival. In 1888, Peter Kirk, an English steel industrialist, arrived in Kirkland intending to establish a steel industry in Kirkland based on the recently discovered iron ore deposits near Snoqualmie Pass. Kirk's vision triggered the development of a residential and business community and the construction of a steel mill near Forbes Lake. However, the financial panic of 1893 curbed Kirk's plans before the steel mill could open.

Kirkland began to grow once again with the Klondike gold rush. The city was developed and promoted by Burke and Farrar, Seattle real estate dealers, as a commuter suburb for Seattle. Residential developments were constructed, and regular ferry service to Seattle was established and attracted new residents to the area. Shipbuilding grew to be a major industry in the Kirkland area as a result of the Alaska-Yukon Exposition of 1909, World War I and the construction of the

Lake Washington Ship Canal. The industry exploded further during World War II as defense contracts for warship construction poured into the area. In these four decades, employment at the Kirkland area shipyards grew from 30 people to over 8,000.

The construction of the Lacey V. Murrow floating bridge in 1940, the opening of the State Route 520 bridge across Lake Washington in 1963 and the construction of Interstate 405 in the 1960s greatly increased Kirkland's accessibility and attractiveness as a bedroom community for Seattle. Over the past forty years, Kirkland has built a thriving downtown and expanded employment and commercial centers. Kirkland, along with other eastside cities, has attracted many large employers and has become an employment destination in its own right. The city now boasts pleasant residential neighborhoods, a downtown civic and commercial hub, a diverse array of waterfront and inland parks, and numerous community and civic resources.

2011 Annexation

On June 1, 2011, voters approved the annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate (now known as Evergreen Hill) areas north of Kirkland into the City of Kirkland. These areas, which were formerly part of unincorporated King County, encompass approximately 7 square miles and include over 31,000 residents. This annexation made Kirkland the sixth largest city in King County and the 12th largest in the state. Along with new neighborhoods and residents, the City of Kirkland also gained a number of park sites through this annexation, including Edith Moulton and Kingsgate parks.

Demographics

Population

The City of Kirkland experienced significant growth in the past 40 years, with a 220% change from 1970 to 2010 (see Table 1). According to the 2010 Census, the City of Kirkland grew by 8.4% between 2000 and 2010 to a population of 48,787. Kirkland is growing more slowly than King County as a whole, where the population increased by 11.2% between 2000 and 2010 to 1,931,249 people.

On June 1, 2011, voter-approved annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita, and Kingsgate (now known as Evergreen Hill) areas north of Kirkland took effect. The annexation added approximately 7 square miles of previously unincorporated King County to the City of Kirkland, an area home to approximately 31,000 residents.

According to Kirkland's ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update, the City is expected to accommodate 8,570 new housing units between 2006 and 2031, or about 343 housing units per year. At the current median household size, this would result in 15,486 new residents between 2010 and 2030, for a total population of 94,400 if applied to the 2011 boundaries. This rate of growth is approximately 37% higher than the actual growth seen from 2006 to 2011. In addition, the Lake Washington School District, which serves Kirkland and the nearby communities of Redmond,

Sammamish, White and other areas, anticipates 17% growth in enrollment between 2012 and 2022. King County is expected to grow to 2,108,814 people by 2020 (a 9.2% increase) and to 2,418,850 people by 2040 (a 25% increase from 2010).

Figure 1. Population Change – Actual & Projected: 1970 - 2030

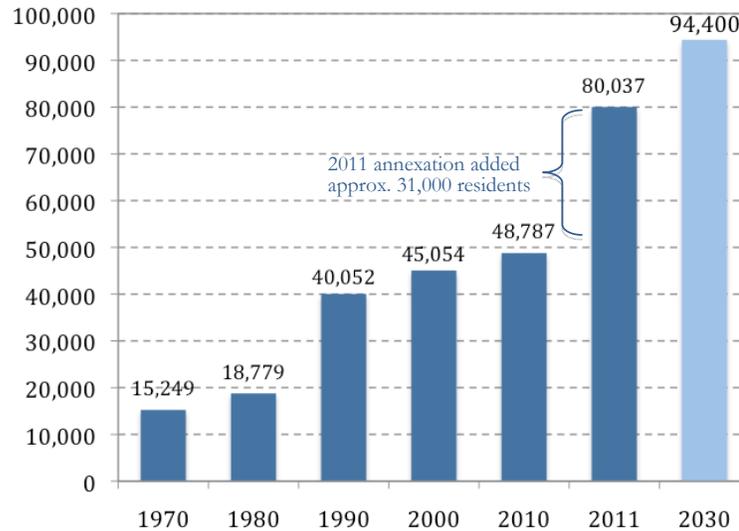


Figure 2. Population Characteristics: Kirkland, King County & Washington

Demographics	Kirkland	King County	Washington
Population Characteristics			
Population (2000)	44,986	1,737,034	5,894,121
Population (2010)	48,787	1,931,249	6,724,540
Percent of Change (2000-09)	8.4%	11.2%	14%
Communities of Color	20.7%	31.3%	22.7%
Persons w/ Disabilities (2000)	5,479	259,843	981,007
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	13.0%	16.1%	18.2%
Household Characteristics			
Households	22,445	789,232	2,620,076
Percent with children	24.6%	29.2%	64%
Median Income	\$88,756	\$70,567	\$58,890
Average Household Size	2.15	2.40	2.51
Average Family Size	2.83	3.05	3.06
Home Ownership Rate	57.1%	59.1%	64.0%
Age Groups			
Median Age	37.5	37.1	37.3
Population < 5 years of age	6.0%	6.2%	6.5%
Population < 18 years of age	17.8%	21.4%	23.5%
Population > 65 years of age	10.9%	10.9%	12.3%

Compared with King County, the City of Kirkland has a comparably aged population. Approximately one-fifth (21%) of Kirkland residents are youth up to 19 years of age, 56.5% are 20 to 55 year olds, and 23% are 55 and older. The median age of City residents is 37.5 – slightly older than King County (37.1), the State of Washington

(37.3) and the nation (37.2).

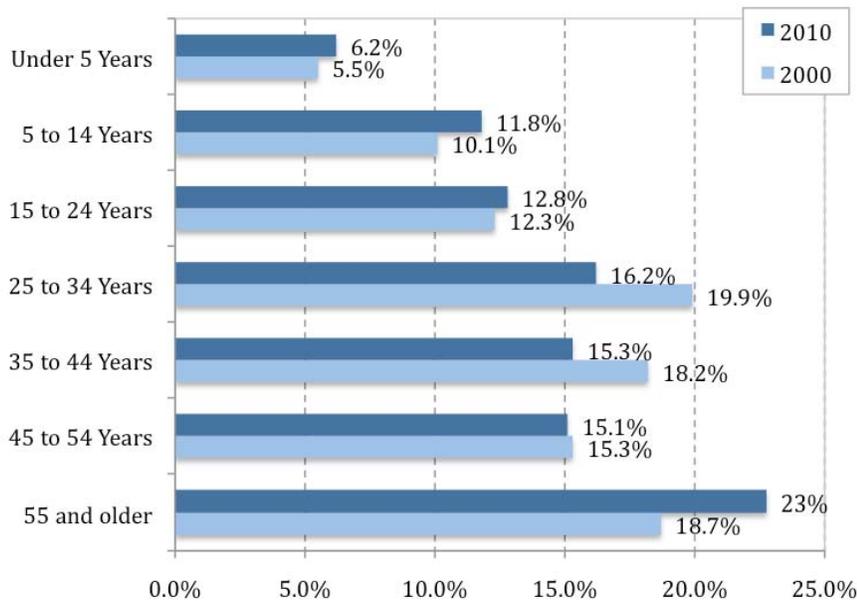
The City’s largest “20-year” population group is comprised of 25- to 44-year-olds, representing 35.1% of the population in 2010. This is also the largest age group in King County.

The following breakdown is used to separate the population into age-sensitive user groups.

- Under 5 years: This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- 5 to 14 years: This group represents current youth program participants.
- 15 to 24 years: This group represents teen/young adult program participants moving out of the youth programs and into adult programs. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers.
- 25 to 34 years: This group represents involvement in adult programming with characteristics of beginning long-term relationships and establishing families.
- 35 to 54 years: This group represents users of a wide range of adult programming and park facilities. Their characteristics extend from having children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters.
- 55 years plus: This group represents users of older adult programming exhibiting the characteristics of approaching retirement or already retired and typically enjoying grandchildren. This group generally also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

Table 3 illustrates the age distribution characteristics of these cohorts and provides a comparison to 2000 Census data.

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2000 & 2010



Race and Ethnicity

In 2010, Kirkland was 79.3% White, 11.3% Asian, 1.8% African American, 0.4% Native American, 0.3% Pacific Islander, 2.5% other, and 4.5% from two or more races.

Just over 6.3% of people identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. This was an increase (6.2%) in the percentage of communities of color since 2000.

According to the 2011 American Community Survey, approximately 19% of Kirkland's population speaks a language other than English at home, although nearly 60% this group also speaks English very well. This is a lower of percentage of people than in King County (24.8%) but higher than Washington as a whole (17.5%).

Household Characteristics

The 2010 average household size in the City of Kirkland was 2.15 people, lower than the state (2.67) and national (2.51) average. Average household size decreased slightly since 2000, when it was 2.13 people. The average family size in Kirkland is larger, at 2.83 people. Of the 22,445 households in the City, 25% have children under 18, 42% were married couples living together, 11% had a single head of household, and 46.5% were non-families.

Income and Poverty

According to the 2011 American Community Survey, the median household income in the City of Kirkland was \$88,756. This figure is about \$18,189 (26%) higher than the median income for King County residents, \$29,866 (51%) for residents of Washington, and \$35,954 (68%) across the United States. The median household income in Kirkland has increased by nearly 50% (\$29,442) since 2000.

At the lower end of the household income scale, approximately ten percent (10%) of Kirkland households earn less than \$25,000 annually, which is significantly fewer than households of King County (16%), the State of Washington (19.3%), and the United States (23.1%). On the other end, 43 percent of City households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), greater than the County (33.6%), State (24.4%) and National (21.9%) figures.

In 2011, 3.7% of Kirkland's families were living below the poverty level. The poverty threshold was an income of \$22,350 for a family of four. This percentage is much lower than the statewide (8.4%) and national (10.5%) levels. A review of subgroups shows that poverty affects 5.1% of those under 18 and 4.8% of those 65 and older, which is lower than statewide and national figures. The percentage of local families accessing food stamp or SNAP benefits (2.0%) is also much lower than state and national averages (11% and 10.2%, respectively).

Employment & Education

The 2011 work force population (16 years and over) of Kirkland is 40,847 (84%). Of this population, nearly three quarters (75%) is in the labor force while one quarter (25%) is unemployed. The primary occupation of the working population is management, professional, and science occupations at 56.7%, while sales, office, and service occupations comprise an additional 34.5% of the workforce.

On average, Kirkland residents have higher educational attainment than residents of Washington in general. According to the 2011 American Community Survey, 57.6% of the City residents over age 25 had earned a Bachelor's degree or higher (37.3%

having a Bachelor's degree and 20.4% having a Graduate degree), as compared to 31.4% statewide. Additionally, 96.8% of City residents have a high school degree or higher, 7% higher than the statewide average.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2010 Census reported 13.0% (5,479 persons) of Kirkland's population 5 years and older as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is lower than state and national averages (18.2% and 19.3%, respectively). Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 34.8%, or 1,140 persons, which is on par with percentages found in the general senior population of Washington State.

Kirkland Parks & Community Services Department

The Kirkland Parks & Community Services Department manages the city's recreation programs; park planning, acquisition, development and maintenance; community services; and the Green Kirkland Partnership. The Department's mission is to "...support a healthy and sustainable community by providing high quality parks and recreation services, ensuring a collaborative community response to basic human needs, and protecting our natural areas." Specifically, the Department aims to:

- Preserve and maintain parklands and open spaces to create safe places for people to visit.
- Conserve and sustain natural areas for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.
- Provide comprehensive year-round recreation opportunities to enhance physical, mental and social well-being.
- Establish partnerships to ensure a comprehensive system of programs, facilities and services are available to meet the recreation and human service needs of the Kirkland community.

The Department is structured into four divisions:

- The Administration Division handles all of the basic policy planning, budget preparation and tracking and provides staff support to the Park Board. It is responsible for park master planning, facility design, land acquisition, capital projects, grant preparation and long-range strategic policy planning for Parks.
- The Community Services Division is responsible for Youth and Human Services programs, which includes providing staff support to the Youth Council, the Human Services Advisory Committee and the Senior Council.
- The Parks Maintenance Division is responsible for grounds and structural maintenance of 45 parks totaling over 550 acres. In addition, this division maintains the City Cemetery, public art, Heritage Hall and the grounds of the Kirkland Performance Center, Peter Kirk Community Center, Teen Union Building and Library.
- The Recreation Services Division provides comprehensive programs that include year-round recreation opportunities, special events, enrichment programs and specialized recreation. The division is responsible for programming and operation

of the North Kirkland and Peter Kirk Community Centers, the Peter Kirk Pool and Waverly and Houghton Beaches.

The Department currently has 30 full-time staff positions, and the overall, general fund biennial budget for the Park & Community Services Department is \$14,170,169 for fiscal years 2013-2014. The Parks Maintenance Fund provides an additional \$3 million for park maintenance, and the 2012 Parks Levy Fund provides \$5 million for ongoing maintenance, support for the Green Kirkland Partnership and limited annual capital expenditures.

Kirkland's Park, Recreation and Open Space System

Kirkland's diverse park system includes over 588 acres of parkland and open spaces, including community and neighborhood parks and natural areas. In addition, other public parks and open spaces, such as Big Finn Hill Park and school partnership sites, add another 366 acres of diverse parkland. The City's ___ miles of trails connect people to parks, neighborhoods and other community destinations. The City also offers a diverse array of recreation, sports, fitness, arts, music and self-improvement classes and programs for all ages.

The acquisition and development of this diverse park system began nearly a century ago, with the acquisition of Waverly Park and Kiwanis Park in the 1920s. Portions of Marina Park were donated and acquired in the late 1930s. Houghton Park, originally deeded to the City of Houghton, entered the Kirkland park system through annexation in 1968. In the early 1970s, Marsh Park was donated to the City, and Dave Brink Park was purchased. The Juanita Golf Course was purchased in 1976 and redeveloped and expanded as Juanita Bay Park. The City has continued to add parkland through donations, acquisition, annexation and transfers since these early waterfront parks were acquired. The 1989 annexations of Rose Hill and Juanita areas and the 2011 annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Evergreen Hill added a number of community and neighborhood parks to the Kirkland system.

Kirkland residents have long supported the City's parks and recreation system through a variety of funding mechanisms. In 2012, facing service reductions due to the economic downturn, Kirkland voters approved a Parks Levy. The Levy, which took effect in 2013, will raise approximately \$2.35 million annually to restore service levels and provide for additional park, facility, and trail acquisitions and improvements.

Plan Overview

This Plan represents an update to Kirkland’s 2010 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. Kirkland has experienced significant changes since the adoption of the 2010 PROS Plan, and this Plan has been revised to address community choices and opportunities following the recent annexation of the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Evergreen Hill neighborhoods.

The PROS Plan will establish a path forward to guide the City’s efforts to provide high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreation services throughout Kirkland. The PROS Plan includes a vision for the City’s park and recreation system, goals and objectives, a capital improvements program and implementation strategies for parks, natural areas, trails and recreation programming.

Concurrent Community Planning Efforts

The City of Kirkland is currently undertaking a variety of concurrent planning efforts intended to set a course for the City’s development over the next twenty years. These efforts, occurring under the banner “Kirkland 2035”, include an update of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update and new long-range plans for transportation, the Cross Kirkland Corridor, Totem Lake Park and surface water management. The Kirkland 2035 process is intended to encourage coordination between planning efforts and allow for greater community engagement in defining Kirkland’s vision and its growth strategies.

Plan Structure

The remainder of the Kirkland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Public Involvement – highlights the methods used to engage the Kirkland community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 3: Inventory & Recreational Resources – describes the existing park and recreation system in the City and highlights recreational resources located within or near Kirkland.
- Chapter 4: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapters 5: Needs Assessment & Recommendations – discusses survey results, community feedback and other recreation trend data and provides context to the identification of potential park, trail and recreation system enhancements.
- Chapter 6: Capital Facilities Plan – details a 6-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Chapter 7: Implementation Strategies – describes a range of strategies and alternatives to consider in the implementation of the Plan.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, public meeting notes, funding alternatives, among others.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community input played a crucial role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflects current community priorities. Residents voiced their interest for the future of parks and recreation programs in Kirkland and offered significant feedback in the development of this Plan. Public outreach methods included:

- A random sample telephone survey
- A community wide online survey
- 3 public open house meetings
- 5 Stakeholder Group Discussions
- 2 Park Board meetings

Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation services in Kirkland. This feedback was important in preparing and organizing policy statements and prioritizing the capital facilities project list contained within this Plan.

Telephone Survey

The Kirkland Parks & Community Services Department contracted for the administration of a telephone survey during September 2013. The purpose of the survey was to gather input to help determine park, trail, natural area and recreation priorities of

the community. In collaboration with staff, the project team designed a 17-question survey to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. This allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future of the parks and recreation system.

The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Kirkland. The phone survey was administered during weekday evenings and weekend days by trained, professional interviewers. A total of 304 surveys were completed.

Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the needs assessment chapters of this Plan (Chapters 4-8). The survey instrument and a summary of the response data are provided in Appendix ____.

- Nearly 9 in 10 respondents said that parks and recreation were “important” or “essential” to the quality of life in Kirkland, including 45% who said they were “essential.”
- 9 in 10 households include someone who has visited a city park in the last year.
- Half live within a 10-minute walk of a city park.
- City gets high grades for the quality and upkeep of its parks.
 - 85% gave a “A” or “B” grade for overall quality of the parks.
 - 81% gave an “A” or “B” for park upkeep and maintenance.
- City recreation programs are considered “inexpensive” (20%) or “reasonably priced” (48%).
- Overall satisfaction with the quantity and quality of recreation facilities and programs is high.
- 57% said more swimming pools were needed.
- The top-rated priorities “if Kirkland were to expand its recreation facilities” were:
 - Before and after school programs
 - Summer youth programs
 - Youth sports
- Most were willing to increase taxpayer support to develop an Indoor Aquatics Center and an Indoor Recreation Center.

Online Survey

A second community survey was designed as a companion to the earlier random-sample telephone survey conducted to inform the PROS Plan update process. A total of 788 respondents completed the online survey between October 17 and November 4, 2013.

Anticipating that respondents to the online survey would be more likely to be regular parks users, the questionnaire was designed to elicit more detailed information about park usage and the experience than the telephone survey.

Open House Meetings

Community members were invited to two public open houses to offer direct comments and feedback about the future of parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Kirkland. The intent was to elicit feedback from residents on the future vision for the City, explore program and facility opportunities and identify local recreation needs crucial to planning development. The meetings were held on June 8 and October 19, 2013.

For each open house, the project team prepared informational displays related to parks, indoor facilities, recreation programming, trails and natural areas. Both of these sessions were part of the larger, citywide planning days held to streamline public feedback for a variety of concurrent planning and design projects, including the Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Master Plan and the Cross Kirkland Corridor. The City's website and e-mail announcements were used to publicize the events (see the 'Other Outreach' section below).

< placeholder > A third community meeting was held on February 27, 2013 to review and discuss the draft PROS Plan update. < add more content following meeting >

Each meeting lasted approximately four hours. Summary responses from the meetings are provided in Appendix ___.

Stakeholder Discussions

Internal and external stakeholder interviews were conducted to more broadly assess the opportunities for partnership and coordination. Stakeholders were identified by city staff based on their past coordination with the City and their involvement or interest in the future of the City's park, recreation or trail facilities. The stakeholder meetings were held between early May and early June 2013 and included representatives from the following organizations:

■ Neighborhood Representatives

Highlands Neighborhood
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails Neighborhood
North Rose Hill Neighborhood
Evergreen Hill (Kingsgate) Neighborhood
Everest Neighborhood
Central Houghton Neighborhood
Highlands Neighborhood
Market Neighborhood
Finn Hill Neighborhood

■ Sports Group

Kirkland Boys & Girls Club
Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
Kirkland Lacrosse
Juanita Baseball Club
Kirkland American Little League
Kirkland National Little League
Kirkland Baseball Commission
Junior Softball World Series
Senior Co-Ed Softball
Northwest University

■ Recreation Program Group

PKCC Advisory Board
Slow Pitch Softball
WAVE Aquatics
Participant of North Kirkland Community Center
EvergreenHealth
Senior Council

■ Environmental Group

Green Kirkland Partnership
Kirkland Urban Forester
Kirkland Planning & Community Development
King Conservation District
Sustainable Kirkland

■ Parks & Community Services Department Staff

Stakeholder comments were often specific to the particular perspective or interest of the stakeholder group. Overall, comments were generally favorable in regard to existing City facilities and the potential for future improvements within Kirkland. Stakeholders recognized the limited financial capacity of the City and were often quick to offer suggestions for potential partnerships or other means to accomplish specific projects. Suggested projects ranged from coordinating the development of trail connections, identifying opportunities for sport fields, and improving wayfinding and signage. Specific recommendations are reflected in the needs assessment chapters (Chapters 4-8), and stakeholder discussion summaries are provided in Appendix ___.

Park Board Meetings

The Park Board provided feedback on the Plan during two regularly scheduled public sessions. The first session occurred on May 8, 2013 immediately after the plan update project was initiated. The Board discussed the update and provided their perspectives on a vision for Kirkland parks and recreation, specific challenges, opportunities and potential community partnerships. The second session was held on February 12, 2014 to review and discuss the draft PROS Plan and provide direction on proposed goals and capital improvements.

Other Outreach

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities noted above, a project webpage was posted on the City's website to provide background information, meeting announcements and project materials such as meeting notes. In advance of each public meeting, the City posted a project webpage update and provided media announcements to local outlets. Sample promotional material are located in Appendix ___.

Goals

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A person is sitting on a dark-colored bench in a park. The person is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, and has their arms raised. They are positioned under a large, mature tree with dense foliage in shades of yellow and orange, indicating autumn. In the background, a chain-link fence runs across the frame, and beyond that, there are buildings and more trees. The ground is covered with fallen leaves.

“With all the water around, I just would like to see a year-round aquatic center. What a great way to build community and keep residents of all ages healthy.”

- Survey respondent

“My priority is to increase the number of parks in North Kirkland (annexation area).”

- Survey respondent



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Overview

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services that Kirkland aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff and officials, the Park Board, community members and stakeholders.

Service Philosophy

A Philosophy of Service, as described in the 2010 PROS Plan, provided a foundation upon which to expand and elaborate specific service policies and actionable objectives. Eleven key concepts have been identified which are fundamental to the delivery of parks and recreation services in the Kirkland community.

1. **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 the City delivers. To provide high quality services and products, employees must have the necessary means and support.
2. **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.

3. **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.
4. **Beauty:** Parks and open spaces provide settings for people to recreate, and they enhance the beauty and visual character of the 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.
5. **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.
6. **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. 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.
7. **Environmental Stewardship:** Kirkland is fortunate to have many important natural areas, including wetlands, urban forests, sensitive slopes and wildlife habitat resources in our park system. 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. The City will continue its 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.
8. **Efficiency:** Efficient management of available resources is important in retaining a high quality park system and recreation program. 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.
9. **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.
10. **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.

11. **Security & 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.

Goals, Policies & Objectives

Taken together, the goals and objectives provide a framework for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Policies are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Objectives are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and policies and are contained in subsequent chapters of the Plan. The Kirkland Comprehensive Plan outlined a number of policy statements pertinent to the provision of parks and recreation and for land stewardship and were a starting reference for the detailed policies and objective in this Plan.

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.



1. Community Engagement

Policy 1.1 - Community Involvement

Encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreation.

Actions/Objectives

- Involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, design and recreation program development to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
- Employ innovative strategies to improve community involvement in park and recreation planning efforts.
- Support the Parks Board as the forum for public discussion of parks and recreation issues.
- Integrate park planning with the neighborhood planning process and pursue opportunities to partner with residents and neighborhood groups to improve, maintain and monitor local parks, natural areas and trails.
- Monitor the success of public involvement efforts over time.
- Identify underrepresented segments of the community and work to improve their capacity to participate in park planning and decision-making.
- Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends at least once every six years.

2. Neighborhood & Community Parks

Policy 2.1 - Park Acquisition

Acquire additional parklands necessary to adequately serve the City's current and future population based on adopted service levels.

Actions/Objectives

- Provide a service standard of 1.5 acres per 1,000 persons of developed neighborhood parks and 2.25 per 1,000 residents of developed community parks.
- Proactively seek parkland identified within this plan, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to secure suitable locations for new parks to serve future residents. Evaluate acquisition opportunities based on criteria such as improvement to existing level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- To provide equitable park distribution, prioritize park acquisition in underserved areas where households are more than ½ mile from a developed park.
- Prioritize park acquisition in areas of the City facing population growth and residential and commercial development.
- Establish or improve urban public services in newly annexed areas, as funds are available, to meet established levels of service.
- Evaluate opportunities to acquire lands declared surplus by other public agencies for park and recreation use.
- Pursue low-cost and/or non-purchase options to preserve open space, including the use of conservation easements and development covenants.
- When considering vacation of any right-of-way, consider its appropriateness for use as public park or open space.



Policy 2.2 - Park Improvement

Improve park sites to meet the active and passive recreational needs of Kirkland residents.

Actions/Objectives

- Prioritize park development in areas where service level deficiencies exist (where households are more than ½ mile from a developed park).
- Prioritize development of existing park sites in areas of the City facing population growth and residential and commercial development.
- Develop park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals, and available financial resources.
- Require that new development provide funds or parkland for concurrent park development and maintenance consistent with the City’s standards for parks and facilities.

3. Waterfront Parks

Policy 3.1 - Waterfront Parks

Maintain and enhance Kirkland’s waterfront parks to connect residents with the water and provide unique recreational experiences.

Actions/Objectives

- Pursue opportunities to acquire additional privately held waterfront parcels as available; particularly sites that might create needed connections for a more continuous lakefront corridor or will provide lake access in underserved areas.
- Consider opportunities to retain and repurpose street ends to create water access points and explore opportunities for cooperative or joint use ventures.
- Encourage non-motorized small craft water-oriented activities/programs along the shoreline where appropriate and consistent with public interest and needs.
- Strive to design, develop, and operate waterfront facilities in ways that limit negative environmental impacts.
- Develop Forbes Lake and Totem Lake Parks to expand water-related recreation, including walking trails, wildlife viewing, and interpretive opportunities in eastern portions of the City.

4. Trail Network

Policy 4.1 - Trail System

Develop a network of shared-use pedestrian and bicycle trails to enable connections within parks and between parks, nearby neighborhoods, public amenities, and major pedestrian and bicycle routes identified in the Active Transportation Plan.

Actions/Objectives

- Coordinate trail system planning and development with the City's Action Transportation Plan to provide a comprehensive pedestrian and bicyclist network.
- Facilitate and provide for a high degree of trail connectivity from core signature trails, such as the Cross Kirkland Corridor, to neighborhood, park and waterfront destinations.
- Partner with local utilities, public agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements and access to open space for trail connections.
- Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
- Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- Implement trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.
- Work with MetroTransit to provide transit service to trailheads, parks, and recreation facilities.

Policy 4.2 - Signature Trails & Connections

Develop, enhance and maintain signature greenways and trails that stretch across the community and that connect residents to the City's many parks, natural areas, recreation facilities and other amenities.

Actions/Objectives

- Kirkland Waterfront: Strive to create a continuous pedestrian and bicyclist greenway along the lakeshore through parks, neighborhood greenway improvements, and trail easements.
- Cross Kirkland Corridor: Participate in the planning and development of the Cross Kirkland Corridor, to create a signature, multi-modal, green transportation and recreation corridor through Kirkland.
- Develop or improve parks adjacent to the Cross Kirkland Corridor to provide additional amenities and create pleasant destinations or stopping points along the trail.
- Bay to Valley Connection: Build on the City's existing parks and natural areas along Forbes Creek and 100th Avenue to create an east-west trail that connects users from Juanita Bay through central Kirkland and into the Sammamish Valley.
- Juanita Hill Connection: Consider protection and development of a greenway and trail corridor from Forbes Creek to Juanita Heights and Saint Edwards State Parks to connect existing trail systems and provide additional recreational amenities.
- Eastside Powerline Corridor: Explore opportunities to develop a north-south trail under the Seattle City Light (SCL) power lines to link eastside neighborhoods to Bridle Trails State Park and other existing parks, the Cross Kirkland Corridor, major retail and employment destinations, and to other neighborhoods.
- Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail: Support the continued implementation of the Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail to provide water trails along Lake Washington and adjoining waterbodies.



