City of Kirkland

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Public DRAFT | May 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City Council

Mayor: Amy Walen
Deputy Mayor: Penny Sweet
Council Member: Jay Arnold
Council Member: Shelley Kloba
Council Member: Toby Nixon
Council Member: Dave Asher
Council Member: Doreen Marchione

Park Board

Adam White, Chair
Kevin Quille, Vice Chair
Sue Contreras
Shawn Fenn
Sue Keller
Ted Marx
Rick Ockerman
Jim Popolow - Youth Representative

Kirkland Parks & Community Services Staff

Jennifer Schroder, CPRP, Director
Michael Cogle, Deputy Director
Linda Murphy, Recreation Manager
Jason Filan, Parks Maintenance Manager
Sharon Rodman, Environmental Ed & Outreach Specialist
Cheryl Harmon, Administrative Assistant

Consultant Team

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

Steve Duh, CPRP, Principal
Jean Akers, RLA, AICP, Sr. Associate
Michelle Kunec-North, Associate

SvR

Nate Cormier
Amanda Bailey

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.

H. Stuart Elway

Page left intentionally blank.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... **v**

SECTION 01: OVERVIEW **1**

Chapter 1: Introduction 1

Chapter 2: Community Engagement 13

SECTION 02: GOALS **17**

Chapter 3: Goals & Objectives 19

SECTION 03: NEEDS **37**

Chapter 4: Thrive 39

Chapter 5: Sport 69

Chapter 6: Connect 75

Chapter 7: Nurture 89

Chapter 8: Sustain 97

SECTION 04: ACTIONS **105**

Chapter 9: Neighborhood-based Recommendations 107

Chapter 10: Service Standards 129

Chapter 11: Capital Facilities Plan 135

Chapter 12: Implementation 143

SECTION 05: DATA **149**

Appendix A: Reference 145

Appendix B: Inventory & Classifications 145

Appendix C: Survey Summaries 145

Appendix D: Open House Summaries 145

Appendix E: Stakeholder Summaries 145

Appendix F: Implementation Tools 145

Page left intentionally blank.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is a six-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in Kirkland. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. The Plan provides a vision for the City's park and recreation system, proposes updates to City service standards and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of high quality recreation opportunities to benefit the residents of and visitors to Kirkland.

This Plan was developed with substantial input and direction of Kirkland residents. The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas, assesses the needs for acquisition, site improvements and operations and offers specific policies and recommendations to achieve the community's goals.

Mission

The mission of the Parks and Community Services Department 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.

We will preserve and maintain park lands and open spaces to create safe places for people to visit. We will conserve and sustain natural areas for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. We will provide comprehensive year-round recreation opportunities to enhance physical, mental and social well-being. We will 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.

This mission provided the foundation for the goals, objectives, recommendations and guidelines found throughout the Plan.

Kirkland's Park and Recreation 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 12.8 miles of trails and park paths 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.

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. These sites include Saint Edward State Park, Bridle Trails State Park, Totem Lake Park, Big Finn Hill Park, OO Denny Park and a number of school facilities with sport fields and indoor gymnasiums.

Kirkland is a stable and maturing community with many families and children. As the City responds to the needs of its new residents and the operating demands of its existing facilities, new investments in parks and recreation will be necessary to meet the needs of the community, support youth development, provide options for residents to lead healthy active lives and foster greater social and community connections.

Goals and Policies

This Plan includes goals and objectives intended to guide City decision-making to ensure the parks and recreation system meets the needs of the Kirkland community for years to come. These goals and objectives were based on community input and technical analysis. They include:

Community Engagement

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

Neighborhood & Community Parks

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

- Improve park sites to meet the active and passive recreational needs of Kirkland residents.
- Maintain and enhance Kirkland's waterfront parks to connect residents with the water and provide unique recreational experiences.

Trail Network

- 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.
- 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

Recreation Facilities & Programming

- Provide a variety of recreational services and programs that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.
- Maintain and enhance Kirkland's community centers to provide recreational opportunities, community services and opportunities for residents to connect, learn and play.
- Provide opportunities for aquatic recreation through the City's pools and lakefront facilities.
- Provide programming and services that support recreation and learning for target populations, including youth, teens, adults and older adults.
- Strive to reduce barriers to participation and provide universal access to facilities and programs.
- 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.

Athletics

- 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.
- Provide and enable access to a citywide system of indoor and outdoor sports courts, gymnasiums and programs for Kirkland residents.

Conservation & Stewardship

- Preserve significant natural areas to meet outdoor recreation needs, provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature, and meet habitat protection needs.
- Restore and manage City-owned or managed natural areas to protect and enhance their ecological health, sensitive habitats and native species.
- Restore Kirkland's shoreline on Lake Washington in accordance with the Shoreline Restoration Plan to improve habitat, hydrology and recreational opportunities.
- Protect and improve the City's natural systems or features for their value in providing ecosystem and infrastructure services.
- Promote environmental stewardship and education through informational signage, materials, programs and 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.

Planning, Design & Maintenance

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

Administration & Management

- Provide leadership and management of the park, recreation and open space system throughout the City.
- Provide sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City's standards.
- Promote volunteerism to involve individuals, groups, organizations and businesses in the development and stewardship of the park and recreation system.
- 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.
- Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Kirkland's park and recreation system.
- 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.

Level of Service Standards

This Plan proposes adjustments to the City's service standards for parks and recreation facilities to achieve community goals within projected resources. These standards include:

- **Community Parks:** This Plan proposes an increase in the acreage standard for community parks to 2.25 acres per 1,000 people to emphasize the relative importance of community parks within the park system. The City is currently meeting this standard, but it will need to acquire an additional 14 acres of parkland to meet the needs of future residents.
- **Neighborhood Parks:** This Plan proposes to reduce the neighborhood park standard from 2.06 to 1.5 acres per 1,000 people. Although the standard is reduced, an existing and future 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 parkland distribution.
- **Natural Parks & Open Space:** 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. 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.

- **Specialized Facilities:** This Plan includes standards for a variety of specific recreation facilities, such as athletic fields, pools and sport courts. The Plan proposes revisions to the standards for skateparks, tennis courts and pools to better align the existing demand for these facilities to the likely development of new facilities city-wide.

Future Improvements

The City of Kirkland is anticipated to grow to approximately 94,000 residents over the next 20 years. Serving existing and future residents will require improvements to existing parks and expansion of the park, trail and recreation system. The 6-year Capital Facilities Plan proposes approximately $11.5 million of investment in acquisition, development and renovation of the parks system over the next six years and identifies additional investment priorities for the future.

Figure ES1: Capital Facilities Plan Summary by Classification & Type

Project Type	Acquisition	Development	Renovation	Sum
Park Acquisition, Development & Improvement	$ 6,550,000	$ 19,124,500	$ 2,198,000	**$ 27,872,500**
Community Centers	$ -	$ 50,000,000	$ 2,160,000	**$ 52,160,000**
Athletic Fields & Facilities	$ 1,500,000	$ -	$ 4,370,000	**$ 5,870,000**
Trails & Greenway Connections	$ -	$ 19,680,000	$ -	**$ 19,680,000**
Natural Area Restoration & Stewardship	$ -	$ 265,000	$ 10,370,000	**$ 10,635,000**
TOTAL	**$ 8,050,000**	**$ 89,069,500**	**$ 19,098,000**	***$ 116,217,500***

To ensure existing parks provide desired recreational amenities and opportunities, the Plan includes investments in the development and improvement of neighborhood and community parks. For example, development of Edith Moulton Park will greatly expand park access and resources for surrounding neighborhood and the community as a whole. Major improvements at the North Kirkland Community Center will prepare this popular center for enjoyment for decades to come. The Plan also proposes smaller improvements throughout the park system to enhance accessibility, safety and usability of park features.

The Plan includes a significant land acquisition program to ensure sufficient land for outdoor recreation in recognition of the City's new, larger boundary. It identifies target acquisition areas to secure parkland, gain access rights along key trail corridors and fill gaps in neighborhood park access.

To connect Kirkland's residents to destinations throughout the City and provide options for walking, biking and rolling, the Plan proposes development of a few signature trail corridors, such as the lakeway trail, bay to valley trail and an eastside

trail. These trail corridors will connect residents to the wealth of parks, natural areas, recreation facilities and other amenities the City has to offer.

Implementation Strategies

Partnerships & Community Collaboration

Dedicated coordination and collaboration with other public divisions and agencies, as well as private and community organizations, businesses and Kirkland residents, will greatly enhance the City's ability to fulfill the community's aspirations and the goals of this Plan.

Through enhanced internal coordination, the City can pursue trail corridors that meet both recreation and transportation needs and utilize the development review process to identify trail easement and set-aside opportunities. Continued partnerships with the Lake Washington School District and nearby cities can improve recreation options for Kirkland residents through joint use, development and programming of park and recreation facilities. This is especially true regarding the potential for a new aquatics facility to replace the Juanita Aquatics Center.

The Kirkland community has a history of, and an expressed interest in, contributing to the development and stewardship of the City's park, natural areas and recreation resources. Enhanced partnerships with youth sports, service and civic organizations can capitalize on volunteer efforts to expand recreational programming and improve the condition of the City's parks, while also fostering a stronger sense of community pride and ownership in park facilities. Partnerships with regional healthcare providers can expand the community's access to recreation programs and services and enhance community health and social engagement. Finally, by engaging property owners, the City can open opportunities to expand the park and trail system, while protecting critical natural resources.

Funding

The City of Kirkland currently relies on Park Impact Fees (PIF), Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), voter-approved levies and general funds to finance individual projects. Additional, dedicated funding may be required to finance upgrades to and growth in the parks and recreation system to meet community needs. Updating the existing PIF program, which assesses fees on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth, will allow the City to obtain future acquisition and development funding from residential development. A short-term bond or levy could augment other revenues to support a new recreation center with aquatics, parkland acquisitions and development, trail development, waterfront opportunities and general park element upgrades. Such mechanisms would require both political and public support. State and federal grant programs offer additional potential opportunities to leverage available local revenues to fund specific development projects.

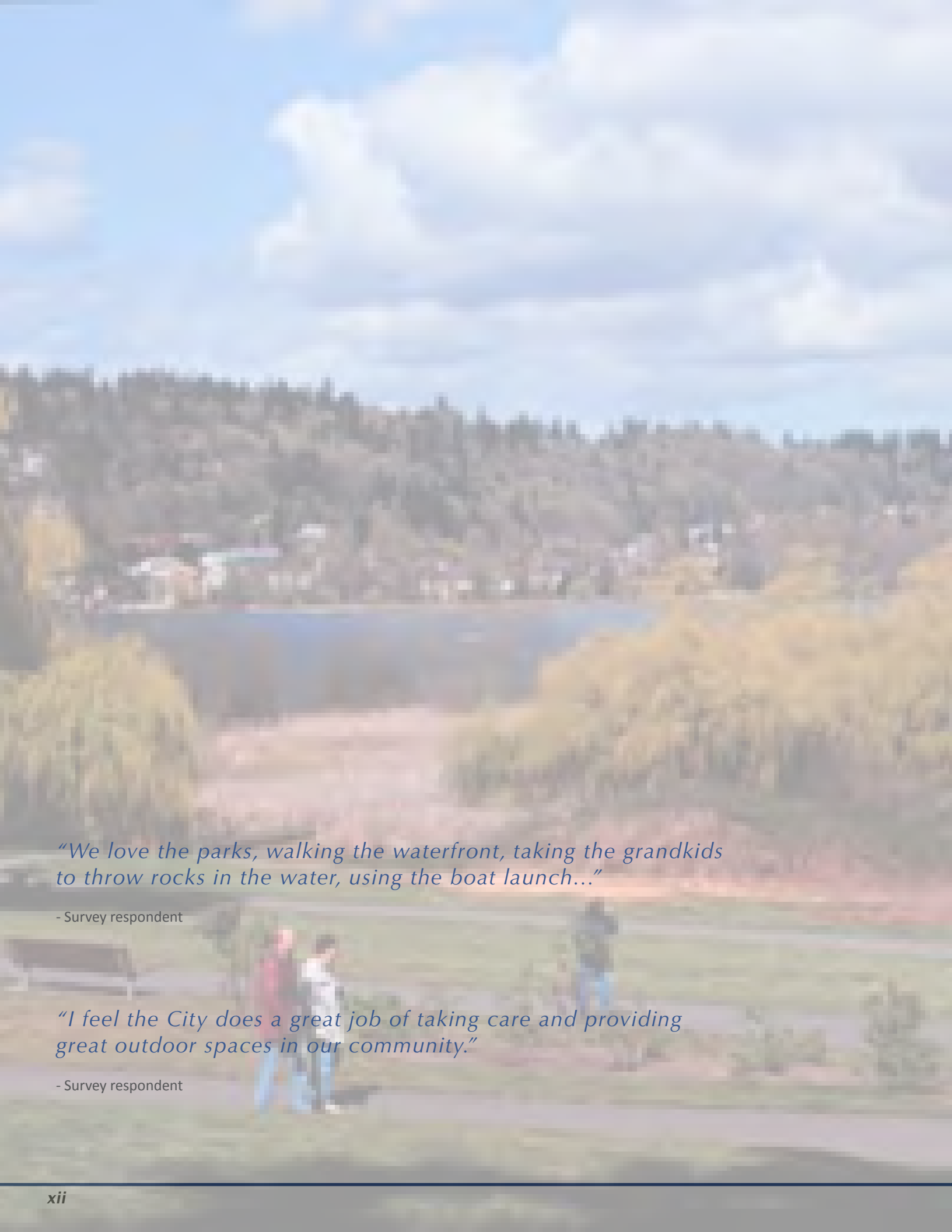
Overview 01

02

03

04

05



"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

1 INTRODUCTION

This Kirkland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is an update to the 2010 PROS Plan and establishes a path forward to guide the City's efforts to provide high quality, community-driven parks, trails, natural areas and recreation services throughout Kirkland.

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 Edward 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, including 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 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, the City of Kirkland annexed the Finn Hill, North Juanita and Kingsgate (now known as Evergreen Hill) areas north of Kirkland into the City. 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, the 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 approximately 15,490 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 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

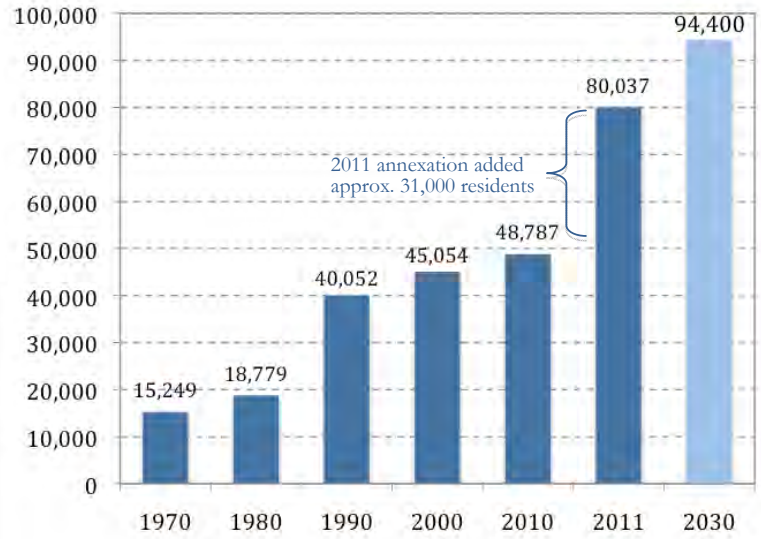


Figure 2. Population Characteristics: Kirkland, King County & Washington

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
Population (2013 - OFM)	**81,730**	1,981,900	6,882,400
Percent Change (2000-13)	**81.7%**	14.1%	16.8%
Communities of Color	**20.7%**	31.3%	22.7%
Persons w/ Disabilities (2012)	**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%	19.6%
Median Income (2012)	**$88,756**	$70,567	$58,890
Average Household Size	**2.15**	2.4	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 (18%) 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

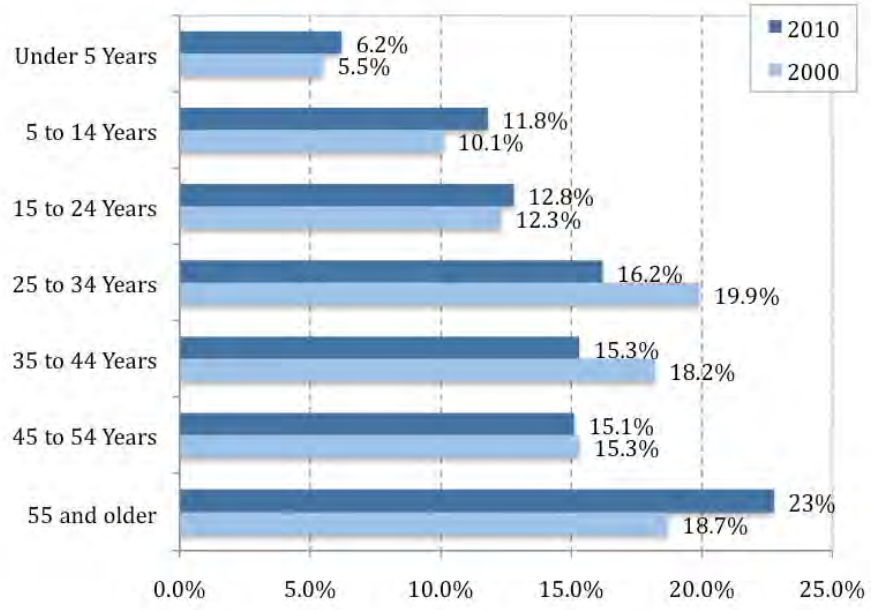
(37.3) and the nation (37.2).

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. (Note: U.S. Census data does not yet account for the recent annexation, so these estimates are based on 2010 Census data.) 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 increased 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, Houghton and Juanita 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 12.8 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.

Benefits of Parks, Recreation, Open Space & 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.
- 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.[1] 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.[2]

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.[3] Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.

1 Centers for Disease Control, 2001.
2 Human Impact Partners, 2009.
3 Jackson & Stacy, 2012.

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.

Plan Overview

This Kirkland Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is an update to the 2010 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: Community Engagement – highlights the methods used to engage the Kirkland community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 3: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapters 4 - 9: 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 10: Capital Facilities Plan – details a 6-year program for addressing park and recreation facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Chapter 11: 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.

Page left intentionally blank.

2 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).

A third community meeting was held on February 27, 2013 to offer residents an overview of the preliminary project recommendations from the PROS Plan update. Meeting displays included content on parks and recreation facilities, trail connections and potential acquisition areas to consider. The displays also included neighborhood specific recommendations. This open house was a joint meeting with the Cross Kirkland Corridor trail project, and approximately 60 people attended.

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

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*
- **Recreation Program Group**
  - *PKCC Advisory Board*
  - *Slow Pitch Softball*
  - *WAVE Aquatics*
  - *Participant of North Kirkland Community Center*
  - *EvergreenHealth*
  - *Senior Council*
- **Parks & Community Services Department Staff**
- **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*
- **Environmental Group**
  - *Green Kirkland Partnership*
  - *Kirkland Urban Forester*
  - *Kirkland Planning & Community Development*
  - *King Conservation District*
  - *Sustainable Kirkland*

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 E.

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.

Goals

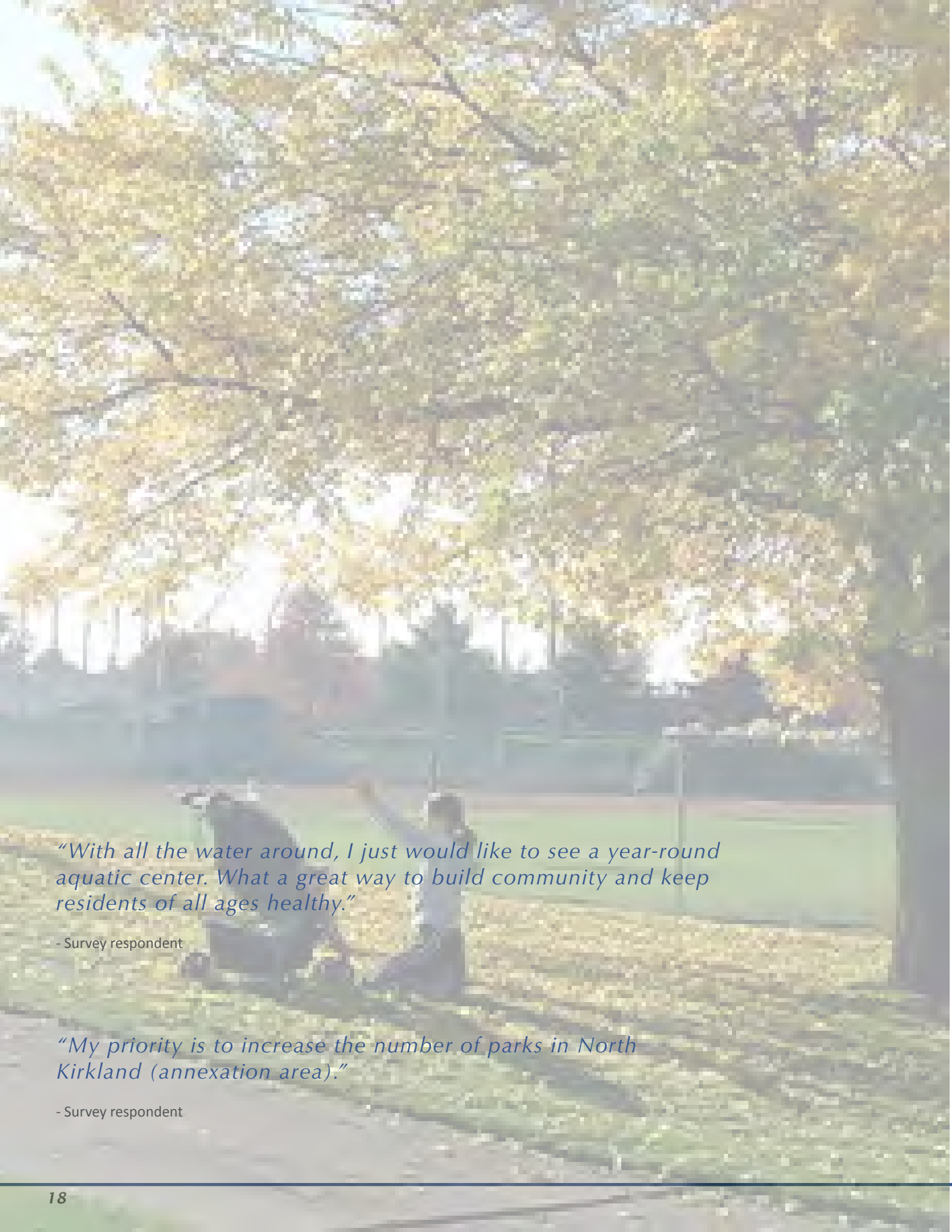
01

02

03

04

05



"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

3 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Overview

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services that the Kirkland community aims to achieve. 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 habit 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 unnecessary 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.

These goals are in alignment with the National Recreation and Parks Association's *Three Pillars*, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- ***Conservation*** *– Public parks are critical to preserving our communities natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting our open space, connecting children to nature and providing education and programs that engage communities in conservation.*
- ***Health and Wellness*** *– Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.*
- ***Social Equity*** *– We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Every day, our members work hard to ensure all people have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.*

Policies & Objectives

The following pages detail specific policies and objectives in support of the City's goals for its parks and recreation system.

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.

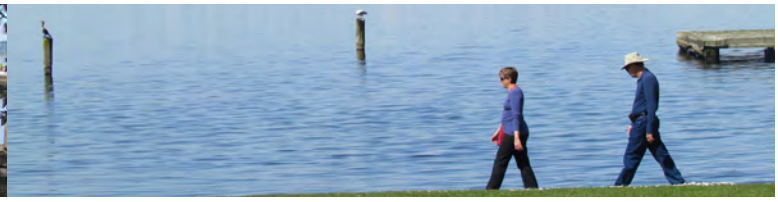
2. Neighborhood & Community Parks

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 ¼ 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.
- Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, signage, restrooms and other amenities.
- 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.
- 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 Metro Transit 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 NE 100th Street to create an east-west trail that connects users from Juanita Bay through central Kirkland and into the Sammamish Valley.
- Finn Hill Connection: Consider protection and development of a greenway and trail corridor from Forbes Creek to Juanita Heights and Saint Edward 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 YMCA, 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 provide universal access to facilities and programs.

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, ultimate frisbee, disc golf, 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

- Prove sport 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 on 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 - Indoor & Outdoor Court Sports

Provide and enable access to a citywide system of indoor and outdoor sports courts, gymnasiums and programs for Kirkland residents.

Actions/Objectives

- Consider installing basketball, volleyball, and/or tennis courts in future community parks or community centers.
- Explore options to develop half-court basketball courts 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 gymnasiums and athletic fields 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

- Preserve 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 coordinate 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 Conservation 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-tern 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.
- 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 development and stewardship of the park and recreation system.

Actions/Objectives

- Engage volunteers in park and facility education, outreach, maintenance and enhancement.
- Cooperate with the City-wide Volunteer Program for a coordinated volunteer recruitment, training, management, and recognition program for park and open space projects.
- 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.
- Prepare and update informational materials in multiple languages to reach out to the City's diverse population.

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 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 Conservation District to improve community access to natural areas, improve trail connectivity and coordinate seasonal and annual events.
- Enhance partnerships 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.
- 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, programs and 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.

Needs

01

02

03

04

05

"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

4 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.

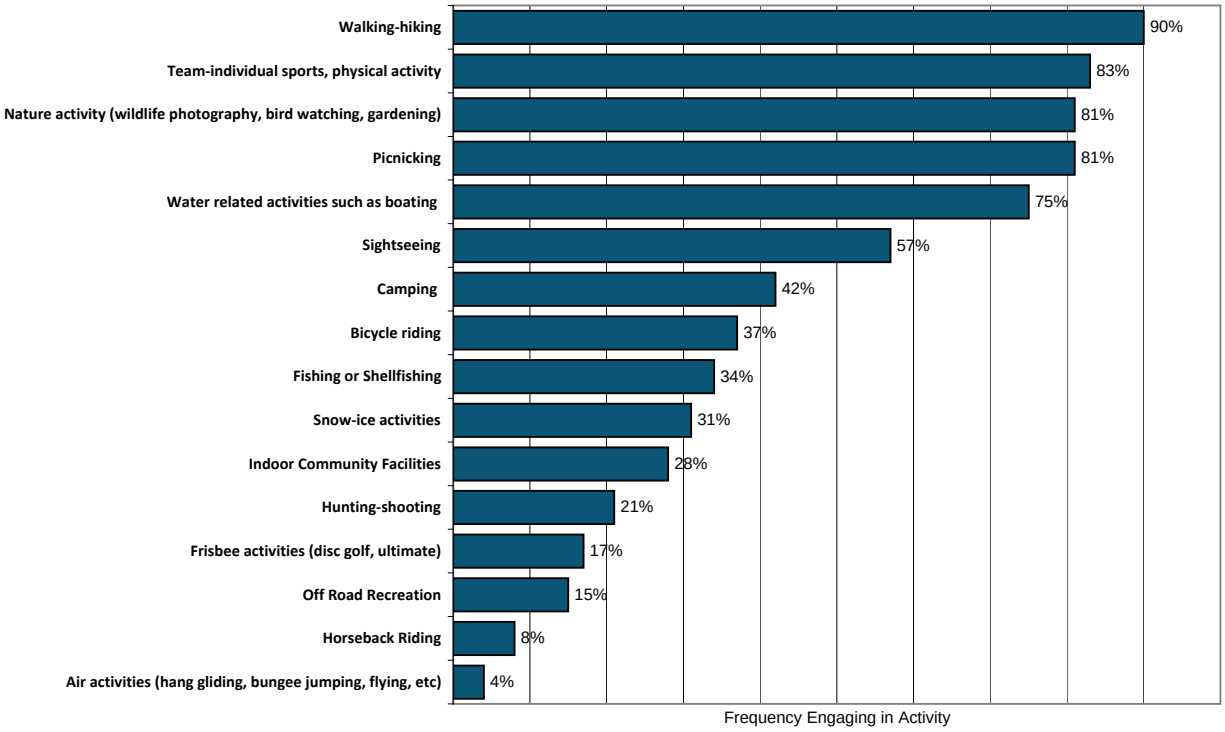
Current Trends & Perspectives

National and Regional Trends

The draft 2013 Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (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.

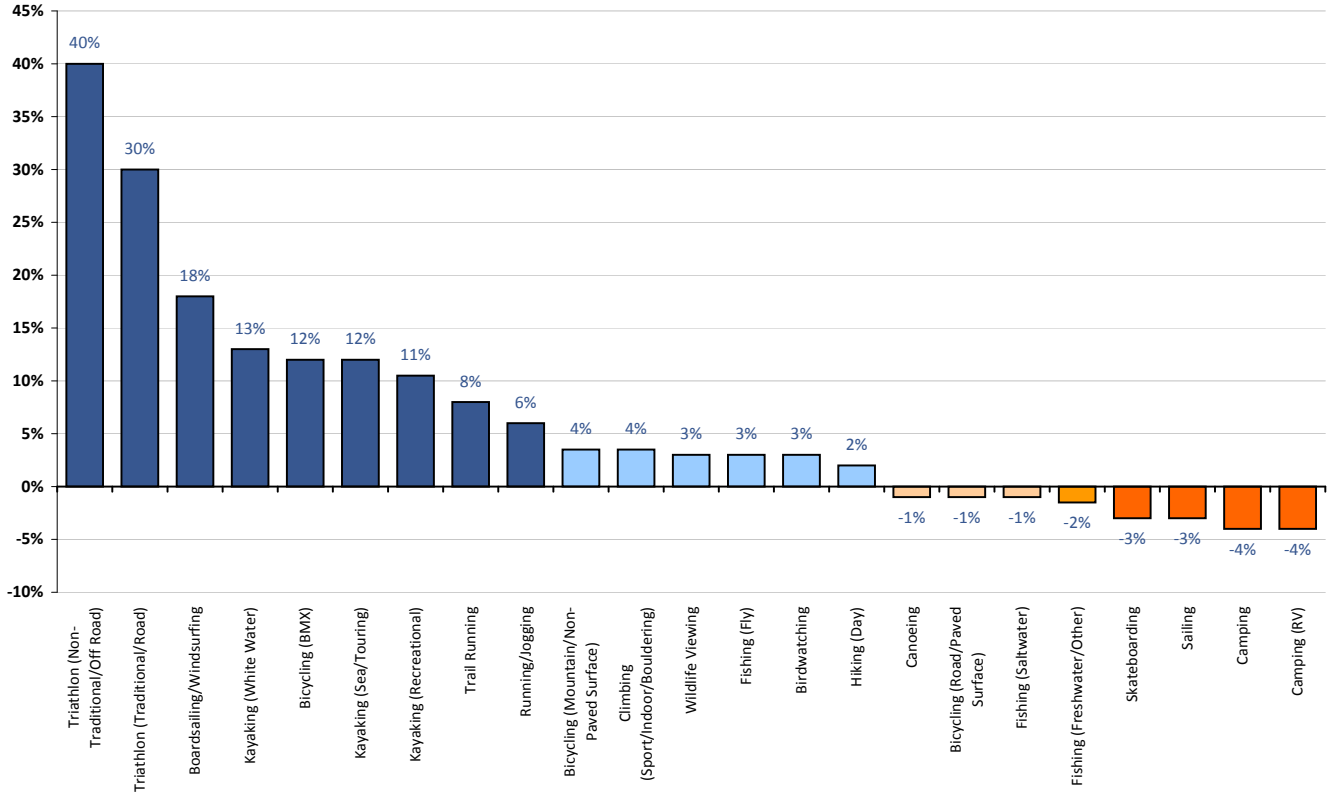
Based on scientific research and a comprehensive planning process, these recommendations are intended to contribute knowledge and guidance to the future development of outdoor recreation in Washington for the benefit of both residents and the natural environment.

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 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
2. Strength training
3. Body weight training*
4. Children and obesity
5. Exercise and weight loss
6. Fitness programs for older adults
7. Personal training
8. Functional fitness
9. Core training
10. Group personal training
11. Worksite health promotion
12. Zumba and other dance workouts
13. Outdoor activities
14. Yoga
15. Worker incentive programs
16. Boot camp
17. Outcome measurements*
18. Circuit training*
19. Reaching new markets
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 typically are not provided due to high construction and maintenance costs. Parking also is 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**

School grounds in Kirkland play a role in its overall park system. While school sites may offer an open field or play equipment, daytime access is restricted by school use and limited for security concerns. During non-school hours, public elementary school properties provide functions very similar to neighborhood parks. Consequently, this Plan acknowledges a partial contribution of these public lands to the level of service provision in terms of acreage and geographic location.

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 ¼-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:

- Forbes Lake Park
- Juanita Heights Park
- South Norway Hill 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 Site 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 (¼-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 (Gap Area 'A')
- Southwestern portion of the North Juanita neighborhood (Gap Area 'B')
- Northeastern portion of the North Juanita neighborhood (Gap Area 'C')
- Northeastern portion of the Evergreen Hill neighborhood (Gap Area 'D')
- Central portion of the Evergreen Hill neighborhood (Gap Area 'E')
- Northern portion of the North Rose Hill neighborhood (Gap Area 'F')
- Western portion of the South Rose Hill neighborhood (Gap Area 'G')
- Southern portion of the Bridle Trails neighborhood (Gap Area 'H')

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 walkshed 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 based on the projected 2035 population. Additional information about levels of service and service standards is located in Chapter 10.

Development and Improvements

The development of a site master plan for Edith Moulton Community Park will lay the foundation for future 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 an 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.

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.

Figure 8. Waterfront Park Listing

Park Name	Status	Acreage
David E. Brink Park	Developed	8.37
Forbes Lake Park	Partially Developed	8.81
Houghton Beach Park	Developed	9.58
Juanita Beach Park	Developed	25.00
Kiwanis Park	Developed	5.55
Lake Ave W Street End Park	Developed	1.73
Marina Park	Developed	6.45
Marsh Park	Developed	4.27
Settler's Landing	Developed	0.47
Street End Park	Developed	0.94
Totem Lake Park	Partially Developed	17.18
Waverly Beach Park	Developed	5.58
	Total Community Park Acreage	**93.94**

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 Beach Park, Marsh Park 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.

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 Edward 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 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. Additionally, the Woodinville Water District owns the two-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. These school sites, along with other public lands, help meet some of the geographic and facility gaps in Kirkland's parks and recreation system.

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

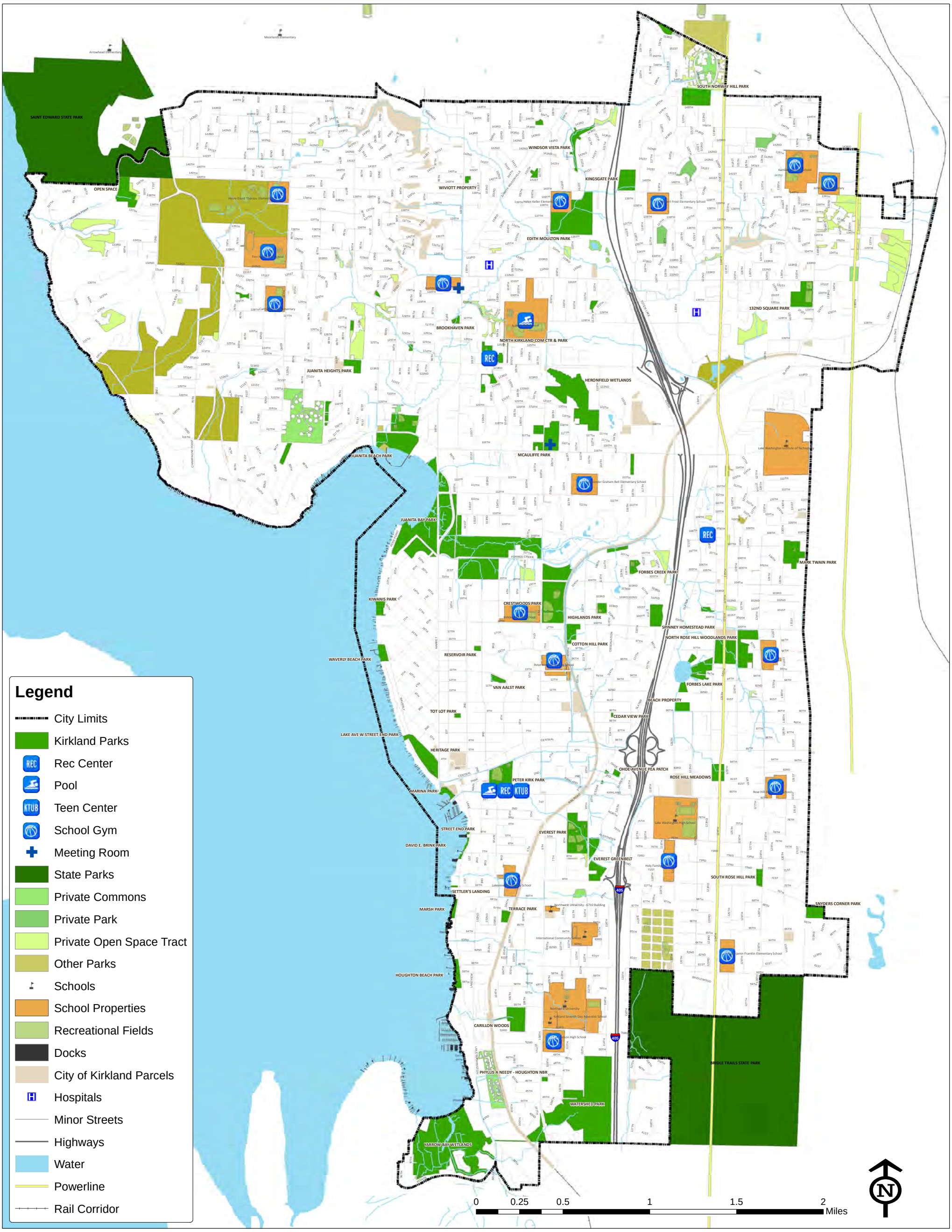
Walking with a dog is a very popular recreational activity in Washington State, with roughly one-half of residents participating. Off-leash areas have become desired amenities for dog owners living in urban environments who may otherwise have limited opportunities to exercise their pets. Kirkland's only off-leash area, Jasper's 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.

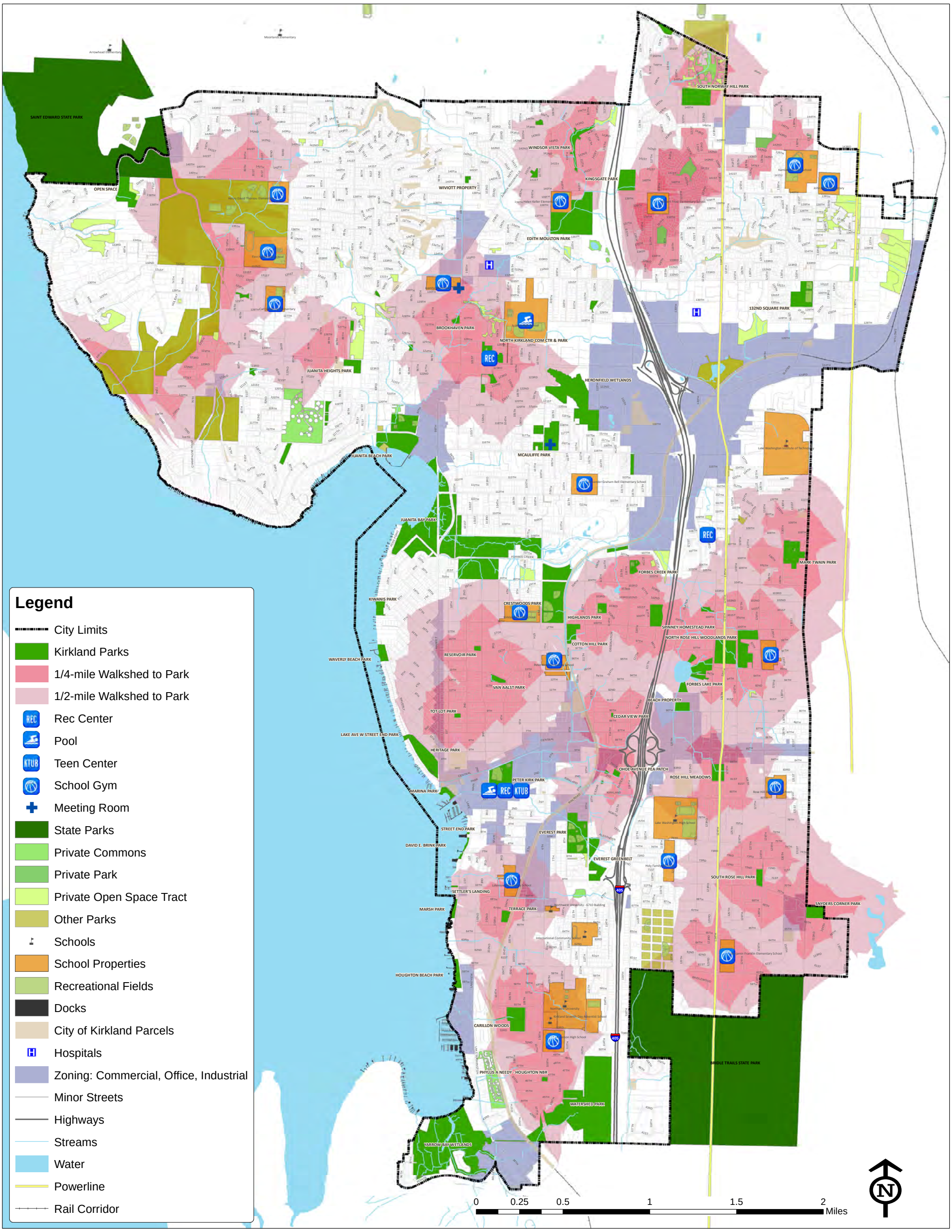
As the City develops or redevelops park sites, they should be considered for potential off-leash areas. Appropriate sites should be safe, not isolated, and noise impacts on neighbors should be considered. Ideally, a dog park would be a component to a larger community park, where infrastructure (e.g. 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 Seattle City Lights (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.

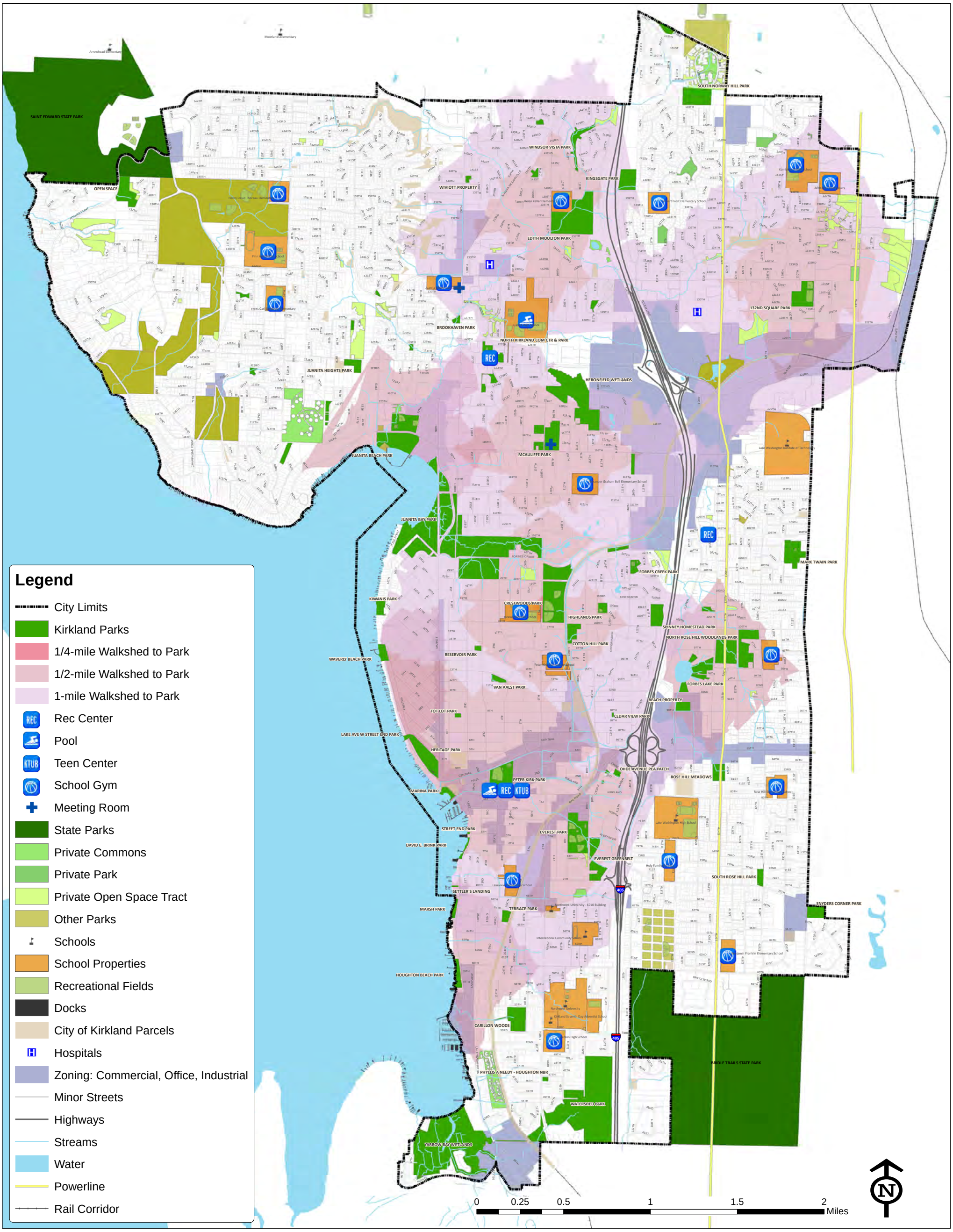
The City should also continue and enhance signage and enforcement of leash laws in parks or natural areas where only on-leash activities are allowed.