5. Recreation Facilities & Programming

Policy 5.1 - Recreation Services

Provide a variety of recreational services and programs that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.

Actions/Objectives

- Enhance the diversity of programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users.
- Design programming and services to meet the needs diverse users, including at-risk communities or those with special needs.
- Improve the accessibility of programs, by holding classes and activities at locations throughout the community and at affordable rates; and
- Maintain and enhance program scholarships and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income residents.
- Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
- Evaluate and improve recreational services and programs to meet identified cost recovery goals.
- Continue to expand partnerships with the School District, private non-profit agencies such as the Boys and Girls Club and Friends of Youth, private fitness clubs and the local businesses to provide recreation services.
- Promote and coordinate recreational opportunities provided by partners to help connect residents with options to learn and recreate.

Policy 5.2 - Community Centers

Maintain and enhance Kirkland’s community centers to provide recreational opportunities, community services and opportunities for residents to connect, learn and play.

Actions/Objectives

- Manage Kirkland’s existing community centers to provide a diverse array of recreational programs, services and experiences for all City residents.
- Examine the need for additional community recreation facility space to meet indoor recreation needs for athletics, recreation classes, and meeting space.
- Consider development of an additional multi-use indoor facility that provides space to provide a comprehensive recreation program to Kirkland residents.
- Assess the financial feasibility prior to development of any new community center.
- Consider partnerships for joint facility acquisition, development, and maintenance.

Policy 5.3 - Aquatic Facilities & Programs

Provide opportunities for aquatic recreation through the City's pools and lakefront facilities.

Actions/Objectives

- Maintain and enhance aquatics facilities and programs at existing outdoor and lake sites.
- Explore opportunities to develop an indoor aquatic facility, potentially in partnership with other organizations or agencies. Consider financial feasibility and long term operations needs prior to construction of any new facility.

Policy 5.4 - Recreation Programs for All Ages

Provide programming and services that support recreation and learning for target populations, including youth, teens, adults and older adults.

Actions/Objectives

- Continue to expand and diversify its popular youth programs to meet the growing need for engaging, affordable, safe options for children.
- Partner with the Lake Washington school district, community partners, recreation providers, and sports organizations to offer both drop-in and structured programs in sports; art, music and dance; and educational and environmental activities for youth.
- Build on existing partnerships with the YMCA and local sports organizations to expand teen programming to include additional individual athletics, fitness, and alternative sports programs.
- Explore options to expand the quantity and breadth of adult programs offered, in partnership with other recreation providers and organizations.
- Continue to provide and expand opportunities for seniors to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional, and health programs designed to encourage independence, in partnership with community agencies.

Policy 5.5 - Universal Access & Inclusion

Strive to reduce barriers to participation and ensure its facilities and programs accessible and welcoming to all residents.

Actions/Objectives

- Design future improvements to parks, recreation facilities and trails in compliance with the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act and with universal accessibility in mind.
- Develop an ADA transition plan to improve accessibility in parks and facilities.
- Explore options to develop highly accessible, barrier-free facilities and trails.
- Continue to develop and offer recreational programs for youth and adults with special needs and support inclusion opportunities in all programs.
- Explore and cultivate partnerships with community organizations and regional providers to improve services and accessibility of recreation opportunities.
- Continue to outreach and provide accessibility information for people with disabilities to increase awareness of recreation opportunities.

Policy 5.6 - Specialized Recreational Facilities

Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities (e.g. action sports facilities, off leash areas, skateparks, community gardens) to respond to identified public needs, as appropriate.

Actions/Objectives

- Provide facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, climbing and parkour, to offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences.
- Consider local needs, recreational trends, and availability of similar facilities within the City and region when planning for specialized recreational facilities.
- Encourage the development of specialized facilities that generate revenues to offset the cost of their operation and maintenance.
- Explore opportunities to partner with local organizations to develop and manage specialized facilities.
- Design and manage special facilities to accommodate compatible, multiple purposes and uses, when appropriate.
- Consider siting additional off leash areas in suitable parks, where off-leash use is safe and would have limited environmental impacts.
- Strengthen partnerships with KDOG to develop and manage addition off leash areas.
- Maintain and enhance signage and enforcement of leash laws in parks or natural areas where only on-leash activities are allowed.
- Provide community gardens at suitable sites to provide opportunities for gardening, healthy eating, and social connections.
- Consider developing and managing community and experiential gardens in partnership with community organizations or educational programs, such as the Environmental Horticulture program at Lake Washington Institute of Technology.

6. Athletics

Policy 6.1 - Field Sports

Provide a citywide system of sports fields and programs to serve field sport needs of the community, in partnership with the Lake Washington School District, local sports organizations, and other regional providers.

Actions/Objectives

- Provide sports fields to the service standards noted in Chapter 10.
- Enhance maintenance, investments and safety of sports fields to better serve recreation users and extend playing seasons.
- Assess overall sports fields needs on a regular basis, based on existing inventories and local participation trends.
- Explore options to use existing sites more efficiently and/or acquire additional field space to meet capacity needs.
- Evaluate opportunities to include sports fields in the development of new community parks.
- Consider resurfacing existing or new fields to artificial turf to allow more intensive use of field space, extend field seasons, and limit play cancellations due to rain and muddy conditions.
- Continue active partnerships with the Lake Washington School District and other recreation providers and actively explore opportunities for greater joint use of facilities.

- Cooperative agreements between the agencies should identify opportunities and define responsibilities regarding field planning, acquisition, development, improvement, maintenance and operations; as well as clarify scheduling, decision-making and revenue sharing objectives and structures.
- Explore partnership opportunities with other public and private agencies and organizations, including King County and Northwest University to meet long-term field needs.
- Continue and enhance partnerships with local sports organizations to provide sports programs for youth and adults.
- Consider development of a larger field complex or tournament site, to increase field capacity and serve as a regional destination.
- Monitor the condition, investment needs and usage rates of various field facilities to plan for long-term maintenance and capital needs.
- Assess field usage policies a regular basis to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the City, user groups, and neighbors.
- Update field usage fees periodically and when significant field improvements are made to address cost recovery and equity objectives.

Policy 6.2 - Court Sports

Provide a citywide system of indoor and outdoor sports courts and programs for Kirkland residents.

Actions/Objectives

- Consider installing basketball, volleyball, and/or tennis courts future community parks or community centers.
- Explore options to develop half-court basketball courts may in neighborhood parks, as appropriate, particularly in underserved areas or where there is expressed neighborhood interest.
- Maintain and enhance the City's partnership with the Lake Washington School District for use of their indoor facilities for organized recreation and sports activities.
- Provide and enhance tennis, basketball and volleyball programs for youth and adults.





7. Conservation & Stewardship

Policy 7.1 - Natural Area Preservation

Preserve significant natural areas to meet outdoor recreation needs, provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature, and meet habitat protection needs.

Actions/Objectives

- Consider preserving high resource value, significant, or connected natural resource areas through acquisition or other protection (e.g. conservation easements) as they become available.
- Prioritize particularly high value resources, or those that create important wildlife and recreation connections within the existing system for preservation.
- Preserve and enhance greenways and other corridors that provide wildlife habitat connectivity.
- Explore opportunities to convert underutilized active recreation areas to natural areas.

Policy 7.2 - Natural Area Restoration & Management

Restore and manage City-owned or managed natural areas to protect and enhance their ecological health, sensitive habitats and native species.

Actions/Objectives

- Actively work to improve the condition of City-owned natural areas through invasive species removal; planting of native species; restoration of urban forests, creeks, wetlands and other habitat; and improvement of hydrological conditions.
- Utilize integrated pest management (IPM) techniques.
- Maintain a system-wide natural area management plan which integrates with the City's urban forestry management planning.
- Pursue opportunities to enhance natural habitat and features within developed parks.
- Pursue opportunities to provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints wildlife viewing areas, and boat landings) within natural areas to support passive recreation and environmental education.
- Continue to strengthen the Green Kirkland Partnership to engage the local community in the restoration and care of natural areas in City parks.
- Develop restoration and management plans for Yarrow Bay Wetlands and Heronfield Wetlands to guide future restoration and enhancement work.

Policy 7.3 - Shoreline Restoration

Restore Kirkland's shoreline on Lake Washington in accordance with the Shoreline Restoration Plan to improve habitat, hydrology and recreational opportunities.

Actions/Objectives

- Pursue opportunities to remove bulkheads and other impervious surfaces along the Lake Washington shoreline that impede natural habitat functions and increase stormwater flows into the lake.
- When developing or improving waterfront parks, consider opportunities to restore degraded shorelines, increase riparian vegetation and other habitat features, and provide for additional pervious surfaces and green infrastructure.

Policy 7.4 - Ecosystem Services

Protect and improve the City's natural systems or features for their value in providing ecosystem and infrastructure services.

Actions/Objectives

- Manage forested areas for invasive species and to encourage the establishment and succession of conifers and other native plants, in accordance with the Urban Forestry Management Plan.
- Design and restore parks to naturally capture and filter stormwater to improve watershed health.
- Partner with the City's Public Works and Transportation departments to identify opportunities to integrate park, greenway, green infrastructure, stormwater and active transportation planning and projects.

Policy 7.5 - Environmental Education

Promote environmental stewardship and education through informational signage, materials, programs and partnerships.

Actions/Objectives

- Integrate interpretive signage that reflects Kirkland's history, culture, natural assets, and wildlife populations into parks and natural areas to support learning.
- Enhance partnerships to create opportunities for educational programs and recreational opportunities in the City's natural area parks and other local resources.
- Explore opportunities to develop an environmental education center in partnership with local environmentally focused organizations and agencies.

Policy 7.6 - Conservation Partnerships

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

Actions/Objectives

- Strengthen the Green Kirkland Partnership to extend its reach and ensure continued and enhanced care of the City's natural areas.
- Enhance partnerships with the Eastside Audubon, King County, King County Drainage District and the Lake Washington School District to pursue opportunities for additional community restoration activities, wildlife monitoring, and environmental education.



8. Planning, Design & Maintenance

Policy 8.1 - Planning

Develop and maintain system-wide and site-specific plans for the development and management of the park and recreation system to guide future actions.

Actions/Objectives

- Update this comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan periodically to ensure park and recreation facilities and services meet current and future needs.
- Develop capital improvement plans and prioritization criteria to address park improvement needs.
- Prepare master plans for park sites prior to development or major improvement to ensure development meets community needs, is within available resources and is consistent with the City's park and recreation objectives.
- Develop and maintain a financial plan that assists the City in obtaining and managing funds for capital improvements, maintenance, and operations

Policy 8.2 - Site Design and Development

Design and develop park sites and facilities to maximize recreational value and experience while minimizing maintenance and operational costs and negative environmental and community impacts.

Actions/Objectives

- When developing new facilities or redeveloping existing facilities, review and consider the projected maintenance and operations costs prior to initiating design development.
- Establish and utilize design standards to provide continuity in furnishings (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) and construction materials to reduce inventory and maintenance costs, standardize maintenance practices, and improve park appearance.
- Design, improve and maintain parks and facilities in a manner that will conserve the use of energy and other resources and maximize efficient maintenance practices.
- Design and maintain parks and facilities to offer universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age.
- Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities.
- Consider the use of native vegetation for landscaping in parks to minimize maintenance requirements.

Policy 8.3 - Asset Management

Actively manage Kirkland's park and recreation assets to ensure consistent service delivery, reduce unplanned reactive maintenance, and minimize economic, public health, and environmental risks.

Actions/Objectives

- Establish park maintenance standards and a routine preventative maintenance program to ensure parks, facilities and equipment is maintained in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- Estimate the maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with acquisition, development, or renovation of parks or natural open space areas, and ensure adequate long-term maintenance and operation funding is available prior to action.
- Develop and update asset management plans for major assets to support improved stewardship, reduce costs, and increase maintenance and replacement efficiency.
- Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, churches and businesses.
- Maintain a standardized and systematic inventory and assessment of park system infrastructure, including quantity, location, condition, and expected useful life.
- Monitor the costs of maintaining City-owned facilities by their function, including public buildings, infrastructure, parks and natural areas.
- Continue to improve the City's comprehensive risk management program to ensure regular safety inspections and assess the likelihood and consequence - in terms of financial, community, and environmental impact – of the failure of its assets.
- Examine opportunities to relocate the Parks maintenance facility to a more suitable site.



9. Administration & Management

Policy 9.1 - Administration

Provide leadership and management of the park, recreation and open space system throughout the City.

Actions/Objectives

- Assess the effectiveness of the organization on a regular basis and make structural changes and improvements as appropriate.
- Document Department policies to guide future decisions.
- Implement a project management system to support acquisition, construction and maintenance projects.
- Develop and maintain a business plan or strategic plan to help focus the direction of the Department and support funding requests.

Policy 9.2 - Staff Resources

Provide sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City's standards.

Actions/Objectives

- Assess the Department's staffing needs on a regular basis and hire adequate staff to manage the City's park and recreation system.
- Assign staff responsibilities, resources and timeframes in annual work plans as necessary to progress on the goals and policies of the Plan.
- Ensure the Department's work environment supports trust, communication, respect and teamwork.
- Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Board members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA).
- Explore opportunities to improve staff capacity to manage construction of capital improvement projects.
- Consider centralization of existing staff to improve coordination and achieve administrative efficiencies.
- Continue to allocate staff time and resources to programs and activities that can leverage existing resources (e.g. managing volunteer programs, the Green Kirkland Partnership and partnerships with local schools and organizations, and grant development and administration).
- Use part-time, seasonal, and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.

Policy 9.3 - Volunteers

Promote volunteerism to involve individuals, groups, organizations and businesses in the planning, development and stewardship of the park and recreation system.

Actions/Objectives

- Engage volunteers in park and facility education, outreach, maintenance and enhancement.
- Develop a coordinated volunteer recruitment, training, management, and recognition program.
- Develop "Friends" or "adoption" programs to promote the maintenance of all significant parks, trails, recreation, and open space facilities.

Policy 9.4 - Communication

Provide informative, convenient, timely and consistent signage, communication and informational materials to help residents engage with and fully utilize the City's many recreational resources.

Actions/Objectives

- Strive to adapt the City's communications program to accommodate and reflect new, and more diverse residents, new means of communication, and a growing and changing park and recreation system.
- Implement a comprehensive approach for wayfinding, directional and identification signage to park and trail facilities.
- Provide clear maps of City parks, trails and recreation facilities online, in the parks and recreation catalog, at trailheads and public counters, and in newspaper articles or notices.
- Use a diverse set of communication and informational materials including in-person meetings and events, signage, print programs and materials, and electronic communication (e.g. website, newsletters, social media)
- Provide public information to educate the community about park stewardship, rules and regulations, and safety.
- Continue to promote and distribute information about recreational activities, education programs, community services and events, and volunteer activities sponsored by the City and partner agencies and organizations.
- Continue to outreach to recently annexed residents to ensure they are aware of, and can take advantage of, the City's many park and recreation resources.

Policy 9.5 - Funding

Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Kirkland's park and recreation system.

Actions/Objectives

- Maintain general fund support of parks, recreation programs, and maintenance.
- Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as through private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, among others.
- Place priority on maximizing grants and other external sources of funding, or inter-agency cooperative arrangements, to develop the City's park resources.
- Utilize voter-approved initiatives, such as bonds and serial levies, to finance future improvements.
- Consider developing additional rental facilities, such as reservable picnic areas, wedding sites and meeting rooms, to generate meet community needs and generate additional operating resources.
- Update use and rental fees on a periodic basis to reflect market rates.

Policy 9.6 - Partnerships

Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with neighboring cities, King County, Lake Washington School District, other governmental agencies, and private and non-profit organizations to plan and provide recreation activities and facilities and maximize opportunities for public recreation.

Actions/Objectives

- Partner with King County, the State of Washington and other providers to provide regional facilities.
- Partner with the King County Drainage District to improve community access to natural areas, improve trail connectivity and coordinate seasonal and annual events.
- Partner with the Lake Washington School District to maximize public use of recreation facilities on school sites, especially athletic fields and gymnasiums, and to encourage provision of community education programming at schools.
- Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and King County to provide a regional greenway network and coordinated trail alignments that provide continuous walking and biking access between regional parks and other key destinations.
- Enhance partnerships with the Lake Washington School District to ensure coordinated long-range planning, support the availability of sports fields and indoor facilities, and explore further joint use facilities.
- Coordinate with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues, to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletic fields.
- Explore partnership opportunities with local hospitals and businesses to develop, fund, or promote park and recreation activities or amenities.
- Encourage private development and operation of recreational facilities or programs that meet identified public need and the City's recreational objectives.
- Encourage collaboration among local art, business, education, tourism, city beautification and recreation interests.
- Maintain written partnership agreements that specify roles and responsibilities as well as legal, financial and other terms.



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Needs

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“Great system, but could use more diverse activities for sports like frisbee golf, bicycle tracks, bocce court or lawn bowling, etc.”

- Survey respondent

“In general I think the parks department in Kirkland is doing a great job. The Cross Kirkland Corridor is a fabulous addition.”

- Survey respondent



THRIVE

Active Places and Programs for All Ages

Parks and community centers represent the basic foundation of a healthy park and recreation system, providing opportunities for residents of all ages to meet, play, grow and thrive. Kirkland's parks and community centers provide residents with a diverse array of active and passive recreational amenities and options. They are a place to come together with family and friends, to exercise and play, to learn and explore, and to engage with the City's landscape, history and culture.

By improving existing parks and community centers and providing new facilities to meet the needs of the whole community, Kirkland can actively support the mental and physical health of its residents and create places that are welcoming and engaging for all.

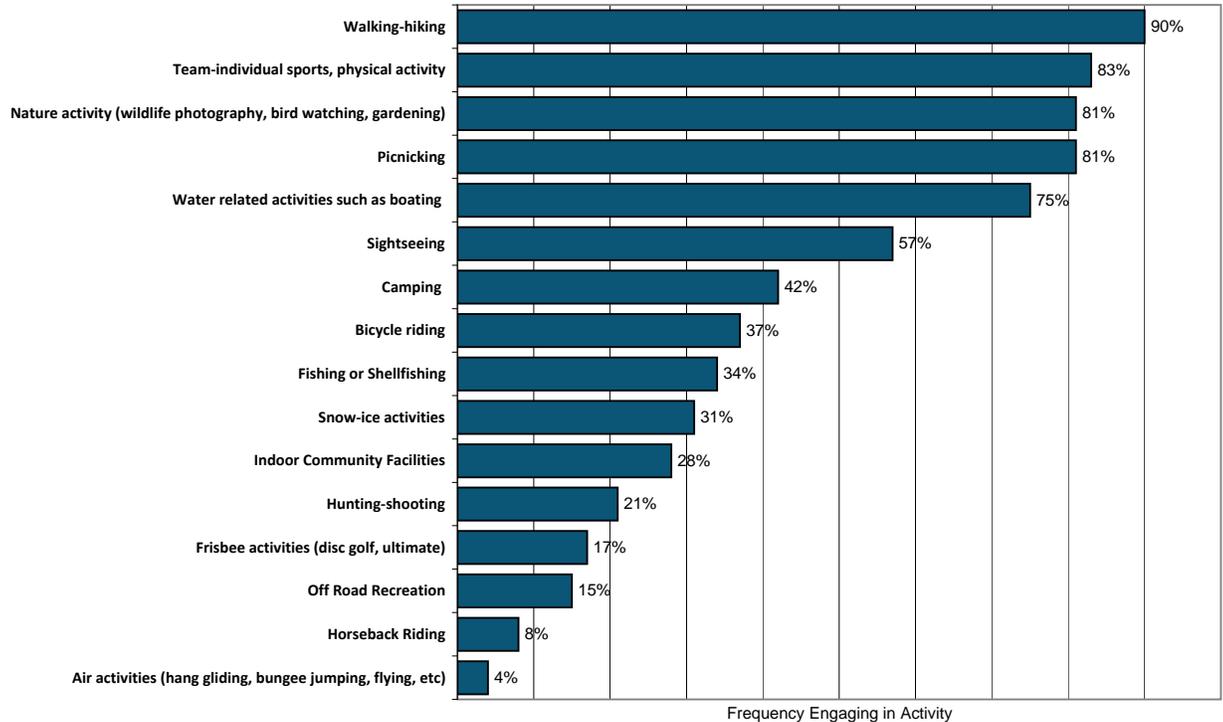
Current Trends & Perspectives

National and Regional Trends

The draft 2013 Washington SCORP confirms that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents; 90% participating in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking, demonstrating

the pervasiveness of outdoor recreation in Washington’s culture. Figure 4 identifies the statewide participation rates for the most popular outdoor activities. Significant increases in rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities since 2006 indicate the importance of the state and local communities to continue their investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.

Figure 4. Participation Rates in the 2013 SCORP Outdoor Activity Categories



The draft SCORP identified a number of core challenges affecting recreation providers capacity to deliver services, which included the need to provide greater access to outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities and in addressing unpredictable funding for facilities development and maintenance. In response to these challenges, the SCORP recommendations encourage local park and recreation service providers to:

- Recognize a return to nature-based activities.
- Understand that the top constraints to participation are social factors (not facilities or opportunities).
- Capitalize on the social benefits of outdoor recreation.
- Focus on increasing and/or improving recreation facilities and opportunities that support active recreation.
- Continue to offer diverse outdoor recreation activities and opportunities.
- Take advantage of current technology by using a map-based information system to provide an inventory of supply.
- Recognize recreation types in which supply may not be meeting demand.
- Focus on the capacity of facilities.
- Consider the implications of changing demographics when making recreation decisions.
- Prioritize regional funding allocations.

- Foster collaboration and cooperation among user groups.
- Increase priority of wetlands management as a recreation asset.

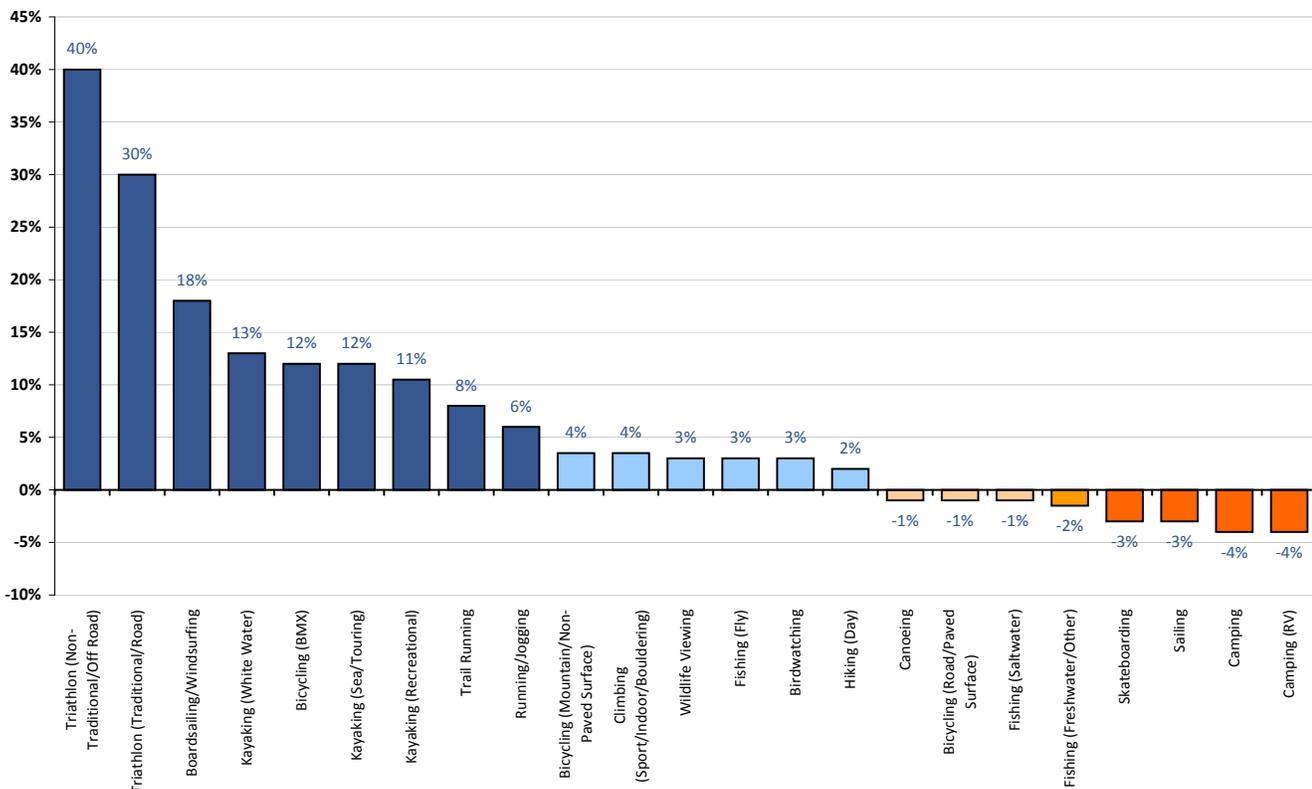
Based on scientific research and a comprehensive planning process, these recommendations are intended to contribute knowledge and guidance to the future development of outdoor recreation in Washington for the benefit of both residents and the natural environment.

Key findings of the 2012 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report, prepared by the Outdoor Foundation, indicate that nearly 50% of Americans (ages six and older) participated in outdoor recreation in 2011, which is the highest participation level in five years. Running, jogging and trail running are the most popular activities with almost 51 million participants and a participation rate of 18%. Young boys and female teenagers both have increased their participation in outdoor activities. The report also reveals that introducing outdoor recreation and physical activities to youth has a strong relationship with creating a lasting effect on adult participation.

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) is a comprehensive survey that has been collecting data and producing reports about the recreation activities, environmental attitudes and natural resource values of Americans since the 1980s. The NSRE core focus is on outdoor activity participation and personal demographics. The most recent NSRE reports that the total number of people participating in outdoor activities between 2000 and 2007 grew by 4.4%, while the number of days of participation increased by approximately 25%. Walking for pleasure grew by 14% and continues to lead as the top favorite outdoor activity.

The Outdoor Foundation’s Participation Report also noted 3-year trend data showing the change in participation among youth in a number of activities, as shown in the following chart.

Figure 5. 3-Year Change in Outdoor Recreation Participation of Youth (6-24)



The 2013 American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends, now in its seventh consecutive year, recently published summary results from its annual survey assessing health and fitness programming trends. The Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends identified their top twenty (20) fitness trends predicted for 2013:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Educated and experienced fitness professionals | 11. Worksite health promotion |
| 2. Strength training | 12. Zumba and other dance workouts |
| 3. Body weight training* | 13. Outdoor activities |
| 4. Children and obesity | 14. Yoga |
| 5. Exercise and weight loss | 15. Worker incentive programs |
| 6. Fitness programs for older adults | 16. Boot camp |
| 7. Personal training | 17. Outcome measurements* |
| 8. Functional fitness | 18. Circuit training* |
| 9. Core training | 19. Reaching new markets |
| 10. Group personal training | 20. Wellness coaching |

* Trends with a top 20 position that is new for 2013.

Notably, strength training remains a strong trend as more individuals incorporate some form of strength training into their comprehensive exercise routines. It remains popular across all forms of fitness facilities for many different kinds of clients.

The importance of reaching new markets recognizes that an estimated 80% of Americans do not have a regular exercise program or place to exercise. The search for ways to deliver services should reach out to tap this market of largely unserved population.

Nature-based activities, those associated with wildlife and natural settings, showed a discernible growth in the number of participants (a 3.1% increase) and the number of days of participation. Americans' participation in nature-based outdoor recreation is increasing, with viewing, photographing or otherwise observing nature clearly measured as the fastest growing type of nature-based recreation activity.

Local Trends and Community Feedback

Parks are a well-used and well-loved community asset in Kirkland. Nearly 9 in 10 respondents said that parks and recreation were "important" or "essential" to the quality of life in Kirkland, including 45% who said they were "essential." Nearly 9 in 10 people surveyed said they had visited a city park in the last year – and 6 in 10 households visited a city park more than once a month over the summer - according to the statistically-valid survey of Kirkland residents for this PROS Plan update. Residents are generally satisfied with quantity and quality of Kirkland's park and recreation system and feel it meets their needs.