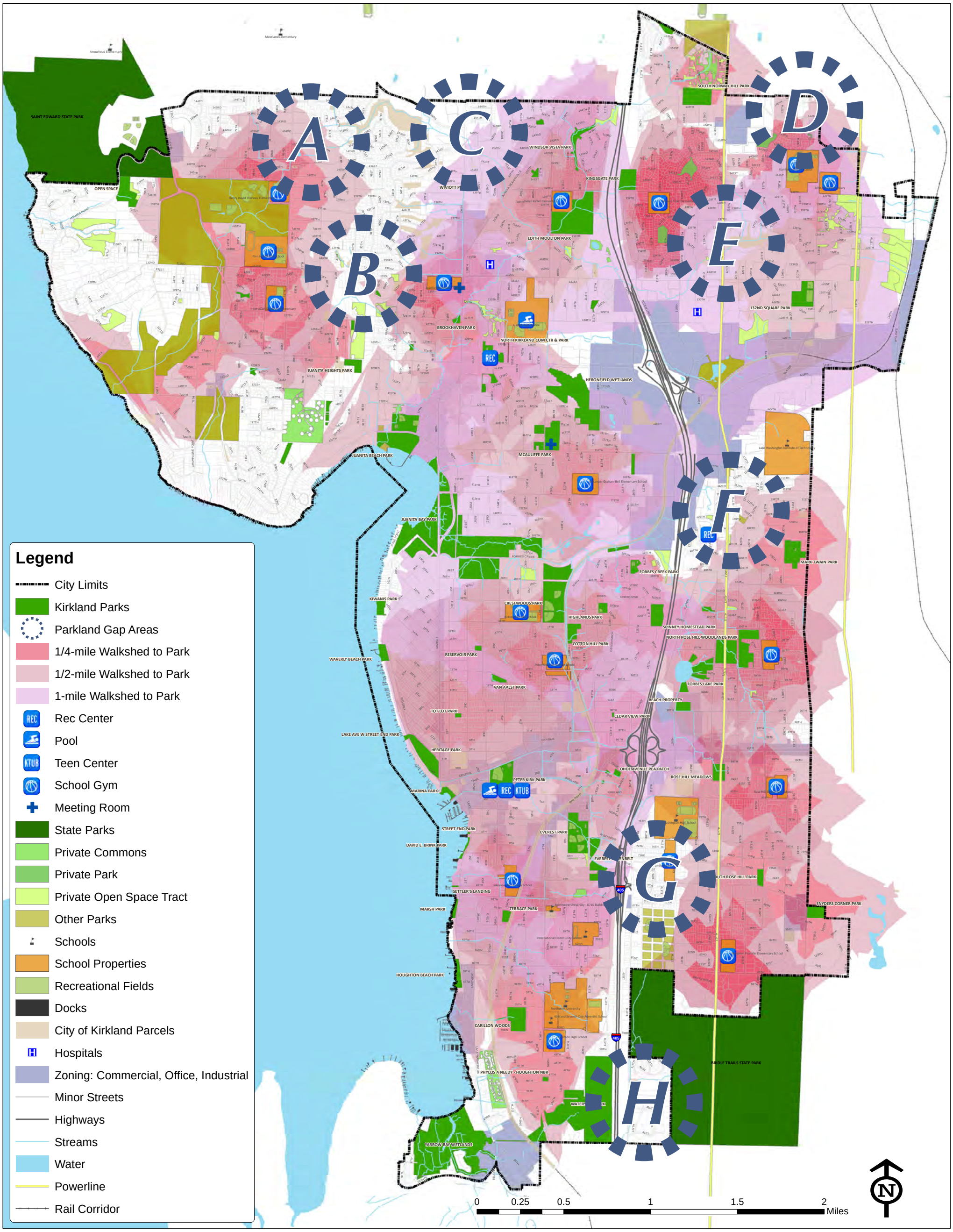
MAP 1: Existing Parks, Natural Areas & Facilities



MAP 2: Park Walksheds to Neighborhood Parks & Private Parks



MAP 3: Park Walksheds to Community & Waterfront Parks



MAP 4: Parkland Gap Areas

Community Facilities and Programs

The City of Kirkland currently has three community facilities - 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
- Lap, 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)
2. Fitness programs (2)
3. Mind-body/balance programs like yoga and tai chi (4)
4. Day camps/summer camps (6)
5. Holiday events and other special events (n/a)
6. Environmental education (7)
7. Teen programming (2)
8. Environmental education (10)
9. Active older adults programming (5)
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 vocal 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 for 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, athletic fields and indoor recreation facilities. There continues to be high demand and insufficient supply for facilities, such as practice and game fields and gymnasium space. 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 upgrade school gymnasiums and renovate existing playing fields on school sites should be continued. These steps will provide additional needed indoor recreation space and playfields 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, providing 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
- Eastside Tennis Center
- 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 YMCA, 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. Additionally, the Lake Washington Institute of Technology offers a variety of adult education programming and 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.

Aquatics

Kirkland currently has one outdoor public pool, located at Peter Kirk Park; one indoor public pool – the Juanita Aquatic Center, owned 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. Historic guidelines from the NRPA also encouraged at least 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer for competitive swimming.

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 included renovation or replacement of Juanita High School was placed on the ballot in February 2014, but it failed to reach the 60% super majority to pass. The Lake Washington School District has repackaged a small bond program for the April 22, 2014 special election. 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. 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.

Spraygrounds or Splash Pads

Spraygrounds are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. Kirkland should consider at least one sprayground in a community park or as component of the swim area or beach at one of the larger waterfront parks along Lake Washington. Depending on the design and functionality, these amenities can draw significant numbers of visitors to the park; therefore, the siting of such a facility should consider access to parking and public restrooms.

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 Beach Bathhouse Replacement & Shelter
- T7 Kiwanis Park Erosion Control Plan & Design
- T8 Mark Twain Park Renovation/Design
- T9 Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs
- T10 North Rose Hill Neighborhood Park Development
- T11 Off-Leash Areas
- T12 132nd Park Renovations
- T13 Reservoir Park Renovation
- T14 Signage and Wayfinding
- T15 Snyder's Corner Park Master Plan and Park Development
- T16 South Norway Hill Park Development
- T17 Street Ends Improvement Program
- T18 Totem Lake Neighborhood Park Development
- T19 Van Aalst Park Improvement Project
- T20 Windsor Vista Park Development
- T21 Heritage Hall Renovations
- T22 New Indoor Recreation Facility
- T23 North Kirkland Community Center Improvements
- T24 Peter Kirk Park Community Center Renovation

5 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 a 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.

The participation in cricket also has been increasing in recent years. The Northwest Cricket League has clubs that utilize fields in Bellevue, Redmond, Seattle and Shoreline, among others. Local cricket enthusiasts have approached the Kirkland Park Board inquiring about access to fields, and they noted plans to continue to grow the sport through the addition of youth programs. Given the growing interest in cricket in eastside communities, the City should consider the demand for cricket field space in future field planning and field allocations.

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 Emerson High School, Kirkland Middle 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. 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.

Alternative Sports

Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, ultimate frisbee, 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 potential development of Taylor Fields Park.

Bike Skills Park

The City should consider utilizing a portion of an existing park or future acquisition for a bike skills course. To protect the site from degradation, a bike course should be designed to minimize erosion and rogue trails. Additional site enhancements such as erosion control, stormwater management and invasive species removal could balance the overall health of the site with this potential use. One possible site for consideration is Kingsgate Park, which is heavily wooded, has interesting terrain and is bordered by I-405.

Xtreme Sports Park

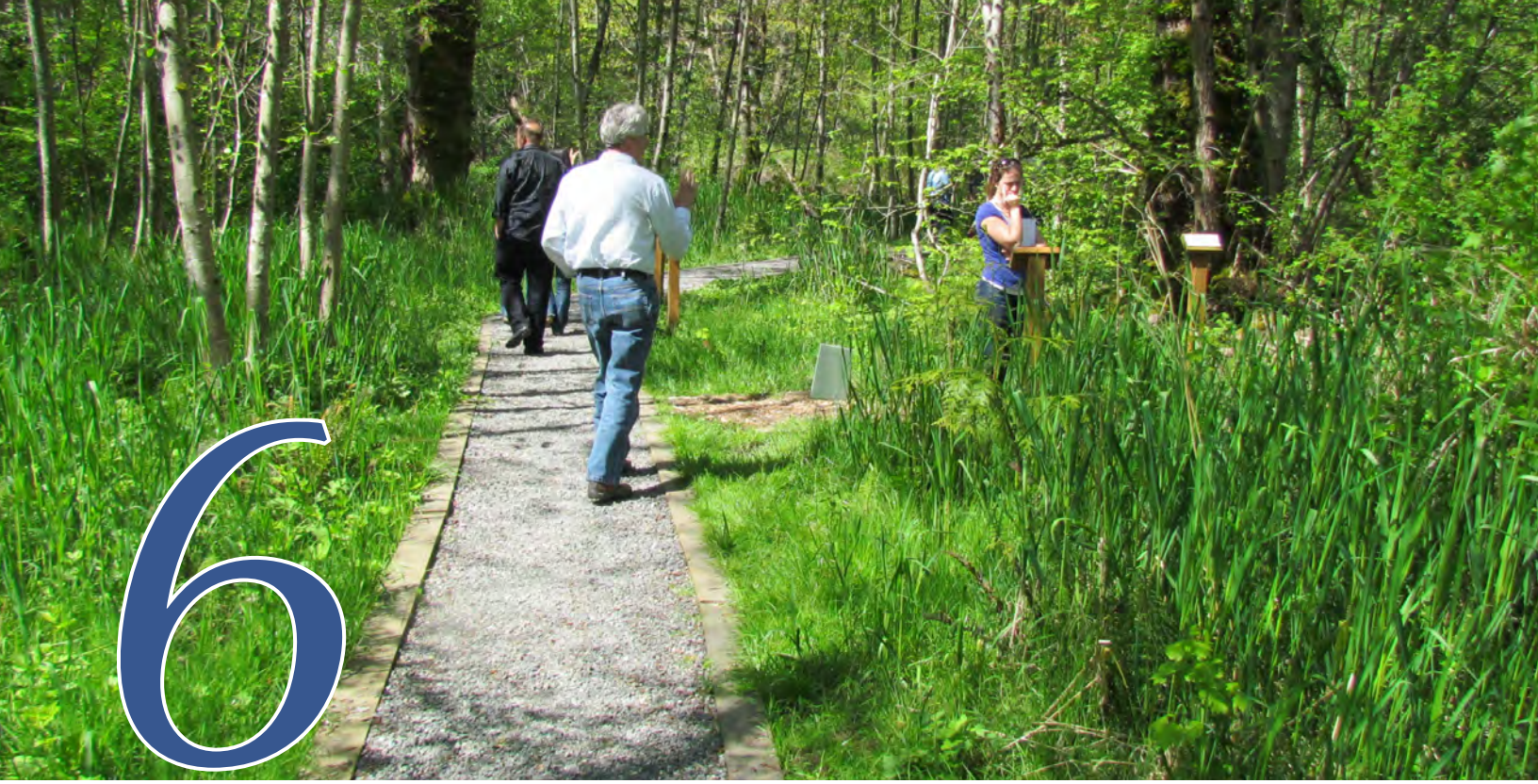
The City also should consider the future development of a site that could focus on alternative sports, including skateparks, BMX courses, bouldering walls or outdoor parkour features. Depending on the characteristics of the site, such a park also could contain an off leash dog area or other amenities to draw a variety of users to activate the site. Parking and restroom facilities should be provided with a development project of this nature.

One site for consideration is Taylor Fields Park, which 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. 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. In addition, the 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.

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 Bike Skills Park Master Plan & Development
- S2 Sports Field Improvements
- S3 Sports Field Expansion



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
- 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.

Finn 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 Finn 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 Edward 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 NE 100th Street 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, 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.

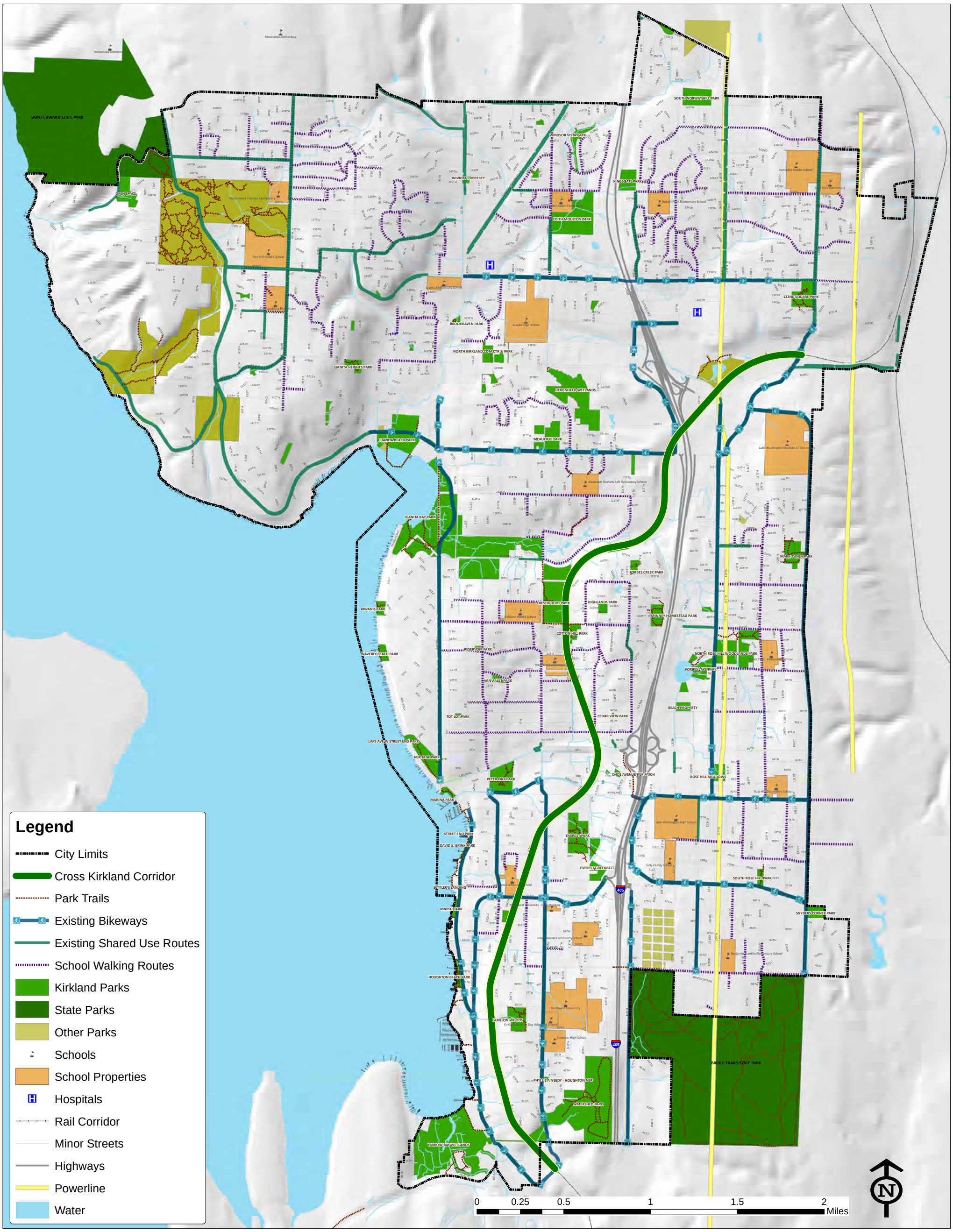
The proposed trail system will provide connections to key destinations and neighborhoods throughout the city. These trails and connections should be easy to access and convenient to use. This Plan recommends the implementation of detailed trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails 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

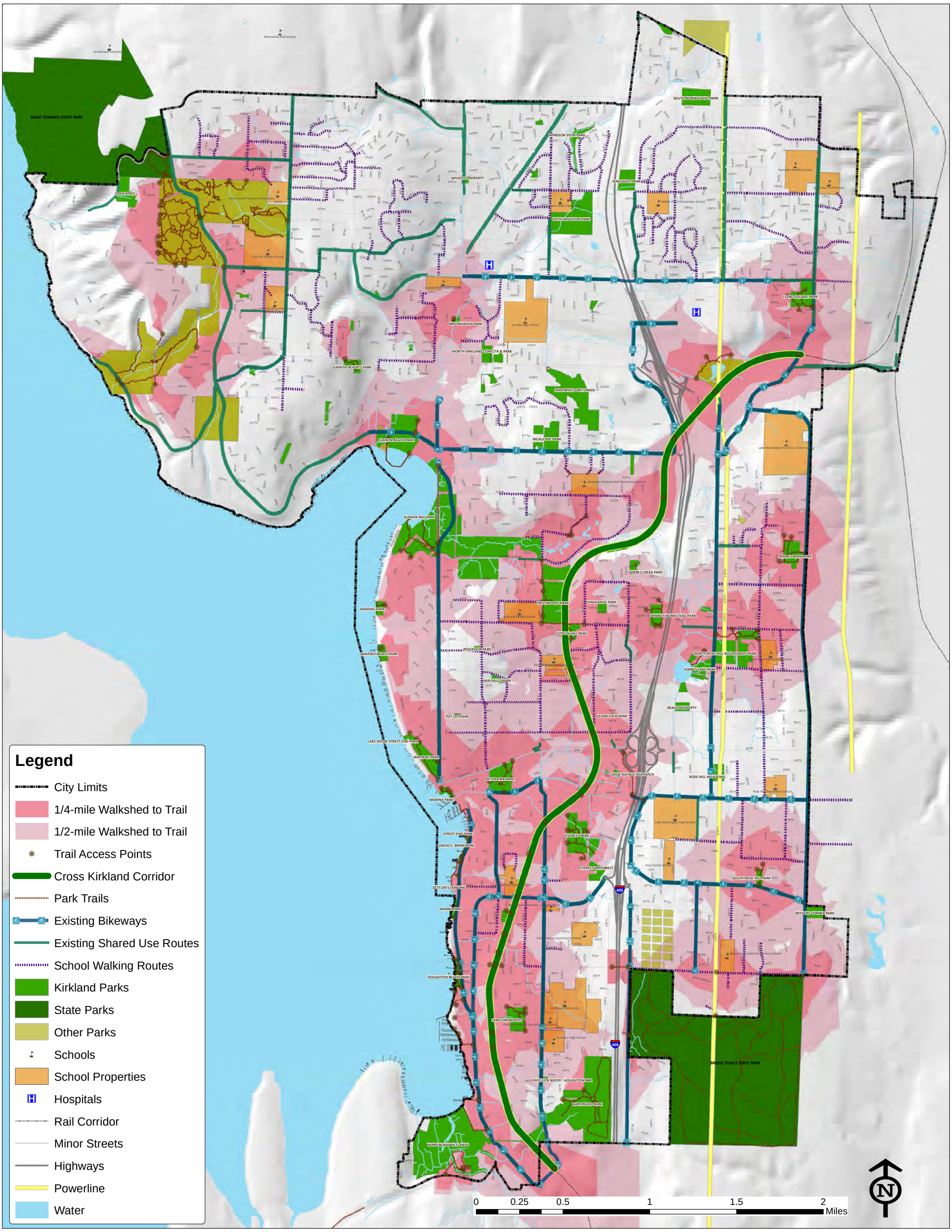
The following is a summary list of key project recommendations noted within this chapter. The project codes are referenced in the Neighborhood-based Recommendations summary (Chapter 9) and in the Capital Facilities Plan (Chapter 11).

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

Page left intentionally blank.



MAP 5: Existing Trails & Pathways



MAP 6: Trail Walksheds to Public Trail Access Points

MAP 7: Proposed Trails, Bikeways & Neighborhood Greenways

Page left intentionally blank.

7 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 Edward 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, signaling 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.

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

The East Lake Washington Audubon Society, 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

8 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 evaluation[1]

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.

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.

1 van der Smissen, 1999.

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 as 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. Additionally, dispersing equipment and staff resources across multiple maintenance locations is not efficient from a resource allocation perspective. 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 ensure adequate recreation staffing resources
- 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 & Outreach 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

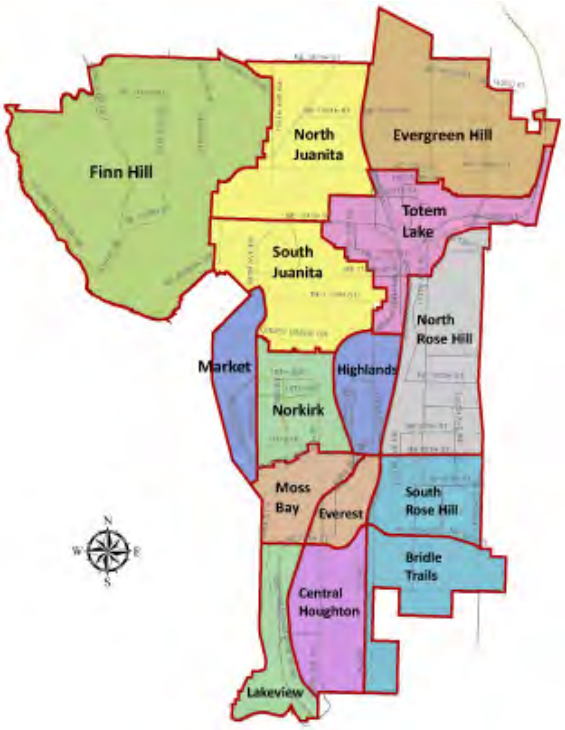
"A year-round indoor pool/recreation facility is a must for a city of our size. Swimming is an important lifelong skill that starts young and can span up through all ages and abilities."

- Survey respondent

9

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 Site

- Create Master Plan and develop park for active and passive recreation and stormwater management (Project #T16)
- Consider the potential for natural area restoration

Taylor Fields (King County)

- Master Plan and Park Development: Consider site 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)

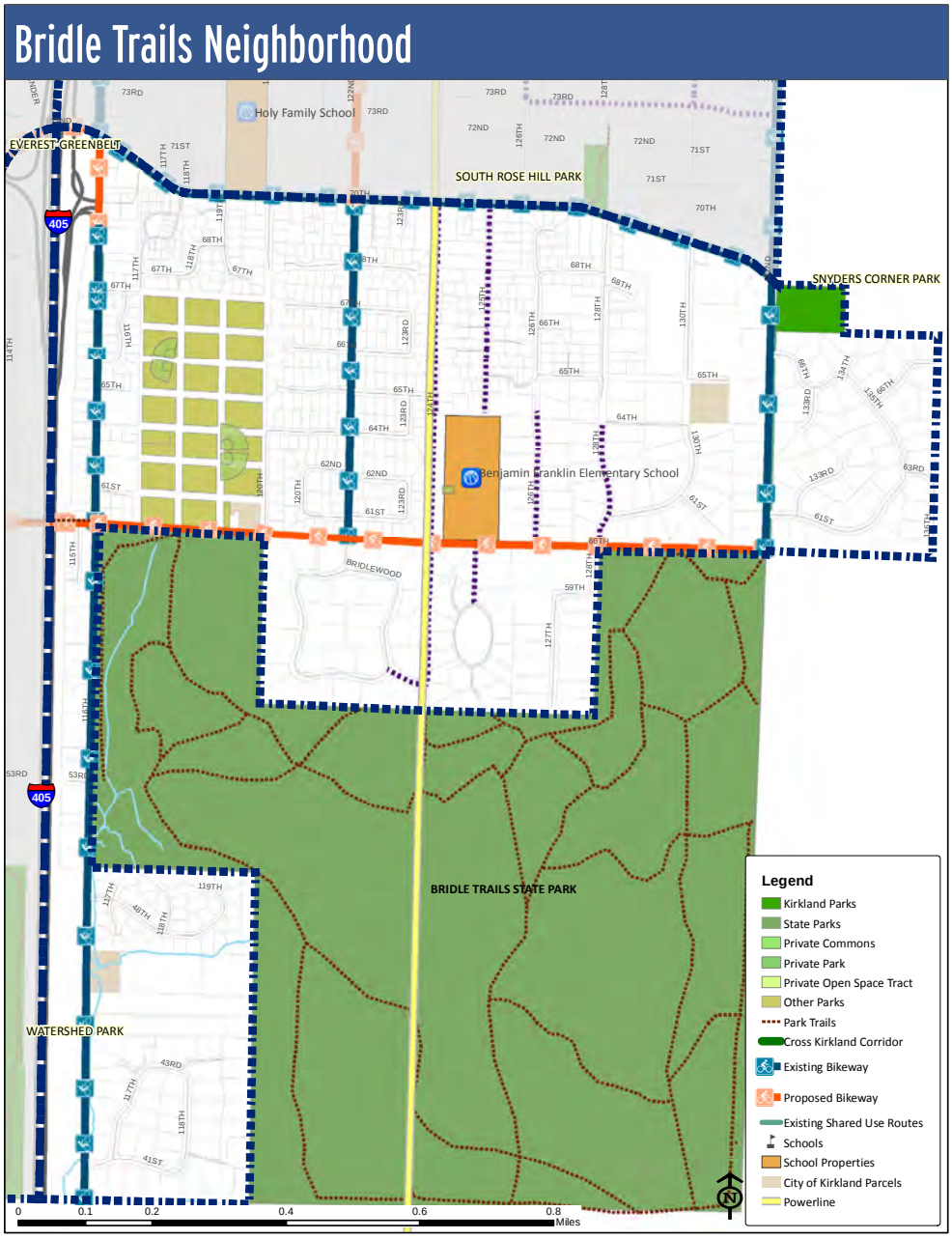
Trails

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

- Continue Green Kirkland forest restoration program
- 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 consider additional enhancements (Project #N9)
- Natural Area Park Restoration: Implement a restoration and enhancement program (Project #N6)
- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible paths (Project #T2)