As discovered through the survey results and conversations with residents, the Kirkland community values connecting with families and with the community, experiencing nature, leading active healthy lives and having convenient access to parks, trails and natural resources. From the online survey, residents ranked Kirkland as providing a very high overall quality (91%) as an "A" or a "B" for parks and recreation services. Residents also gave the City high scores for having facilities that are easy

to find and accessible (87%), meeting their household’s recreation needs (76%) and offering a variety of programs and facilities (68%). In all, survey respondents reinforced their continued strong support for the City’s programs and facilities, but they also indicated a desire for the City to provide more in terms of indoor recreation infrastructure, athletic fields and multi-use trails.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. They are generally 3-5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity, and should meet a minimum size of 2 acres when possible. Generally, developed neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, a multi-use open field for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. Restrooms are not provided due to high construction and maintenance costs. Parking is also not usually provided; however, on-street, ADA-accessible parking stall(s) may be provided.

Kirkland currently has 22 neighborhood parks, which provide a total of 98 acres of parkland. Map 1 on page 51 shows Kirkland’s existing parks. Parks are generally well distributed throughout the city, with the most notable gaps occurring in the recently annexed northern portions of the city.

Figure 6. Neighborhood Park Listing

Park Name	Status	Acreage
Brookhaven	Developed	0.95
Carillon Woods	Developed	8.71
Cedar View Park	Developed	0.20
Forbes Creek	Developed	2.02
Highlands	Developed	2.73
Houghton Neighborhood / Phyllis Needy	Developed	0.50
Juanita Heights	Developed	5.97
Kingsgate Park	Developed	6.91
Mark Twain	Developed	6.60
North Kirkland Community Center	Developed	5.49
North Rose Hill Woodlands Park	Developed	20.96
Ohde Pea Patch	Developed	0.89
Reservoir	Developed	0.62
Rose Hill Meadows	Developed	4.10
Snyders Corner Site	Undeveloped	4.50
South Norway Hill Park Site	Undeveloped	9.80
South Rose Hill Park	Developed	2.19
Spinney Homestead	Developed	6.54
Terrace	Developed	1.81
Tot Lot	Developed	0.52
Van Aalst	Developed	1.59
Windsor Vista	Undeveloped	4.76
Total Neighborhood Park Acreage		98.36

This Plan proposes an acreage standard of 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents for neighborhood parks. Existing parks provide a level of service of 1.25 acres per 1,000 residents city-wide including the annexed area. With projected population growth, the city will need to acquire an additional 39 acres of neighborhood parkland to meet the desired standard. Additional information about levels of service and service standards is located in Chapter 10.

Distribution and Proximity

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can reach the park safely and conveniently. Of those who visited a City of Kirkland park this past summer, more drove than walked (62% typically drive to a city park, including 78% of those who live more than 10 minutes away). Only 45% of residents typically walk to visit a park. However, when parks are close by, the percentage of people who choose to walk increases significantly to 54% when the park is 5-10 minutes away and to 75% when the park is less than five minutes by foot.

Park siting and design should ensure pedestrians do not have to cross a major arterial street or other significant natural or man-made barriers to get to a park, unless safe pedestrian crossings are provided. Neighborhood parks should be located along road frontages to improve visual access and community awareness of the sites. Connecting and frontage streets should include sidewalks or other safe pedestrian access. Additionally, subdivision platting and road network plans should encourage a high degree of connectivity to park sites, such that frontage is provided and pedestrian accessways connect disparate developments to park properties. The City should try to acquire easements or accessways to improve parks entrances at the following parks:

- Cedar View Park
- Cotton Hill Park
- Forbes Lake Park
- Kiwanis Park
- Juanita Heights Park
- South Norway Hill Park
- Totem Lake Park

Development and Improvements

Kirkland currently has three undeveloped neighborhood park sites. Development of these parks would greatly improve recreational access for nearby communities.

- Snyder's Corner Park is a 4.5-acre park site located at the intersection of NE 70th and 132nd Avenue in the Bridle Trails neighborhood. The site has potential to be a destination for nearby office and retail workers, shoppers and neighborhood residents. The site would benefit from both active and passive recreation amenities that complement the drainage needs on the site. Pea patches, vegetated stormwater

areas and water features could create unique recreational amenities that benefit from the site's stormwater catchment. Play equipment, walking paths, and picnic tables could support additional neighborhood activities.

- South Norway Hill Park is a 9.8 acre, heavily wooded park site located in the Kingsgate neighborhood. Preservation of the site's existing firs, beeches, maples, and ferns could create a natural retreat within this developed neighborhood. Walking paths, exercise stations, and interpretive signage could provide opportunities for both passive and active recreation.
- Windsor Vista is a 4.9-acre linear parcel tightly bordered by single family residences and is undeveloped, and a creek traverses the property. Neighborhood park amenities, such as a playground, benches and paths, should be considered for this site.

One neighborhood park is underdeveloped and would benefit from additional amenities. Van Aalst Park is a 1.6 acre park located at 4th Street between 11th and 13th Avenues in the Norkirk neighborhood. The park's existing playground, half court basketball court, and open play field could be supplemented by additional neighborhood park amenities including picnic tables and benches, walking paths, trees and plantings.

In general, the City should make improvements to neighborhood parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds. The City could also consider adding half-court basketball courts, small skate park elements and other recreation features in the development of new or existing neighborhood parks to expand recreational opportunities.

Acquisition and Development of New Neighborhood Parks

Kirkland's neighborhood park system goal is to provide a neighborhood park within walking distance (½-mile) of every resident. Achieving this goal will require both acquiring new neighborhood park properties in currently underserved locations and improving active transportation connections to allow local residents to safely and conveniently reach their neighborhood park. As Kirkland develops and acquisition opportunities diminish, the City will need to be prepared to take advantage of acquisition opportunities in strategic locations to better serve city residents.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the City. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood parks primarily serve these areas. Additionally, walksheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each neighborhood park.

Map 2 on page 53 illustrates the application of the distribution standards from existing, publicly-owned neighborhood parks, as well as privately-held homeowner association parks (walksheds were clipped to the boundaries of each HOA). Resulting from this assessment, a total of 8 potential acquisition areas are identified

for neighborhood parks to improve overall distribution and equity, while promoting recreation within walking distance of residential areas.

- Northeastern portion of the Finn Hill neighborhood
- Southwestern portion of the Juanita Hill neighborhood
- Northeastern portion of the Juanita Hill neighborhood
- Northeastern portion of the Evergreen Hill neighborhood
- Central portion of the Evergreen Hill neighborhood
- Northern portion of the North Rose Hill neighborhood
- Western portion of the South Rose Hill neighborhood
- Southern portion of the Bridle Trails neighborhood

This Plan proposes acquisition of parkland for future neighborhood parks in these areas.

While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution throughout Kirkland.

Community Parks

Community parks are large park sites that generally include a wide array of both passive and active recreation facilities. In general, community parks are designed for active and structured recreational activities and sports, although complementary passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas provide passive, non-organized opportunities for individual and family activities. Because of the wide array of amenities, community parks appeal to a diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 15 to 30 acres in size, and should meet a minimum size of 20 acres when possible, and serve residents within a 1-mile drive, walk or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. Since community parks serve a large geographic area, parking and restroom facilities should be provided.

The City of Kirkland currently has seven community parks, providing a total of 120 acres of parkland throughout the community. Map 3 on page 55 illustrates the application of the watershed analysis on Kirkland’s community parks.

Figure 7. Community Park Listing

Park Name	Status	Acreage
Crestwoods	Developed	26.63
Edith Moulton Park	Partially Developed	26.72
Everest	Developed	23.17
Heritage Park	Developed	10.12
McAuliffe Park	Developed	11.60
Peter Kirk Park	Developed	12.48
132nd Square Park	Developed	9.75
Total Community Park Acreage		120.47

This Plan proposes an acreage standard of 2.25 acres per 1,000 residents for community parks. Existing parks provide a level of service of 2.4 acres per 1,000 residents city-wide. With projected population growth, the city will need to acquire an additional 14 acres of community parkland to meet the desired standard. Additional information about levels of service and service standards is located in Chapter 10.

Development and Improvements

The development of site master plans for Totem Lake Park and Edith Moulton Community Park will lay the foundation for future site improvements and provide new and high quality recreational opportunities for Kirkland residents.

In general, the City should improve community parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds. The City could also consider adding the following recreation features in the development of new or existing community parks to expand recreational opportunities:

- Sports fields and courts to meet identified capacity shortfalls (see Chapter 5: Sport for more information)
- Picnic shelters that allow larger family and community events
- An accessible playground that provides play opportunities for people with physical or mobility disabilities
- Spraygrounds, water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost;
- Skateboard or BMX features
- Restrooms, bicycle parking, drinking fountains and other site furnishings that support residents' use of parks

Acquisition and Development of New Community Parks

The City should strive to acquire additional community parkland to serve deficient areas and provide land necessary for desired park amenities.

As opportunities to acquire large park sites in this urban, growing city are limited, Kirkland must think creatively and foster partnerships to provide desired park amenities. Enhancing existing partnerships with the Lake Washington School District could provide opportunities to improve school facilities in ways that help meet community park needs. As noted in Chapter 5, the Taylor Fields landfill site may provide an opportunity to serve as a future community park to include additional sport fields, extreme sport amenities and/or an off-leash area. Additional site design discussions are warranted for this property to ensure future uses are compatible with the remediation plan for the property and such uses are allowable to King County.

Waterfront Parks

Kirkland's nearly 50 acres of waterfront parkland connect residents with Lake Washington and provide opportunities to enjoy and recreate along this unique resource. Kirkland's waterfront parks also contribute significantly to the City's

identity, sense of place and quality of life.

The City's waterfront parks stretch from the Yarrow Bay wetlands in south Kirkland to Juanita Beach Park north of downtown. In between are Houghton Beach, David E. Brink, Forbes Lake Park, Kiwanis, Lake Avenue West; Marina Park, Marsh Park; Settlers Landing/10th Street; Street End Park and Waverly Beach. O.O. Denny Park, owned by the City of Seattle, and Saint Edward State Park, a Washington State Park, provide access to the lakefront in north Kirkland.

The City's waterfront parks provide a diverse array of recreation experiences and opportunities. Parks like Juanita Bay and Kiwanis Park offer trails, wildlife watching and other passive recreation opportunities, while others, such as Waverly Beach, Houghton Park and Marina Park, offer more active recreation experiences with playgrounds, beaches, boat launches and swim areas.

Future Acquisitions

As feasible, the City should take advantage of opportunities to acquire additional privately held waterfront parcels as available, particularly sites that will fulfill needed connections for a more continuous lakefront corridor (see Chapter 6: Connect) or will provide lake access in underserved areas. For example, the Goat Hill homeowners association owns a small piece of land adjacent to Juanita Beach Park, which could provide additional public park and recreational amenities. Potential new sites for waterfront parks should consider the popularity of these sites and make accommodations for parking and public access that limits impacts on the adjacent neighborhoods.

Street ends are wonderful opportunities to expand the public's access to the waterfront. Since lakefront sites are highly desirable for private development, the City should consider opportunities to retain and re-purpose street ends to create water access points and explore opportunities for cooperative or joint use ventures. This Plan continues to recommend that all waterfront street ends be retained in public ownership for open space purposes.

Water-Oriented Amenities

The City's waterfront parks currently feature a variety of water-oriented facilities and amenities.

Kirkland currently has three public boat launches that provide access onto Lake Washington. Marina Park in downtown has a boat launch, moorage facilities (90 slips) and a restroom. Juanita Beach Park and Houghton Beach Park both have launches for non-motorized boats and provide access points for canoeing, kayaking, rowing, sailing, windsurfing, paddle boarding and other water activities. In the future, the City may want to provide watercraft rentals and related concessions, either directly or through partnerships. In addition, the City should offer programming and classes that take advantage of the lakefront location and emphasize water safety and recreation.

Juanita Beach Park, Waverly Beach Park, Houghton, Marina and OO Denny Park (Seattle) offer swimming opportunities in the lake during summer months. Juanita

Beach and Waverly Beach parks include enclosed swimming areas with lifeguards. There is a need for additional or improved changing facilities at Waverly Beach.

Kirkland's waterfront parks also offer picnicking, wildlife watching, docks and shoreline fishing opportunities. The City should consider adding covered shelters with electricity to waterfront parks to meet community demand for outdoor event space at these unique parks and to provide additional rental opportunities.

Management and Maintenance

Kirkland's waterfront parks are some of the most popular, high-use parks within the City. Because of this popularity, the deteriorative effects of waterfront locations, and the intrinsic potential safety issues of shoreline amenities, such as docks, beaches, walkways and ramps, these parks require high levels of maintenance to provide for public safety and ensure their quality.

Some of these parks have critical wildlife, habitat and environmental functions. Waterfront development and site management plans should balance public access and amenities with ecosystem needs. The City should strive to protect and restore native vegetation, natural features and environmental functions and mitigate negative impacts during the design, development and management of waterfront parks. For example, sections of the shoreline currently armored by bulkheads could be restored to natural conditions to improve marine habitat for salmon and other wildlife species, restore natural sediment processes and improve the quality and aesthetic appeal of the lakefront. Park renovation projects, such as those discussed for Marina Park, should respond to the Shoreline Conditions Plan (2006) and support shoreline restoration and bank softening. The City should pursue grants or alternative funding to demonstrate its leadership with a shoreline restoration program along Lake Washington. More information on shoreline restoration can be found in Chapter 7: Nurture.

Where possible, the City should also aim to operate waterfront facilities in ways that limit negative environmental impacts. For example, the City may want to consider implementing the environmental stewardship and waste minimization strategies outlined in the Department of the Interior's Green Marina Initiative Guidebook.

Eastside Waterfront Parks

While Lake Washington provides nearby water access for much of western Kirkland, neighborhoods east of Interstate 405 have more limited access. Forbes Lake Park and Totem Lake Park offer opportunities to expand water-related recreation, including walking trails, wildlife viewing and interpretive opportunities in eastern portions of the City.

Other Public Parks

Kirkland is fortunate to have a number of large parks owned by other public agencies that are within, or adjacent to, the city limits. These parks help meet local recreation needs and contribute significantly to the overall quality and diversity of parks and

recreation in Kirkland.

State, County and Municipal Parks

Two Washington State Parks are located adjacent to the City of Kirkland. Bridle Trails State Park, located just south of Kirkland, is a 482-acre heavily forested day use park with over 23 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. Saint Edwards State Park is located north of the city. This 316-acre day use park is a former Catholic Seminary and offers miles of hiking and biking trails, shoreline access on Lake Washington, a large playground and ballfields. The park also connects with Big Finn Hill Park.

King County owns four parks within the City of Kirkland. Big Finn Hill Park is a 220-acre park that offers wooded hiking trails, a baseball complex (3 fields), a soccer field and a popular playground area. Juanita Woodlands Park and Juanita Triangle combine to form a 36-acre wooded natural area park in the Finn Hill neighborhood. Taylor Fields is a 25-acre former landfill site owned by the King County Solid Waste Division.

OO Denny Park, owned by the City of Seattle and maintained by the City of Kirkland, provides 46 acres of wooded parkland and lakefront access in north Kirkland. The King County Conservation District owns the 17-acre Totem Lake Park, which is co-managed with the City of Kirkland. In December 2013, the Kirkland City Council passed a resolution to adopt a new master plan for the future development of Totem Lake. The master plan envisions a loop trail, benches, art, and interpretive signage around the lake and improved connections to the adjacent business district and Cross Kirkland Corridor. The Conservation District also owns the 2-acre Woodinville Water Tower Park.

School Partnership Sites

The City of Kirkland partners with the Lake Washington School District for the use of sports fields at Mark Twain Elementary, Juanita Elementary, Ben Franklin Elementary, Rose Hill Elementary, Lakeview Elementary, Kirkland Junior High, and B.E.S.T. High. Ben Franklin Elementary also provides a neighborhood park.

Private Parks & Commons

Three private parks are located in the Evergreen Hill neighborhood, and all three are associated with the Kingsgate development. These private parks offer recreational space, including pools and playgrounds, for the residents of the Kingsgate homeowners association.

- Kingsgate Highlands 1 & 2: 3.3 acres
- Kingsgate Highlands 3 & 4: 3.6 acres
- Kingsgate Highlands 5: 3.6 acres

Open spaces held by private homeowners' associations provide existing and potential opportunities for park and recreation facilities. Typically, land within a residential development that is not suitable for construction or located within critical areas (i.e.,

environmentally sensitive lands, steep slopes, etc) is retained as open space tracts. At the present, privately held open space tracts account for 124.6 acres of lands set aside from development.

Numerous residential developments in Kirkland, including condominiums and apartments, provide private commons for their residents. These recreation areas may include lawn areas, sport courts, pools, playgrounds and informal ballfields. There are over 51 acres of private common areas within the city for use by the residents of these developments. While these private facilities do not diminish the need for accessible, public recreation lands, they do add to the variety of facilities available for some within the community.

Off Leash Areas

Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activities in Washington State, with roughly one half of residents participating. Off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners living in urban environments who may otherwise have limited opportunities to exercise their pets. Kirkland's only off-leash area, Jasper Dog Park, is a two-acre fenced, centrally located site. It was developed and is managed through a partnership with the Kirkland Dog Off-Leash Group (KDOG), which provided funding for development of the site.

Recreational trends and community input, along with the high utilization of Jasper Dog Park, indicate a future need for additional off leash areas. Kirkland should build upon its partnership with KDOG to develop and manage addition off leash areas; communities throughout the Northwest have relied on grassroots or non-profit organizations for the on-going operations and maintenance of such facilities.

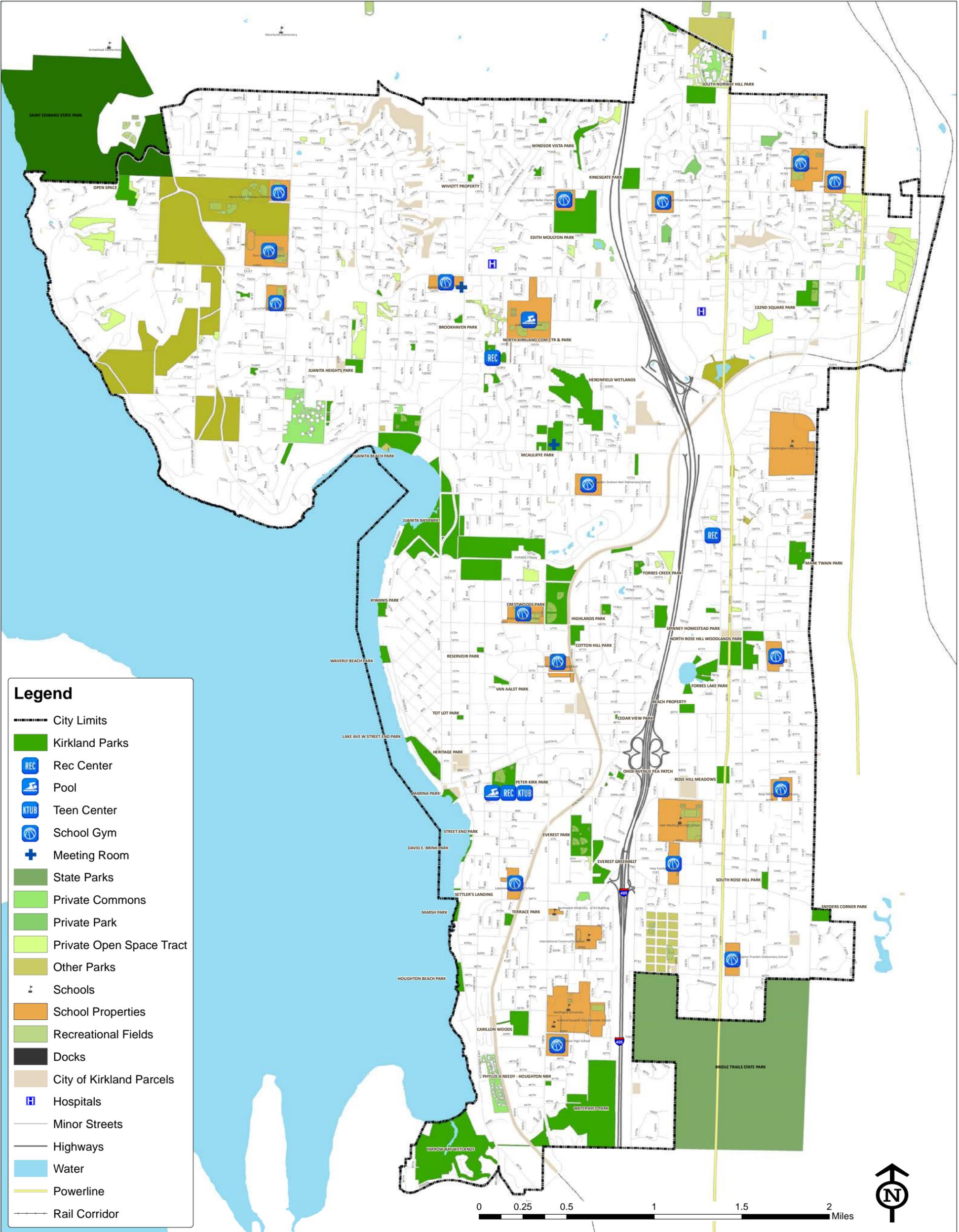
As the City develops or redevelops park sites, they should be considered for potential off-leash areas. Appropriate sites should be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger community park, where infrastructure (e.g. parking, restrooms and garbage collection) exists and supports multiple activities; one potential site for consideration is the Taylor Fields property in the southeast corner of the city. Alternatively, the City should consider areas along the SCL powerline corridor, since the siting of an off leash area would not be impacted by the generally restrictive development requirements of the utility company. Also, such an improvement could be shown to further reduce maintenance demands of SCL at that location if KDOG or another organization is willing to partner for on-going site maintenance and monitoring.

The City should also continue and enhance signage and enforcement of leash laws in parks or natural areas where only on-leash activities are allowed.

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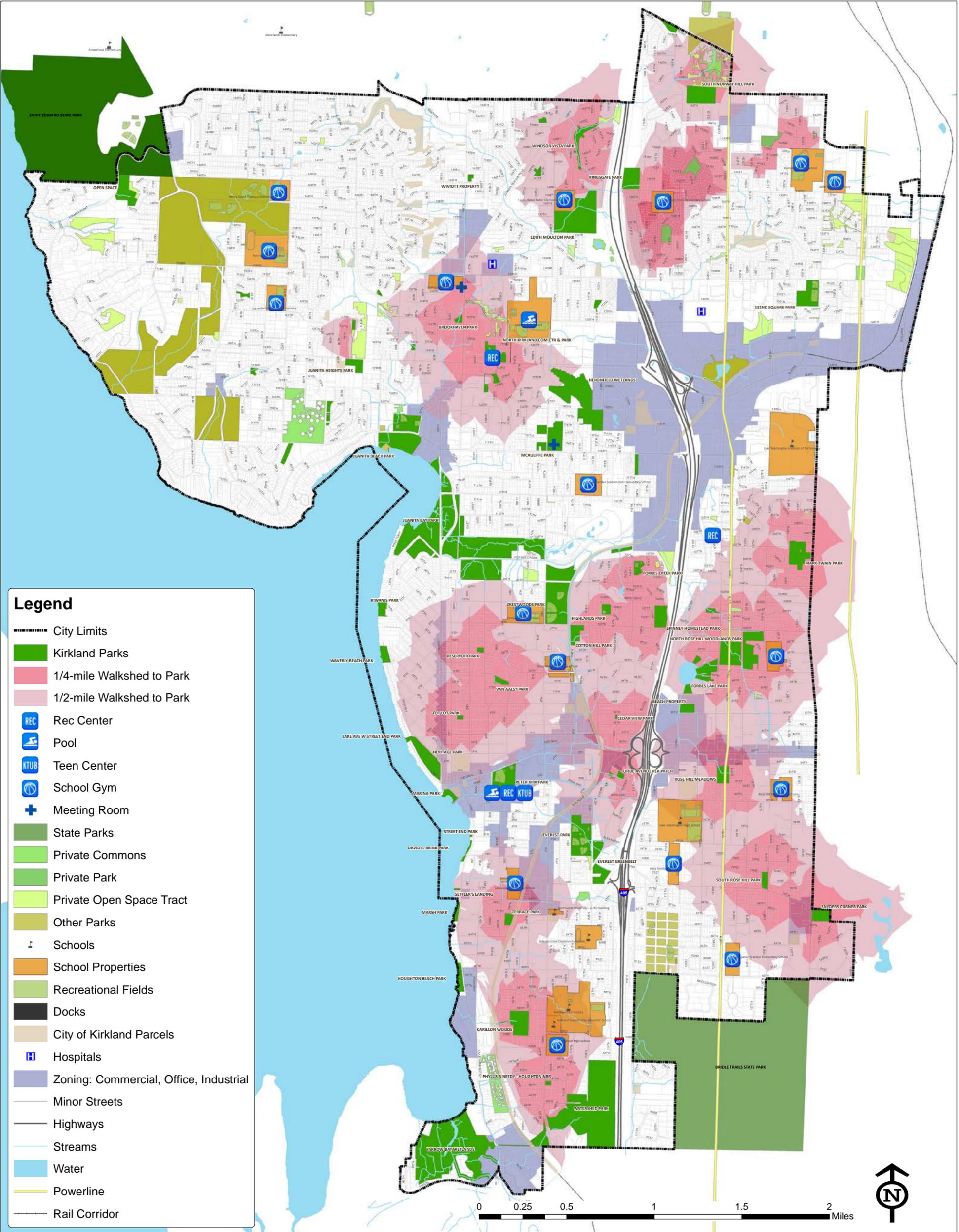
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan | 2014



MAP 1: Existing Parks, Natural Areas & Facilities



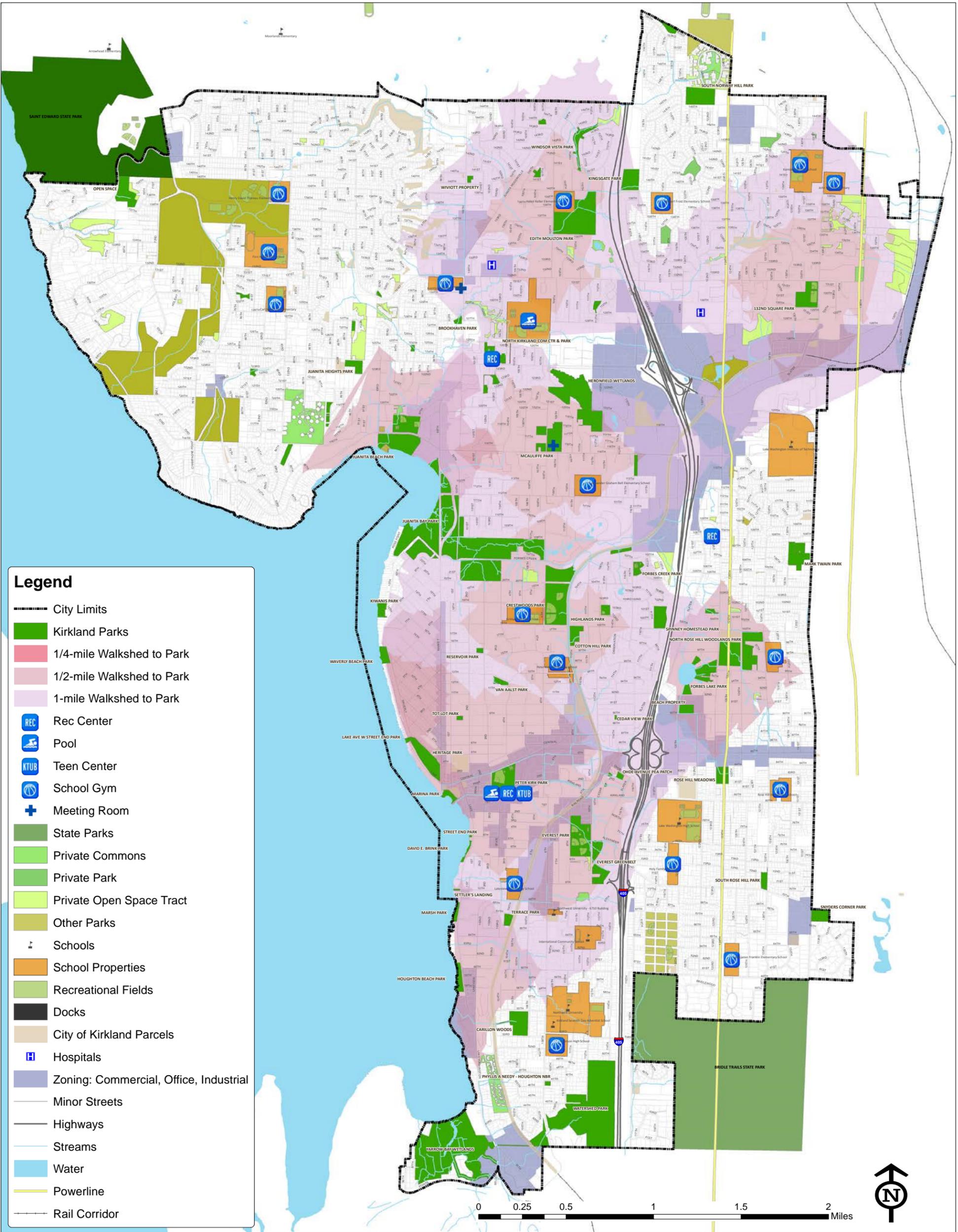
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan | 2014



MAP 2: Park Walksheds to Neighborhood Parks & Private Parks



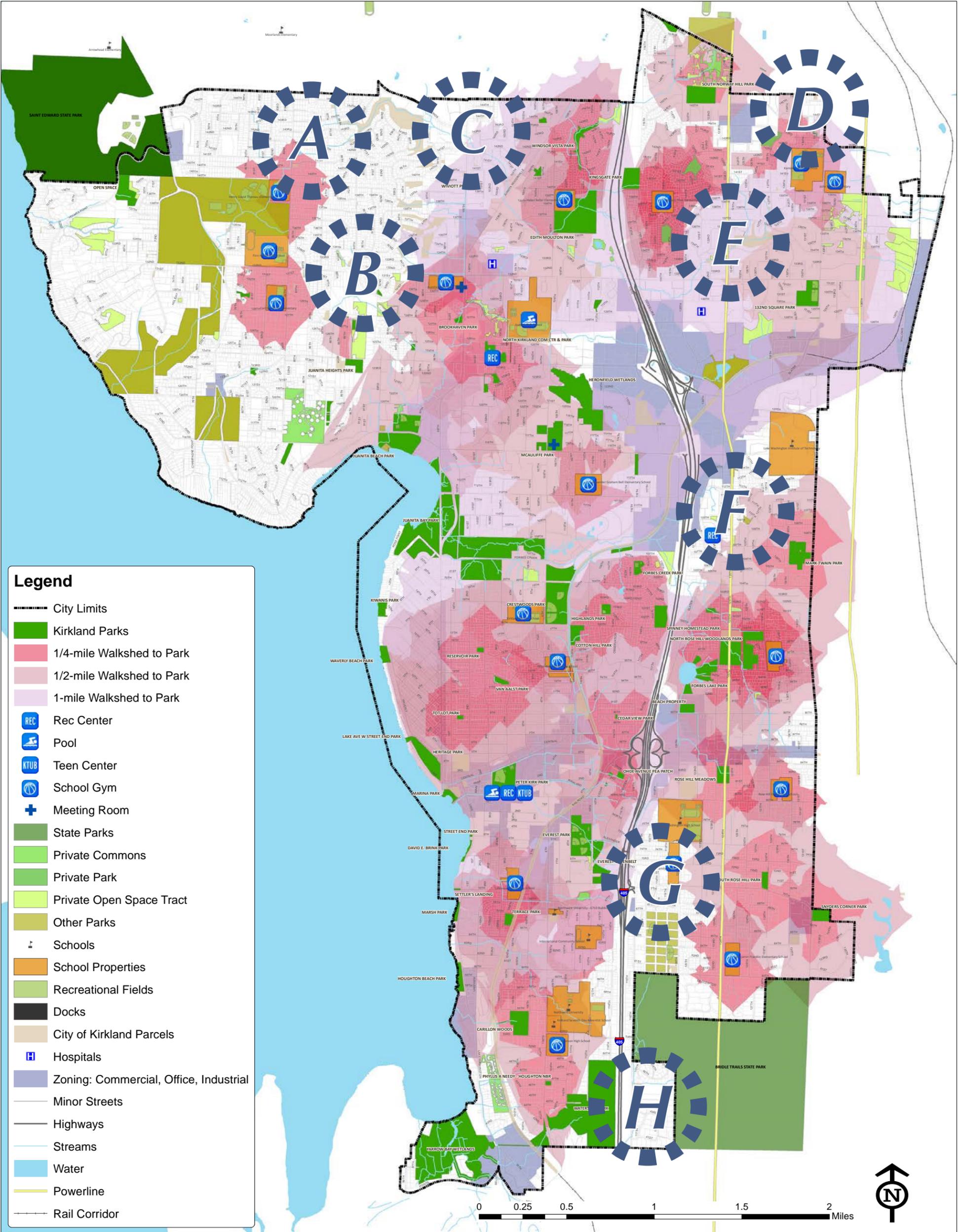
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan | 2014



MAP 3: Park Walksheds to Community & Waterfront Parks



Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan | 2014



Legend

- City Limits
- Kirkland Parks
- 1/4-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1/2-mile Walkshed to Park
- 1-mile Walkshed to Park
- Rec Center
- Pool
- Teen Center
- School Gym
- Meeting Room
- State Parks
- Private Commons
- Private Park
- Private Open Space Tract
- Other Parks
- Schools
- School Properties
- Recreational Fields
- Docks
- City of Kirkland Parcels
- Hospitals
- Zoning: Commercial, Office, Industrial
- Minor Streets
- Highways
- Streams
- Water
- Powerline
- Rail Corridor

MAP 4: Parkland Gap Areas

Community Centers and Programs

The City of Kirkland currently has three community centers - the North Kirkland Community Center, Peter Kirk Community Center, and Heritage Hall. These facilities provide meeting and multi-purpose rooms, which are used for recreation, arts, educational and community programs and events. The community centers are heavily used for programs and community rentals and reach capacity at peak times.

In addition, the YMCA's Teen Union Building is a recreation, resource and arts center for teens located adjacent to the Peter Kirk Community Center. The City does not have a multi-purpose recreation center that provides fitness, gymnasium or other indoor active recreation space. The City partners with the Lake Washington School District and various other public and private providers of indoor recreation facilities to provide recreation options and programs to local residents.

Current Trends & Perspectives

National and Regional Trends

The current national trend is toward a “one-stop” recreation facility to serve all ages. Large, multi-purpose regional centers help increase cost recovery, promote customer retention and encourage cross-use of the facility by other City departments and community groups. Amenities that are becoming common in large multi-purpose regional centers (65,000 to 125,000+ sq. ft.) include:

- Gymnasium space
- Indoor walking tracks
- Leisure and therapeutic pools
- Weight and cardiovascular equipment
- Outdoor recreation and education centers
- Interactive game rooms
- Playgrounds
- Community, event or party rooms

Recreation Management magazine's 2013 State of the Industry Report listed the top 10 program options most commonly planned for addition over the next three years, along with their positions (in parentheses) in last year's top 10 programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Education programs (3) | 6. Environmental education (7) |
| 2. Fitness programs (2) | 7. Teen programming (2) |
| 3. Mind-body/balance programs like yoga and tai chi (4) | 8. Environmental education (10) |
| 4. Day camps/summer camps (6) | 9. Active older adults programming (5) |
| 5. Holiday events and other special events (n/a) | 10. Sports tournaments or races (10) |

For most programming types, community centers are the ones most likely to be planning to add such programs. There are a few exceptions. Parks are most likely to be planning to add: environmental education; sports tournaments or races; individual sports activities; and water sports.

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) reported on participation levels in 47 sports indicating that 32 sports experienced growth during 2012. Highlights from the 2013 NSGA participation survey include:

- Indoor gaming activities increased by an average of 11%.
- Fitness sports each increased about 5%.
- Female participation in 40 of the 47 sports/activities has increased compared to only 11 sports showing increased male participation.

Overall, the trend shows that participation in many sports is rebounding following the recent recession, though some sports continue to struggle to attract new participation. Additional trend data from this study is discussed in Chapter 5: Sport.

Local Trends and Community Feedback

Community residents were focal about their interest expanded or additional indoor recreation facilities. This is especially true regarding the availability of pools. During the community open house meetings, many residents voiced their support for the City to try to save the Juanita High School Pool from being closed or partnering with the school district to explore alternatives to rebuild an indoor pool for community use.

In the online and telephone surveys, swimming ranked as the most important individual recreational function, with 86% of respondents rating it as important in the online survey. In the telephone survey, most respondents (57%) said Kirkland needs more swimming pools, and a majority in every demographic category said the city needs “a lot more swimming pools” (19%) or “a few more” (38%). A majority (57%) of respondents said they would support “increasing taxpayer support” to help develop an aquatics center and a multi-purpose recreation center.

The general shortage of available gymnasium space was also noted. Also, a majority (54%) expressed the need for more recreation programs and facilities that promote a sense of community.

North Kirkland Community Center

The North Kirkland Community Center is a high demand facility and is used for City recreation and community programs and events. However, the facility has limited capacity to meet community demand and has a number of physical, security, and transportation issues. The Center provides insufficient space or the type and number of programs and activities the City offers. The Center’s low ceilings, lack of an elevator, poor ADA access, lack of lockers or gym space, limited parking and dual level entries, limit its ability to meet community needs and result in challenges for program staff.

Pending the completion of an updated indoor recreation facilities plan, the City should consider options to retrofit, expand or rebuild at this Center. Options may include the construction of an attached gymnasium or larger multi-use space. Any major improvement at this location should consider the installation of a pedestrian crossing and signalized intersection at NE 124th Street and 103rd Avenue NE to improve ingress and egress from the site.

Peter Kirk Community Center

The Peter Kirk Community Center is Kirkland's central location for City recreational, educational and wellness programs. It features classrooms and a large multi-purpose room adjacent to the Peter Kirk Park and Pool and the Kirkland Teen Union. The Center also provides a variety of programming for adults over 50 and offers nutritional, legal and financial services.

Heritage Hall

Heritage Hall is a historic building located in downtown Kirkland with a view of Lake Washington. The Hall and surrounding gardens make it an attractive rental location for weddings, parties and other private and community events.

School District Facilities

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.

Boys & Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club of King County Kirkland Branch is a privately-owned, non-profit corporation that subscribes to the principles and philosophy of the Boys and Girls Club of America. The club offers programs in five core areas: character and

leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, arts, and sports, fitness and recreation. Programs include after school activities, summer camps, sports, and vocational classes. Sports and fitness activities include basketball, volleyball, wrestling, track & field, T-ball, micro soccer, flag football, tackle football, pee wee sport classes, Tae Kwon Do and rock climbing.

YMCA: Kirkland Teen Union Building

A recreation, resource and arts center for teens, the Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB) is a partnership between the City of Kirkland and the YMCA. The KTUB facility houses a youth-run café and store, two stages for live music, a photographic darkroom, recording studio, technology lab, silk screen station and an art studio. As a drop-in center, teen activities may be programmed or self-directed and include art club, music exploration, open mic, career services, recreation video technology, on site counseling and volunteer opportunities.

Private Fitness

Several private fitness clubs and centers operate within Kirkland, and the success of these enterprises further highlights the latent demand for indoor recreation facilities and for recreation programming choices. These facilities vary in their offerings and rates, but they provide workout, nutrition, education and professional coaching at market rates. Local, private fitness centers include:

- Curves
- Gold's Gym
- Columbia Athletic Club
- SkyMania Trampolines
- NW Aerials
- LA Fitness: Kirkland Totem Lake
- Lake Washington Crossfit
- Kirkland Crossfit
- Element 5 Fitness

Future Needs

Interest and participation in the City's recreation programs is increasing annually. However, the number and types of activities the City can offer in its facilities are currently limited by a lack of capacity at existing facilities. Although school district facilities provide much needed and welcome additional gym and activity space, this partnership no longer fully meets the needs of Kirkland's residents. Additional recreation, fitness and community space will be needed in the future to serve community needs and promote wellness, active recreation and social engagement.

To meet this need, the City should consider an additional multi-use indoor facility that provides space to provide a comprehensive recreation program to Kirkland residents. Such a facility would allow the City control over facility design, programming, scheduling, and fees to more effectively meet community needs.

Development of an indoor recreation facility would require extensive planning, including a feasibility analysis, appropriate site, and management and operation plans, as well as exploration of potential financial and programming partnerships. The City currently is preparing an update to its 2007 Indoor Recreation Facilities Plan to explore the feasibility of expanding indoor recreation space and replacing the Juanita High School Pool. The information from this planning effort will guide community discussions about ways to address the need for indoor recreation space.

Recreation Services

Kirkland's recreation services are a major community asset and support the physical, mental, and social health of the community. The City currently offers a variety of programming, including fitness, sports, swimming, outdoor recreation, day camps, cultural programs, creative movement and a variety of other programs and special events for all ages.

To continue to provide attractive, responsive and productive programs, the City should continue to:

- Enhance the diversity of programs offered, focusing on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users;
- Meet the needs diverse users, including at-risk communities or those with special needs;
- Improve the accessibility of programs, by holding classes and activities at locations throughout the community and at affordable rates; and
- Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.

Given limited resources and the availability of recreational providers in the region, the City should continue to expand partnerships with the School District, private non-profit agencies such as the Boys and Girls Club and Friends of Youth, private fitness clubs and the local businesses to provide recreation services. The City should also promote and coordinate recreational opportunities provided by its partners to help connect residents with options to learn and recreate.

Youth Programming

The Kirkland community considers youth programs – including before and after school and summer programs, and youth sports - to be the highest priority for expansion of City park and recreation services. Youth programs promote the health, growth, and safety of the city's children.

The City should continue to expand and diversify its popular youth programs to meet the growing need for engaging, affordable, safe options for children. The City should work in partnership with the school district, community partners, recreation providers, and sports organizations to offer both drop-in and structured programs in sports; art, music and dance; and educational and environmental activities for youth.

Teen Programming

With the exception of the “Move It” program, most of the City’s recreation programs are not aimed specifically at teens. Programs are generally either aimed at youth (up to 12 years of age) or are adult focused and open to anyone over 12. Teens, ages 13 through 19, may benefit from recreational programs designed for their specific interests and needs. To complement existing partnerships with the YMCA (Kirkland Teen Union Building) and local sports organizations (for youth sports leagues), the City could expand teen programming to include additional individual athletics, fitness, and alternative sports programs. In particular, skate, parkour, bouldering, and BMX or mountain biking classes could appeal to teens and take advantage of proposed alternative sports amenities. The City should also work in partnership with the YMCA to expand programs that take advantage of the unique art, music, and technology features of the Teen Union Building.

Adult Programming

Kirkland currently offers a variety of adult recreational programs, including sports, health and fitness, visual and performing arts, and educational classes. However, programs are currently limited by available facility space. Though many classes are offered at local schools, available space is prioritized for youth activities.

In the future, Kirkland may wish to expand the quantity and breadth of adult programs offered, in partnership with other recreation providers and organizations. In particular, the City should consider additional – and more varied - health and fitness classes; individual, drop-in and team sports programs, including classes in alternative sports; art and music classes; and educational programs, such as computer, language, and personal and home improvement.

Senior Programming

Kirkland currently provides a variety of senior-focused programs, classes and activities at both the Peter Kirk Community Center and North Kirkland Community Center. In the future, the City should aim to continue and expand senior programs, classes, activities and services through partnerships with community agencies. The City should also explore opportunities to partners with community organizations, colleges, and city and county agencies to provide such services at additional locations. Today’s seniors are generally more active than previous generations and would benefit from a diverse array of recreational and educational programs that promote active, healthy lifestyles. The City may also see a demand for programs offered in evenings and weekends, as community members maintain employment or volunteer activities later in life.

< insert rec program participation info and services discussion - pending >

Key Project Recommendations: Thrive

The following is a summary list of key project recommendations noted within this chapter. The project codes are referenced in the Neighborhood-based Recommendations summary (Chapter 9) and in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 11).

- T1 Parkland Acquisitions to Fill Noted Gaps
- T2 ADA Compliance Upgrades
- T3 Cedar View Park Regrade Project
- T4 Edith Moulton Park Renovation
- T5 Forbes Lake Park and Trail Improvement Project
- T6 Juanita Bay Park Development
- T7 Juanita Beach Bathhouse Replacement & Shelter
- T8 Kiwanis Park Erosion Control Plan & Design
- T9 Mark Twain Park Renovation/Design
- T10 Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs
- T11 North Rose Hill Neighborhood Park Development
- T12 Off-Leash Areas
- T13 132nd Park Playfields Renovation
- T14 Reservoir Park Renovation
- T15 Signage and Wayfinding
- T16 Snyder's Corner Park Master Plan and Park Development
- T17 South Norway Hill Park Development
- T18 Street Ends Improvement Program
- T19 Totem Lake Neighborhood Park Development
- T20 Van Aalst Park Improvement Project
- T21 Windsor Vista Park Development
- T22 Heritage Hall Renovations
- T23 New Indoor Recreation Facility
- T24 North Kirkland Community Center Improvements
- T25 Peter Kirk Park Community Center Renovation

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SPORT

Athletic Fields and Facilities for a Wide Variety of Sports

Kirkland's parks, pools and partner facilities provide a broad array of options for field sports, court sports, aquatics and other recreational activities. The City's coordination and partnership with the school district, local sport leagues and private entities will continue to be crucial for the provision of facilities and programming to meet the range of interests voiced by the community.

Current Trends & Perspectives

National and Regional Trends

The Outdoor Foundation's 2013 Participation Report tracks participation in activities by age and notes the following trends related to athletics.

- Participation in team sports, outdoor recreation and indoor fitness activities vary as individuals age and their lives are shaped by their environment and life experience. Gender also plays a role in determining behaviors and participation trends.
- Team sports are the second most popular activity during childhood for both men and women, but that popularity declines sharply during adolescence and continues

to fall throughout the rest of life.

The report also noted that youth participation is recovering after a downward trend from 2006-2008; participation rates among children ages 6-12 and older youth ages 13-17 grew by one percent over the past year.

Across Washington, roughly 5-8% of people participate in team sports like football (5%), baseball (5%), soccer (7%) and softball (8%). Statewide, 17% of residents participate in basketball, while 10% participate in tennis and volleyball.

Local Feedback and Trends

Twenty-two percent of Kirkland households surveyed reported participating in tennis, the only court sport for which this information is available. Volleyball participation has increased in State surveys over the past decade, while participation in tennis and basketball has remained relatively flat.

In recent years, participation in baseball, football, and soccer have been flat to declining, while participation in lacrosse and softball has increased. One-third of Kirkland residents surveyed feel the City needs more sports fields, while 51% believe the City has the about right amount now. Nearly 7 in 10 residents rated the quality of the City's sports fields as an "A" or "B". In addition, 58% of residents rated providing youth sports programs as a high priority, while only 20% considered adult sports programs to be high priority.

Nearly half of Kirkland households surveyed included someone who swims regularly. Between 35 and 38% of state residents report participating in swimming in pools, natural waters or at the beach, making it a popular activity statewide. In addition, 57% of residents feel the city needs more public swimming pools, the highest reported need among all facilities included. This desire was further supported in public open house comments – the need for improved/aquatic facilities was one of the most frequent comments.

Field Sports

The City of Kirkland currently provides fields appropriate for a variety of sports, including 7 fields suitable for soccer, lacrosse or football and 22 baseball and softball fields. Additional fields are provided by the Lake Washington School District and King County. This Plan recommends service standards for sports fields as follows.

- Baseball Fields: 1 field/5,000 people
- Softball Fields: 1 field/10,000 people
- Soccer / Football: 1 field/7,500 people

Current Participation and Programs

The City of Kirkland's Park and Recreation offers a variety of sport programs for youth including youth and peewee basketball (3rd-6th grade), peewee soccer and a variety of sport camps including tennis, fencing, lacrosse and track and field. The City has seen its youth soccer program grow from 80 participants to over 200 over the past

three years. The City also runs recreational softball, dodge ball and volleyball leagues for adults.

Lake Washington School District offers a variety of interscholastic sports for middle school and high school students, including basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, football, tennis, cross-country, track & field, volleyball, golf, wrestling, gymnastics and swimming and diving.

In addition to City and School District athletic programs, a variety of sports organizations offer youth soccer, baseball/softball, football and lacrosse leagues, including:

- **Soccer:** Kirkland is served by the Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association, which runs recreational, select and premier soccer programs for youth up to 19 years old. Approximately 700 of the league's 7,000 players live in Kirkland, with even participation by boys and girls.
- **Baseball and Softball:** Kirkland National Little League (KNLL) and Kirkland American Little League (KALL) provide baseball and softball programs to over 1,150 youth players in north and south Kirkland, respectively. Approximately 80% of KNLL & KALL players (ages 4-12) play baseball, while the other 20% (ages 4-18) play softball. Both Leagues currently play at Kirkland Middle School or the Lee Johnson field, and both report an additional need for practice fields.

The Juanita Baseball Club offers a competitive baseball program for boys ages 8 to 18. The club has approximately 100 players who primarily live in north Kirkland. The club plays at Juanita High School during the summer and aims to develop players for Juanita High School. Kirkland Pony Baseball provides high-quality, competitive baseball at an affordable price to teens in Kirkland and surrounding Lake Washington School District communities.

- **Lacrosse:** 250 boys on 11 teams; the league has been running for only 3 years; the league built field at Big Finn County park; there will likely be a split in the league coming in future into two groups of 175-300 players each. No girls are served yet in the league; if that league starts, it would have an additional 400 girls and would be significant new demand for field space.
- **Football:** Boys & Girls Club has a field on site; it has 200+ players in its Junior Football program (tackle); the Club uses school fields at Lake Washington High School and Juanita High School for games and use junior high school fields for practices.

Improvements at Existing Fields

Some of Kirkland's sports fields could benefit from enhanced maintenance, investments and safety improvements. Improvements to turf, irrigation, lighting and spectator facilities could allow existing fields to better serve recreation users and extend playing seasons.

Resurfacing existing or constructing new fields with artificial turf will allow more intensive use of field space, extend field seasons and reduce play cancellations due to rain and muddy conditions. When planning for turf surfacing, the City should consider partnerships with local user groups, evaluate opportunities to redesign fields for multi-sport use and assess the existing fee structures. Candidate turf conversion sites include Lee Johnson Park and fields at Juanita High School, in partnership with Lake Washington Schools.

Additional Field Capacity

Kirkland's existing and popular sport programs outstrip the capacity of current fields. With projected future population growth and growing participation in team sports, the City and local sports leagues will need to properly maintain existing field resources, use existing sites more efficiently and effectively and/or acquire and develop additional field space to meet demands. Such actions will depend on continued active partnerships between the City, School District, sports organizations and other recreation providers.

Stakeholders and sports leagues noted a need for field capacity to support expansion of lacrosse programs; additional practice fields for a variety of sports; and larger, higher-quality fields for older players. In addition, the City currently lacks a larger field complex or tournament site, which could increase field capacity and serve as a regional destination.

Partnerships

For many years, the Kirkland community has benefited from a cooperative relationship between the City and the Lake Washington School District (LWSD). Currently, the City and LWSD have partnerships for the operation of sports fields at B.E.S.T. High School, Kirkland Junior High School, and Mark Twain, Juanita, Ben Franklin, Rose Hill, and Lakeview Elementary Schools. This partnership is a critical component of meeting field sport needs within the city. In the future, the City should continue to work closely with the School District to actively explore opportunities for greater joint use of facilities. Cooperative agreements between the agencies should identify opportunities and define responsibilities regarding field planning, acquisition, development, improvement, maintenance and operations; as well as clarify scheduling, decision-making and revenue sharing objectives and structures.

The City should continue to participate in annual meetings with the various leagues and field providers within Kirkland to assist in allocating field space across the leagues and address other issues related to inter-league coordination, field maintenance and protocols for addressing field issues. The City should also remain open to the changing needs and participation rates for youth sports and consider its role in and capacity to provide additional fields within the city to accommodate the growth of the current leagues or the addition of new programs, such as girls lacrosse. In order to meet the city's long-term field needs, the City should also explore partnership opportunities with other public and private agencies and organizations, including King County and Northwest University.

Policies and Management

Improved management systems and policies will improve the City's ability to maintain and improve sports fields, while balancing the needs of both sports organizations and the larger community. The City should continue to monitor the condition, investment needs and usage rates of various field facilities to best plan for long-term maintenance and capital needs. Field usage policies should be reassessed on a regular basis to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the City, user groups and neighbors. Field usage fees should also be updated periodically – and when significant field

improvements are made - to address cost recovery and equity objectives. Such policies and fees should also address field scheduling for alternative uses, such as festivals, concerts and other community events.

Court Sports

Kirkland currently provides courts for tennis, basketball and volleyball. The City has 9 outdoor tennis courts located at Everest, Forbes Creek, Heritage, Juanita Beach, and Peter Kirk Parks. Public indoor tennis courts are not available at City facilities, but are provided by the Eastside Tennis Center and the Central Park Tennis Club. A total of 10 outdoor basketball courts (mostly half-courts) can be found at the North Kirkland Community Center and in Crestwoods, Everest, Forbes Creek, Highlands, Mark Twain, Peter Kirk, South Rose Hill, Terrace and Van Aalst Parks. Indoor basketball courts are available at the North Kirkland Community Center. Juanita Beach and Houghton Beach Parks provide outdoor beach volleyball courts.

The City also partners with the Lake Washington School District for use of their indoor facilities for a variety of organized recreation and sport activities. The use of School District facilities has enabled the City to provide a much higher level of service than would otherwise be possible.

The inclusion of basketball (full court), volleyball and/or tennis courts should be considered in the planning and development of future community parks or community centers. Half-court basketball courts may also be appropriate for neighborhood parks, particularly in underserved areas or where there is expressed neighborhood interest.

Aquatics

Kirkland currently has one outdoor public pool, located at Peter Kirk Park; one indoor public pool – the Juanita Aquatic Center, owned and operated by the Lake Washington School District; and three swimming beaches located on Lake Washington. This Plan recommends an aquatics service standard of 1 indoor pool per 40,000 residents.

Peter Kirk Outdoor Pool

The Peter Kirk Pool is an outdoor, heated 6-lane pool located in Peter Kirk Park. The pool hosts open and lap swim, along with youth and adult swim lessons, a summer swim league, lifeguard training and water aerobics. Due to the age of this pool, the City should continue to monitor the performance of the mechanical systems, decking and pool lining.

Juanita Aquatics Center

The Juanita Aquatics Center is a six-lane indoor pool open to the public located at Juanita High School in north Kirkland. The pool offers open and lap swim year-

round, as well as adult and youth swim lessons through WAVE Aquatics. The pool also hosts classes, camps, practices and competitive events for a number of aquatic sports including swimming, diving, triathlon training, synchronized swimming, water aerobics and water polo.

A school bond measure that includes renovation or replacement of Juanita High School will be on the ballot in February 2014. However, the bond measure does not include continued siting of an indoor pool at the renovated high school. Should voters approve the bond measure, Kirkland residents will no longer have access to a public, year-round swimming pool as early as 2017. In fall 2013, the City of Kirkland and the Lake Washington School District (LWSD) agreed to partner to explore options to replace the Juanita Aquatic Center at Juanita High School. The potential replacement of this facility is a component of an update to the City's Indoor Recreation Facilities Plan currently underway.

Swim Beaches

Houghton Beach, Waverly Beach and Juanita Beach Parks all offer lifeguarded swimming beaches during summer months, which was a service reinstated following the passage of the 2012 parks levy. The Houghton Beach swimming area has a long pier and a large dock with good shallow areas for children. The Juanita Beach swimming area provides an area completely enclosed by a "U" shaped pier with a sandy beach and shallow area. The Waverly Beach swimming area also provides an area completely enclosed by a "U" shaped pier. Amenities at these high-use parks, such as docks, beaches, and restrooms/changing facilities, should be maintained and improved to continue to support this popular recreational activity. Chapter 4: Thrive provides more information on waterfront parks and their amenities.

Alternative Sports

Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, climbing and parkour, can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract local and regional visitors. Kirkland currently has an outdoor, concrete skatepark located in Peter Kirk Park. Opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports are limited in the city.

While survey and recreational trend information is limited, a number of residents supported additional facilities for alternative sports during open house events. Opportunities exist to develop alternative sports facilities at existing parks and in the future development of Taylor Fields Park.

Kingsgate Bike Skills Park

Kingsgate Park is heavily wooded and suffers from a steep slope with poor access, significant erosion and proximity to a noisy highway. It is in close proximity to Robert Frost Elementary School and a large residential neighborhood east of I-405. The park could be transformed into a bike skills course, which would take advantage of its topographic change and several existing elements. To protect the park from

degradation, a bike course should be designed to minimize erosion and rogue trails. Additional erosion control, stormwater management and invasive species removal would improve the overall health of the park, while providing for a more engaging recreational experience.

Taylor Fields Xtreme Sports Park

Taylor Fields Park was formerly the site of the Houghton Solid Waste Landfill and is owned by the King County Solid Waste division. Due to this former use and the remediation cap over the site, certain types of development are restricted. For example, the site's existing topography cannot be significantly altered and large trees cannot be planted. In addition, surrounding neighborhood development is oriented away from the park. These conditions, while potential hindrances to traditional community park development, align well with the use of the site as an alternative sports park.