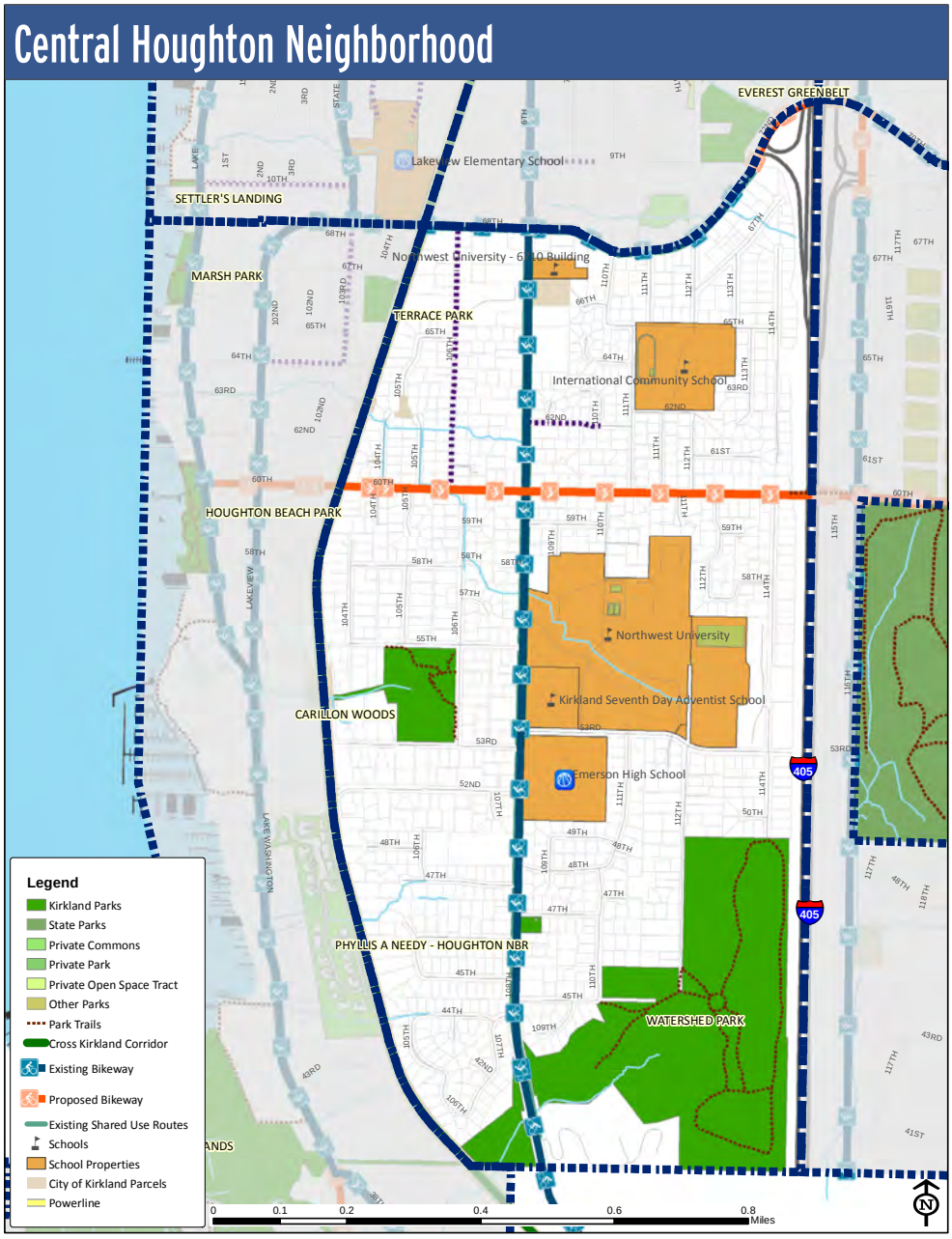
Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)

Schools

Emerson High School*



* Note: indicates City-School Partnership Site

Everest Neighborhood

Parks

Everest Park

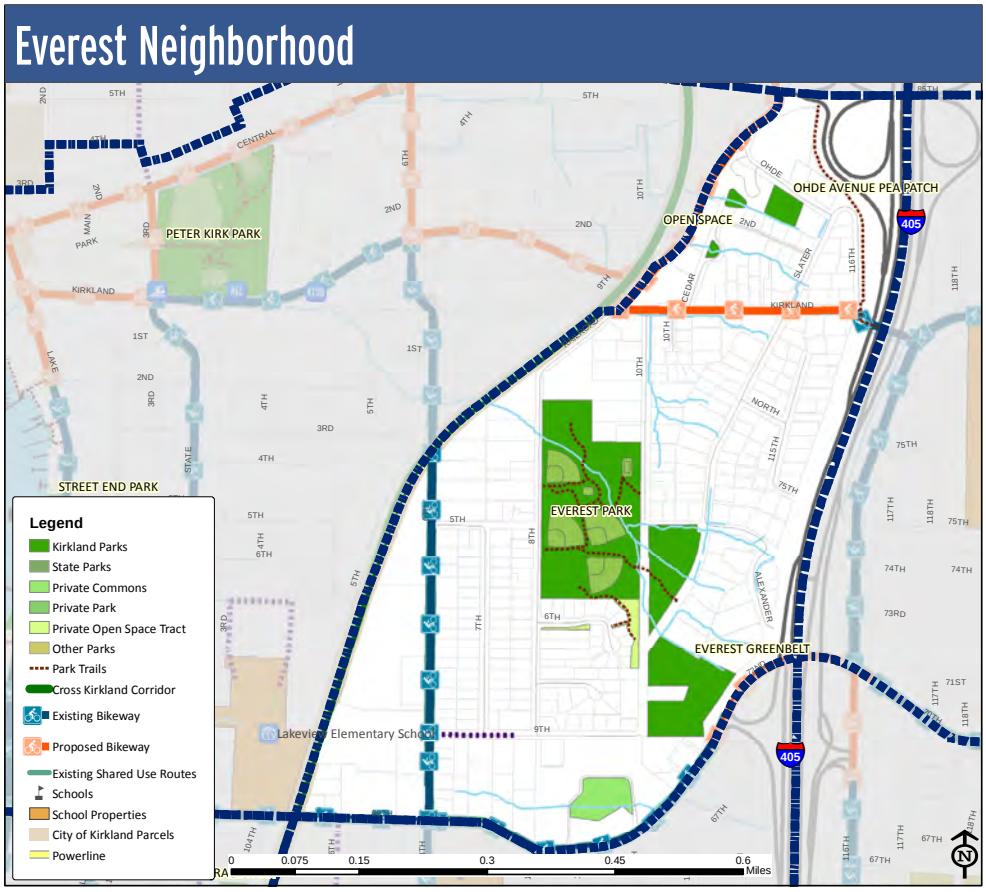
- Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program: Provide riparian and upland plant restoration (Project #N4)
- Stormwater Parks Implementation Program: Provide interpretive/ educational information at stormwater facility (Project #N8)

Ohde Avenue Pea Patch

Trails

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Trail Development and local connections (Project #C2)



Evergreen Hill Neighborhood

Parks

132nd Square Park

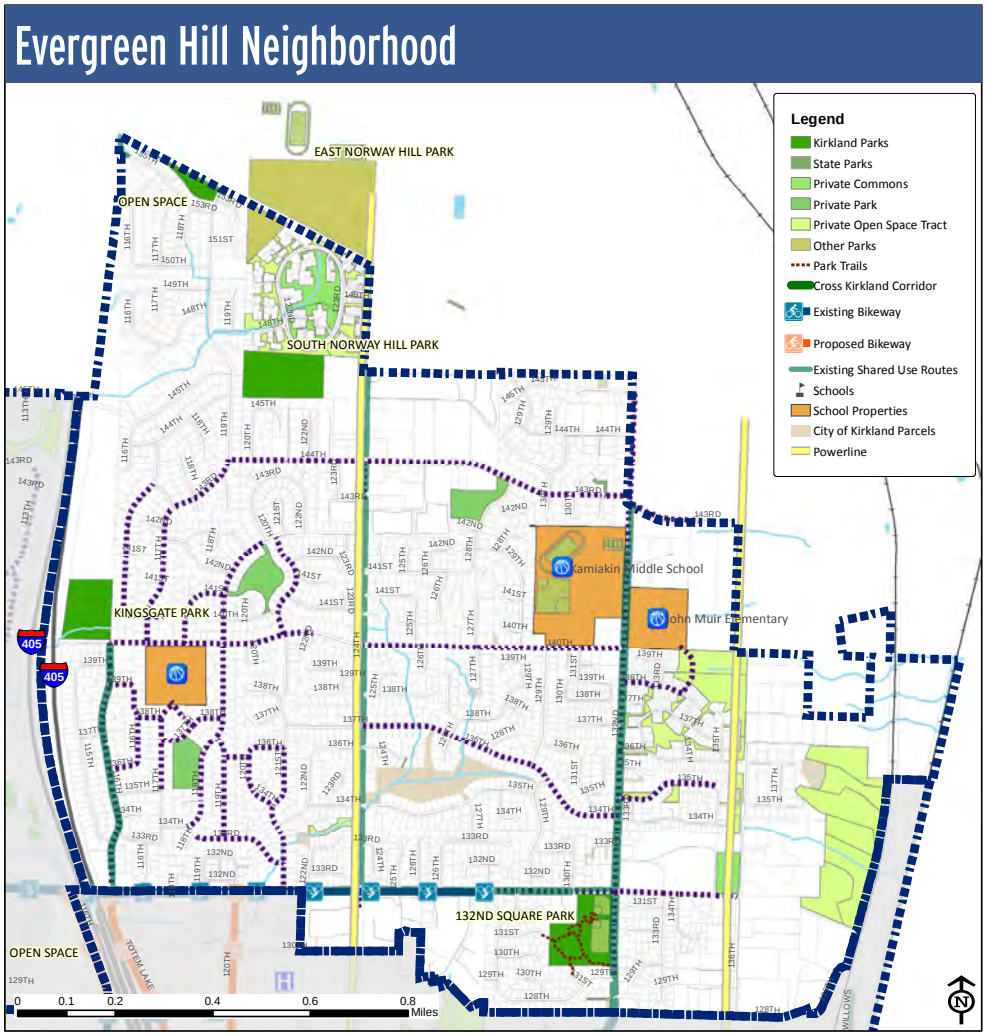
- Playfields Renovation: Provide daylighted stormwater feature to clean polluted runoff from parking lot (Project #T13)
- Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs: Repair restroom sink (Project #T10)

Kingsgate Park

- Master Plan and Park Development: Consider adding mountain bike trail and bike skills features to site; design and construct timber frame stairs on steep slopes; implement erosion control strategy (Project #S1)
- Consider expanding park to the north

South Norway Hill Park

- Implement Green Kirkland forest restoration plan
- 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

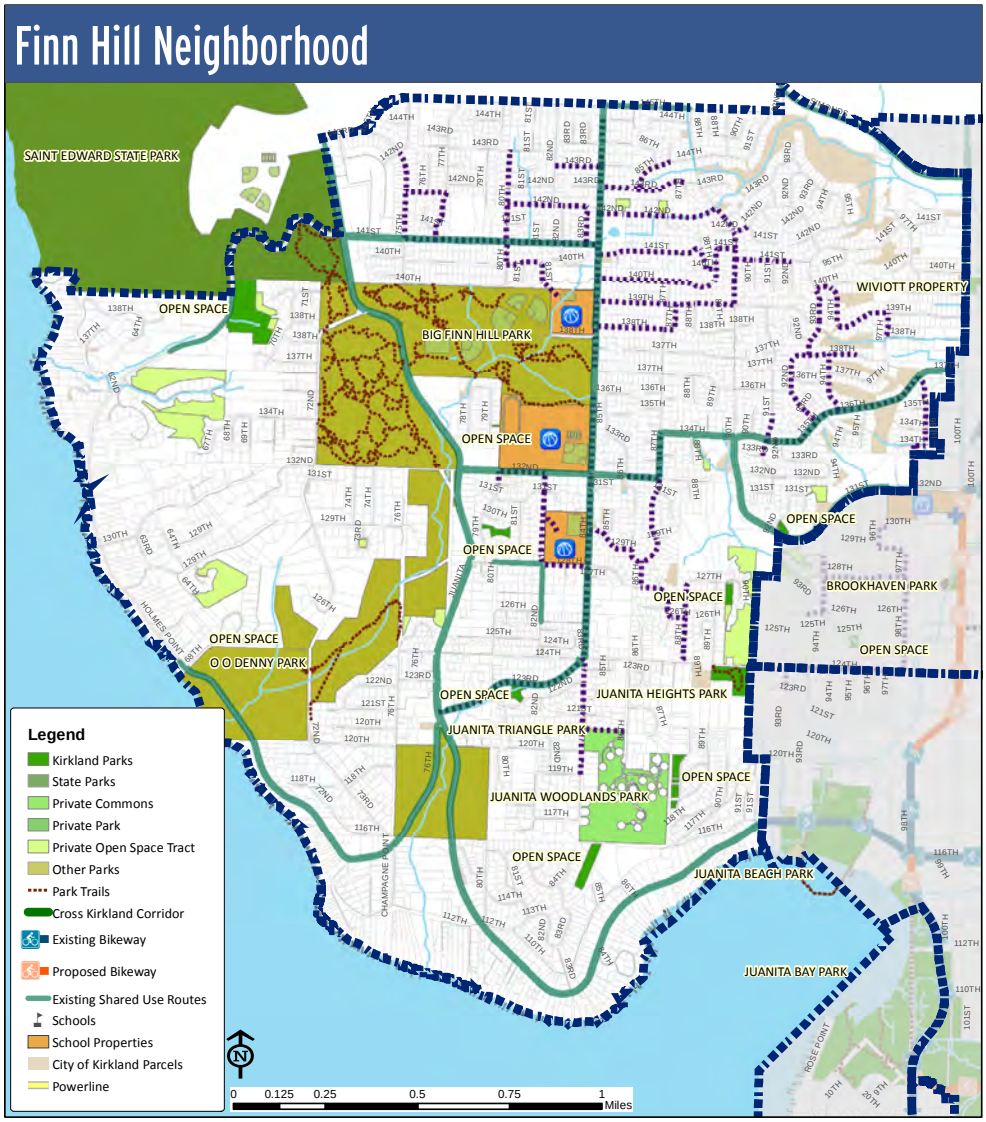
- Continue Green Kirkland forest restoration plan
- Explore potential expansion of park to preserve and protect the existing forest
- Signage and Wayfinding: Provide improved signage and wayfinding for public access and awareness (Project #T15)
- Consider enhancing or moving the park entrance to NE 124th Street

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)
- Implement a natural area and forest restoration plan
- 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

Finn Hill Connection

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

(continued on next page)

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: Continue Green Kirkland restoration and enhancement program (Project #N6)
- Bay to Valley Trail: Connect/bridge east-west connection through the park (Project #C1)

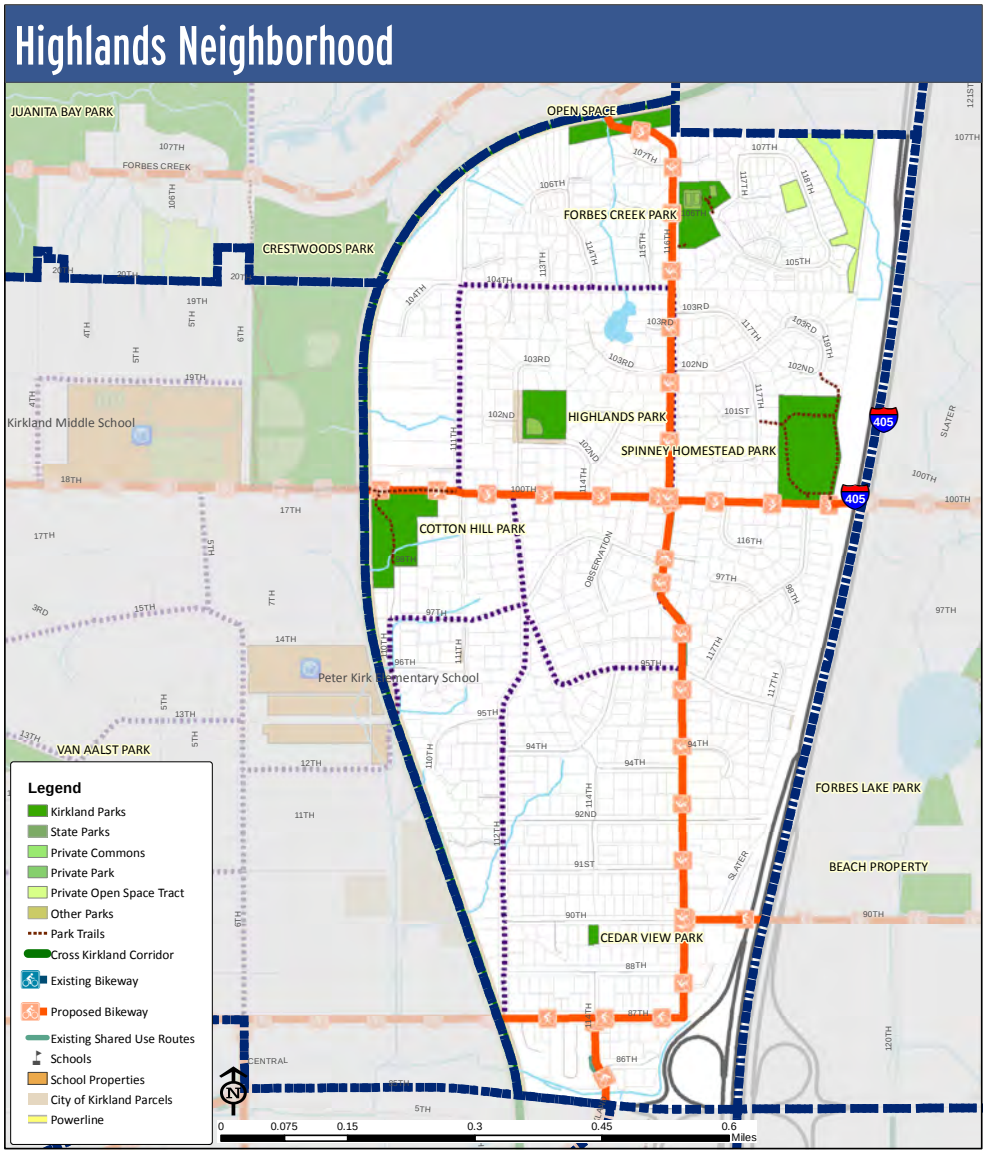
Forbes Creek Park

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)
- Renovate open lawn area to improve safety and use
- Consider a community gathering space, such as a picnic shelter



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

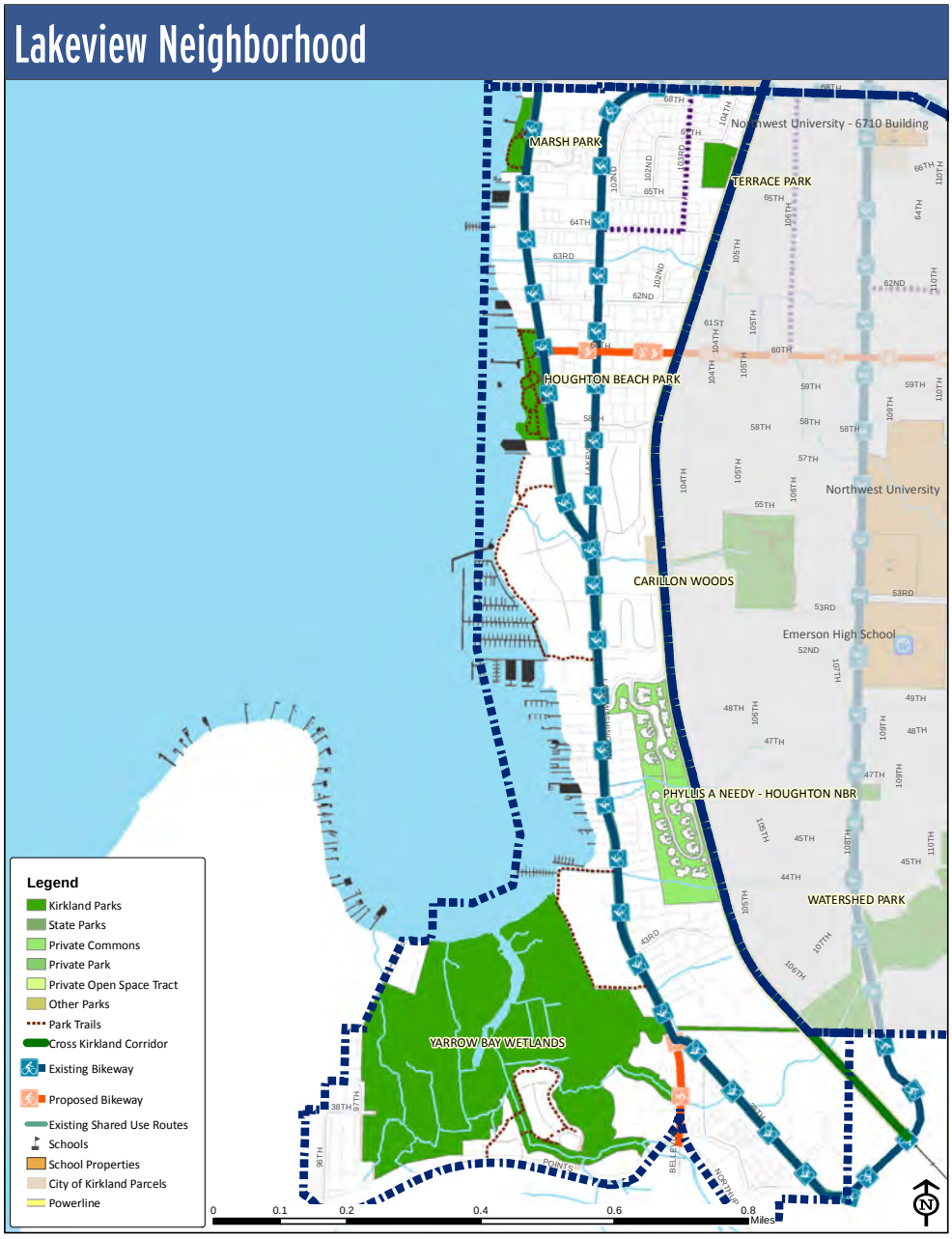
Marsh Park

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)
- Renovate lawn area to improve safety and use

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 (Project #T6)