The majority of the park is undeveloped, although a portion has been improved with temporary little league baseball fields. The property abuts Bridle Trails State Park to the south, which offers extensive trails and opportunities for passive recreation. Future development of Taylor Fields could focus on alternative sports, including skateparks, BMX courses, bouldering walls or outdoor parkour features. The site could also contain an off leash dog area. An improved entryway and drive, parking and restroom facilities should be provided with any future or more intensive development of the site for public use. With good access points to the south, northwest and northeast, connecting trails through the park would also make strong linkages from the surrounding community into the State Park.

Key Project Recommendations: Sport

The following is a summary list of key project recommendations noted within this chapter. The project codes are referenced in the Neighborhood-based Recommendations summary (Chapter 9) and in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 11).

- S1 Kingsgate Bike Skills Park Master Plan & Development
- S2 Sports Field Improvements
- S3 Sports Field Expansion
- S4 Taylor Fields Extreme Sports Community Park Master Plan & Development

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6 CONNECT

Trails and Greenways Linking People and Places

Trails are critical links in Kirkland’s active transportation network – connecting people to parks, schools and other key destinations and creating opportunities for active lifestyles. In the future, a comprehensive Kirkland trail system could build on the exceptional potential of the Cross Kirkland Corridor and other signature trail opportunities, connect to extensive existing trail networks and integrate into the city’s active transportation system to provide seamless access throughout the community.

Current Trends & Perspectives

National and Regional Trends

The 2013 Washington SCORP confirms that outdoor recreation is still an integral part of life for most Washington residents; 90% participate in the most popular category of activities, which includes walking and hiking. Significant increases in rates of participation in outdoor recreation activities since 2006 indicate the importance of the state and local communities to continue their investment in outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. There is also significant latent demand for hiking. When asked what activities they would like to do more of in Washington, 12% of residents chose hiking – the most commonly cited activity.

Local Feedback and Trends

The citizens of Kirkland have consistently identified the need for more trails as a top priority. A majority (72%) of Kirkland residents feel that Kirkland's existing trails are of a high quality, rating them as either an "A" or "B", the highest rating within the system. However, nearly half (46%) of phone survey respondents felt the City needed more trails - the second highest need after swimming pools. Also, nearly 85% walk regularly for exercise. During the first two community open house meetings, residents frequently cited their desire for additional trail connections across the city, as well as voiced their excitement for the future of the Cross Kirkland Corridor. Other comments included the need for better trail signage, improvements to the sidewalk network for enhanced connections and a number of site specific suggestions for linkages.

Trail Planning & Access

Trails provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, schools and other public facilities, commercial centers and other regional non-motorized facilities. Map 5 on page 83 illustrates the existing trail segments in Kirkland.

In some cases, public trails provide alternative transportation connections between communities. 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.

To supplement the work of the ATP, a gap analysis was conducted to examine and assess the distribution of existing trails. As with the parkland analysis, walksheds were defined for trails using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points of each existing trail segment. Map 6 on page 85 illustrates the citywide distribution of trails and the relative access to these trails within reasonable travel walksheds.

Signature Trails

Kirkland is fortunate to have the potential for a diverse array of premier multi-use trails. There are opportunities to create pleasant greenways and trails that stretch across the community in all directions and that connect residents to the wealth of parks, natural areas, recreation facilities and other amenities the city has to offer. Map 7 on page 87 illustrates the potential trail corridors and linkages noted below.

Cross Kirkland Corridor

The Cross Kirkland Corridor is a 100-foot-wide, 5.75-mile section of the 42-mile Eastside Rail Corridor within Kirkland's city limits. It connects two of Kirkland's

main transportation hubs, three business districts, seven parks and eight of the City's 13 neighborhoods. The Eastside Rail Corridor runs from Renton to Snohomish and provides critical links to other existing regional trails, such as the Sammamish River Trail.

The Kirkland community envisions the Corridor as a world-class, multi-modal, green transportation corridor and a major contributor to the city's sustainability and livability. Kirkland residents and business have shown their strong support of the Corridor by approving a permanent property tax parks levy in 2012 that provides funding the maintenance and operation of the Corridor and for the construction of an interim trail. Additionally, individuals, companies and neighborhood groups have pledged a commitment to keep the Corridor clean through the "Adopt a Trail" program.

The City is developing a master plan that will establish the framework and key elements of a regional paved trail and a regional transit pathway along the corridor, the location of access points, types and locations of amenities, how road crossings are handled and other features. The master plan includes a robust public involvement process with multiple ways and opportunities to get involved. In the interim, the City has begun construction of an crushed gravel trail that accommodates pedestrians and bicycles. This interim trail will provide immediate accessible recreational opportunities and allow the community to better envision its future.

Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies

Encouraging a varied range of activities in parks that are adjacent to or very near the Cross Kirkland Corridor could increase use, visibility and accessibility of both the trail and the parks. These areas of activity where the parks and trail meet will become shared spaces both locally and connected regionally, and the synergies between local and regional destinations may provide future opportunities for partnerships or project funding. Amenities at these parks may include:

- Outdoor workout stations at Terrace Park and Crestwoods Park
- An off-leash area at Crestwoods Park
- Playgrounds at Peter Kirk and Lakeview elementary schools
- Pea patches
- Food, shopping and recreation opportunities at Totem Lake Park

Getting to the Cross Kirkland Corridor

While many residents acknowledged the transformative potential of the Cross Kirkland Corridor, they were also quick to recognize the importance of safe and convenient access to the corridor from nearby neighborhoods, schools, parks and local destinations. In particular, the City should aim to create attractive, signed active transportation connections between Cross Kirkland Corridor and the following:

- Nearby parks, including Yarrow Bay Wetlands, Watershed Park, Carillon Woods, Everest Park, Cotton Hill Park, Crestwoods Park, Forbes Creek Park and Totem Lake Park

- Nearby public schools, including Lakeview Elementary, Peter Kirk Elementary, and Kirkland Middle
- Downtown Kirkland
- Transit stops and stations, including the South Kirkland Transit Station
- Northwest University and the Lake Washington Institute of Technology
- Major civic, retail and employment destinations
- Adjacent neighborhoods

Lakeway Corridor

The City's Lake Washington waterfront is a valuable asset, important recreational amenity and key component to Kirkland's character and appeal. Through parks and neighborhood greenway improvements, the City could create a continuous pedestrian and bicyclist greenway along the lakeshore and connect the parks and businesses along the waterfront as a main pedestrian and bicycle friendly route for daily use. This north-south waterfront corridor could run from the south end of Kirkland at the Yarrow Bay Wetlands, along Lake Washington Boulevard and up Market Street, connecting to the east on NE Juanita Drive. The corridor could connect with a number of waterfront parks and be a premier example of green street and neighborhood greenway principles. In some areas, the City may be able to work with private property owners to achieve trail easements along the waterfront. Such easements could allow a trail to 'touch' the water in strategic locations, particularly where facilities already exist or where public parkland is farther apart.

Juanita Hill Connection

North Kirkland has a number of exceptional parks, including Juanita Beach, OO Denny and Big Finn Hill parks and Saint Edward State Park. These public parklands are some of the largest within Kirkland, and all are within close proximity of each other. There is a strong community desire to link the Juanita Hill area and these sites to downtown and the Lake Washington waterfront. At the present, there is no existing, safe pedestrian route linking these parks together. A greenway and trail connection could stretch from Forbes Creek and Juanita Bay Park west through Juanita Beach Park, then north along the slope connecting to Juanita Heights, and west to Big Finn Hill Park and Saint Edwards State Park. This connection could create a key link in an extensive trail network, bridging the lakefront and the proposed Bay to Valley connection with existing trail systems in Big Fill Hill, OO Denny and Saint Edward parks. Land acquisition, trail access agreements and/or easements would be required to create this connection.

Bay to Valley Connection

The City's existing parks and natural areas along Forbes Creek and 100th Avenue create the framework for a east-west trail that would bring users from Juanita Bay through central Kirkland and into the Sammamish Valley. A trail connection could link the forested lakeside trails of Juanita Bay Park to the fields of Crestwoods Park and the Cross Kirkland Corridor, across the wetlands of Cotton Hill Park and on

to the Spinney Homestead and North Rose Hill Woodlands Park. This connection could be a great value to the community to provide linkages for pedestrians and cyclists to some of Kirkland's signature parks, through a variety of terrain, via paths, stairs/ramps and a neighborhood greenway. One specific east-west access point, at Cotton Hill Park, is crucial to making the larger connection feasible. There would need to be a bridge spanning the wetlands in the park and a connection to the Cross Kirkland Corridor. Due the severe change in elevation, this structure could create a very unique transition between the east and west sides of the site, while maintaining minimal impact in and on the wetlands below.

Eastside Powerline Corridor

The development of a north-south trail under the Seattle City Light (SCL) power lines could link eastside neighborhoods to Bridle Trails State Park, the Cross Kirkland Corridor, major retail and employment destinations and to other neighborhoods. There are a number of parks and schools along this corridor – such as Benjamin Franklin Elementary, Rose Hill Meadows, North Rose Hill Woodlands Totem Lake Park and South Norway Hill Parks – which could provide intermediate destinations and recreational opportunities along the route. Such a connection could occur within the SCL easement but may require the development of trailheads or access points at periodic locations, along with coordination or negotiation with adjacent landowners along the corridor.

Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail

A number of Kirkland's lakefront parks are launch, landing or stopover sites along the Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail, including Houghton Beach Park, Marsh Park, Settler's Landing, David E Brink Park, Marina Park, Beverly Beach Park, Waverly Beach, Kiwanis Park and Juanita Beach Park. The Lakes-To-Locks Water Trail is a day use water trail in the greater Seattle metropolitan area with over 100 public places to reach the water. The Trail connects sites along Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish and Lake Union along shorelines, sloughs, cuts and waterways. The trail culminates at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks where the fresh water of the lakes meets the salt water of the Puget Sound. Kirkland's waterfront parks offer kayakers, canoeists and other non-motorized boaters opportunities to launch their craft and enjoy recreational amenities along the shoreline. Houghton Beach, Marina, and Juanita Beach Park currently have boat launches, while many other park sites have public docks.

Park Trails & Other Linkages

Park Trails and Paths

Interior park trails and paths cover 12.8 miles combined within City parks. Enabling linkages from these interior paths to the street network of sidewalks, bikeways and neighborhood greenways will further broaden the palette of community connections, routes and trail options for residents. Additional trail corridors exist within state, county and other parks:

- 9.5 miles at Big Finn
- 2.7 miles at O.O. Denny Park
- 6 miles at St Edwards State Park
- 28 miles at Bridle Trails State Park

Green Streets and Connections

The City's Parks and Community Services Department could partner with the Public Works and Transportation departments to identify opportunities to integrate park, greenway, green infrastructure, stormwater and active transportation planning and projects. For example, there could be opportunities to link green streets for stormwater management, on-street neighborhood greenways, and off-street trails to create a network of pleasant, treed, and environmentally friendly active transportation connections throughout the city. Kirkland Greenways, a local grassroots effort that identifies, advocates for and aims to activate safe healthy streets, has begun assembling materials for a citywide map to promote safe routes and neighborhood greenways.

Trail Wayfinding

The City of Kirkland could benefit from enhanced wayfinding and signage in support of both City and partners' parks and facilities. As the park system has expanded into newly annexed areas and it continues to grow in the future, the City should implement a comprehensive approach to directional and identification signage to park and trail facilities. Better signage and consistency in brand identification could increase awareness for residents and visitors of nearby recreational opportunities, such as the City parks and recreation facilities, and county, state and partner facilities. Signage, in conjunction with publicly available maps of parks and trails, can also improve the enjoyment and understanding of the parks system and encourage visitors to experience more sites within the City.

The proposed trail system will provide connections to key destinations and neighborhoods throughout the city. These trails and connections should be easy to access and convenient to use. This Plan recommends the implementation of detailed trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and an informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities. Additional general information on Communication & Collateral can be found in Chapter 8: Sustain.

Key Project Recommendations: Connect

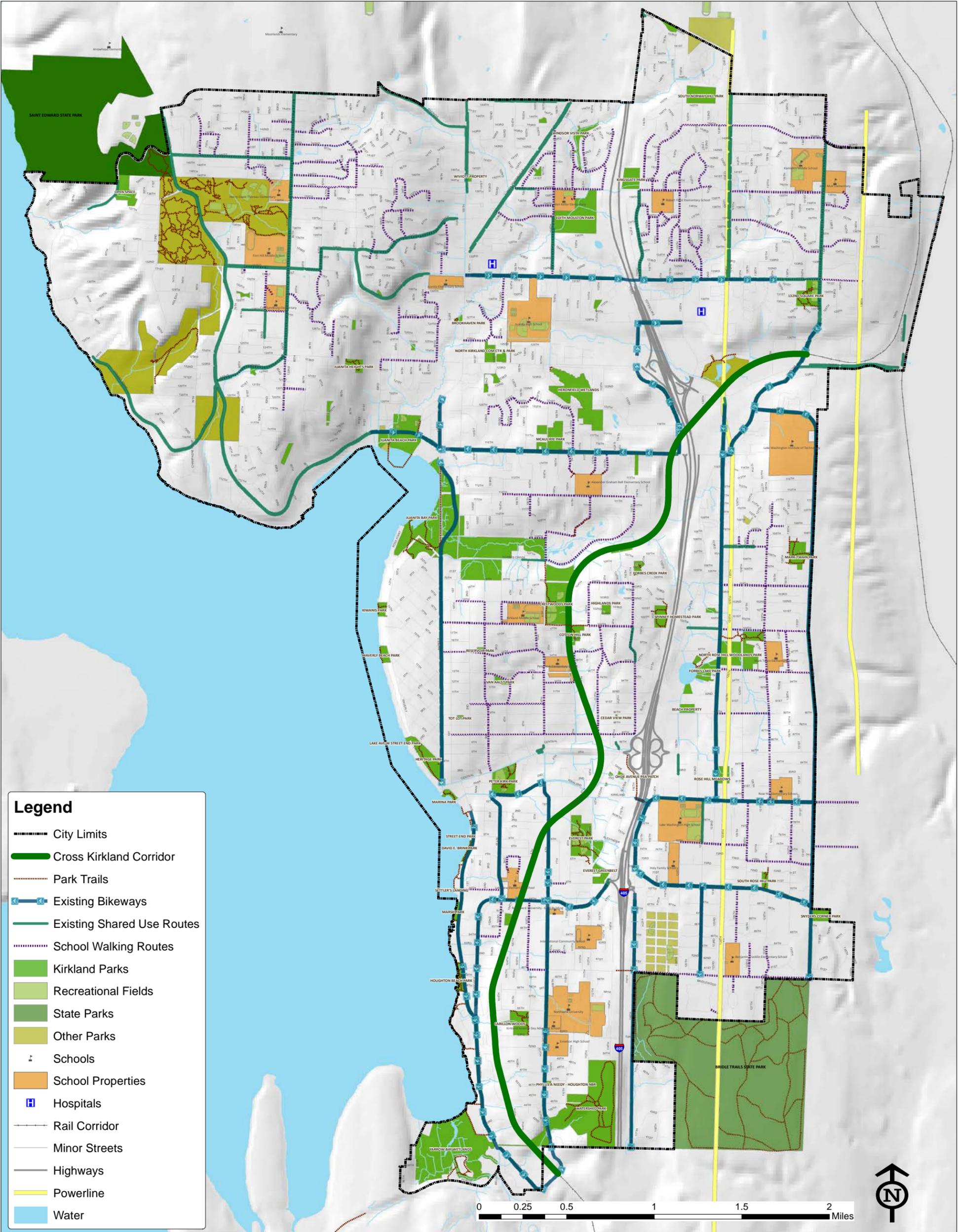
The following is a summary list of key project recommendations noted within this chapter. The project codes are referenced in the Neighborhood-based Recommendations summary (Chapter 9) and in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 11).

- C1 Bay to Valley Trail
- C2 Cross Kirkland Corridor
- C3 Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development
- C4 Eastside Powerline Corridor
- C5 Juanita Hill Connection
- C6 Lakeway Corridor
- T15 Signage and Wayfinding

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Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan | 2014



MAP 5: Existing Trails & Pathways



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MAP 7: Proposed Trails, Bikeways & Neighborhood Greenways



NURTURE

Environmental Stewardship for a Green Future

Kirkland's has a wealth of natural resources including shorelines, creeks and riparian areas, wetlands and upland forest, that provide habitat for native wildlife and contribute to the City's unique identity and the health and well-being of local residents. Protecting and enhancing natural areas and open spaces is part of the local ethos and a key component of City's future plans.

Kirkland's natural areas and open spaces provide for a variety of passive recreational opportunities, such as walking, gardening and wildlife watching. They also provide places to simply experience nature and find respite from urban living. By protecting and enhancing these places, the City can take a prominent role in creating outdoor opportunities and promoting the physical and mental health of residents, while protecting local critical habitat and ecosystem service functions.

Current Trends & Perspectives

National and Regional Trends

In Kirkland, and across Washington State and the nation, nature-based activities are some of the most popular recreational activities. Over 65% of Kirkland residents

participate in recreational activities that include ‘getting close to nature’ on a regular basis. In Washington State, eight in ten residents report participating in nature-based activities. Those who participate in wildlife watching or photography do so an average of once a week, making it one of the most frequently completed recreational activities. Nature-based recreational activities tend to be low-cost, require little equipment and accommodate a range of activity levels. According to state surveys, these are most popular with older residents, those with higher incomes and women.

In addition, nine in ten state residents participate in walking or hiking – activities well suited for natural area trails. Virtually all demographic groups report very high levels of participation in walking and hiking, with the highest rates occurring in younger residents (under 46) and those with higher educations or incomes.

Local Feedback and Trends

Both nature-based activities and walking and hiking are increasingly popular recreational activities. In public workshops, Kirkland residents identified preserving, enhancing and connecting natural areas for both recreational and environmental values as a critical piece of future park planning. Also, residents stressed the need to continue to acquire and protect natural areas in the newly annexed areas of the city, as well as enable connections to and through these areas for wildlife viewing and environmental education opportunities.

Existing Significant Natural Resources

Natural parks and open space areas are acquired to preserve the special natural and unspoiled character of a particular location, which are often important as local habitat conservation areas. Natural area protection in Kirkland commonly includes 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.

Kirkland has a number of bodies of water, including Lake Washington, Forbes Lake and Totem Lake, as well as Forbes Creek, Juanita Creek, Yarrow Creek, Everest Creek and Cochran Springs Creek and their tributaries. Kirkland also has a number of significant and relatively contiguous habitat corridors that provide habitat for many birds, mammals, reptile and amphibians and include significant portions of the City’s urban forest. The largest and most diverse corridors are created by the following:

- Big Finn Hill, OO Denny, and Saint Edwards State Parks (extends outside the City limits)
- Yarrow Bay, Cochran Springs, Watershed Park corridor
- Juanita Bay Park and Forbes Creek corridor

These habitat corridors are significant not only for their size, but also for the diversity of habitat they provide – ranging from shorelines and adjacent wetlands, to streams and riparian areas, as well as upland forested areas. Large portions of the wetlands, floodplains and riparian areas throughout the city are in public ownership or are protected by development restrictions. Other open space areas are primarily public parklands, such as Everest Park, Totem Lake and Edith Moulton parks, or are

steep, undevelopable slopes.

Natural Area Preservation

While the City has acquired a number of significant natural areas for long-term protection as public open space, additional opportunities to protect key parcels may arise in the future. Preserving some of the remaining high value natural resources as the city develops can provide significant community, environmental and economic benefits.

Natural areas with the following characteristics should be considered for acquisition or other protection (e.g. conservation easements) as they become available:

- High natural resource value, including habitat, water quality, hydrologic, and erosion control values
- Continuity with existing natural areas
- Cultural, historical or scenic significance

Particularly high value resources, or those that create important wildlife and recreation connections within the existing system, should be prioritized for preservation, potentially in partnership with community organizations. One such priority area is the forested slope from Juanita Bay through Juanita Heights Park; this area should be protected for habitat, slope stability and water quality functions of the forest.

Restoration and Enhancement

Kirkland's natural resources and open spaces add to the quality of its neighborhoods, provide critical habitat, function as green oasis within the urban landscape and increase local property values. The City of Kirkland has demonstrated a commitment to preserving, protecting and enhancing its natural resources. However, the quality and function of some natural areas are threatened by development, impacts from neighboring uses, pollution, poor management or non-native invasive species. Through proper management of public open spaces and natural areas, the City and its partners can maintain and enhance these areas and the critical ecosystem and community benefits they provide.

Enhancing the City's Natural Parks

The City's natural parks, including Juanita Bay Park, Yarrow Bay Wetlands, Heronfield Wetlands, Forbes Lake Park, Watershed Park, Cotton Hill Park and Totem Lake Wetlands (King Conservation District), provide unique natural resources and critical urban wildlife habitat. They also provide opportunities for passive recreation, such as walking, bird and wildlife watching and for environmental education.

Within these parks, opportunities exist to remove invasive species, restore and enhance natural functions and improve trails and low-impact public access. Development of public trails, including platforms and interpretive signage, can both

improve environmental awareness and support and create new places for residents to recreate and experience these unique places. In particular, restoration and development plans for Yarrow Bay Wetlands and Heronfield Wetlands are needed to guide future restoration and enhancement work and balance public recreation access and natural resource functions. The Green Kirkland Partnership has mapped eight parks to define restoration management units to prioritize on-site enhancements and currently is expanding their natural areas restoration management mapping to address the newly annexed areas of the City and remain consistent with the direction provided by the 20-Year Forest Restoration Plan.

Dock & Shoreline Renovations

The City's numerous lakefront parks provide an opportunity for the City to be a leader in implementation of the 2010 Shoreline Restoration Plan. The Restoration Plan encourages the removal of bulkheads and other impervious surfaces along the shoreline that impede natural habitat functions and increase stormwater flows into the lake. The loss of shoreline habitat negatively impacts lake ecology, water quality and habitat for salmon and other local wildlife. Through renovation and improvement of waterfront parks, the City should restore degraded shorelines, increase riparian vegetation and provide for additional pervious surfaces and green infrastructure. Such improvements will support improved ecological function, while providing heightened recreational value and supporting implementation of the Shoreline Restoration Plan.

Environmental Education

The City's wealth of natural resources and open spaces provide an opportunity for enhanced environmental education, programming, experiential opportunities and interpretive information. Such programs and amenities can increase Kirkland residents' awareness and enjoyment of nature and the unique wildlife that share their city.

Interpretive Signage

The City's parkland includes a diverse array of habitat and is home to a variety of urban wildlife. As a result, there are opportunities for interpretive education and signage in parks throughout the City's system. The installation and integration of interpretive signage that reflects Kirkland's history, culture, natural assets and wildlife populations can enable programmed or self-guided outdoor learning and support other types of passive recreation, such as viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas. Residents frequently cited the existing interpretive signage at Juanita Bay as an excellent example of such amenities.

Educational Programs

Continued and enhanced partnerships with Green Kirkland, the Eastside Audubon, the Lake Washington School District, King County and Washington State Parks can create opportunities for educational programs, walks and tours at the City's

many natural area parks and other local resources. For example, the Eastside Park Rangers, affiliated with the Eastside Audubon, currently give interpretive and birding tours at Juanita Bay each week. Also, the City could expand its partnership with the School District to explore ways to engage students in site restoration activities or in environmental education opportunities. Such programs can and do provide unique learning opportunities for school children and residents, while increasing awareness and support for the protection of native habitat and wildlife. Expanded education programs also could include residential-scale protection strategies, such as understanding and minimizing the impacts of fertilizers on aquatic habitats and water-related recreation and on pest management for home gardeners.

Environmental Education Center

Development of an environmental education center, with space for classes and seminars, in partnership with local environmentally focused organizations and agencies, could further enhance the City's, and partners', capacity for environmental education.

Ecosystem Services

The City's natural areas play key roles in supporting healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. These many benefits include maintaining air and water quality within the city and region, mitigating impacts of climate change, and providing recreational, scenic and spiritual values.

Natural Green Infrastructure

Kirkland's natural resources are a critical component of the City's green infrastructure, which provides important ecosystem services functions. The City's urban forest, streams, wetlands and vegetated natural areas help manage stormwater, protect air and water quality and prevent erosion. Connection, protection and enhancement will improve their ability to provide these important services. This, in turn, can reduce the City's need for built infrastructure, such as sewers and water treatment capacity, reduce risks from natural hazards like landslides and floods and protect the quality of Lake Washington for generations to come.

Urban Forest in City Parks

The City's 20-Year Forest Restoration Plan (2008) categorizes 372 acres of natural areas within City parks, not including parks in the 2011 annexation areas, according to tree composition and invasive species cover. According to the Plan, only 10% of forested city parkland is composed of high value conifer stands, which is the desired forest type. Most of Kirkland's parks fall within the 'medium' value category and are generally comprised of native deciduous trees. Forty percent of the City's park canopy is identified as being at high risk from invasive species. This assessment points to a continuing need to manage forested areas for invasive species and to encourage the establishment and succession of conifers and other native plants. In

2012, the City of Kirkland adopted the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan (UFSMP), which supports the continued assessment, maintenance and planting of trees within the City's parklands through City maintenance operations and the Green Kirkland Partnership. The City's UFSMP identifies the need to update citywide tree inventories, coordinate tree preservation and protection into the development code and engage the community in tree-related activities and project. Park properties can play a role in improving the overall health and diversity of the urban forest and provide areas for additional tree plantings, tree health monitoring and/or tree education programs.

Stormwater Parks

Design and restore parks to naturally capture and filter stormwater to improve watershed health. Complementary interpretive signage and educational programs.

The proximity of Heronfield Wetlands to the Jasper Dog Park, located just upstream, offers a unique opportunity for a stormwater education pilot project. The increased nitrogen-heavy saturated soils being produced by the dog waste in the dog park could impact the health of the adjacent wetlands. Wetland restoration, visible stormwater features that collect the nitrogen and detain it prior to reaching the wetlands, and educational signage and design elements could improve watershed health and inform visitors about the impacts of pollutants (dog waste, pesticides and herbicides) and encourage more environmentally friendly choices.

Productive Landscapes

Gardening is a popular recreational activity statewide, with 58% of residents reporting participation. Community gardens provide common space for residents to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. Gardens have been shown to increase healthy food consumption, while providing opportunities for active living, social interactions and lifelong learning. Community gardens are becoming more popular park amenities in urban environments, where residents may have limited outdoor space. Gardens are also popular with a diverse range of residents.

Kirkland currently has 78 community garden plots located in the Tot Lot, Ohde and McAuliffe Park pea patches. There is an annual wait list for community garden plots, signally a latent demand for more facilities. Additional pea patches could be sited in community parks or neighborhood parks with parking and access to water. Reservoir Park, Mark Twain Park and Brookhaven Park are examples of neighborhood parks that would be good candidates.

McAuliffe Park's history as a homestead provides a unique opportunity to showcase farming and food production. The park's proposed master plan includes a site for a working farm, which could act as a farm-to-table hub to be supported by neighborhood efforts, using the on-site facilities as produce storage, kitchen and restaurant. Such a program could highlight sustainable, local food production and enlist the support and talent of local chefs to host meals or teach classes on-site. This would provide an opportunity for a community to advocate for fresh, local food that doesn't carry pesticides and waste downstream (it bridges two basin lines sharing

Juanita Creek and an outfall into Juanita Bay).

The City could also consider locating demonstration gardens with native plantings, herb or sensory gardens in larger parks. Interpretive signage could provide educational opportunities, while partnerships with the school district could foster food-focused educational programs. Gardens could be developed and maintained in partnership with community organizations or educational programs, such as the Environmental Horticulture program at Lake Washington Institute of Technology.

Conservation Partnerships

Green Kirkland Partnership

The Green Kirkland Partnership is an alliance between the City of Kirkland, nonprofit organizations, businesses and the greater Kirkland community to restore natural areas in the City. The Partnership works through community-based volunteer activities to restore Kirkland's public forested natural areas by removing invasive plants and replanting native trees, shrubs and ground covers. Their outreach and education programs educate, increase public awareness and engage the community in protecting, restoring and maintaining healthy forests. The Partnership also educates residents about the benefits and values of trees and forested natural areas. Further strengthening the Partnership can help extend its reach and ensure continued and enhanced care of the City's natural areas. Additional resources, support, equipment and information sharing can enhance the effectiveness of this critical program.

Eastside Audubon

The Eastside Audubon, which serves eastern King County including the City of Kirkland, is a conservation agency focused on advocacy and restoration of native habitat for birds and wildlife. An improved partnership with the Audubon could provide opportunities for additional community restoration activities, wildlife monitoring, and environmental education.

City-School Wetland Partnership

In addition, a number of Kirkland's schools have wetlands on the property or nearby. A partnership with Lake Washington School District and local conservation education organizations could present an opportunity for school-based monitoring and environmental education programs. Such a program could help youth learn about their local ecosystems and watersheds, native wildlife and the impacts of pollution. The curriculum could also include an opportunity for students to conduct monitoring tasks and work directly with a dedicated City staff member on a school-based 'adopt-a-wetland' style initiative. Schools with existing or nearby wetlands include Juanita High School, Mark Twain Elementary School, Holy Family School, Peter Kirk Elementary School, Helen Keller Elementary School and Finn Hill Middle School.

Key Project Recommendations: Nurture

The following is a summary list of key project recommendations noted within this chapter. The project codes are referenced in the Neighborhood-based Recommendations summary (Chapter 9) and in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 11).

- N1 City-School Wetland Partnership Program
- N2 Dock and Shoreline Renovations (PK 0133 100)
- N3 Environmental Education Center
- N4 Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program (PK 0121 000)
- N5 Heronfield Wetlands Planning and Improvements
- N6 Natural Area Park Restoration
- N7 Productive Landscapes Program Development
- N8 Stormwater Parks Implementation Program
- N9 Watershed Park Master Planning and Park Development (PK 0126)
- N10 Yarrow Bay Wetlands Planning and Improvements



SUSTAIN

Institutional Capacity to Realize the Vision

Kirkland has a long history and strong reputation for its quality parks, natural areas and recreation facilities. The diligent management and maintenance of its facilities is evident to visitors, and community support for its efforts has been more directly demonstrated by the passage of the 2012 parks levy. To continue to earn the support of residents, the City will need to continue to steward its resources and engage the public in the future plans to grow and manage the park and recreation system.

Current Trends & Perspectives

National and Regional Trends

Over the past decade, park and recreation management has trended towards outcome-based management, which reflects the effect on quality of life of those who participate or benefit from parks and recreation opportunities. Outcome-based management is useful in establishing the benefit to the community and to individuals. The level of subsidy for programs has been declining and more “enterprise” activities are being developed, thereby allowing the subsidy to be used where deemed appropriate. Agencies across the United States are increasing revenue production and cost recovery. Pricing is often done by peak, off-peak and off-season rates. Agencies are

often structured into service divisions for athletics, seniors, facilities, parks, planning, and the like rather than by geographic unit, and they are partnering with private, public, and non-profit groups.

- Generally, park and recreation professionals face many challenges including:
- Doing more with less, requiring partnership development
- Partnering between non-profit and public forms of service
- Increasing the quality and diversity of services
- Moving toward a more business-like model while not competing with the private sector
- Increasing parks and open space versus a decreasing ability to maintain it
- Providing support for the socially and economically disadvantaged through programs in areas such as childcare, nutrition, etc
- Increasing responsibility for measurement and evaluation¹

In 2013, the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) issued its first report using PRORAGIS, a geographic information system, to establish industry trends. The 2013 report gathered data from 383 park and recreation agencies across the country and compared changes over the last three years. According to the report, park and recreation agencies typically provide management of park and open space lands and operate recreational facilities and programs. Within these areas of responsibility, some growth occurred from 2010 to 2012 among the agencies participating in the survey, including conducting major special events, maintaining public jurisdiction areas and administering community gardens.

The NRPA report indicated that public park and recreation service providers continue to suffer from reduced funding levels. Agencies receiving higher funding levels generally experienced greater reductions, while smaller agencies (in smaller communities) were more stable over the last three years. Recreation programming experienced a significant drop in attendance from 2010 to 2011. While a slight rebound had begun in 2012, the NRPA 2013 report indicates that program offerings have declined in every major category since 2010.

Benefits of Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails

A number of organizations, non-profits, and studies have noted the overall health, economic, environmental and social benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. In 2005, The Trust for Public Land published “The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space.” This report makes the following observations about the benefits of parks and open space, all of which have health impacts.

- Improvements to physical and mental health are increased through physical activity and contact with the natural world.
- Social and community benefits, including more stable neighborhoods, improved social connections and reductions in crime and juvenile delinquency.
- Increases in local economic prosperity as residential and commercial property values rise, community and economic development sustainability, and enhanced tourism.

1 van der Smissen, 1999.

- Environmental benefits through trees and other vegetation, which improve air quality, act as natural air conditioners and assist with storm water control and erosion.

Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases like heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety.

Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in the National Park and Recreation Association's 2010 report, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. In addition, the CDC reports that greater access to parks leads to 25 percent more people exercising three or more days per week.² Park location and access also matters – according to a study in Los Angeles, people who live within 1 mile of a park are four times more likely to visit the park one or more times per week, compared to those who live further away.³

Providing convenient access to parks and recreation is particularly important in neighborhoods with lower socioeconomic status, as parks can provide free or low-cost options for physical activity. Access to parks and recreation is also important for communities of color and individuals with a low income or low education level – all of which are factors that increase a person's risk of obesity and related diseases.

Social and Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives than those who do not.⁴ Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.

Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses (quality of life) and workers, and through direct increases in employment opportunities. Improved economic conditions can in turn improve health outcomes, as people have more money to spend on food, housing, childcare and other daily needs. However, increased property values can cause a decrease in housing affordability and an increase in housing displacement, due to rising rents or property taxes, negatively impacting the quality of life for affected residents.

² Centers for Disease Control, 2001.

³ Human Impact Partners, 2009.

⁴ Jackson & Stacy, 2012.

Community Feedback

Kirkland residents currently give the City high grades for the quality and maintenance of its parks. More than eight in ten residents give the City an “A” or “B” grade for the overall quality of parks and for park upkeep and maintenance.

Asset Management

To maintain such a high level of public satisfaction, Kirkland must continue to place a high priority on proactive maintenance and the renovation of park facilities and amenities. The Kirkland community has made a significant public investment in the park system - most recently demonstrated through its strong support for the 2012 parks levy. This investment requires proper stewardship to ensure the park system continues to provide desired services for decades to come.

Lifecycle Planning

With limited budgets and ongoing maintenance needs, many cities struggle to provide adequate maintenance and operation support. This often results in a situation where proactive maintenance is deferred, and assets are repaired, rehabilitated or replaced only when there is an urgent need. This situation can result in a loss of services, such as when a facility is closed due to a lack of funding for needed repairs; higher long-term maintenance costs, as assets in worse condition may degrade more quickly and be more difficult and costly to fix; and a loss of public confidence. Consequently, the City must consider and plan for long-term asset management needs.

The foundation of a holistic asset management program is a comprehensive inventory and assessment of existing facilities and unmet needs. The City should continue to maintain standardized and systematic inventory documentation of park system infrastructure, including quantity, location and condition. By tracking installation and the expected useful life of assets, the City can plan for proactive maintenance and replacement of assets in the future. This planning should be further supplemented by ongoing condition assessments of assets – particularly those with a high consequence of failure. Such assessments can highlight urgent repair needs and can help the City fine-tune maintenance practices for Kirkland’s weather, wear and usage patterns. Such information can aid in future budgeting for capital repairs and overall asset management, as well as for predicting staffing requirements.

Site Design and Development

Site master plans and individual development projects should address long-term maintenance and operation costs. Where possible, site design and facility choices should consider the impacts to and affects on on-going operations and maintenance budgeting. Park design standards can provide continuity in furnishings and construction materials, thereby providing consistency in the methods used to maintain, repair and replace them as they become worn or are damaged. This consistency can make the system more efficient to maintain and may improve aesthetic appeal and safety.

The City can also make intentional choices in the design and development of parks to reduce energy and water use and lower the intensity of maintenance required. Both high- and low-tech strategies, ranging from high-efficiency machinery and equipment to planting native plants and reducing lawn areas, can help reduce long-term maintenance and operating expenses.

During the site assessments of the parks, the need was noted for upgrades to ensure universal accessibility. Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances, for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment as appropriate. The recommendations in the Capital Facilities Project list provide site-specific suggestions.

Risk Management

The City should continue to improve its comprehensive risk management program. This program should ensure regularly scheduled safety inspection and repair of play equipment. In addition, the City should assess the likelihood and consequence, in terms of financial, community and environmental impact, of the future failure of its assets such as shelters and other structures. Such an assessment can provide key information for the strategic prioritization of limited resources toward those assets whose failure would have the greatest negative impact on the Kirkland community.

Maintenance Facility

The City's existing parks maintenance facility is leased, has limited office space and parking and lacks some necessary features (e.g. showers and lockers). The parks maintenance program already has surpassed the capacity of the maintenance yard and will need additional space in the future. While the City's Public Works maintenance facility is a centrally-located, high-quality facility, it cannot be expanded to accommodate the needs of Parks Operations. The City should examine existing publicly owned sites for suitability as a maintenance facility or explore other opportunities to purchase or lease in a more suitable location. If necessary, funds used to lease the current facility could be redirected toward the acquisition of new facility.

Administration & Management

Staffing Resources

Kirkland's Park and Recreation staff are a critical component of the future success of the parks system. To effectively plan, develop, maintain and operate a high-quality park and recreation system, Kirkland will need to continuously reassess and reinvest in its staff. Potential staffing needs identified during stakeholder sessions and other outreach include:

- A desire to reassess recreation staffing resources and allocation
- Increase staff capacity to manage construction of capital improvement projects

- Centralization of existing staff to improve coordination and achieve administrative efficiencies

In addition, the City should continue to allocate staff time and resources to programs and activities that can leverage existing resources. This includes managing volunteer programs, the Green Kirkland Partnership and partnerships with local schools and organizations, along with grant preparation and administration.

The City should continue to support and encourage staff development and training to include the completion of certifications and training relevant to staff roles and functions. Such training could include life safety courses (e.g., CPR), play equipment safety (e.g., CPSI) or continuing education offered through the NRPA.

As appropriate, the City should also make use of part-time, seasonal and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.

Volunteer Resources

Successful volunteer efforts – through volunteer groups, students, neighborhood groups, sports and service organizations – can result in significant site improvements and can allow community members to gain a sense of ownership in the park system. Volunteers can be especially effective at greenway and trail projects, such as restoration efforts along segments of Yarrow Creek or in the City’s natural area parks. Volunteer contributions from sports organizations can be the key ingredient in the development, maintenance and operation of specialized facilities, such as sports fields, skateparks and mountain biking trails. Although volunteers require effective management at the City’s expense, their contribution can readily result in a net gain for the City and community.

Parks Levy Management

Kirkland’s 2012 Parks Levy brings much needed funding for capital improvements, service enhancements and maintenance of the park system. Effectively and efficiently managing the Parks Levy Program and delivering slated improvements will not only improve the condition and quality of the City’s parks, trails and natural areas, but will also help solidify public confidence in the City’s ability to effectively steward public resources.

Neighborhood Planning

Kirkland is fortunate to have active neighborhood associations and a strong neighborhood-based planning program. To capitalize on these strengths, the City should integrate park planning with the neighborhood planning process pursue opportunities to partner with residents and neighborhood groups to improve, maintain and monitor local parks, natural areas and trails. To support this initiative, Chapter 9 provides a park improvement program by neighborhood association.

Communication & Collateral

Strong parks communication, signage and marketing can improve the visibility and brand identify of Kirkland's park system. The City has a strong communications program, which will need to adapt in the future to accommodate new and more diverse residents, new means of communication and a growing and changing park and recreation system.

Park & Trail Maps

Some residents expressed a desire for additional map resources that clearly show the location, name and entry points for City parks, natural areas and trails. In addition, the City should ensure its GIS mapping resources are coordinated with web-based mapping applications, such as Google Maps and Apple Maps, to ensure park names and locations are shown correctly on these often used websites mobile applications. Additionally, see Chapter 6: Connect for a discussion of wayfinding enhancements.

Web-based resources

To broaden public awareness, the City's website should be expanded to facilitate quick links to popular destinations and also be designed with mobile internet users (iPhone, Android, etc) in mind, either through a mobile-friendly site or a web-based application. The website should continue to include easy to access park system and facility maps, trail maps and an up-to-date listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user. The website, in coordination with a social media presence and periodic e-newsletters, also should be used to promote events, recreational and education programs, and volunteer activities. The City should consider introducing and utilizing QR codes on signage as a means to share with or receive information from visitors about maintenance, restoration or monitoring data. In developing new materials, the City should continue its strong program of preparing visually attractive materials (print and electronic) that have consistency of graphic style and theme.

Targeted Outreach to Annexation Areas

Kirkland voters recently annexed the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Evergreen Hill areas, which is home to approximately 31,000 residents. Continued outreach to these residents will be necessary to ensure they are aware of, and can take advantage of, the City's many park and recreation resources.

Information on Recreational Opportunities

The City should continue to act as the local hub of information about recreational activities and events in the community. This involves continuing to strengthen existing partnerships with local businesses, sport leagues, the school district and the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the promotion and distribution of information to the community. The City should consider inviting local groups or businesses that specialize in recreational activities, events or facilities (i.e., fitness instructors,

outfitters, etc) to present to staff and/or the Park Board about local services, health trends and opportunities in an effort to expand awareness of services and to encourage and promote opportunities to cross-market programs and events. The City should also continue to utilize the recreation program guide and the online registration program to cross-market programs and highlight new and interesting capital projects.

Key Project Recommendations: Sustain

The following is a summary list of key project recommendations noted within this chapter. The project codes are referenced in the Neighborhood-based Recommendations summary (Chapter 9) and in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 11).

- T2 ADA Compliance Upgrades
- T10 Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs
- T15 Signage and Wayfinding



01

02

03

Actions

04

05



"Keep lots of green areas and nature available!"

- Survey respondent

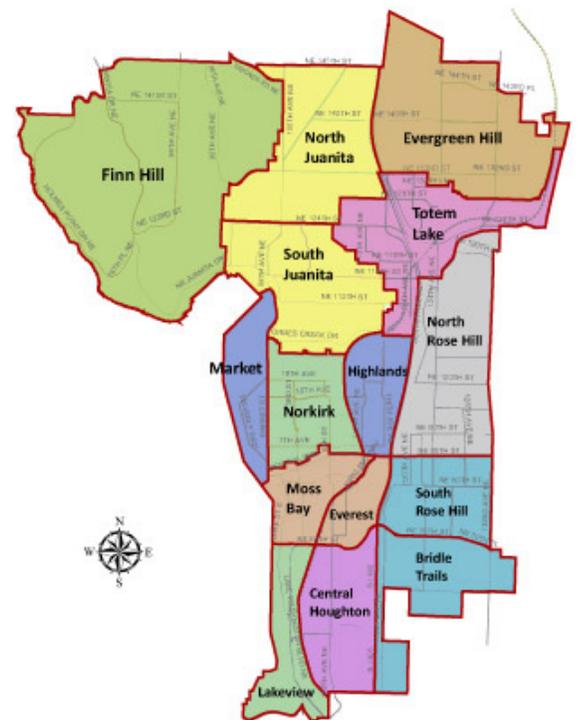
"A year-round indoor pool/recreation facility is a must for a city of our size. Swimming is an important lifelong skill that starts young and can span up through all ages and abilities."

- Survey respondent



NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

The neighborhood analysis identifies and summarizes the capital improvement recommendations discussed in the needs assessment chapters for each of the neighborhood associations within the City. Specific project codes are referenced to the overall Capital Facilities Plan list in Chapter 11.



Bridle Trails Neighborhood

Parks

Bridle Trails State Park (WA)

Snyder's Corner Park

- Create Master Plan and develop park for active and passive recreation and stormwater management (Project #T16)

Taylor Fields (King County)

- Master Plan and Park Development: Develop site Master Plan for extreme sports park to include alternative sports such as BMX courses, skatepark, bouldering walls, outdoor parkour features, zip lines or roller sledding tracks (Project #S4)

New Parkland

- Neighborhood park acquisition in the southern portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)

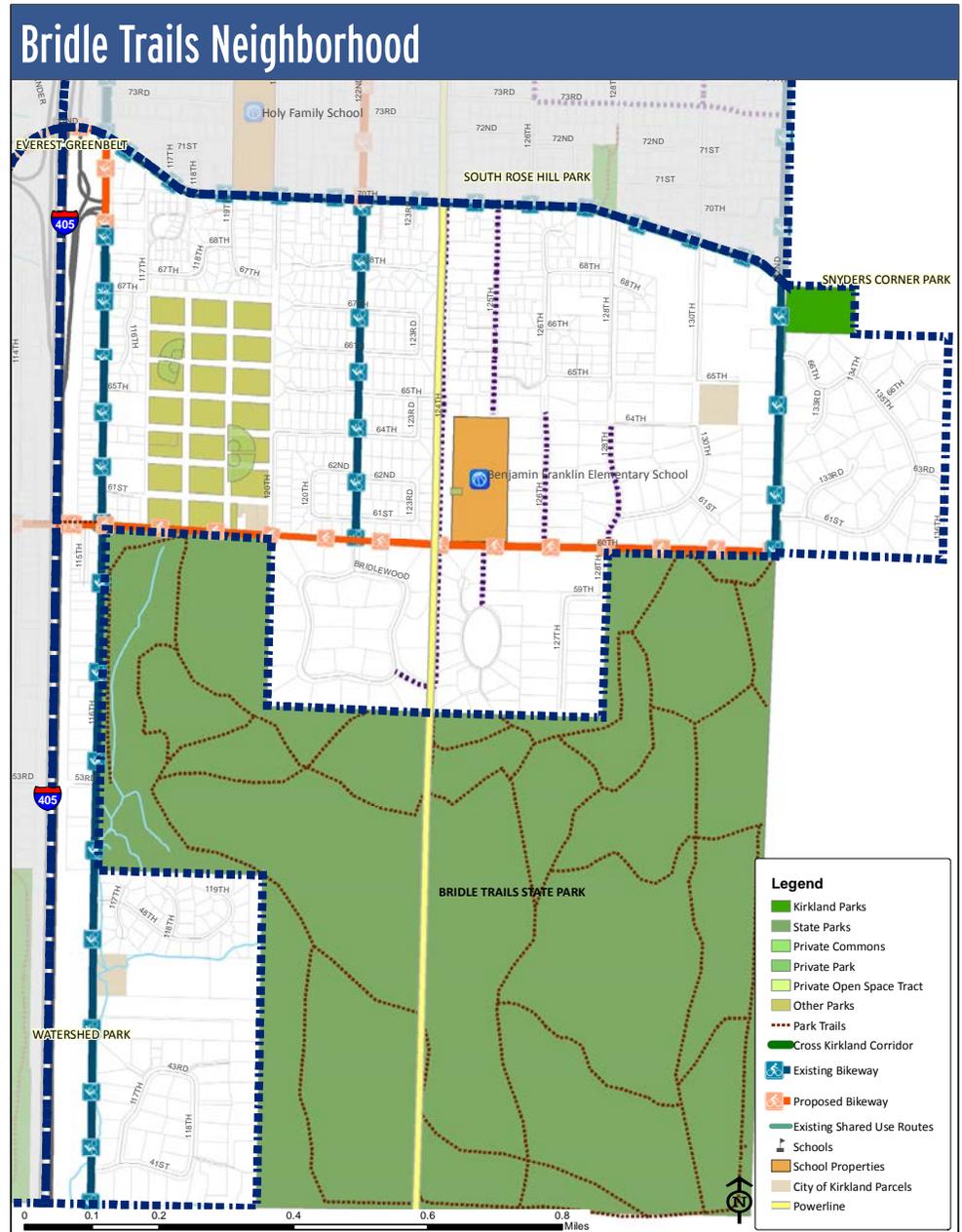
Trails

Eastside Powerline Corridor

- Develop a north-south trail under the Seattle City Lights power lines on the eastside with trailheads and access points (Project #C4)

Schools

Ben Franklin Elementary School*



* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site

Central Houghton Neighborhood

Parks

Carillon Woods

- ADA Compliance: Upgrade play structures & surfacing to meet ADA compliance (Project #T2)
- ADA Compliance: Add ADA accessible connections to existing amenities (Project #T2)

Houghton Neighborhood/ Phyllis A Needy Park

- Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs: Repair bronze kids bench art (Project #T10)
- ADA Compliance: Replace non-compliant ADA picnic table w/compliant table & access (Project #T2)

Watershed Park

- Master Planning and Park Development: repair trail erosion and develop old detention pit area (Project #N9)
- Natural Area Park Restoration: Implement a restoration and enhancement program (Project #N6)
- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible paths (Project #T2)

Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

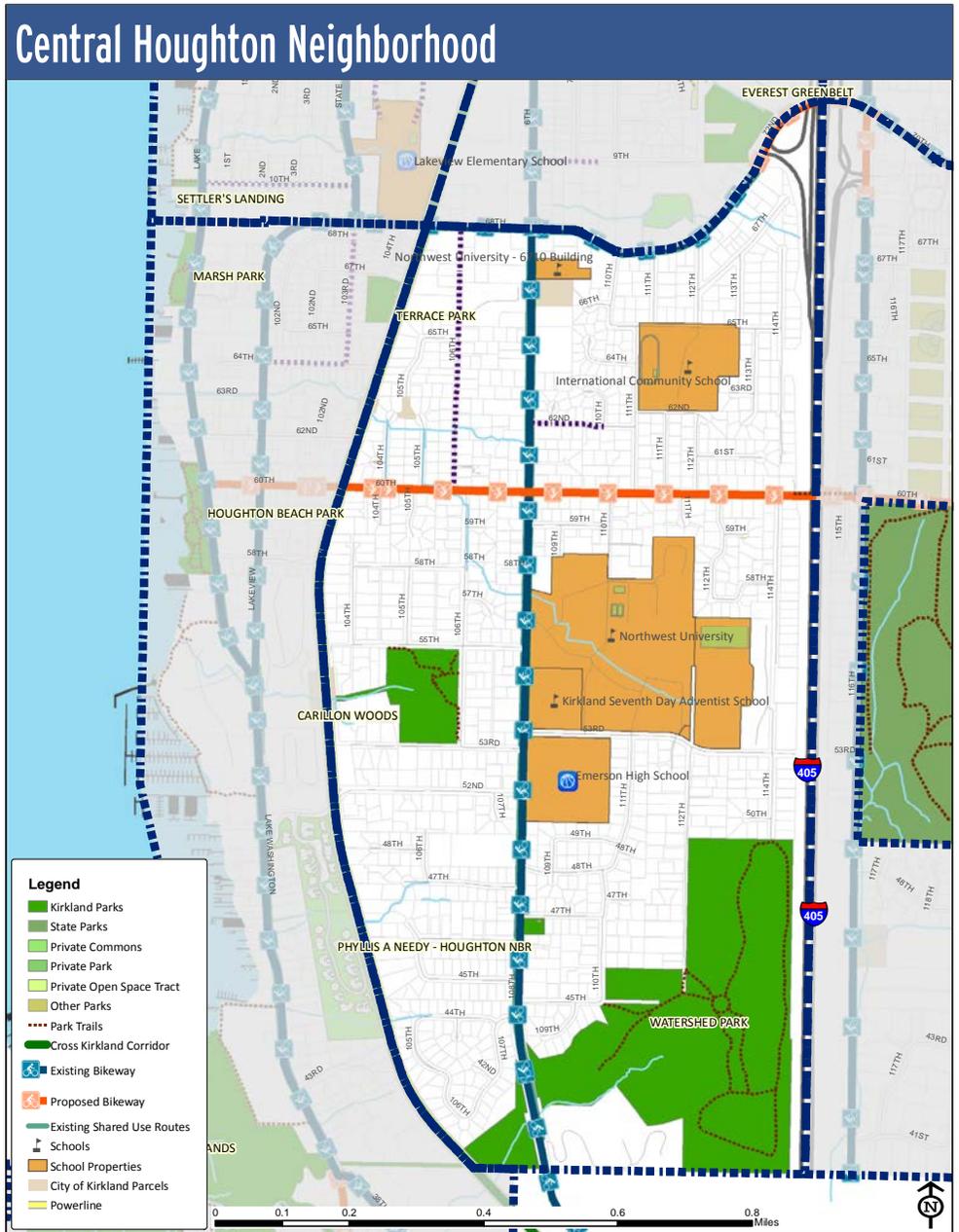
- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Schools

B.E.S.T. High School*

Emerson High School

* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site



Everest Neighborhood

Parks

Everest Park

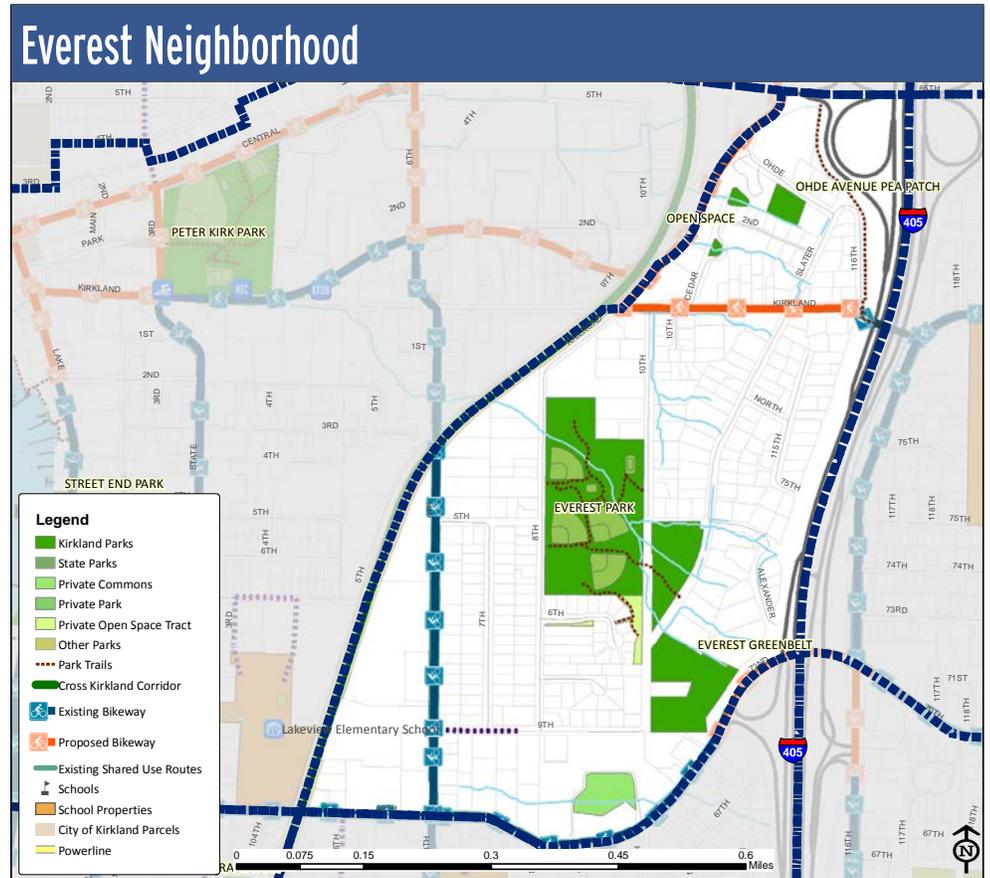
- Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program: Provide riparian and upland plant restoration (Project #N4)
- Stormwater Parks Implementation Program: Provide interpretive/ educational information at stormwater facility (Project #N8)

Ohde Avenue Pea Patch

Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)



Evergreen Hill Neighborhood

Parks

132nd Square Park

- Playfields Renovation: Provide daylighted stormwater feature to clean polluted runoff from parking lot (Project #T13)
- Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs: Repair restroom sink (Project #T10)