Kiwanis Park

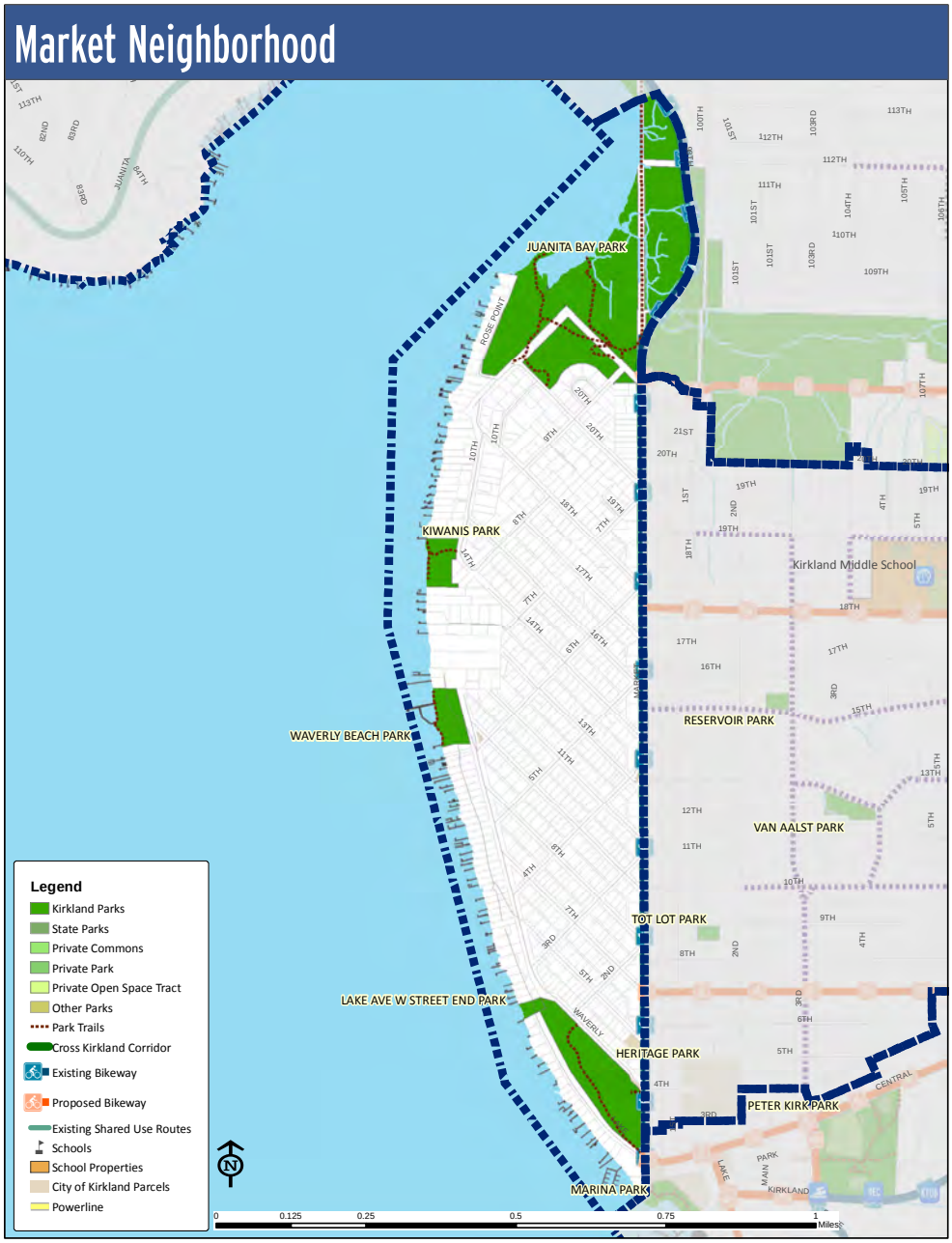
- Erosion Control Plan & Design: Add eddies off pathside runnel to disperse energy, allowing stormwater retention and infiltration; provide timber steps for trail to aid in navigating steep slope and erosion control (Project #T8)
- Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program: Restore native vegetation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

(continued on next page)

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

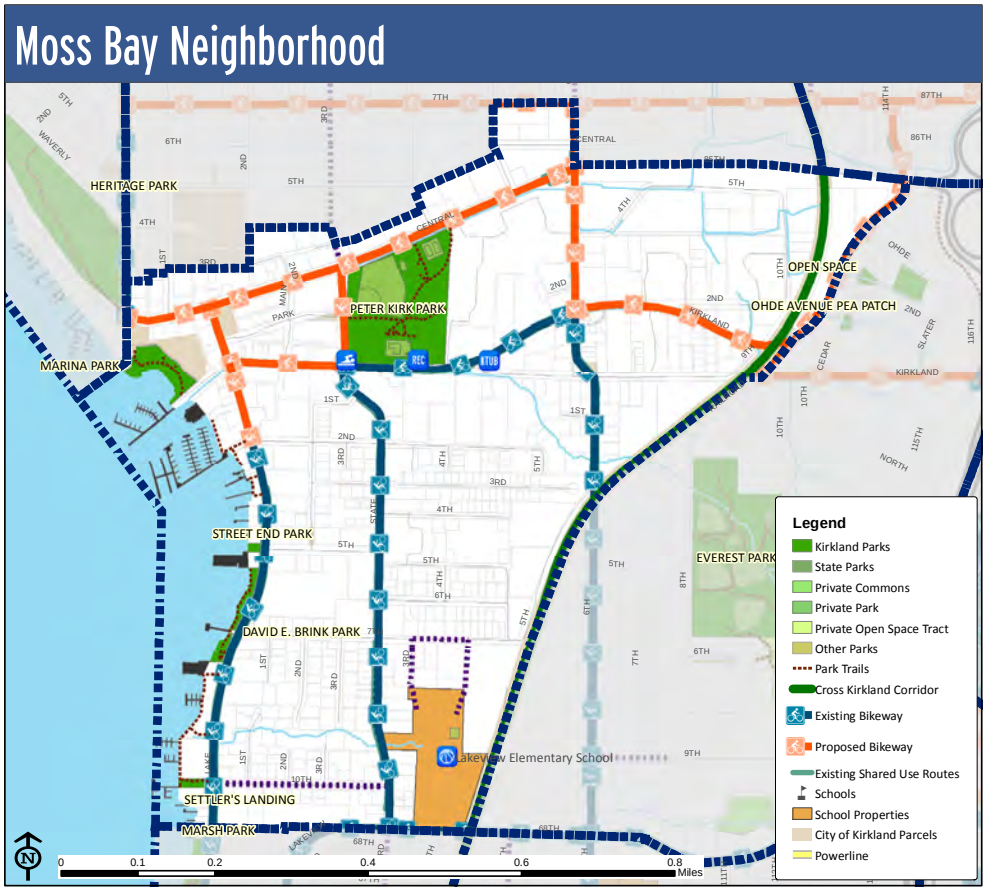
- Shoreline Renovation: Upgrade hardened shoreline edge to soft alternatives (Project #N2)

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 catch basin 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)

(continued on next page)

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

- Continue Green Kirkland forest restoration program
- ADA Compliance: Upgrade play structure to increase ADA compliance (Project #T2)
- Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development Project: Add outdoor workout stations (Project #C3)

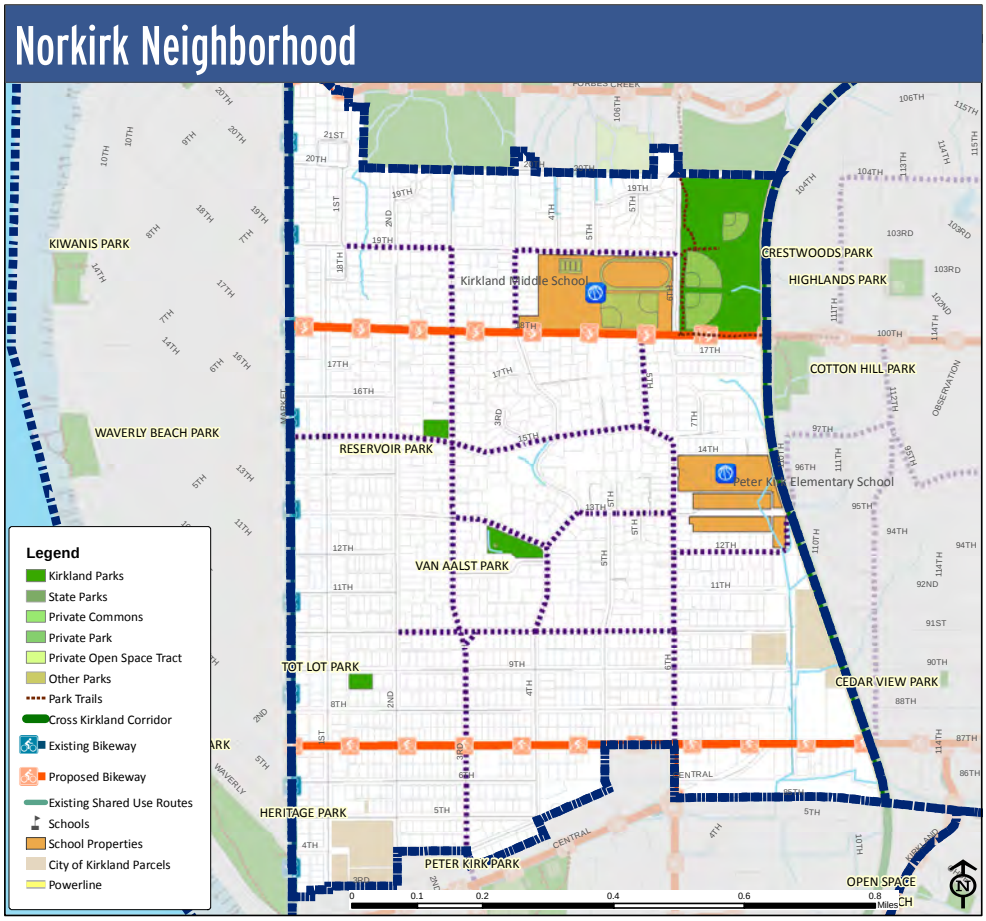
Reservoir Park

- 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

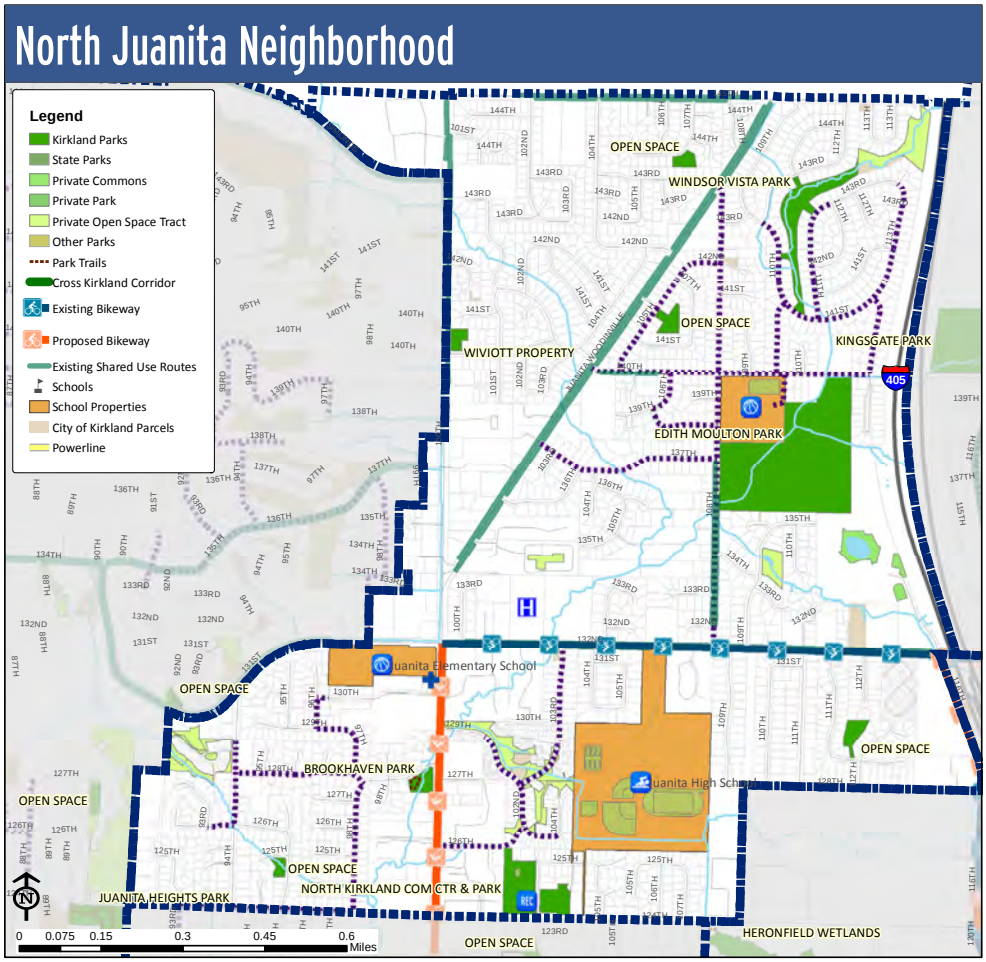
- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible pathway to the creek (Project #T2)
- Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs: Repair chain link fence; prune up tree branches covering educational signs along fence; distribute pile of wood chips; reseed lawn or provide other tough groundcover (Project #T10)
- Productive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

Edith Moulton Park

- Park Renovations: Implement Master Plan, including Green Kirkland 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)

(continued on next page)

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

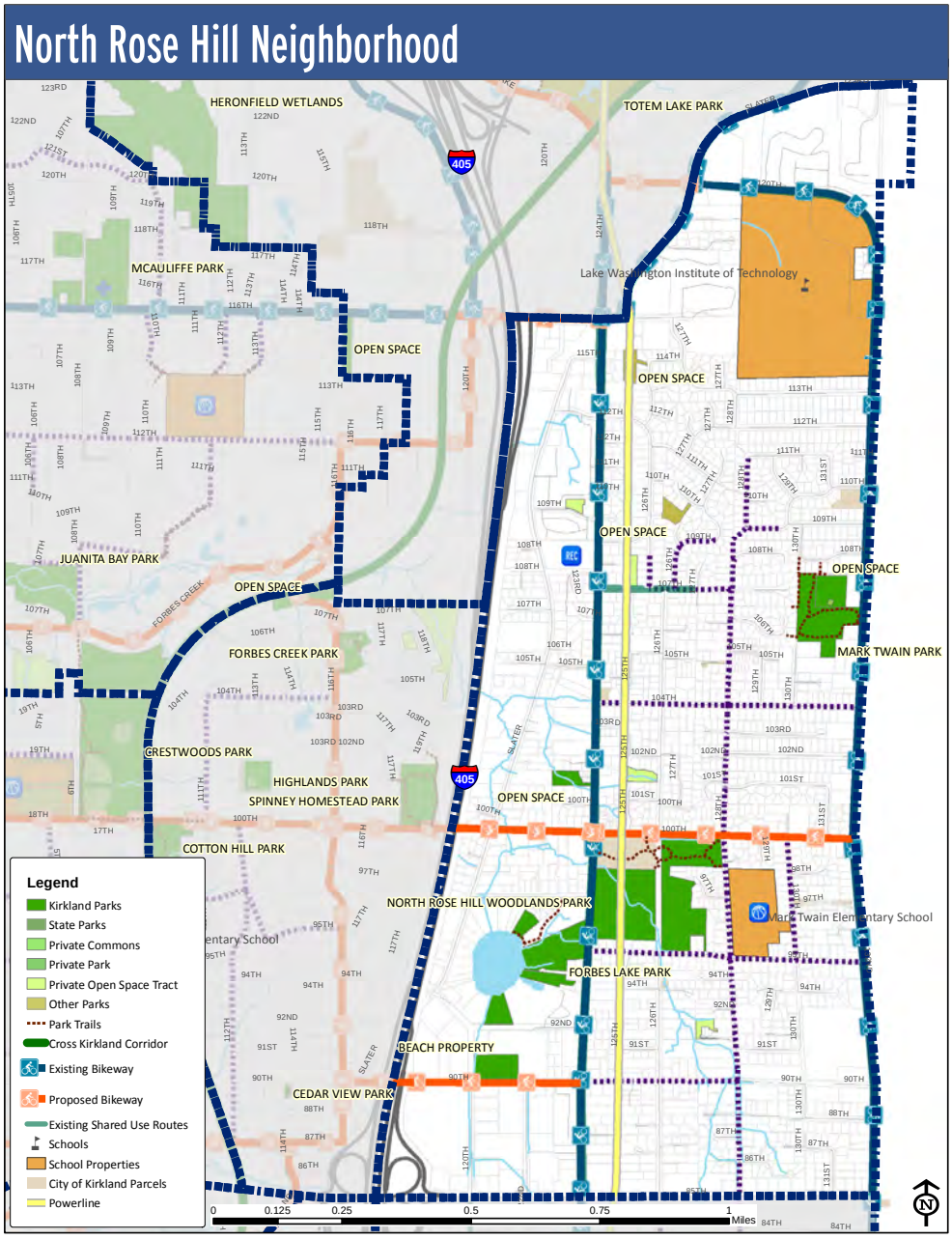
- ADA Compliance: Provide ADA accessible ramps to mulched play areas (Project #T2)
- Renovation/Design: Repair fence board; provide additional bike parking at various entrances of the park; regrade lawn properly to provide usable, multipurpose lawn area; Provide barrier from blackberry encroaching on south side of site (Project #T9)
- Continue Green Kirkland forest restoration program
- 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; add a north/south path to make connections to paths along power corridor (Project #T11)
- Implement Green Kirkland restoration of natural areas

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)

(continued on next page)

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

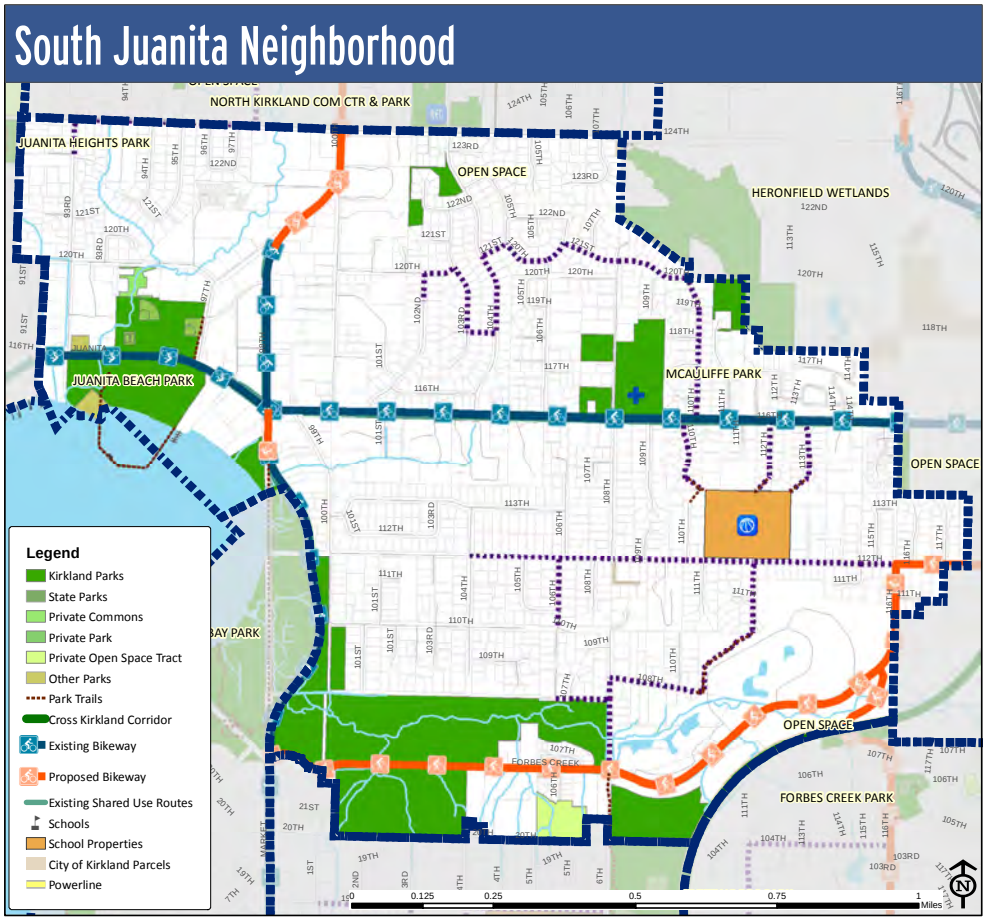
Parks

Juanita Beach Park

- Juanita Beach Bathhouse Replacement & Shelter: Upgrade restroom and concessions shelter (Project #T7)
- Implement park master plan for north side of park, including new skatepark and playfield improvements
- Continue Green Kirkland restoration of natural areas

Juanita Bay

- Park Development: Provide trails for people to use the northeast side of the park and outdoor exercise equipment near stairs (Project #T6)
- Natural Area Park Restoration: Continue Green Kirkland 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)
- Implement Green Kirkland forest restoration program

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)

Finn 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

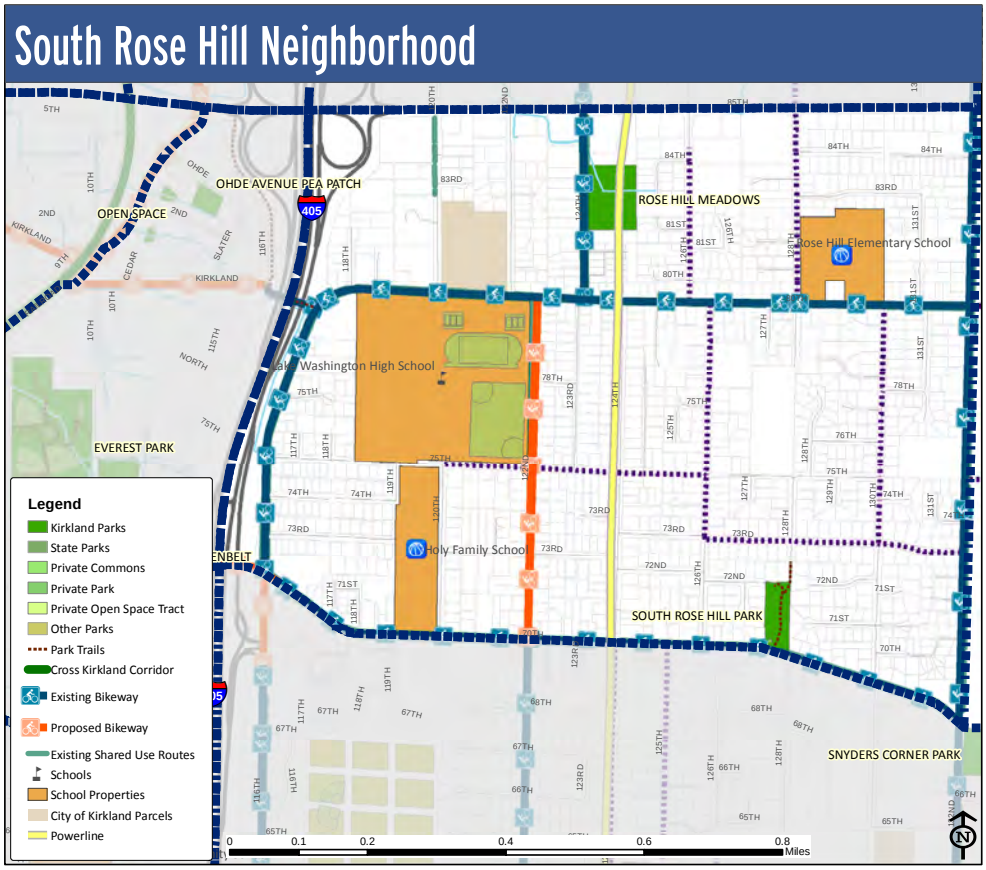
- ADA Compliance: Replace non-compliant ADA picnic table w/compliant table and access (Project #T2)
- Implement Green Kirkland restoration of natural areas

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)
- Continue Green Kirkland forest restoration program

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

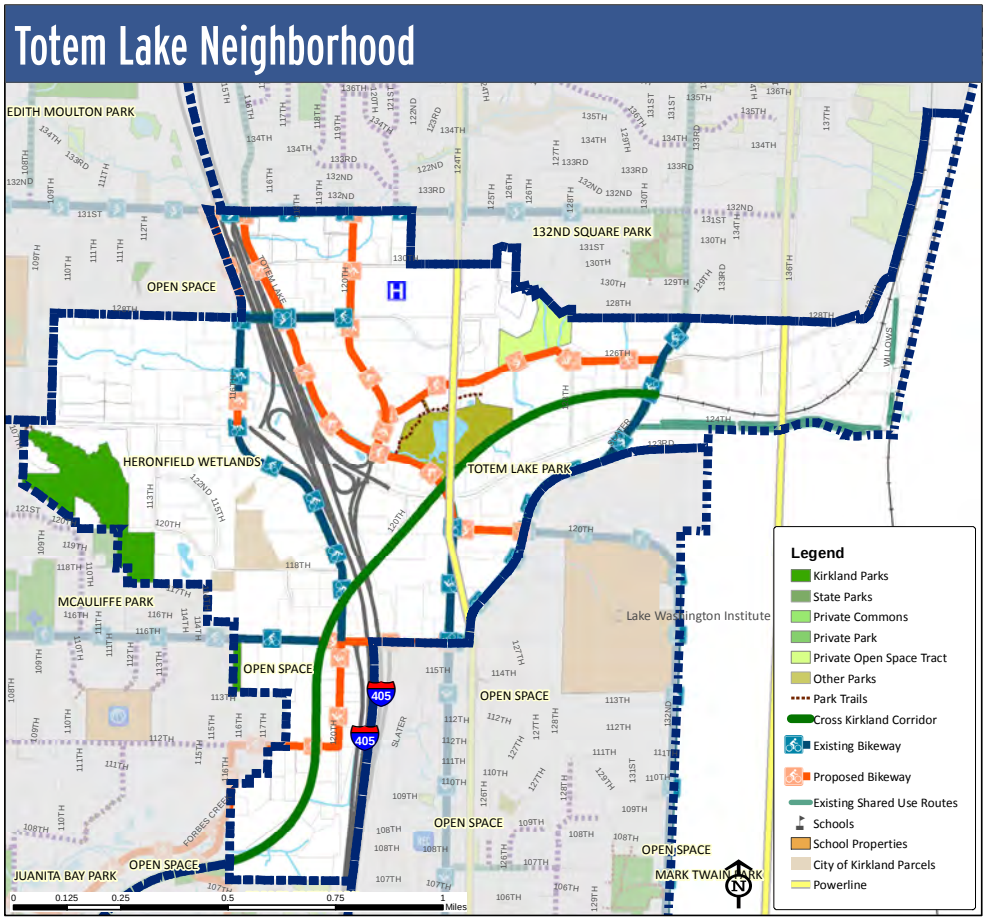
Parks

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)

- Park Development: Implement Master Plan improvements (Project #T19)
- Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development: Connect users of CKC to retail and recreation (Project #C3)
- Consider the potential for community garden or pea patches

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)

Page left intentionally blank.

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

		Re-Allocation by Classification	
Park	Acreage	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, and these sites were included in the walkshed-based gap analysis. However, due to the somewhat restricted access to school properties, the City should continue to assess parkland access and distribution to ensure that residents are well-served with available parkland.

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**
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**

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, inventory realocations 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 effect of the proposed standards.

Figure 14. Proposed Levels of Service by Park Type

Type	*Proposed Standard*	*Current Inventory**	*Projected Additions*	*Projected 2035 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, inventory realocations 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

Type	*Proposed Standard*	*Inventory*	*Projected Additions*	*Projected 2035 Surplus / (Deficit)*
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.

11 CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

The following Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) lists all park and facility projects considered for the next six years. The majority of these projects entail the acquisition and development of parks and sport fields, renovating or repairing existing facilities and expanding trail corridors. Based on survey results and other feedback, Kirkland residents have indicated an interest in park facility upgrades and expansion as short-term priorities, and the proposed CFP is reflective of that desire. The following table summarizes the aggregate capital estimates by park types for the next six years.

Figure 16. Capital Facilities Plan Expenditures Summary

Project Type	Acquisition	Development	Renovation	Sum
Park Acquisition, Development & Improvement	$ 6,550,000	$ 19,124,500	$ 2,198,000	**$ 27,872,500**
Community Centers	$ -	$ 50,000,000	$ 2,160,000	**$ 52,160,000**
Athletic Fields & Facilities	$ 1,500,000	$ -	$ 4,370,000	**$ 5,870,000**
Trails & Greenway Connections	$ -	$ 19,680,000	$ -	**$ 19,680,000**
Natural Area Restoration & Stewardship	$ -	$ 265,000	$ 10,370,000	**$ 10,635,000**
TOTAL	**$ 8,050,000**	**$ 89,069,500**	**$ 19,098,000**	***$ 116,217,500***

The following CFP project list provides brief project descriptions and priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

Page left intentionally blank.

Kirkland Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

Capital Facilities Plan: 2015 - 2021

ID #	Project Type & Description	Activity	Priority	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021+	Sum
	Park Acquisition, Development and Improvement										
T1	**Acquisitions**										
	Northeastern portion of the Finn Hill neighborhood	A	1			$ 850,000					$ 850,000
	Southwestern portion of the North Juanita neighborhood	A	1				$ 900,000				$ 900,000
	Northeastern portion of the North Juanita neighborhood	A	2						$ 1,250,000		$ 1,250,000
	Northeastern portion of the Evergreen Hill neighborhood	A	3							$ 650,000	$ 650,000
	Central portion of the Evergreen Hill neighborhood	A	2							$ 800,000	$ 800,000
	Northern portion of the North Rose Hill neighborhood	A	3							$ 500,000	$ 500,000
	Western portion of the South Rose Hill neighborhood	A	2							$ 600,000	$ 600,000
	Southern portion of the Bridle Trails neighborhood	A	3							$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000
T2	**ADA Compliance Upgrades**										
	Provide ADA accessible pathways, site amenities and play structures throughout system as needed.	R	2					$ 25,000	$ 35,000	$ 200,000	$ 260,000
T3	**Cedar View Park Regrade Project**										
	Regrade site to increase visibility (lower/remove street-side berms)	R	2							$ 60,000	$ 60,000
	Remove 50% vegetation from streetside to increase visibility/transparency	R	2							$ 30,000	$ 30,000
T4	**Edith Moulton Park Renovation (PK 0133 300)**										
	Implement Master Plan	D	1	$ 765,000						$ -	$ 765,000
	Include restoration of native vegetation along Juanita Creek + throughout site	R	1	$ 35,000							$ 35,000
T5	**Forbes Lake Park and Trail Improvement Project**										
	Develop park and trails, based on master plan	D	1	$ 500,000						$ 2,500,000	$ 3,000,000
T6	**Juanita Beach Park**										
	Juanita Beach Park Development - phase 2 improvements	D	1			$ 100,000	$ 1,207,000				$ 1,307,000
	Bathhouse Replacement & Shelter - Provide upgrade work on restroom and concessions shelter	R	1	$ 200,000	$ 1,000,000						$ 1,200,000
T7	**Kiwanis Park Erosion Control Plan & Design**										
	Add eddies off pathside tunnel to disperse energy, allowing stormwater settlement	R	3							$ 60,000	$ 60,000
	Provide timber steps to aid in navigating steep slope and erosion control	R	3							$ 60,000	$ 60,000
T8	**Mark Twain Park Renovation/Design (PK 0114 101)**										
	Provide additional bike parking at various entrances of the park	D	2			$ 12,000					$ 12,000
	Regrade lawn properly to provide usable, multipurpose lawn area	R	2			$ 58,000					$ 58,000
	Provide barrier from blackberry encroaching on south side of site	R	2			$ 5,000					$ 5,000
T9	**Minor Park Enhancements and Repairs**										
	Minor repairs and enhancements to site amenities, landscaping, pathways and utilities at various park sites	R	1	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 25,000	$ 25,000		$ 250,000
T10	**North Rose Hill Neighborhood Park Development (PK 0102)**										
	Provide additional restroom facilities to meet demand	D	3							$ 360,000	$ 360,000
	Add parking lot	D	3							$ 600,000	$ 600,000
	Add a N/S path to make connections to paths along power corridor	D	2							$ 120,000	$ 120,000
T11	**Off-Leash Areas**										
	Develop an additional off leash area	D	3							$ 40,000	$ 40,000
T12	**132nd Park Renovations**										
	132nd Park Playfields Renovation (PK 0134 000)	D	1	$ 637,000							$ 637,000
	Provide daylighted stormwater feature to clean polluted runoff from parking lot	D	3							$ 180,000	$ 180,000
T13	**Reservoir Park Renovation (PK 0097)**										
	Provide interpretive info at stormwater facility - could include play themes	D	3							$ 20,000	$ 20,000
T14	**Signage and Wayfinding**										
	Improve signage and wayfinding to parks and along interior pathways, as necessary	D	3							$ 13,500	$ 13,500
T15	**Snyder's Corner Park Master Plan and Park Development**										
	Create Master Plan	D	3							$ 100,000	$ 100,000
	Develop park for active and passive recreation and stormwater management	D	3							$ 500,000	$ 500,000
T16	**South Norway Hill Park Development**										
	Create Master Plan	D	2							$ 100,000	$ 100,000
	Develop park for active and passive recreation	D	3							$ 500,000	$ 500,000
T17	**Street Ends Improvement Program**										

	Improve street ends along Lake Washington to provide lake viewing and access opportunities	D	3							$ 150,000	$ 150,000
T18	**Totem Lake Neighborhood Park Development**										
	(Master Plan being developed) - Implement Master Plan improvements	D	2							$ 10,000,000	$ 10,000,000
T19	**Van Aalst Park Improvement Project**										
	Regrade lawn properly to provide usable, terraced multipurpose lawn areas	R	3							$ 180,000	$ 180,000
	Add new park amenities (picnic tables and benches, walking paths, trees and plantings)	D	3							$ 600,000	$ 600,000
T20	**Windsor Vista Park Development**										
	Create Master Plan	D	2							$ 20,000	$ 20,000
	Develop park for active and passive recreation	D	3							$ 100,000	$ 100,000
	Community Centers										
T21	**Heritage Hall Renovations (PK 0095 200)**										
	Implement Master Plan improvements	R	2							$ 100,000	$ 100,000
T22	**Indoor Recreation Facilities**										
	Lake Washington School District partnership to improve school facilities.	R	2							$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000
	Develop a multi-use indoor recreation and/or aquatic facility	D	1							$ 50,000,000	$ 50,000,000
T23	**North Kirkland Community Center Improvements**										
	Retrofit, expand or rebuild North Kirkland Center to provide additional capacity and amenities and improve ADA access	R	1							$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000
T24	**Peter Kirk Park Community Center Renovation**										
	Provide generators for Community Center	R	2							$ 60,000	$ 60,000
	Athletic Fields and Facilities										
S1	**Kingsgate Park Master Plan and Development**										
	Design and construct timber frame stairs on steep slopes	R	3							$ 35,000	$ 35,000
	Implement erosion control strategy - geogrids and gabions	R	3							$ 25,000	$ 25,000
S2	**Sports Field Improvements**										
	Sports field improvements (lighting, spectator facilities, safety)	R	2							$ 250,000	$ 250,000
	Everest Park restroom/storage building replacement	R	1		$ 660,000						$ 660,000
	Turf resurfacing at Lee Johnson Field (Peter Kirk Park)	R	2							$ 1,200,000	$ 1,200,000
	Turf resurfacing at Juanita High School in partnership with Lake Washington School District	R	2							$ 1,200,000	$ 1,200,000
S3	**Sports Field Expansion**										
	City - LWSD Playfield Partnership - field enhancements	R	1			$ 500,000	$ 500,000				$ 1,000,000
	Acquisition of additional field sites/tournament facility in partnership with School District and/or adjacent municipalities	A	3					$ 500,000	$ 1,000,000		$ 1,500,000
	Trails and Greenway Connections										
C1	**Bay to Valley Trail**										
	Cotton Hill - Connect/bridge for east-west connection	D	3							$ 3,000,000	$ 3,000,000
	Connect Juanita Bay to North Rose Hill Woodlands Park and eventually to Sammamish Valley with a greenway	D	3							TBD	$ -
C2	**Cross Kirkland Corridor**										
	Cross Kirkland Trail Development	D	1							$ 11,500,000	$ 11,500,000
C3	**Cross Kirkland Corridor Eddies Development**										
	Crestwoods - Add outdoor workout stations	D	3							$ 60,000	$ 60,000
	Terrace - Add outdoor workout stations along east side of site for local + regional use	D	3							$ 60,000	$ 60,000
	Totem Lake (master plan being developed) - connect users of CKC to retail and recreation	D	3							$ 360,000	$ 360,000
	Parks partnership with Lakeview and Peter Kirk elementary schools - build playground areas along CKC	D	3							$ 1,200,000	$ 1,200,000
C4	**Eastside Powerline Corridor**										
	Develop a north-south trail under the SCL power lines on the eastside with trailheads and access points	D	2							$ 3,500,000	$ 3,500,000
C5	**Finn Hill Connection**										
	Create greenway/trail connections between Juanita Beach, OO Denney and Big Finn Hill parks and Saint Edward State Park.	D	2							TBD	$ -
C6	**Lakeway Corridor**										
	Connect lake shore parks with a greenway	D	2							TBD	$ -
	Natural Area Restoration and Stewardship										
N1	**City-School Wetland Partnership Program**										
	Forbes Lake access - increase number of trails by including platforms and rope walks	R	3							$ 240,000	$ 240,000
	Juanita Bay access - increase number of trails by including platforms and rope walks	R	3							$ 480,000	$ 480,000
	Yarrow Bay access - increase number of trails by including platforms and rope walks	R	3							$ 960,000	$ 960,000

	Potential partnerships can be formed with the following schools near wetlands: Juanita High School, Mark Twain Elementary School, Holy Family School, Peter Kirk Elementary School, Helen Keller Elementary School, and Finn Hill Middle School	R	3							TBD	$ -
N2	**Dock and Shoreline Renovations (PK 0133 100)**										
	David E. Brink - Upgrade hardened shoreline edge to soft alternatives	R	1							$ 960,000	$ 960,000
	Lake Avenue W - Prevent shoreline undercutting with boulders, logs and vegetative mats	R	2							$ 1,200,000	$ 1,200,000
	Marina - Upgrade hardened shoreline edge to soft alternatives	R	1							$ 1,200,000	$ 1,200,000
	OO Denny - Repair shoreline by adding boulders, logs and vegetative mats	R	2							$ 960,000	$ 960,000
	Waverly - Repair dock	R	2							$ 2,400,000	$ 2,400,000
	Waverly - Upgrade hardened shoreline edge to soft alternatives	R	1							$ 1,200,000	$ 1,200,000
N3	**Environmental Education Center**										
	Develop an environmental education center, in partnership with School District and community organizations	D	3							TBD	$ -
N4	**Green Kirkland Forest Restoration Program (PK 0121 000)**										
	Everest - Provide riparian and upland plant restoration	R	2							$ 35,000	$ 35,000
	Windsor Vista - Provide planting restoration - remove landscape fabric and invasives on site	R	3							$ 15,000	$ 15,000
	Kiwanis - Restore native vegetation throughout site and remove invasives	R	3							$ 17,500	$ 17,500
	Juanita Woodlands - Clean up invasives along roadsides and on site	R	2							$ 2,500	$ 2,500
N5	**Heronfield Wetlands Planning and Improvements**										
	Create a restoration and improvement plan for Heronfield Wetlands	R	2							$ 35,000	$ 35,000
	Develop trails and interpretive signage, per plan	D	3							$ 25,000	$ 25,000
N6	**Natural Area Park Restoration**										
	Implement restoration and enhancement programs at all natural area parks	R	1	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	$ 525,000
N7	**Productive Landscapes Program Development**										
	Develop additional community gardens or pea patches, possibly at Reservoir Park, Mark Twain Park and/or Brookhaven Park	D	2							$ 7,500	$ 7,500
	McAuliffe - Develop a farm-to-table system with public-private partnership	D	3							$ 5,000	$ 5,000
	McAuliffe - Provide an increased number of planting beds for shared community garden use	D	2							$ 7,500	$ 7,500
N8	**Stormwater Parks Implementation Program**										
	Everest - Provide interpretive/educational information at stormwater facility	D	3							$ 5,000	$ 5,000
	Heronfield Wetlands - Provide stormwater mitigation from upland contaminants and nutrient overload	R	3							$ 45,000	$ 45,000
	Jasper's Dog Park - Add stormwater feature to collect and treat runoff from dog park	R	2							$ 25,000	$ 25,000
	Jasper's Dog Park - Provide educational/interpretive signage to stormwater feature	D	2							$ 5,000	$ 5,000
	Lake Avenue W - Provide flow control and treatment of stormwater outfall prior to discharge	R	3							$ 35,000	$ 35,000
	Settlers Landing - Study catch basin flows and possibly design stormwater swale/rain garden with interpretive design	D	3							$ 35,000	$ 35,000
N9	**Watershed Park Master Planning and Park Development (PK 0126)**										
	Create a master plan for development of Watershed Park	D	3							$ 75,000	$ 75,000
N10	**Yarrow Bay Wetlands Planning and Improvements**										
	Create a restoration and improvement plan	R	3							$ 35,000	$ 35,000
	Develop trails and interpretive signage, per plan	D	3							$ 100,000	$ 100,000
				$ 2,262,000	**$ 1,785,000**	**$ 1,650,000**	**$ 2,732,000**	**$ 625,000**	**$ 2,385,000**	**$104,778,500**	**$ 116,217,500**

Code		Code	Priority
A	Acquisition	**1**	High Priority
D	Development	**2**	
R	Renovation / Repair	**3**	

Page left intentionally blank.

12 IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation in Context

A number of strategies exist to improve park and recreation service delivery for the Kirkland Parks and Community Services Department; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Kirkland community has demonstrated on multiple occasions over the last decade its willingness to support parks and recreation, park maintenance and a high quality of life.

The following considerations are presented to offer near-term direction on implementation and as a means to continue dialogue between the City, its residents and its partners. Given that the operating and capital budgets for the Department are limited, the implementation measures identified below look primarily to non-General Fund options. Additionally, a review of likely funding options is attached as Appendix F and includes local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

Volunteer & Community-Based Action

The public process for this Plan has demonstrated that residents want to be involved

in improving the City's parks, trails and natural areas and want to have their energies guided through coordination with the City. The City Manager's Office currently coordinates volunteer opportunities city-wide, and the Department should continue to promote its projects to solicit volunteers and grow program supporters. Community sponsored park clean-ups, forest restoration and planting projects, among others, engage citizens and create a stronger sense of community pride and ownership in park and recreation facilities. Additionally, the program can benefit from on-going coordination and involvement from the Rotary, local scout troops and other area service and civic groups. The City should also maintain a revolving list of potential small works or volunteer-appropriate projects to post on its website, while also reaching out to high school and university students to encourage student projects.

Partner Coordination & Collaboration

Specific projects and goals identified in this Plan demand a high degree of coordination and collaboration with other city departments and outside agencies.

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development departments can increase the potential of implementing the proposed trail network and facilitating access to and improvements of other City-owned lands for recreational use. Coordination with the Planning & Community Development Department will be crucial in implementing the goals of the Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan and in reviewing development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas and for easement or set-aside requests. Coordination with the Public Works Department will be necessary to explore the potential for stormwater parks and enhanced trail and sidewalk connectivity. Discussions with Public Works could also include assessing the potential to utilize certain open space tracts as recreational lands. Many acres of publicly-held land exists in the northern sections of Finn Hill and North Juanita neighborhoods that were set aside from past residential developments, and these lands could form the backbone of a simple trail corridor or be improved to serve as small parks for nearby residents. However, to more fully extend the park system and recreation programs, additional partnerships and collaborations should be sought.

The City should discuss and update its interlocal agreement with the Lake Washington School District to advance the potential for shared facility development of a new aquatic and recreation center serving the Kirkland community. The interlocal also should re-evaluate the potential to coordinate with LWSD for extended use of indoor gymnasium space for recreation programs or classes.

Coordination with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Lake Washington School District and private fitness vendors should be ongoing to assess the range and type of recreation programs offered regionally and to maximize use of community facilities, such as fields, gymnasiums and other indoor spaces.

As an active lifestyles community, Kirkland should continue partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as EvergreenHealth and the King County Health Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy living and communications about the benefits of parks and

recreation. For example, this group could more directly cross-market services and help expand communications about local wellness options, and they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks throughout Kirkland as a means to expand public awareness of local trail opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit. For example, other communities in Washington have been successful with funding requests to regional hospitals for the development and printing of community walking guides that highlight the health benefits of walking and include trails maps and descriptions.

The City should continue to facilitate discussions with local youth leagues and staff from Lake Washington School District, King County and Northwest University for the purposes of sport field planning and financing a multi-field complex. A complex of four fields or more could provide field rental revenue, as well as additional tourism revenue, from leagues or sport clubs interested in hosting tournaments.

The City should continue to explore opportunities to expand public access and ownership along Lake Washington. This could include outreach to and negotiations with landowners with frontage along the lake, as well as opportunities for expanded or improved road ends approaching the lake.

The City also should reach out to the property owners of certain private open space tracts that were set aside through the land development process for the potential to utilize some of these lands for trail linkages. Also, in areas where no other options exist to secure stand-alone parklands, these existing private open space tracts may offer an opportunity to provide park amenities, as appropriate depending on critical area ordinance limitations or specific land use restrictions from the time of platting.

Local Funding

The Kirkland community has shown strong resolve in its support for parks and recreation services over the past decade. In 2002, voters approved an $8.4 million bond and a levy lid lift for parks maintenance. The debt service on the bond will expire in 2022. Voters also supported a property tax levy for parks and streets in 2012. The levy will provide approximately $2.4 million annually to fund park maintenance and restoration, capital improvements and upgrades and parkland acquisitions. This additional, dedicated funding is crucial to finance upgrades to and growth in the parks system.

According to the City budget, Kirkland maintains reserve debt capacity for councilmanic bonds and voter approved debt. The ongoing conversation regarding the future and potential replacement of the Juanita Aquatic Center warrants a review of debt implications for such a large capital project, along with polling of voter support for the project. Also, as the debt service for the 2002 bond approaches expiration, the City should reassess its capital needs for further upgrades and enhancements to its park and recreation facilities and infrastructure.

King County Conservation Futures

The county currently assesses the maximum allowable excise of $0.0625 per $1,000 assessed value to fund the Conservation Futures program and provides cities a venue

to access these funds through a competitive, local grant process. Most recently, the City submitted an application to help with the costs for the recently acquired addition to Juanita Heights Park. The City should continue to submit grant applications for support in financing the acquisition of additional natural areas along the waterfront and creeks to facilitate the protection of these lands and enable improved linkages to expand the trail network.

Park Impact Fees

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can only be used for parkland acquisition, planning, and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of Kirkland currently assesses impact fees, but the City should review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from renewed residential development. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

Grants

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including WWRP, LWCF, ALEA, USDA, SAFETEA-LU. Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Kirkland should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

01

02

03

04

Data

05

"Parks and recreation are a huge priority for me, please increase the funding."

- Survey respondent

"Thank you for pursuing work on the Cross-Kirkland Corridor! I am looking forward to using the trail in my daily commute."

- Survey respondent

Appendix A: References

References

American College of Sports Medicine. Worldwide Survey of Fitness Trends for 2013. 2013

CAB Communications, Inc. "State of the Managed Recreation Industry Report" Recreation Management Magazine. 2013

City of Kirkland. Active Transportation Plan. 2009.

City of Kirkland. Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan. 2010.

City of Kirkland. Comprehensive Plan. 1995 & 2004.

City of Kirkland. Kirkland Indoor Recreation Facility Plan. 2007.

City of Kirkland. 20-Year Forest Restoration Plan. 2008.

City of Kirkland. Urban Tree Canopy Assessment Report. 2011.

City of Kirkland. Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan. 2013.

King County. Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas. 2010.

National Product Safety Commission. Handbook for Public Playground Safety, http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/325.pdf

National Recreation and Parks Association. 2013 Parks and Recreation National Database Report. 2013. http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/PageBuilder_Proragis/Content/common_elelments/PRORAGIS-national-database-report-2013-NRPA.pdf

National Sporting Goods Association. 2013 Sports Participation Survey. 2013.

Outdoor Foundation. Outdoor Recreation Participation Report. 2012.

The Recreation Roundtable. "Outdoor Recreation Participation in 2003."

United States Access Board. Accessible Recreation Facilities Guidelines; http://www.access-board.gov/news/rec-guides.htm

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Forest Service. The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE). 2000. www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends/nsre.html

United States Department of Justice. 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. http://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; as adopted and modified by Chapter 468-95 WAC "Manual on uniform traffic control devices for streets and highways" (MUTCD).

United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Selecting Roadway Design Treatments to Accommodate Bicycles, 1994.

United States Forest Service. National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE). Athens, GA; Southern Research Station. 2008. http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends

Van der Smissen, Betty; et al. Management of Park and Recreation Agencies. NRPA 1999.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Outdoor Recreation In Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation (SCORP) Plan. 2013.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Statewide Level of Service Recommendation: A Report on the Testing and Applicability of the Recreation and Conservation Office's Proposed Level of Service Tools. 2010.

Appendix B: Inventory & Classifications

Park Classifications

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The Kirkland park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each park type. The following four classifications are in effect in Kirkland and are defined as follow.

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Waterfront Parks
- Nature Park Areas

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are usually no more than 15 acres, depending upon a variety of factors such as location, need, opportunity, and available funding sources. Typically, neighborhood parks are readily accessible to nearby residents and are geographically positioned within safe walking and bicycle access. Neighborhood parks are designed to provide for the needs of a variety of different age groups. Neighborhood parks feature amenities such as paths or trails for walking and jogging, playgrounds for children's play, open lawn areas for informal recreation activities, and tennis or basketball courts. During non-school hours, public elementary school properties provide functions very similar to neighborhood parks. Consequently the Park Plan acknowledges a partial contribution of these public lands to the level of service provision in terms of acreage and geographic location.