E. Norway Hill Park

Kingsgate Park

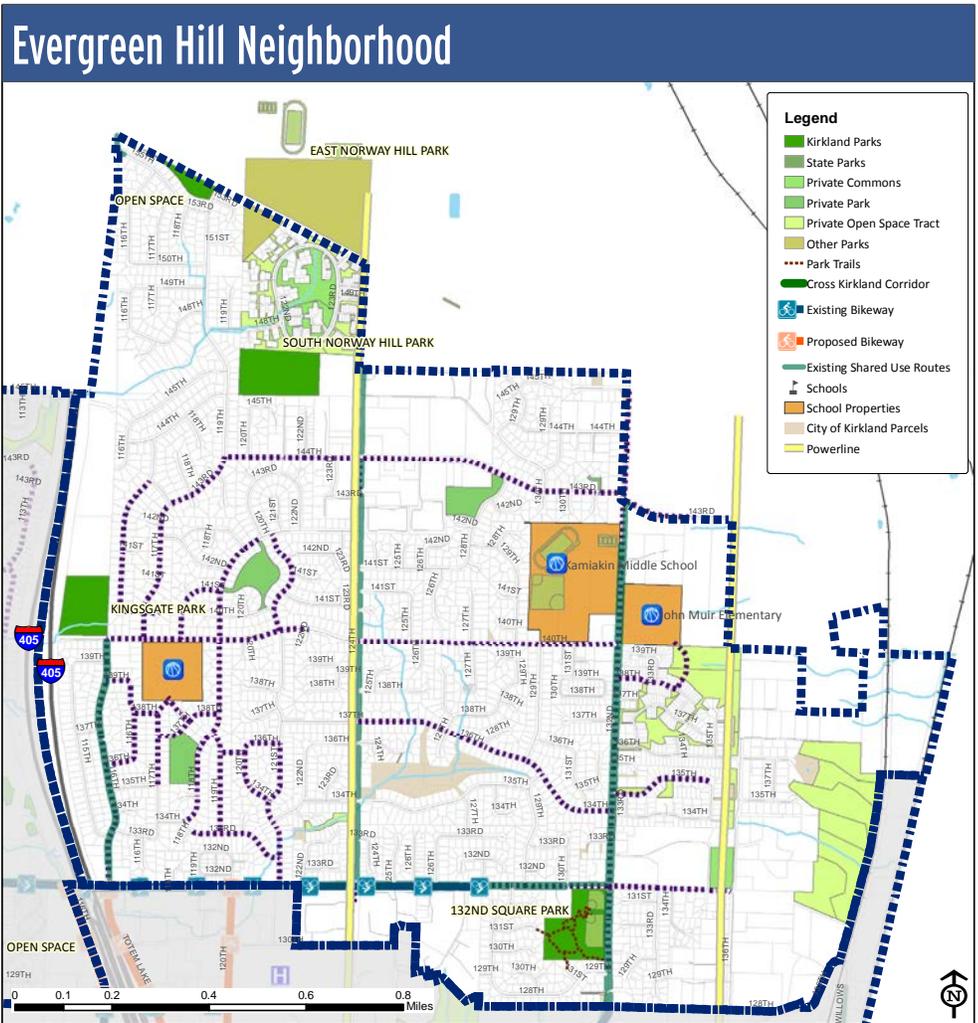
- Master Plan and Park Development: Add mountain bike trail through site; add bike skills features to site; design and construct timber frame stairs on steep slopes; implement erosion control strategy (Project #S1)

South Norway Hill Park

- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide signage to marked paths (Project #T15)
- Park Development: Create Master Plan and develop park for active and passive recreation (Project #T17)

New Parkland

- Neighborhood park acquisition in the northeastern portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)
- Neighborhood park acquisition in the central portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)



Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Eastside Powerline Corridor

- Develop a north-south trail under the Seattle City Lights power lines on the eastside with trailheads and access points (Project #C4)

Schools

John Muir Elementary School

Kamiakin Middle School

Robert Frost Elementary School

Finn Hill Neighborhood

Parks

Big Finn Hill Park (King Co)

Juanita Heights

- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide improved signage and wayfinding for public access and awareness (Project #T15)

Juanita Triangle (King Co)

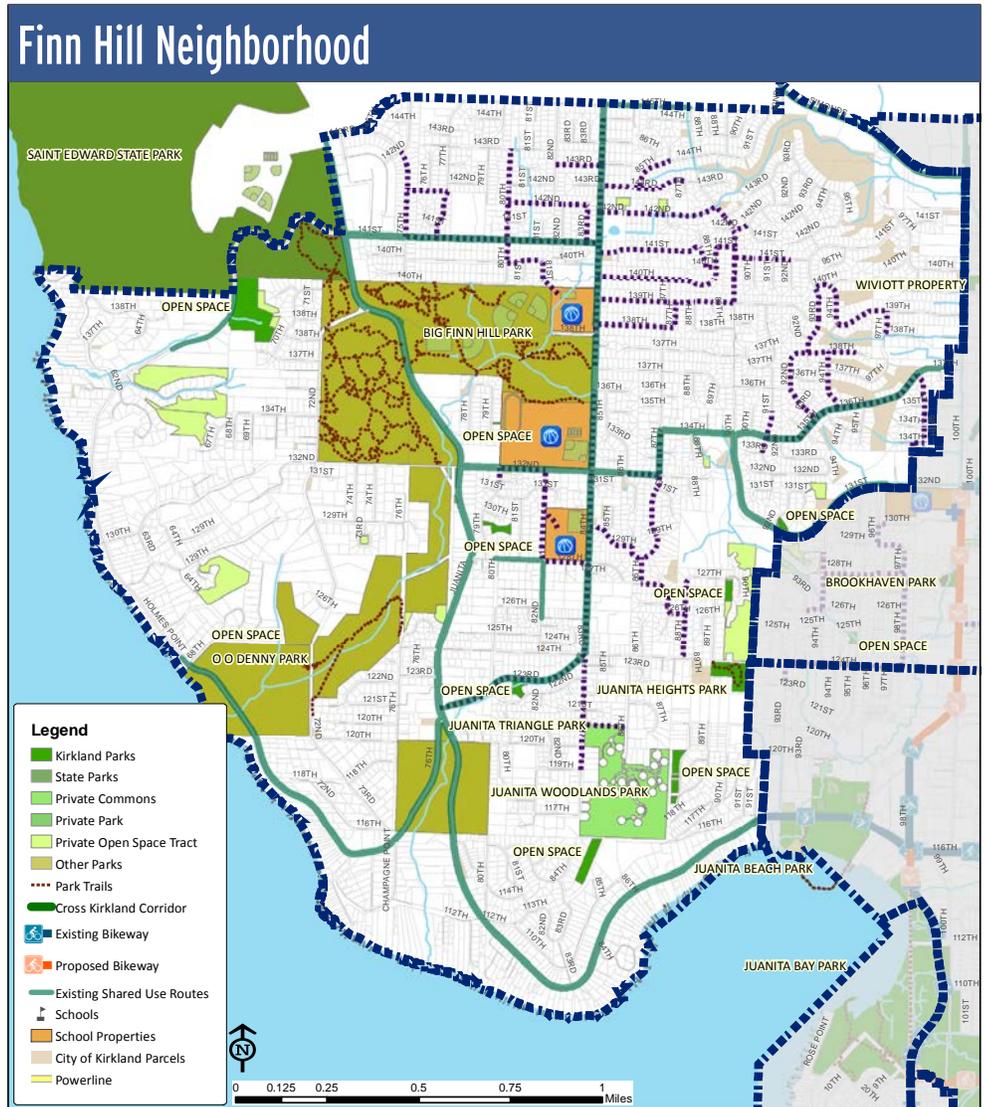
- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide improved signage and wayfinding for public access and awareness (Project #T15)

Juanita Woodlands (King County)

- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide improved trail signage and wayfinding for public access (Project #T15)
- Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program: Clean up invasive plants along roadsides and on site (Project #N4)

O.O. Denny Park (Seattle)

- Shoreline Restoration: Repair shoreline by adding boulders, logs and vegetative mats (Project #N2)
- Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs: Develop pest-management strategy (Project #T10)



Saint Edward State Park (WA)

New Parkland

- Neighborhood park acquisition in the northeastern portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)

Street Ends Improvement Program

- Improve street ends along Lake Washington to provide lake viewing and access opportunities (Project #T18)

Trails

Juanita Hill Connection

- Create greenway/trail connections between Juanita Beach, OO Denney and Big Finn Hill parks and Saint Edward State Park. (Project #C5)

Lakeway Corridor

- Connect lakeshore parks with a greenway (Project #C6)

Schools

Carl Sandberg Elementary School

Finn Hill Middle School

- Potential City-School Wetland Partnership (Project #N1)

H.D. Thoreau Elementary School

Highlands Neighborhood

Parks

Cedar View Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible swingset (Project #T2)
- ADA Compliance: Provide asphalt ADA accessible pathway (Project #T2)
- Regrade Project: Regrade site to increase visibility (lower/remove street-side berms); remove 50% vegetation from streetside to increase visibility/transparency (Project #T3)

Cotton Hill Park

- Natural Area Park Restoration: Implement restoration and enhancement program (Project #N6)
- Bay to Valley Trail: Connect/bridge east-west connection through the park (Project #C1)

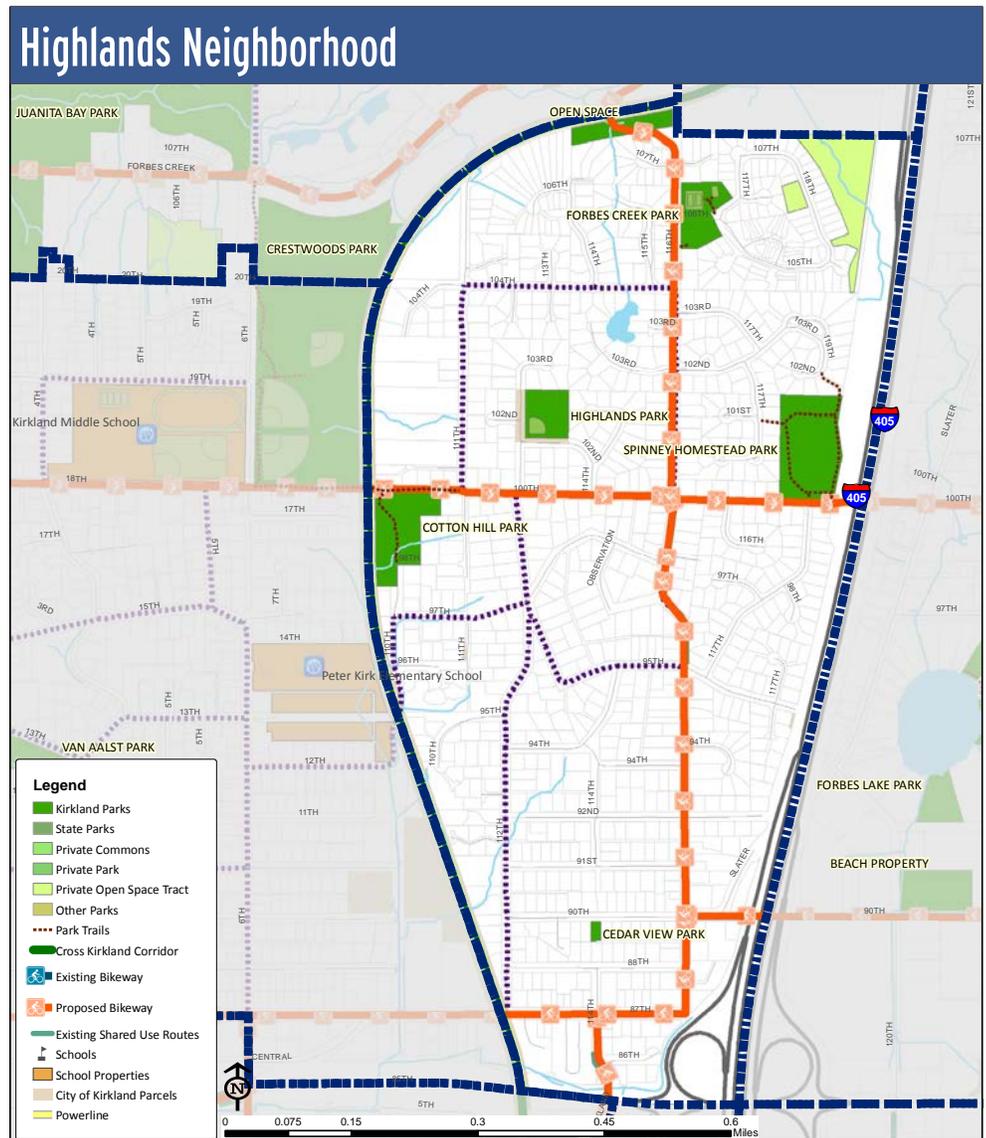
Forbes Creek Park

Highlands Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible ramps to mulched play areas (Project #T2)
- ADA Compliance: Replace non-compliant ADA picnic table w/compliant table & access (Project #T2)

Spinney Homestead Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible ramps to mulched play areas (Project #T2)



Trails

Bay to Valley Trail

- Connect Juanita Bay to North Rose Hill Woodlands Park and eventually to Sammamish Valley with a greenway (Project #C1)

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Lakeview Neighborhood

Parks

Houghton Beach Park

Marsh Park

Terrace Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible ramps to mulched play areas (Project #T2)
- ADA Compliance: Design and construct a ramp to CK Corridor for ADA and bike access and connect paved path to street (Project #T2)
- Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development Project: Add outdoor workout stations along east side of site for local and regional use (Project #C3)

Yarrow Bay Wetlands

- Create a restoration and improvement plan and develop trails and interpretive signage, per plan (Project #N10)
- Natural Area Park Restoration: Implement a restoration and enhancement program (Project #N6)
- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide signage and wayfinding along ROW for more public use and connections (Project #T15)
- City-School Wetland Partnership: Increase number of trails by including platforms and rope walks (Project #N1)

Street Ends Improvements

- Improve street ends along Lake Washington to provide lake viewing and access opportunities (Project #T18)

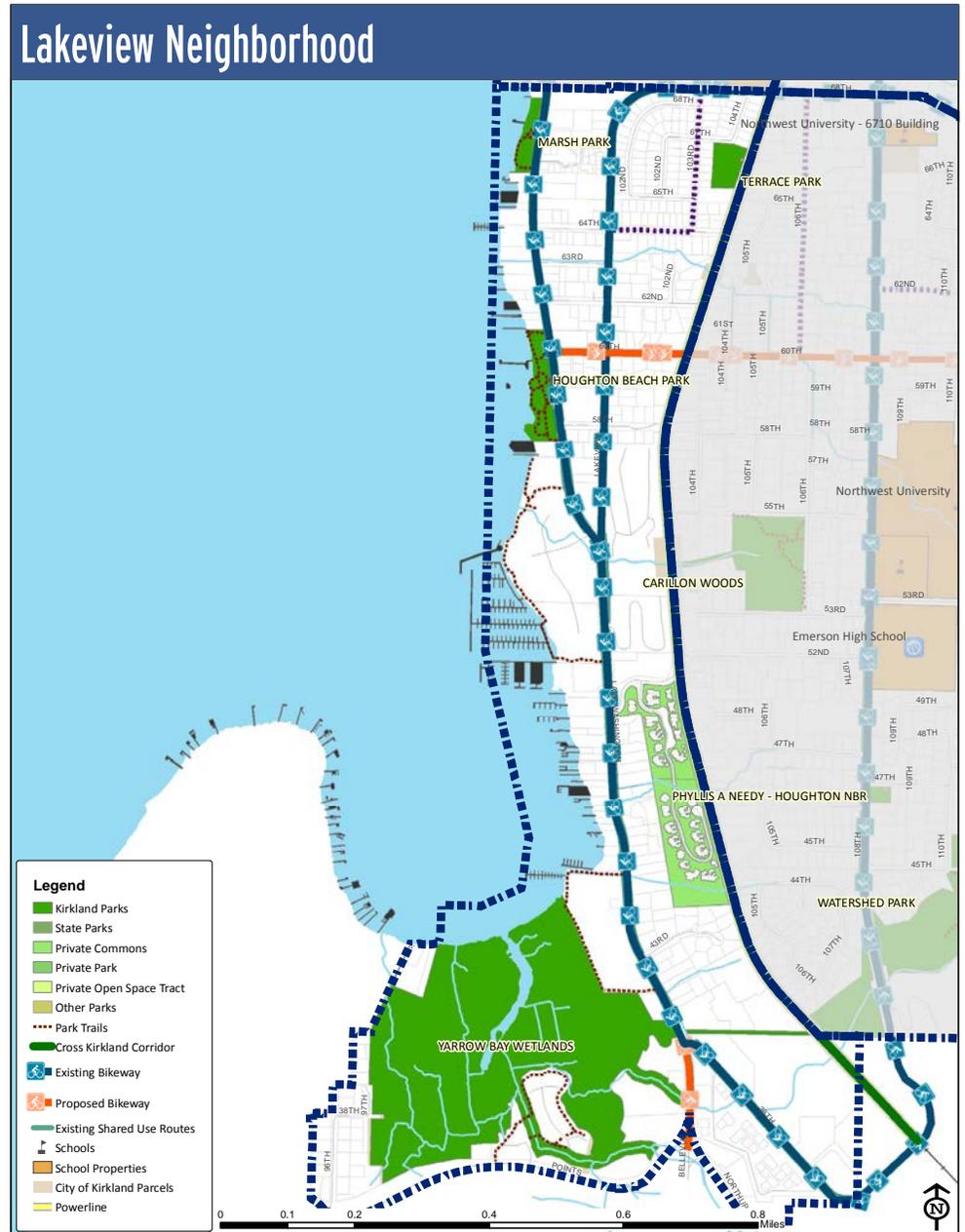
Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Lakeway Corridor

- Connect lakeshore parks with a greenway (Project #C6)



Market Neighborhood

Parks

Heritage Park

Juanita Bay

- Park Development: Provide additional trails for people to use the northeast side of the park; provide outdoor exercise equipment near stairs (Project #T6)

Kiwanis Park

- Erosion Control Plan & Design: Add eddies off pathside runnel to disperse energy, allowing stormwater retention and infiltration; provide timber steps to aid in navigating steep slope and erosion control (Project #T8)
- Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program: Restore native vegetation throughout site and remove invasive plants (Project #N4)

Lake Avenue W Street End Park

- Shoreline Renovation: Prevent shoreline undercutting with boulders, logs and vegetative mats (Project #N2)
- Stormwater Parks Implementation Program: Provide flow control and treatment of stormwater outfall prior to discharge (Project #N8)

Street Ends Improvements

- Improve street ends along Lake Washington to provide lake viewing and access opportunities (Project #T18)

Waverly Beach Park

- ADA Compliance: Add ADA accessible pathway from upper to lower site areas (Project #T2)
- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide signage and wayfinding to access upper and lower site segments (Project #T15)
- Shoreline Renovation: Repair dock (Project #N2)
- Shoreline Renovation: Upgrade hardened shoreline edge to soft alternatives (Project #N2)



Trails

Lakeway Corridor

- Connect lakeshore parks with a greenway (Project #C6)

Bay to Valley Trail

- Connect Juanita Bay to North Rose Hill Woodlands Park and eventually to Sammamish Valley with a greenway (Project #C1)

Recreation Facilities

Heritage Hall

- Renovations: Implement recent Master Plan improvements (Project #T22)

Moss Bay Neighborhood

Parks

David E. Brink Park

- Shoreline Renovation: Upgrade hardened shoreline edge to soft alternatives (Project #N2)

Marina Park

- Shoreline Renovation: Upgrade hardened shoreline edge to soft alternatives (Project #N2)

Peter Kirk Park

- Turf resurfacing at Lee Johnson Field (Project #S2)

Settler's Landing Park

- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide signage and wayfinding along ROW for more public use and connections (Project #T15)
- Stormwater Parks Implementation Program: Study catchbasin flows and possibly design stormwater swale/raingarden with interpretive design (Project #N8)

Street End Park

- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide signage and wayfinding along right-of-way for more public use and connections (Project #T15)

Street Ends Improvements

- Improve street ends along Lake Washington to provide lake viewing and access opportunities (Project #T18)

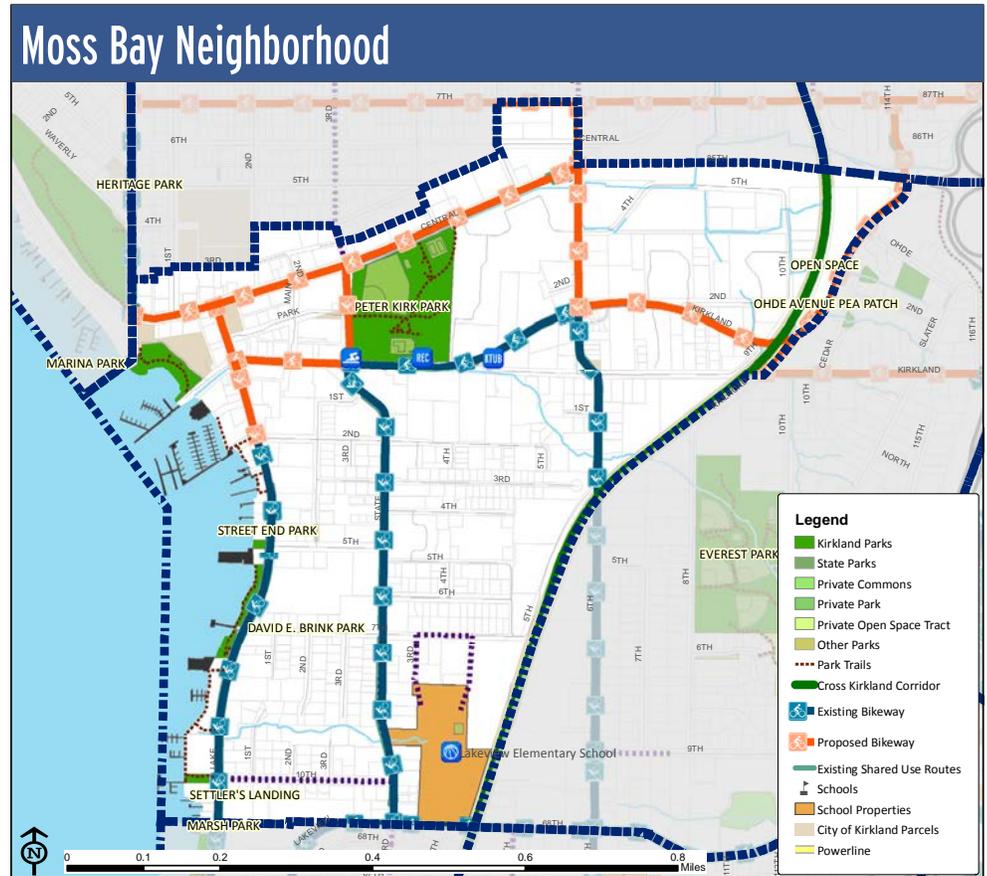
Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Lakeway Corridor Project

- Connect lakeshore parks with a greenway (Project #C6)



Recreation Facilities

Kirkland Performance Center

Kirkland Teen Union Building

Peter Kirk Community Center

- Renovation: Provide generators for Community Center (Project #T25)

Peter Kirk Pool

Schools

Lakeview Elementary School*

- Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development Project: Potential partnership to build playground areas along CKC (Project #C3)

* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site

Norkirk Neighborhood

Parks

Crestwoods Park

- ADA Compliance: Upgrade play structure to increase ADA compliance (Project #T2)
- Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development Project: Add outdoor workout stations & an off-leash area (Project #C3)

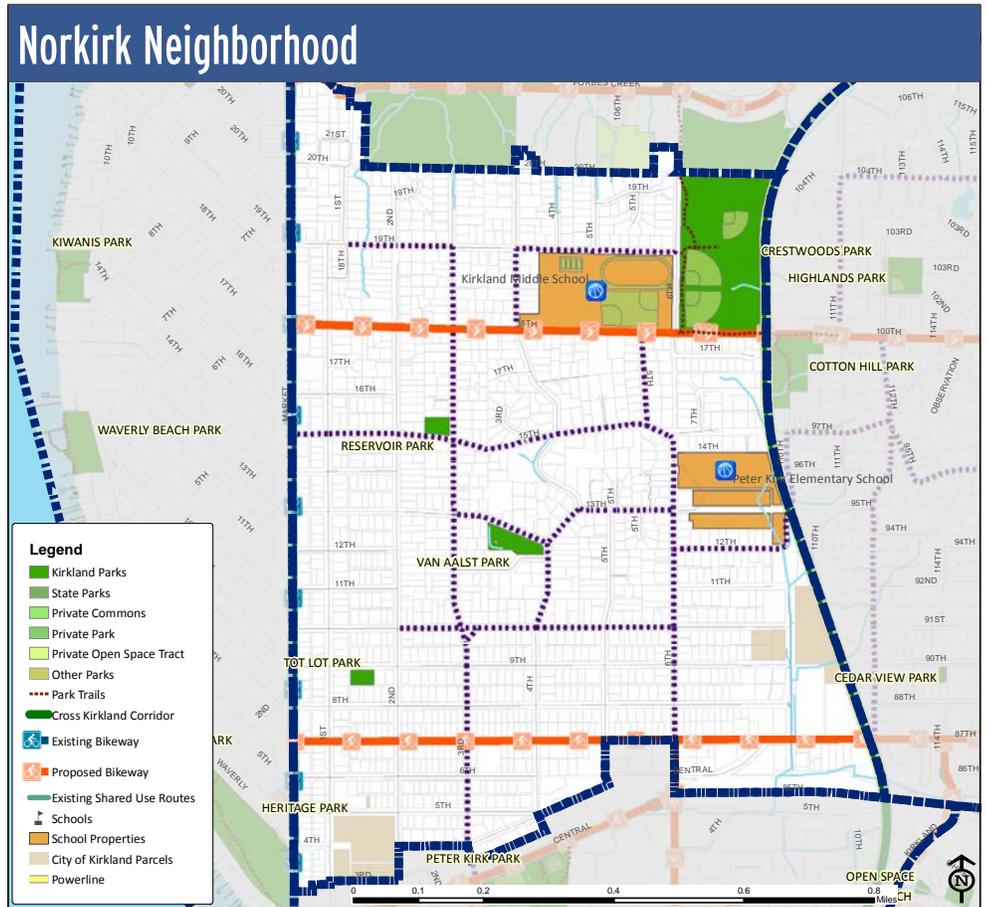
Reservoir Park

- Productive Landscapes Program: Add community garden plots (Project #N7)
- Renovation: Provide interpretive info at stormwater facility, possibly integrating play themes (Project #T14)

Tot Lot Park

Van Aalst Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible ramps to mulched play areas (Project #T2)
- Regrade Project: Regrade lawn properly to provide usable, terraced multipurpose lawn areas (Project #T20)



Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Schools

Kirkland Middle School*

Peter Kirk Elementary

- Potential City-School Wetland Partnership (Project #N1)
- Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development Project: Potential partnership to build a playground area along the CKC (Project #C3)

* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site

North Juanita Neighborhood

Parks

Brookhaven Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible pathway to the creek North Kirkland Community Center Park (Project #T2)
- Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs: Repair chain link fence; prune up tree branches covering educational signs along fence; distribute pile of woodchips; reseed lawn or provide other tough groundcover (Project #T10)
- Productive Landscapes Program: Add community garden plots (Project #N7)

Edith Moulton Park

- Park Renovations: Implement Master Plan, including restoration of native vegetation along Juanita Creek and throughout site (Project #T4)

Windsor Vista Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide porous pavement pathways with ADA accessibility (Project #T2)
- Park Development: Create Master Plan and develop park for active and passive recreation (Project #T21)
- Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program: Provide planting restoration and remove landscape fabric and invasive plants on site (Project #N4)

New Parkland

- Neighborhood park acquisition in the northeastern portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)

Trails

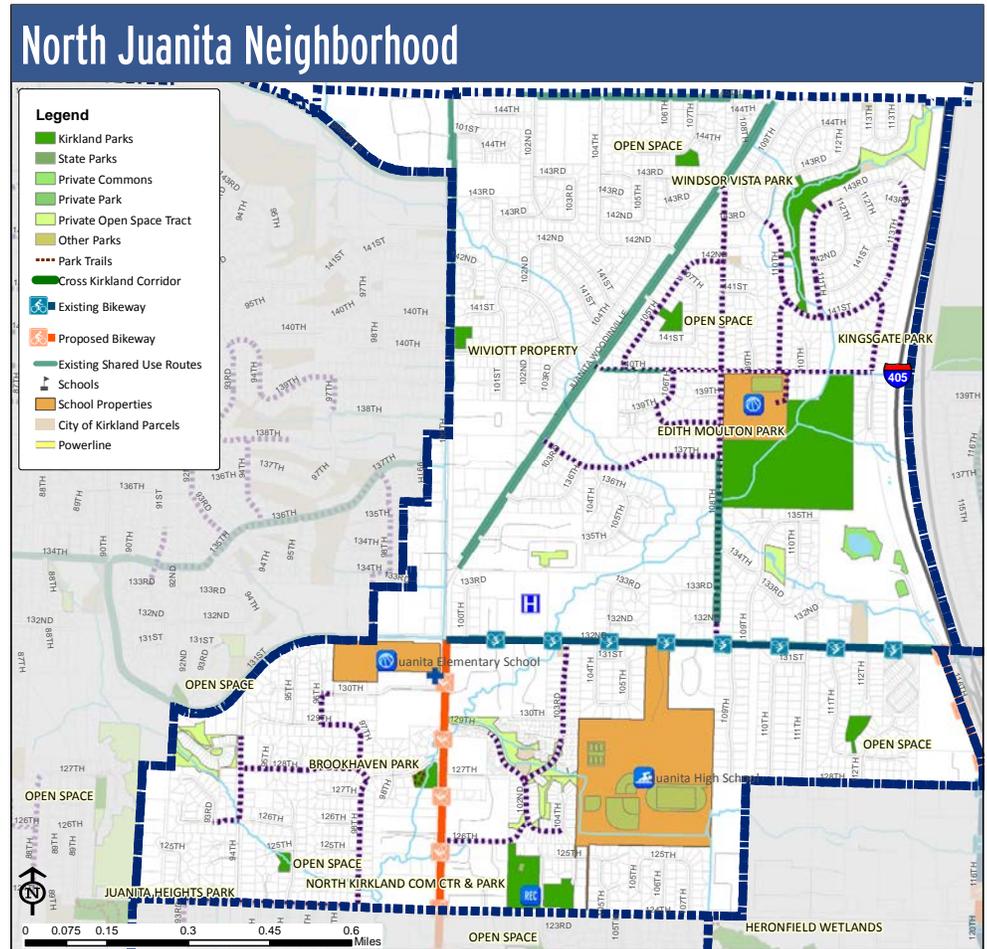
Bay to Valley Trail

- Connect Juanita Bay to North Rose Hill Woodlands Park and eventually to Sammamish Valley with a greenway (Project #C1)

Recreation Facilities

North Kirkland Community Center

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessibility at front of building (Project #T2)
- Development: Retrofit, expand or rebuild North Kirkland Center to provide additional capacity and amenities and improve ADA access (Project #T24)



Schools

Juanita Elementary School*

Helen Keller Elementary School

- Potential City-School Wetland Partnership (Project #N1)

Juanita High School

- Potential City-School Wetland Partnership (Project #N1)

* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site

North Rose Hill Neighborhood

Parks

Mark Twain Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible ramps to mulched play areas (Project #T2)
- Renovation/Design: Repair fence board; provide additional bike parking at various entrances of the park; regrade lawn properly to provide usable, multipurpose lawn area; Provide barrier from blackberry encroaching on south side of site (Project #T9)
- Productive Landscapes Program: Add community garden plots (Project #N7)

North Rose Hill Woodlands Park

- Park Development: Provide additional restroom facilities to meet demand; add parking lot, causing reclassification to community park; add a north/south path to make connections to paths along power corridor (Project #T11)

Forbes Lake Park

- Park and Trail Improvements: Develop park and trails, based on master plan (Project #T5)
- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide improved signage and wayfinding for public access and awareness (Project #T15)
- City-School Wetland Partnership: Increase number of trails by including platforms and rope walks (Project #N1)

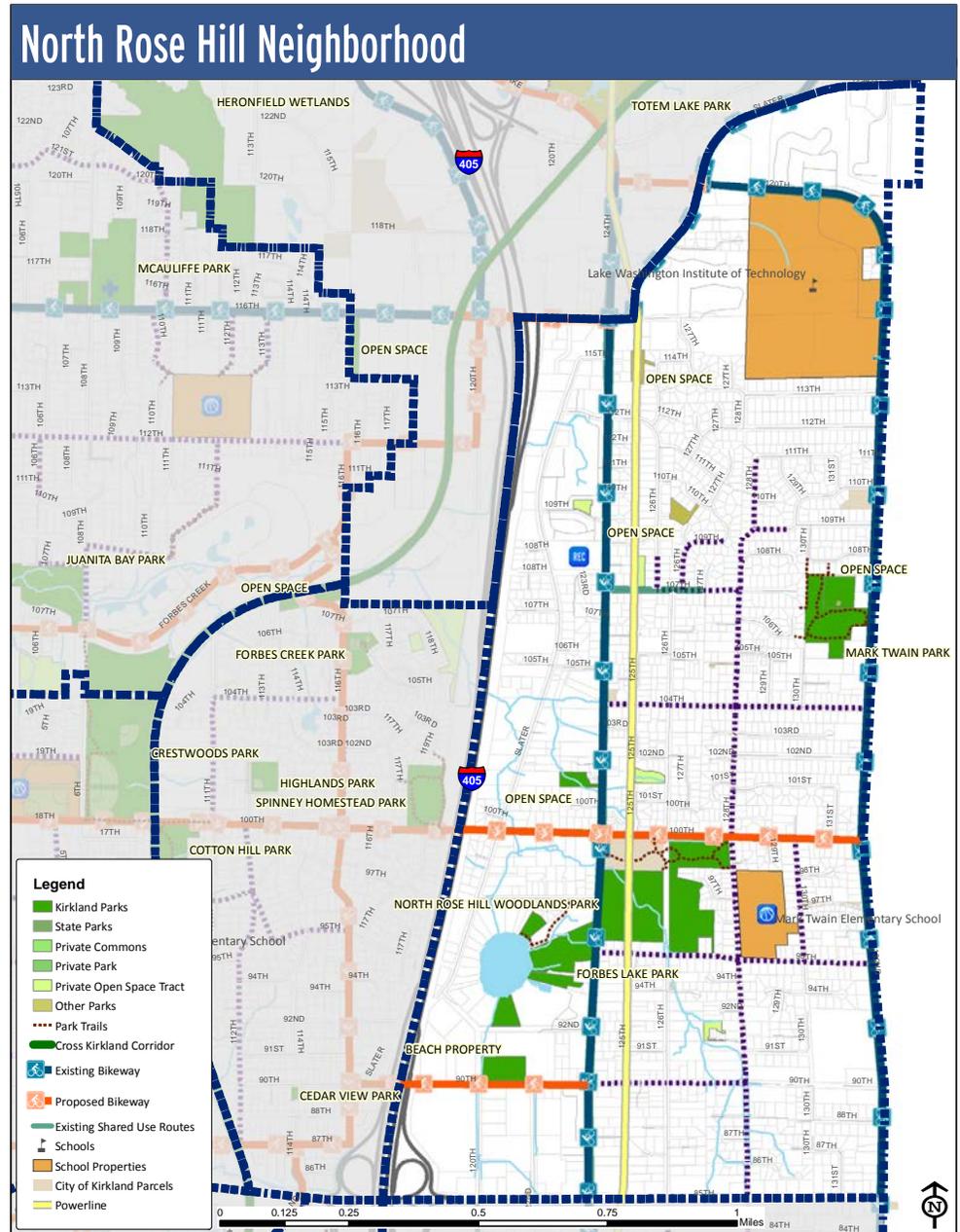
New Parkland

- Neighborhood park acquisition in the northern portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)

Trails

Eastside Powerline Corridor

- Develop a north-south trail under the Seattle City Lights power lines on the eastside with trailheads and access points (Project #C4)



Bay to Valley Trail

- Connect Juanita Bay to North Rose Hill Woodlands Park and eventually to Sammamish Valley with a greenway (Project #C1)

Schools

Mark Twain Elementary*

- Potential City-School Wetland Partnership (Project #N1)

* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site

South Juanita Neighborhood

Parks

Crestwoods Park

- ADA Compliance: Upgrade play structure to increase ADA compliance (Project #T2)

Juanita Beach Park

- Juanita Beach Bathhouse Replacement & Shelter: Upgrade restroom and concessions shelter (Project #T7)

Juanita Bay

- Park Development: Provide additional trails for people to use the northeast side of the park and outdoor exercise equipment near stairs (Project #T6)
- Natural Area Park Restoration: Implement a restoration and enhancement program (Project #N6)
- City-School Wetland Partnership: Increase number of trails by including platforms and rope walks (Project #N1)

McAuliffe Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible planting beds and pathways (Project #T2)
- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide improved signage and wayfinding for public access and awareness (Project #T15)
- Productive Landscapes Program: Develop a farm-to-table system with public-private partnership; provide an increased number of planting beds for shared urban food production (Project #N7)

New Parkland

- Neighborhood park acquisition in the southwestern portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)

Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Juanita Hill Connection

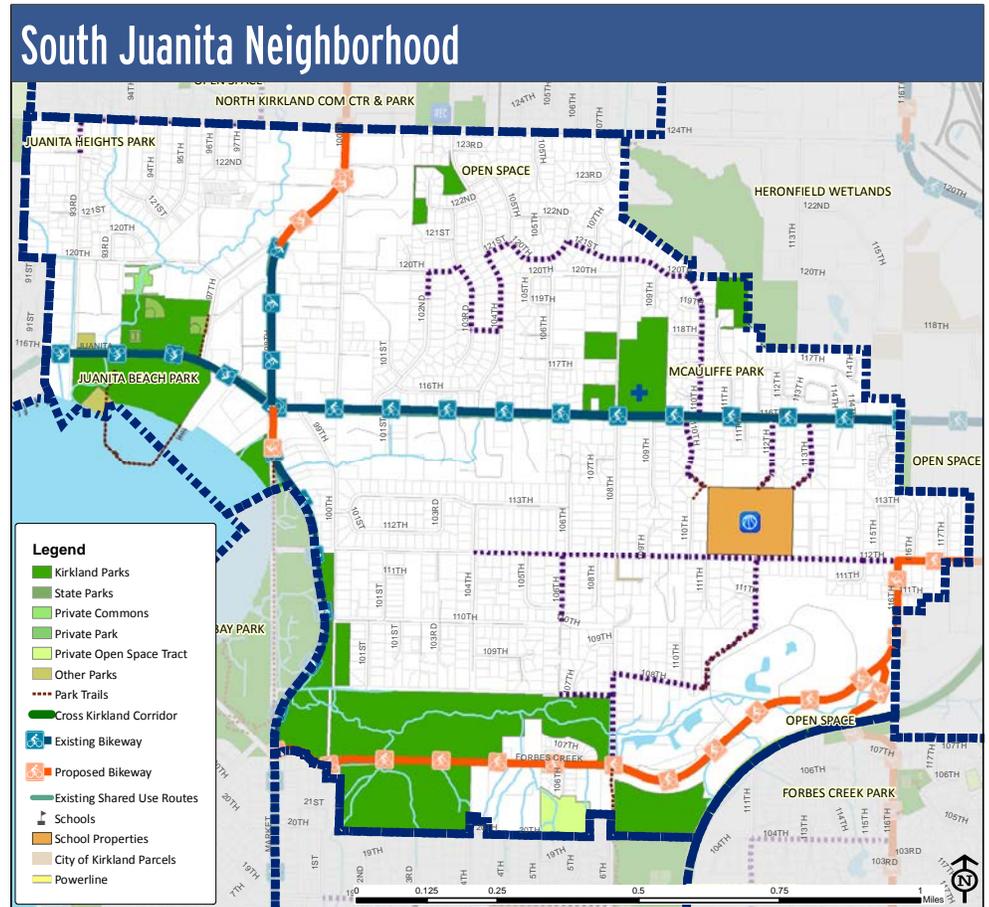
- Create greenway/trail connections between Juanita Beach, OO Denney and Big Finn Hill parks and Saint Edward State Park. (Project #C5)

Lakeway Corridor

- Connect lakeshore parks with a greenway (Project #C6)

Schools

A.G. Bell Elementary School



South Rose Hill Neighborhood

Parks

Kirkland Cemetery

Rose Hill Meadows

- ADA Compliance: Replace non-compliant ADA picnic table w/compliant table and access (Project #T2)

South Rose Hill Park

- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible ramps to mulched play areas (Project #T2)
- ADA Compliance: Replace non-compliant ADA picnic table w/compliant table and access (Project #T2)

New Parkland

- Neighborhood park acquisition in the western portion of the neighborhood (Project #T1)

Trails

Eastside Powerline Corridor

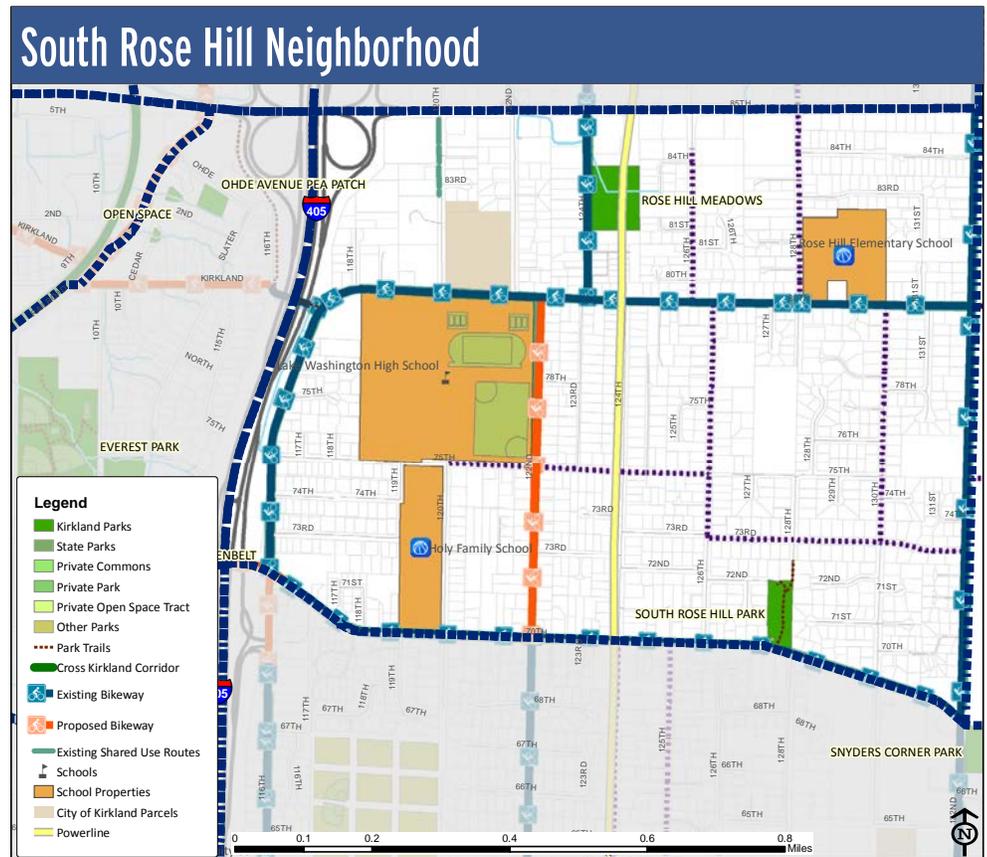
- Develop a north-south trail under the Seattle City Lights power lines on the eastside with trailheads and access points (Project #C4)

Schools

Lake Washington Senior High School

Rose Hill Elementary*

* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site



Totem Lake Neighborhood

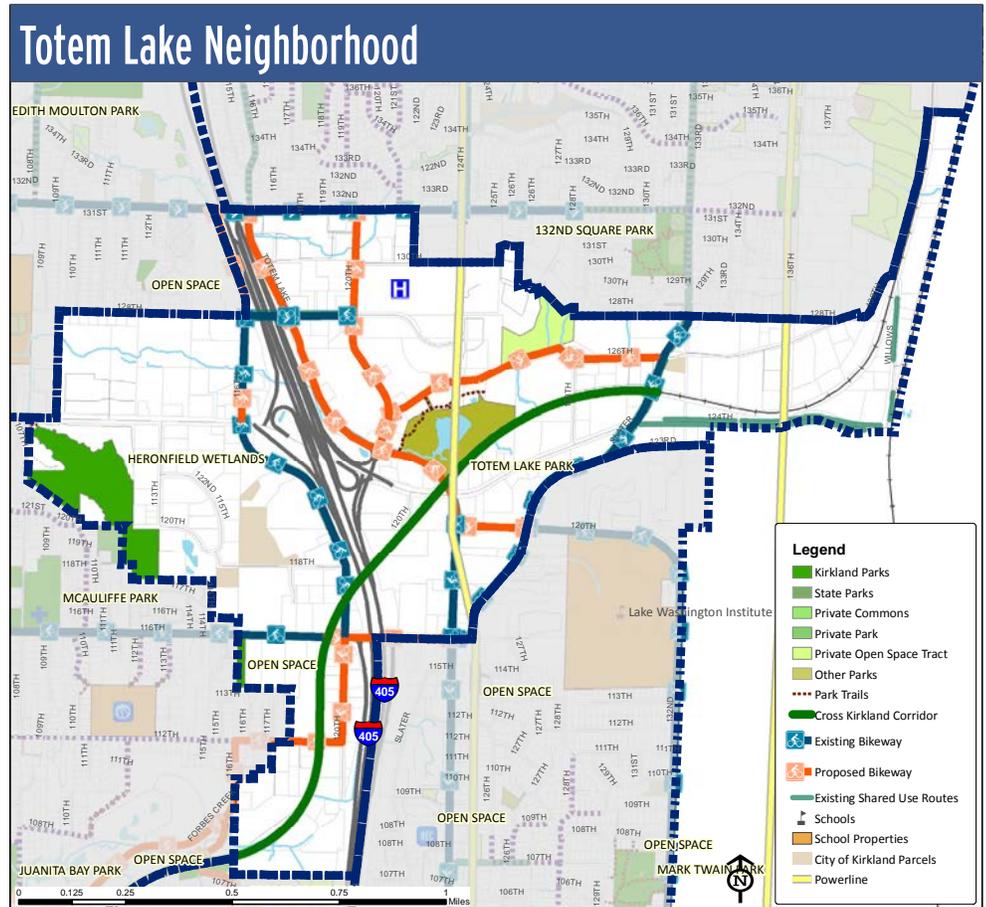
Parks

Heronfields Wetlands

- Create a restoration and improvement plan for Heronfield Wetlands and develop trails and interpretive signage, per plan (Project #N5)
- Natural Area Park Restoration: Implement a restoration and enhancement program (Project #N6)
- Stormwater Parks Implementation Program: Provide stormwater mitigation from upland contaminants and nutrient overload (Project #N8)

Jasper's Dog Park

- ADA Compliance: Add ADA accessible pathway from parking to dog park (Project #T2)
- Stormwater Parks Implementation Program: Add stormwater feature to collect and treat runoff from dog park; Provide educational/interpretive signage to stormwater feature (Project #N8)



Totem Lake Park (King County Conservation District)

- Master Plan: Complete Master Plan (Project #T19)
- Park Development: Implement Master Plan improvements (Project #T19)
- Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development: Connect users of CKC to retail and recreation (Project #C3)

Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Eastside Powerline Corridor

- Develop a north-south trail under the Seattle City Lights power lines on the eastside with trailheads and access points (Project #C4)

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10

SERVICE STANDARDS

In addition to and in support of the parkland gap analysis discussed in Chapter 4, a level of service (LOS) review was conducted as a means to understand the distribution of parkland acreage by classification and for a broader measure of how well the City is serving its residents with access to parks and recreation facilities. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their parks system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting the adopted standards.

Service Standards

As part of the 2010 PROS Plan, the City of Kirkland adopted a set of service standards for parkland classifications and recreation facilities. These standards are intended to guide those responsible for planning park and recreation services, and standards reflect Kirkland's unique qualities, inventory and community interests.

Figure 8. Parkland Standards

Type	Existing Standard
Community Park	2.095 ac/1,000
Neighborhood Park	2.06 ac/1,000
Waterfront Parks	--- ac/1,000
Natural Parks & Open Space	5.7 ac/1,000
	9.855 ac/1,000

Figure 9. Recreation Facility Standards

Type	Existing Standard
Baseball Fields	1 field/5,000 people
Softball Fields	1 field/10,000 people
Soccer / Football	1 field/7,500 people
Tennis Courts	1 courts/2,000 people
Skate Parks	1 per 20,000 people
Outdoor Pools	1 per 35,000 people
Indoor Pools	1 per 20,000 people

Level of Service Assessment

The level of service assessment is based on the existing parkland and facility inventory for Kirkland.

Inventory Adjustments

Residents of Kirkland have access to a wider array of parks and facilities than those provided only by the City itself. The community makes use of school sites, private parks and other facilities to meet their recreation needs. Upon review of the City's land inventory and past practices regarding how recreational lands are accounted, a few adjustments to the inventory are warranted and proposed as follows.

In the neighborhood park classification, this Plan recommends that the acreage for North Rose Hill Woodlands Park and Carillon Woods be reallocated between neighborhood parks and natural parks. Both of these parks are larger than the typical Kirkland neighborhood park, and both contain areas more appropriately suited to the natural park classification. Instead of the entire acreage for these properties being allocated to only the neighborhood park classification, this Plan recommends a minor redistribution to reflect the use and nature of these parks and better reflect the more active park areas within the neighborhood park classification.

Figure 10. Neighborhood Park Rebalancing

Park	Acreage	Re-Allocation by Classification	
		Neighborhood Park	Natural Park
Carillon Woods	9.1	3.2	5.9
North Rose Hill Woodlands Park	21.1	3.8	17.3
Subtotal	30.2	7.0	23.2

Additionally, the 2010 PROS Plan noted the inclusion of school lands into the level of service calculations for neighborhood and community parks. As a result of the recent annexation, the amount of school lands available within the City has been updated to reflect the City's larger boundary. The previous plan assigned 50% of the available recreational lands at primary (elementary) schools to the neighborhood park

classification and 100% of the available lands at secondary (middle and high schools) to the community park classification. This Plan maintains this allocation method.

Figure 11: Public School Land Allocations

School	Recreational Land Acres	Allocation to Inventory
Alexander Graham Bell Elementary School	2.5	1.2
Benjamin Franklin Elementary School	1.1	0.6
Carl Sandberg Elementary	5.5	2.7
Helen Keller Elementary School	3.7	1.8
Henry David Thoreau Elementary	2.7	1.3
John Muir Elementary	3.6	1.8
Juanita Elementary School	3.9	2.0
Lakeview Elementary School	3.5	1.7
Mark Twain Elementary School	4.6	2.3
Peter Kirk Elementary School	3.6	1.8
Robert Frost Elementary School	0.0	0.0
Rose Hill Elementary School	3.4	1.7
Subtotal	19.1	19.1
Finn Hill Middle School	15.5	15.5
Kamiakin Middle School	15.9	15.9
Kirkland Middle School	9.4	9.4
Emerson High School	2.0	2.0
Juanita High School	16.9	16.9
Lake Washington High School	17.4	17.4
Subtotal	77.1	77.1

Current Level of Service

At approximately 803 acres, the current, overall level of service for the City of Kirkland is 9.82 acres per 1,000 people, which includes acreage of public school recreational lands, private homeowner association parks and private open space tracts.

Figure 12. Current Levels of Service by Park Type

Type	Existing Standard	Current Inventory*	Current Level of Service	Current Surplus / (Deficit)
Community Park	2.095 ac/000	197.65	2.42 ac/000	26.43
Neighborhood Park	2.06 ac/000	101.82	1.25 ac/000	(66.55)
Waterfront Parks	--- ac/000	76.76	0.94 ac/000	---
Natural Parks & Open Space	5.7 ac/000	426.52	5.22 ac/000	(39.34)
	9.855 ac/000	802.75	9.82 ac/000	

* NOTE: Current Inventory column includes private parks and recreation areas of public schools (50% for elementary; 100% for secondary)

Figure 13. Current Levels of Service by Recreation Facility

Type	Existing Standard	Current Inventory	Current Level of Service	Current Surplus / (Deficit)
Baseball Fields	1 fields/5000 people	25	1 per 3,270	8
Softball Fields	1 fields/10000 people	10	1 per 8,173	1
Soccer / Football	1 fields/7500 people	9	1 per 9,081	(2)
Tennis Courts	1 courts/2000 people	33	1 per 2,477	(8)
Skate Parks	1 per 20000 people	1	1 per 81,730	(3)
Outdoor Pools	1 per 35000 people	1	1 per 81,730	(2)
Indoor Pools	1 per 20000 people	1	1 per 81,730	(3)

Using the service standards from the previously adopted plan, figures 12 and 13 illustrate the current level of service for recreation lands and facilities, along with current surpluses or deficits to those existing service standards. No standards were previously adopted for waterfront parks. It should be noted that the above tables include not only City owned and managed facilities, but also school district lands and facilities, private parks and private open space tracts. Even with the inclusion of privately-held parks and open space tracts, the City has a combined acreage deficit of nearly 80 acres - most of which is within the neighborhood park classification.

Today, the City is meeting its stated standards for community parks, baseball fields and softball fields. The City has a current deficit for neighborhood parks, natural parks and several facility types including soccer/football fields, tennis courts, skateparks and pools. As was previously noted, the largest apparent current deficit is with regard to neighborhood parks and available sport fields.

Proposed Revisions to Service Standards

The use of numeric standards is a limited tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, since the numeric values alone neglect any recognition for the quality of the facilities or their distribution (i.e., the ease to which residents have reasonable, proximate access to park sites). This Plan re-emphasizes the importance of distribution guidelines as noted in the Goals Chapter (Chapter 3) as a means to provide parklands and facilities within reasonable distance for residents.

While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the City, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails and active use parks (neighborhood and community parks) within a reasonable distance from their homes. To more appropriately measure and target toward that desire, the service standards, and the resulting service snapshot, were re-evaluated and re-aligned during the development of this Plan.

This Plan proposes an increase in the acreage standard for community parks to 2.25 acres per 1,000 people, primarily to emphasize the relative importance of this park classification. Community parks are often the 'work horse' parks of a park system in that they provide the land base to accommodate a range of mixed recreational uses,

park infrastructure (i.e., parking, restroom, etc) and the potential for sport fields. One consideration is the future use of the Taylor Fields site. At the present, the site is partially developed with baseball fields; however, the City should negotiate with King County for the re-use of this site as a community park.

This Plan also proposes a change to the neighborhood park standard and recommends a reduction in the standard to 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Although the need for additional and more well distributed neighborhood parks was noted from the community outreach, the existing standard of 2.06 acres per 1,000 creates a significant acreage deficit. This deficit is only slightly diminished by the proposed acquisitions noted in the needs chapters. This Plan recommends a reduction to this standard to better align the goal for the provision of neighborhood park with the potential for the City to secure additional parkland for this use as the City grows and redevelops. Although the standard is reduced, an acreage deficit remains; however, the City’s primary focus should be toward the acquisition of new neighborhood park sites to fill the documented gaps in distribution as described earlier in this Plan.

This Plan also proposes the elimination of numeric standards for natural parks and open space. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood parks per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to natural parks because the uniqueness of the land base itself. Additionally, approximately 92 acres of sensitive or protected lands have been set aside as privately held open space tracts via the platting and land development process. The inclusion of future, protected sensitive or critical areas as part of the broader greenspace network further clouds the relevance of a numeric standard for natural parks and open space. While it is still important for the City to protect sensitive lands to set them aside as part of a greenspace system, priority should be focused toward either the acquisition of or negotiation for additional, adjacent natural park lands to ensure the protection of unique or special habitat areas and sufficient land is available to accommodate future trail connections.

The following table illustrates the affect of the proposed standards.

Figure 14. Proposed Levels of Service by Park Type

Type	Proposed Standard	Current Inventory*	Projected Additions	Projected Surplus / (Deficit)
Community Park	2.25 ac/000	197.65	25	11.15
Neighborhood Park	1.5 ac/000	101.82	27	(12.18)
Waterfront Parks	--- ac/000	76.76		---
Natural Parks & Open Space	--- ac/000	426.52		---
	3.75 ac/000	802.75	52	

* NOTE: Current Inventory column includes private parks and recreation areas of public schools (50% for elementary; 100% for secondary)

This Plan proposes a reduction to the standards for skateparks and tennis courts to better align the existing demand for these facilities to the likely development of new facilities city-wide. The proposed skatepark standard is 1 facility per 40,000 people, and the proposed tennis court standard is 1 court per 3,000 people. This Plan also proposes the elimination of the standard for outdoor pools with the expectation that

the City would prioritize and focus capital dollars toward the construction of new indoor, all-season aquatic facilities, rather than constructing a new outdoor pool that has a 3-month operating season.

The following table illustrates the revised standards for recreation facilities.

Figure 15. Proposed Levels of Service by Recreation Facility

<i>Type</i>	<i>Proposed Standard</i>	<i>Inventory</i>	<i>Projected Additions</i>	<i>Projected Surplus / (Deficit)</i>
Baseball Fields	1 fields/5000 people	25		6
Softball Fields	1 fields/10000 people	10		0
Soccer / Football	1 fields/7500 people	9		(4)
Tennis Courts	1 courts/3000 people	33		1
Skate Parks	1 per 40000 people	1		(1)
Outdoor Pools	--- per 35000 people	1		---
Indoor Pools*	1 per 40000 people	1	1	(1)

* NOTE: For the purpose of this study, it is assumed that the existing Juanita High School Pool will be closed. A new facility would be a replacement

The proposed capital projects noted in the next chapter help ameliorate some of the projected acreage needs to meet the proposed standards.