Community Parks

Community parks are usually 12 to 30 acres in size and are generally defined as larger, diverse recreation areas serving both formalized, active recreation needs and recreation uses benefiting the surrounding neighborhood. Community parks often include facilities such as sports fields, pools, and/or community centers. Level of service standards for community parks includes public secondary schools and other public land containing active recreation facilities (such as Taylor Fields at the former Houghton Landfill).

Waterfront Parks

Waterfront parks are uniquely valuable public resources. By their very nature, waterfront parks serve a regional need for public access to water. Because Kirkland's waterfront parks vary in character, size, and location, they tend to serve a wide variety of needs, including those of the neighborhood in which they are located.

Nature Park Areas

Natural park areas are acquired to preserve the special natural and unspoiled character of a particular location that is also an important Habitat Conservation Area. Common areas of preservation in Kirkland include 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.

City of Kirkland
Park Inventory

Ammenity	Crestwood	Juanita Bay	Everest	S. Rose Hill	Marina	Houghton Neighborhood	Marsh	Spinney Homestead	Forbes Creek	Cemetery	Mark Twain	North Rose Hill	NKCC	Waverly Beach	Houghton Beach	Terrace	Highlands	Reservoir	Tot Lot	Van Aalst	Waverly Site	David Brink	Peter Kirk	Totem Lake Wetlands
Asphalt Paths in sq. ft.-	12677	31185	36980	4740	11304		5220	7908		26625	26735	21250												6990
Cement Paths in sq. ft.-			7783	2393		1705	853	1908	3600	3950	1440		10058	1955	16088	1200	600	2750				5880	30282	
Gravel Paths in sq. ft.-				3100																				
Brick Paths in sq. ft.						1950																		
Benches-		7	1	1	18	5	5				4	5	2	1	17	2		2	4	1		7	11	
Garbage Cans-	9	6	8	3	14	1	5	1	2	8	5	3	6	6	7	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	15	1
Water Fountains-	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1			1	1	1	1	1							1	5	
Ballerds-	81	33	9					3			9	4	14		17									
Landscape Beds in sq. ft.-	2398	12107	2911	7835	7679		5054		5522	12621		21848	11176	324	24400			1000		44		5026	7621	
Picnic Tables-	1	3	4		8	2	5	2	2		2	5	4	3	4	1	1	1	2	2			8	
Turf in sq. ft.-	197165	612825	202190	8810	41165	14195	44486	179819	68810	237660	251408	56060	139324	42000	63436	64350	72800	30000	7650	98700	300000	29300	243610	
Baseball Turf in sq. ft.-	172600		85500																				68,453	
Wood Bleachers-	7																							
Metal Bleachers-			6																				2	
Grandstands-			2																					
Parking Lots in sq. ft.-	33000	15275	63845				3500	5250					55250	17680	18150						11400			
Parking Lot Spaces-	116	38	202				7	9					72	34	38									
Bathroom Buildings in sq. ft.-	896	494	1221	150	260	135	3500							676	1260								598	
Men's Bathrooms in sq. ft.-	136	102	63	40	66	40	90							117	140								184	
Women's Bathroom in sq. ft-	136	102	63		66		90							108	140								184	
Chaseways in sq. ft.-	192	102	955	64	60	40	120							40	221								149	
Dugouts with Benches-	6		8 (Covered)																				2(Covered)	
Covered Dugouts in sq. ft.			8@ 84 sq.ft																				2@210 sq. ft	
Backstops in lineal ft.-	60,60,48 ft.(20ft. high)		1-130ft,3@55ft(20ft. high)														34ft@20ft. high						115ft@40ft.high	
Park Signs in lineal ft.(2ft.high&2ft. cement support)-	2@10ft	1@10ft.	1@10ft. , 1@6ft.	1@10ft.		1@7ft.	1@8ft.	1@10ft.	1@5ft.		1@10ft.	1@10ft.,1@3ft.	1@10ft.	1@7ft.	1@8ft.					1@9ft.		1@7ft.	1@12ft.	
Playground Equip. Area in sq. ft.-	2436		2552	9950		2450		2040	908		4996	3300	5694	324	3825	2019		1600	3023	2962			2462	
4 ft. Metal Fences in lineal ft.-	720		2300											125										
5 ft. Metal Fences in lineal ft.-	140	120										235												
8 ft. Metal Fences in lineal ft.-	62								60															
10 ft. Metal Fences in lineal ft.-	400		530						440															
3 ft. Metal Fences in lineal ft.-		43													450									
6 ft. Metal Fences in lineal ft.-										2080								330						
12 ft Metal Fences in lineal ft.-																							480	
9 ft. Metal Fences in lineal ft.-																					220			
7 ft. Metal Fences in linealf ft.-																							500	
Bike Racks-		4				1																		
Asphalt Boardwalks in sq. ft.-		38850																						
Wooden Sidewalk on Boardwalk in sq. ft.-		8750																						
Boardwalk Railings in lineal ft. (4ft. high)-		5660	80																					710
Open Building Covering in sq. ft.-		252																						
Wooden Boardwalks in sq. ft.-		5600	120									756												3690
Metal Docks in sq. ft.-		756																						
Wetland Signs-		15																						
Tennis Courts-			1						2												2		2	
Tennis Courts in sq. ft.-			5900						12100												9350		14400	
Grandstand Building in sq. ft.-			920																					
Concession Building in sq. ft-			357																					
Log Fence in lineal ft.-				115ft.(2ft high)								68ft.(3ft. high)												
Log and Metal Fence in lineal ft.-				215ft.(4ft. high)																				
Gazebo Building with cement patio in sq. ft.-					2462																			
Dock Signs in lineal ft. (wood chingled roof)-						2 @ 6*5ft high																		
Light Poles-					24		3			5		3			5							3		
Wood and Metal Fence in lineal ft.-						425ft (3ft. high)							325ft(3ft.high)											
Plywood and Metal Railing in lineal ft.-							275ft(3ft high)																	
Pest Control Signs-							1 @5*5 ft.								1@5*5ft.									
Small flat Benches-								2	3															
Steel Gate in lineal ft.-										34ft(6ft. high)														
Metal Railing for Stairs and Sidewalk in lineal ft.-										308ft(3ft.high)												65		
Wood Fence in lineal ft.-											173ft(2ft high)													
Miscellaneous Buildings in sq.ft-												320										300	160	
Heavy Steel Fence in lineal ft.-												380ft.(4ft.high)												
Basketball Courts in sq. ft.-			3350sq.ft.(Asphalt)			735sq.ft.(Cement)			2880sq.ft.(Asphalt)		3000sq.ft.(Cement)		3800(Cement)				1200						2450	
Roadway in sq.ft.-														8100										
Skatecourt in sq. ft.-																							4675sq.ft.	
Skatecourt Sign-																							3*2ft	
Pool Locker Room Building in sq. ft-(wood chingled roof)																							3000sq.ft.	
Lifeguard Building in sq. ft.- (wood chingled roof)																							960sq.ft.	
Boardwalk Planks in lineal ft. (6in. high)																								685ft.

Page left intentionally blank.

Appendix C: Survey Summaries

Kirkland Parks & Community Services

Community Survey: Priorities and Performance

Sept 2013

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.

Kirkland Parks & Community Services

Community Survey: Priorities and Performance

Sept 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction 1
   - Methods 2
   - Respondent Profile 3
2. Key Findings 4
3. Findings 5
4. Discussion 19
5. Appendix 20
   - Questionnaire with data
   - Crosstabulation Tables

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.

Kirkland Parks & Community Services

Community Survey: Priorities and Performance

Sept 2013

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of a telephone survey conducted on behalf of the City of Kirkland Parks and Community Services Department. The survey was conducted to inform the process to update Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan).

The survey was conducted as part of an extensive community engagement program which also included discussions with stakeholders and community meetings, as well as an on-line questionnaire on the City's website. Some 304 randomly-selected heads of Kirkland households were interviewed between September 5-10, 2013. Survey respondents were asked about:

- Their use of city parks;
- The value they placed on them;
- The current quality and quantity of recreational opportunities in Kirkland;
- Priorities for expanded recreational opportunities; and
- Willingness to support public funding of expanded recreational opportunities.

Demographic information was also collected so as to compare and contrast answers.

The survey was administered by Elway Research, Inc. The questionnaire was designed in collaboration with Conservation Technix, Inc., SvR Design and staff of the Parks and Community Services Department.

The report includes Key Findings, followed by annotated graphs summarizing the results to each question. The full questionnaire and a complete set of cross-tabulation tables are presented in the appendix.

METHODS

SAMPLE: 304 Heads of household in Kirkland.

The sample frame was registered voter households, meaning that at least one person in the household was registered to vote. Approximately 88% of the households in Kirkland have at least one registered voter, qualifying them for this survey. Respondents were not required to be registered to be interviewed.

TECHNIQUE: Telephone Survey
17% of these interviews were conducted via cell phone.

FIELD DATES: September 5-10, 2013

MARGIN OF ERROR: ±5.7% at the 95% confidence interval. That is, in theory, had this same survey been conducted 100 times, the results would be within ±5.7% of the results in this survey at least 95 of those times.

DATA COLLECTION: Calls were made during weekday evenings and weekend days. Trained, professional interviewers under supervision conducted all interviews. Up to four attempts were made to contact a head of household at each number in the sample before a substitute number was called. Questionnaires were edited for completeness, and a percentage of each interviewer's calls were re-called for verification.

It must be kept in mind that survey research cannot predict the future. Although great care and the most rigorous methods available were employed in the design, execution and analysis of this survey, these results can be interpreted only as representing the answers given by these respondents to these questions at the time they were interviewed.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

In interpreting these findings, it is important to keep in mind the characteristics of the people actually interviewed. This table presents a profile of the 304 respondents in the survey.

Note: Here and throughout this report, percentages may not add to 100%, due to rounding.

GENDER:	50%	Male
	50%	Female
AGE:	11%	18-35
	21%	36-50
	38%	51-64
	25%	65+
	3%	No Answer
HOUSEHOLD:	31%	Couple with children
	38%	Couple with no children
	8%	Single with children
	20%	Single with no children
	2%	No Answer
HOME:	79%	Single family house
	3%	Duplex or multiplex
	18%	Apartment or condo

The decision to use the registered voter list as the sample frame will typically result in a sample that is somewhat older than the general population. This was the case in this survey, where 25% of respondents were over 65 years of age, whereas 14% of the population is over 65.

KEY FINDINGS

- **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.**
  - 6 in 10 households visited a city park more than once a month over the summer.
  - 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.**
  - Most said Kirkland has "about the right number" of most types of facilities and programs.
  - The notable exception was swimming pools, of which 57% said more were needed.
  - Most graded each type of recreation facility or program as an "A" or "B."
  - The lone exception was "Indoor Sports Facilities, like Gymnasiums," for which 40% gave an "A" or "B."

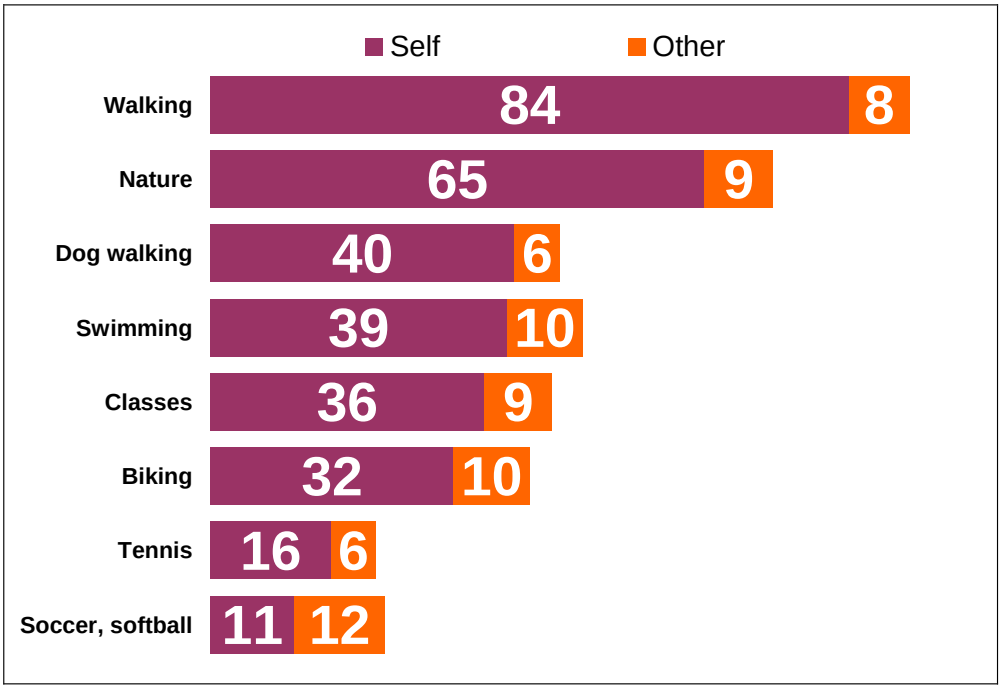
- **Youth programs are the highest priorities for expansion.**
  - The top-rated priorities "if Kirkland were to expand its recreation facilities" were: 1) Before and after school programs; 2) Summer youth programs; and 3) Youth sports.

- **Most were willing to increase taxpayer support to develop an Indoor Aquatics Center and an Indoor Recreation Center.**

FINDINGS

Major findings are presented in the following section in the form of annotated graphs and bullets. The full results are appended in detailed cross-tabulations.

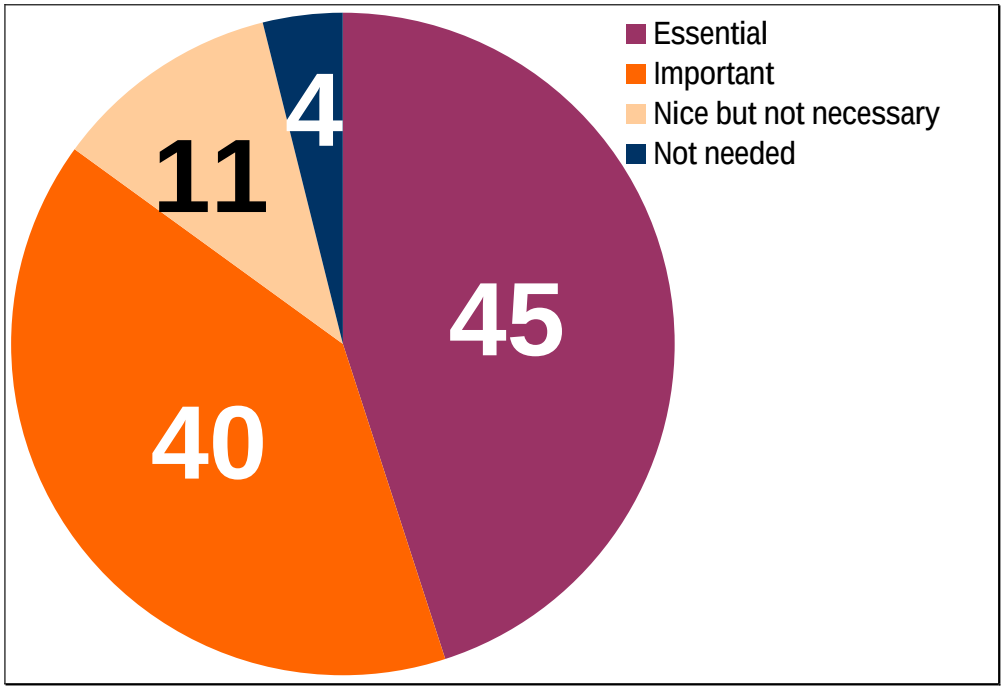
Kirkland Residents Engage in a Variety of Recreational Activities



Q1: These first few questions are about activities that you may or may not take part in. As I read each one, tell me whether you or someone in your household does this regularly. The first one is… Walking…Getting close to nature…Dog Walking…Swimming…Biking…Taking classes, such as fitness, arts, preschool programs…Tennis…Soccer or Softball

- **Residents who lived within a 10-minute walk from a city park were more likely than those who live closer to engage in 7 of these 8 activities**
  - The exception was dog walking (where there was no difference)
  - Of those who lived within a 10-minute walk of a park
    72% reported getting close to nature, vs. 58% of those farther away;
    41% participated in classes, vs. to 32% of those farther away;
    44% reported swimming regularly, vs. to 34% of those farther away.
- **Walking topped the list for every demographic category**
  - At least 8 in 10 respondents reported walking regularly in every age category, both genders, and every household category
- **"Getting close to nature" was more popular among older residents**
  - 70% of those over 50 did that regularly, compared to 55% of those under 50.
  - It was most popular among people who were single and without children at home (74%)

Parks & Recreation Rated as Important to Essential to Quality of Life in Kirkland



Q2: When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Kirkland, would you say that city parks and recreation opportunities are…1) Essential to the quality of life here; 2) Important; 3)Nice to have, but not really necessary; 4) More of a luxury that we don't need.

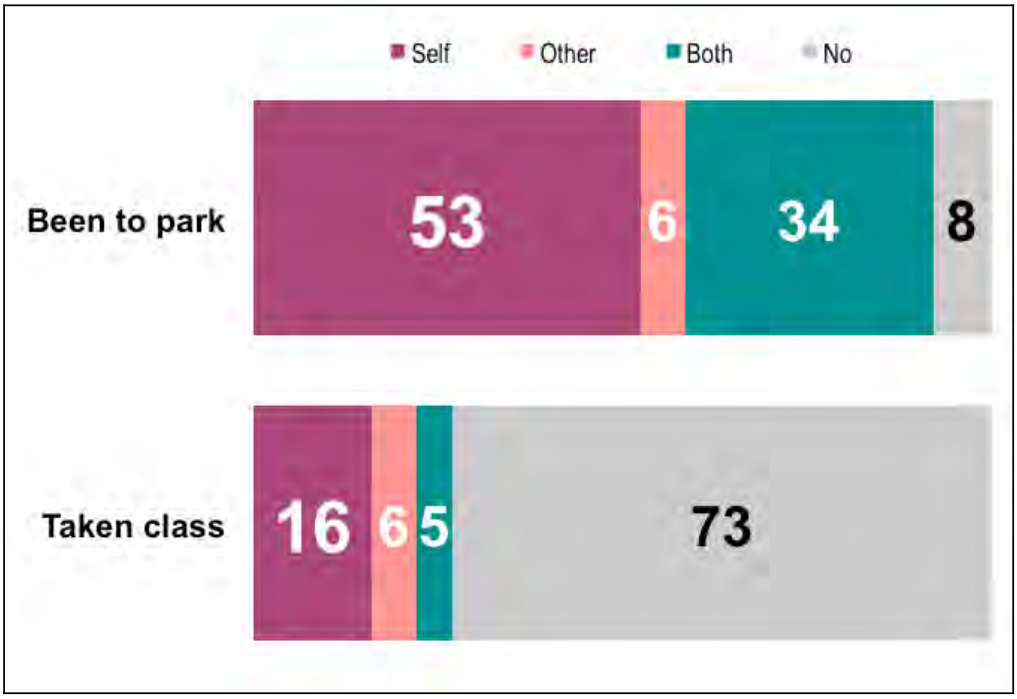
- **Importance of parks to quality of life increases with age**

  29% of those under 36 said parks were "essential to the quality of life here", vs.

  50% of those over 50

- **Residents living alone were most likely to say parks are "nice, but not necessary" or "not needed" (21%).**

9 in 10 Households Include Someone Who Has Been to a Kirkland Park in the Last Year



Q3: Have you or any member of your household been to a park in Kirkland in the last year?

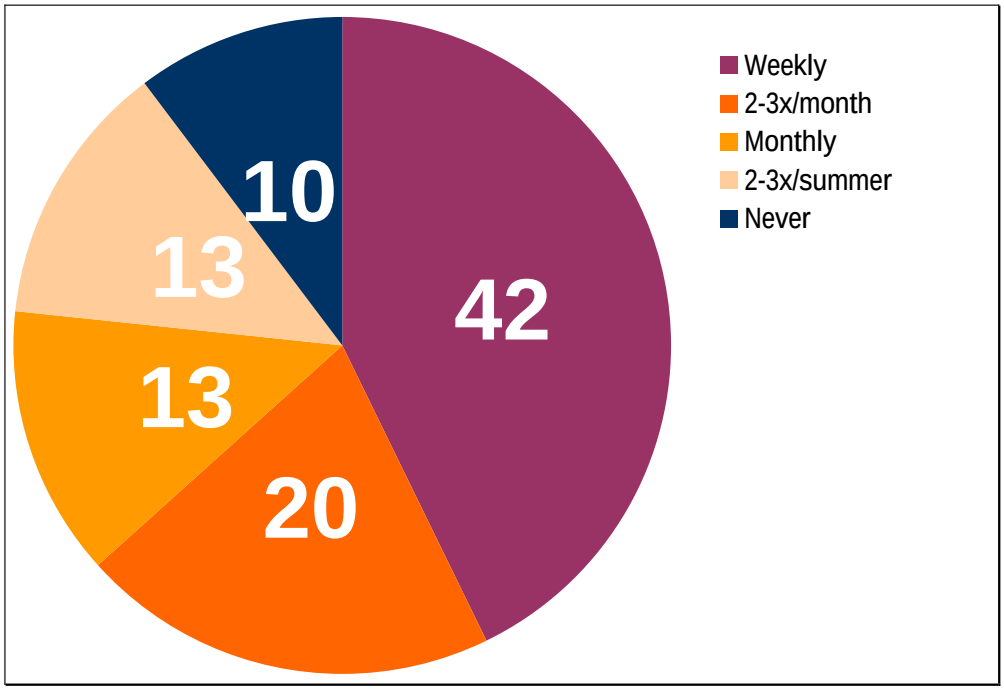
Q4: Has anyone in your household taken a class or participated in an activity sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Services within the last year?

- **Overall park visitation goes up with age:**

  90% of those over 65 have visited a park, compared to 76% of those under 36

- **Women were more likely than men to have taken a class (29% vs. 12%)**
  - There were no other demographic differences
- **Proximity to a park did not make a difference in class enrollment**

6 in 10 Households Include Someone Who Visited a Kirkland Park More Than Once a Month This Past Summer

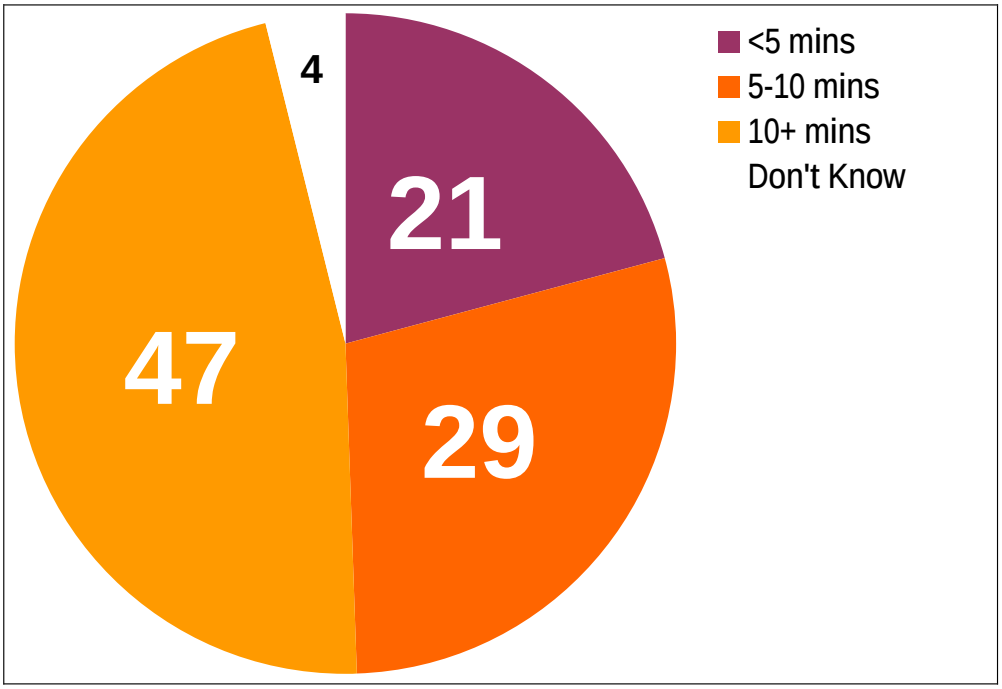


Q5: Thinking about this summer. About how often has someone from your household visit a City Park in Kirkland? Would you say…

- **Households with children were more frequent park visitors than households without. Visiting at least weekly were:**

  48% of single parent households and
  47% of "couple with children" households, but close behind at
  42% were couples with no children, while only
  34% of singles with no children at home visited a park at least weekly.

Half Live Within 10 Minute Walk of a City Park

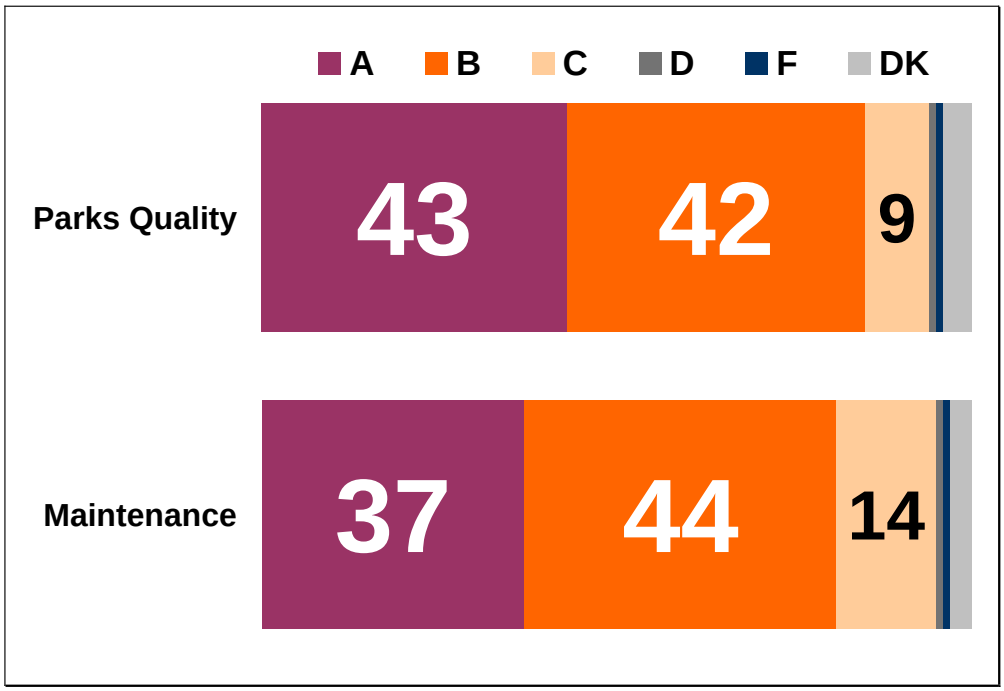


Q5.1: When you visit a city park, how do you typically get there

Q6: If you were to walk, how long would it take you to walk to the city park nearest to your home?

- **Of those who visited a city park this past summer, more drove than walked**
  Multiple answers were allowed, so the percentages sum to more than 100%
- **62% typically drive to a city park, including**
  78% of those who live more than 10 minutes away
- **45% typically walk, including**
  75% of those who live within 5 minutes of a park
- **Of those who live 5-10 minutes from a park**
  56% drive
  54% walk

City Gets High Grades for Parks Quality and Upkeep



Q7:Thinking now about all the parks and recreation programs in Kirkland…. What grade would you give Kirkland Parks for overall quality? We'll use a letter grade – like they do in school. Would you grade their overall quality as: A for Excellent, B for Good, C for Satisfactory, D for Unsatisfactory or F for Poor?

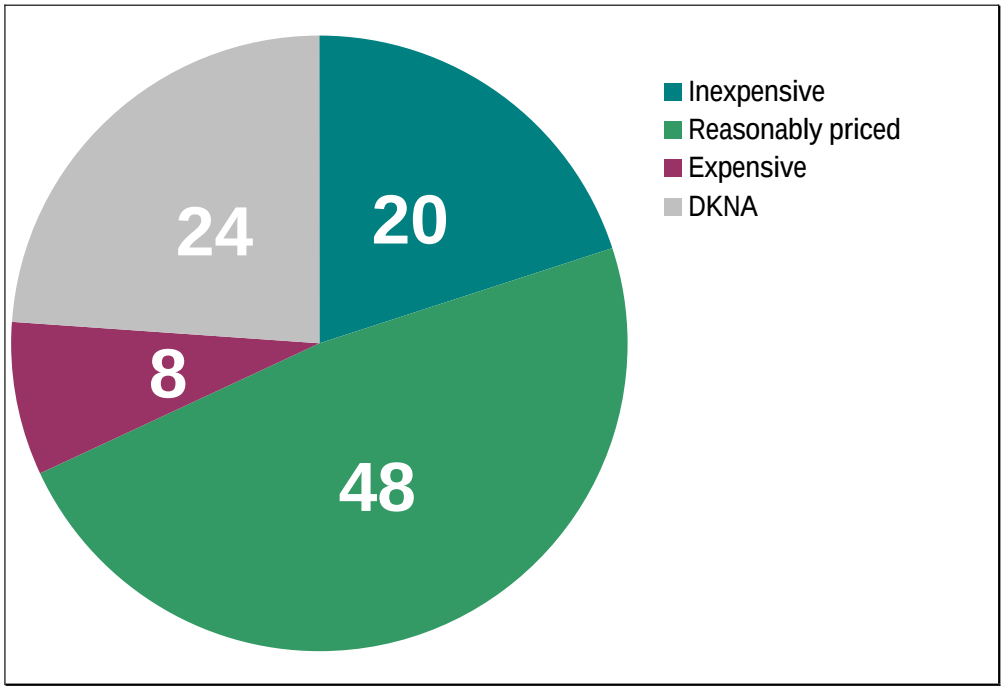
Q8: How would you grade the maintenance and upkeep of city parks in Kirkland? Would you give them an A for Excellent, B for Good, C for Satisfactory, D for Unsatisfactory or F for Poor?

- **30% gave an "A" grade for both Quality and Maintenance**
  - 74% gave an "A" or "B" for both
- **Grade for overall quality related to Proximity**

  58% of those who live within a 5-minute walk of a park gave a grade of "A"; only 39% of those who lived 10+ minutes away gave a grade of "A".
- **And to Frequency of Use**

  57% of weekly visitors gave an overall grade of "A"; compare to
  33% of those who visited less often; and
  33% of those who did not go to a park this summer.

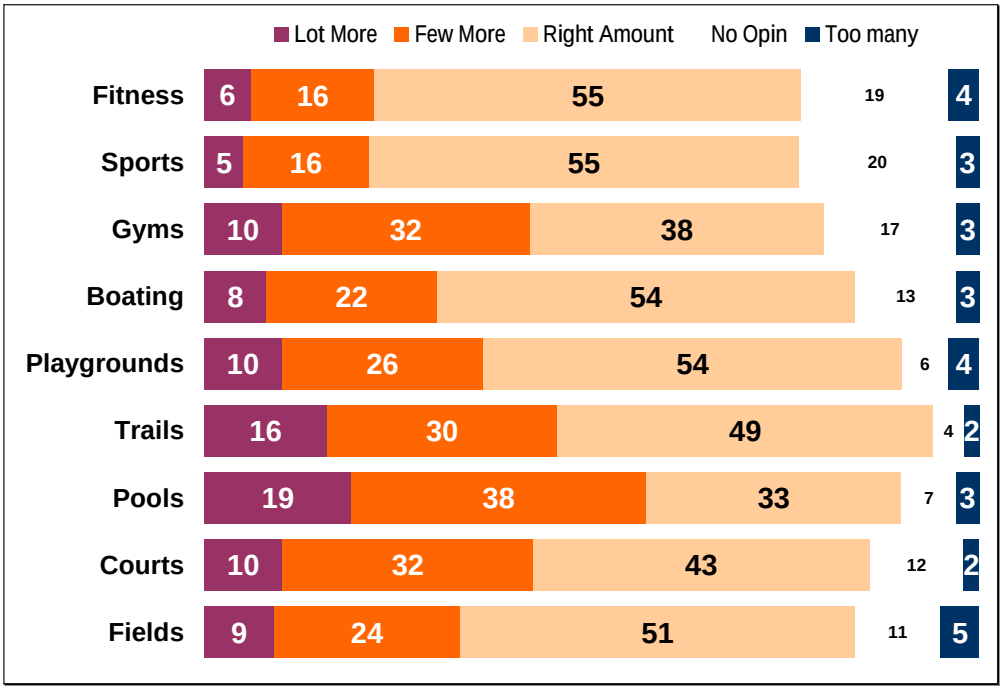
City Recreation Programs Considered "Reasonably Priced" to "A Good Bargain"



Q9: How would you rate the affordability of city recreation programs? Would you say they are…1) Inexpensive and a good bargain; 2) Fair and reasonably priced; 3)Too expensive

- **Assessment of affordability was consistent across demographic categories**
  That is, respondents in each demographic category gave similar answers
- **Those who graded the parks an "A" overall were more likely than lower graders to think they were "inexpensive":**
  27% who gave a "A" said city recreation programs were inexpensive; vs.
  15% who gave a "B"; and
  18% who gave a "C" or lower.

Quantity of Recreation Facilities and Programs: Most Think Kirkland has "About the Right Number" of Most Types of Facilities and Programs

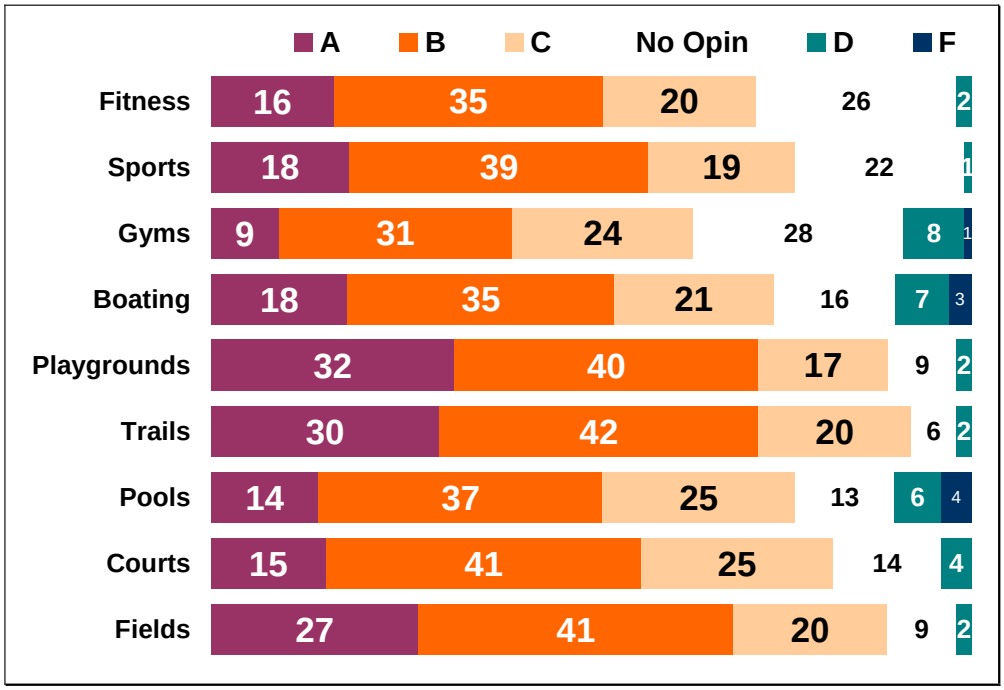


Q10 The City of Kirkland is updating it plans for the future of city parks and recreation, which means thinking about both the number and the type of parks and recreation facilities in the city. These next few questions are about what you would like to see. The first question is about the number of facilities and programs. I am going to read a list of types of recreation facilities. As I read each one, tell me whether you think Kirkland needs A Lot More of that type of facility…A Few More… We have About the Right number now…or We have More than we Need already. The first one is…

- Fitness classes and programs
- Organized sports programs
- Indoor sports facilities, like gymnasiums
- Boating and fishing facilities
- Playgrounds for young children
- Trails and walking paths
- Swimming pools
- Sports fields, like soccer and baseball
- Sport courts, like basketball and tennis

- **Most respondents (57%) think Kirkland need more swimming pools**
  - A majority in every demographic category said the city needs "a lot more swimming pools" (19%) or "a few more" (38%).
- **For every other facility mentioned, either majorities said that there were about the right amount or they were evenly divided on the number needed.**

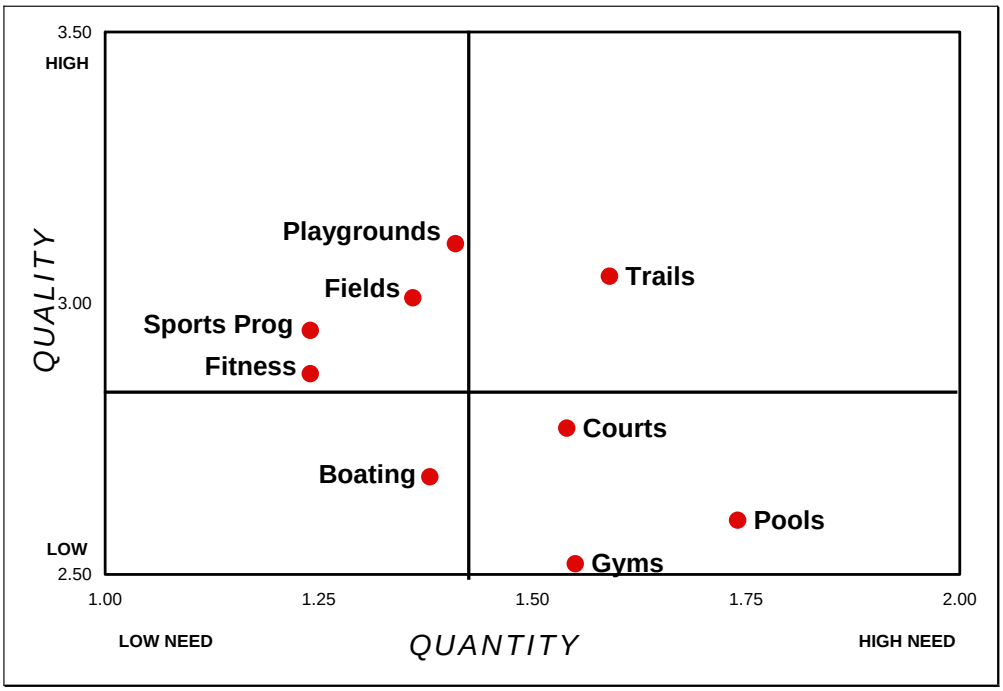
Quality of Facilities: Most Rate Each Type of Facility and Program as "Excellent" or "Good"



Q11 Now I will read that same list again. This time, tell me how you would rate the overall quality of these facilities and programs in Kirkland. We'll use a letter grade, again, where A is Excellent, B is Good, C is Satisfactory, D is Unsatisfactory and F is Poor quality

- **For 8 of the 9 facilities listed, majorities gave a grade of "A" or "B" for their overall quality.**
  - The lone exception was "Indoor Sports Facilities, like Gymnasiums," for which 40% gave an "A" or "B".
- **The highest grades were for**
  - Playgrounds (72% "A" or "B")
  - Trails (72%)
  - Sports Fields (68%)

Quality & Quantity of Recreation Facilities/Programs

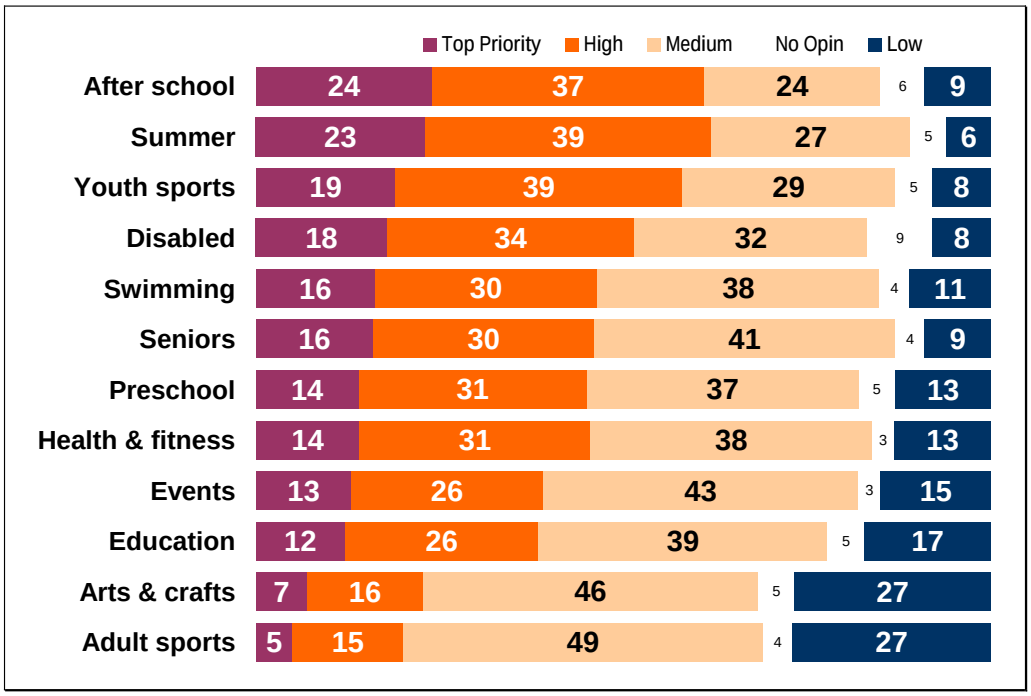


Quadrant Graph: Plots the average score for each program on the question of Number of programs by Quality of programs. Bisecting lines are at the average score for each scale.

This graph locates the 9 facilities in terms of the combined ratings for quantity and quality, resulting in four relative categories:

- **High Need, High Quality:**
  - Trails
- **High Need, Low Quality:**
  - Swimming Pools
  - Sports Courts, like basketball and tennis
  - Indoor sports facilities, like gymnasiums
- **Low Need, High Quality**
  - Playgrounds for young children
  - Sports fields, like soccer and baseball
  - Organized sports programs
  - Fitness classes and programs
- **Low Need, Low Quality**
  - Boating and fishing facilities

Youth Programs Rated as Highest Priorities

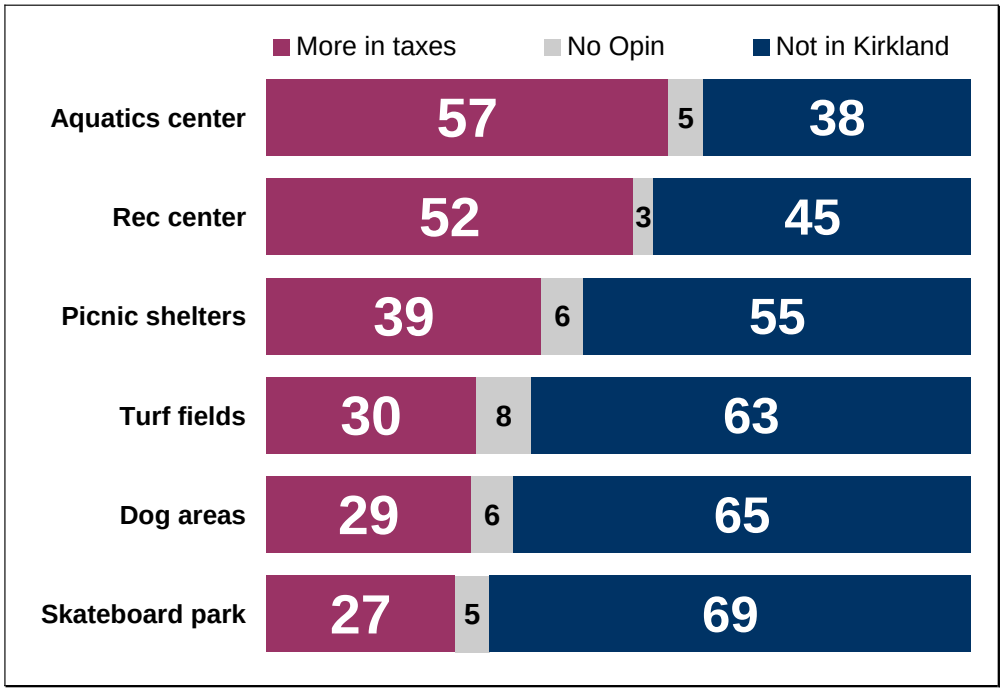


Q12: Because funding is limited, the city has to prioritize programs and services. I am going to read a list of recreation activities. If Kirkland were to expand its recreation services, tell me whether you think each program should be a Top Priority, a High Priority, a Medium or a Low Priority for expansion. The first one is…

- Before and after school programs for youth
- Summer programs for youth
- Sports programs for youth
- Activities and programs for disabled participants
- Community events and festivals
- Activities and programs for seniors
- Swim instruction and aquatic activities
- Health and fitness programs
- Programs for preschool age children
- Informational and educational classes
- Arts and craft classes
- Sports programs for adults

- **Asked to rate of 12 potential recreation categories in terms of their "priority for expansion," respondents rated programs for youth in the top 3 spots.**
  - There were not significant differences in the ratings between age categories, or between household with and without children, for the most part.
  - Respondents over age 65 gave the highest rating to After School Activities (32% "top priority");
  - Single parents gave the highest rating to Summer Youth Programs (35% "top");
  - Singles with no children at home gave the highest rating for Youth Sports (26% "top").

Willingness to Increase Taxes for Recreation Experiences



Q13: There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Kirkland, but are available in neighboring communities. I am going to read a list of some examples. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxpayer support to develop that facility in Kirkland versus not having that in Kirkland, which would you choose?
An indoor aquatics center, that could include a pool, slides and other water activities
A multi-purpose indoor recreation center
Group picnic shelters
Lighted, synthetic turf playfields
More off-leash dog areas
A skateboard park

- **Putting their money where their priorities are, 57% said they would support "increasing taxpayer support" to help develop an aquatics center and a multi-purpose recreation center.**
  - The only age category in which there was not a majority in favor were resident over age 65.
  - Among those over 65, the response was the same for both the aquatics center and the recreation center:
    49% favored "increased taxpayer support" to have them in Kirkland
    46% were willing to forgo having those facilities in Kirkland.

DISCUSSION

The Kirkland residents interviewed for this survey appreciate their city's parks and recreational opportunities. Parks and recreation are considered to be vital to Kirkland's quality of life, and small wonder: 9 in 10 households had personal experience in a city recreation facility in the last year, and most households included regular users of city parks.

Residents also appreciate the City's work to provide and maintain parks and recreational opportunities. The City gets high marks for the quality of existing recreation facilities and programs; the upkeep of city parks and facilities; and for reasonably priced recreation programs.

Most residents think that the city has "about the right amount" of most types of facilities and programs. Or maybe there could be "a few more." Almost no one said the city has too many of any of the facilities listed.

Looking to the future, residents put the highest priority on expanding youth programs, particularly an aquatics center and indoor multi-purpose recreation center.

The high levels of appreciation and satisfaction with existing programs and facilities provides a solid base upon which to build for the future. Residents value their parks an recreation spaces and the City has a proven track record of building and maintaining high quality facilities and programs.

A majority of these residents said they would favor "expanding taxpayer support" to develop an aquatics center and a recreation center. Expressing support for a concept in a survey is not the same thing as supporting spending taxpayer dollars in the real world, of course. But these findings indicate that residents see a need for these additions and are willingness to favorably consider putting resources into to priority recreation facilities.

QUESTIONNAIRE

with Data

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.

TOPLINE DATA

SAMPLE	304 Kirkland adults
MARGIN OF SAMPLING ERROR	±5.7% at the 95% level of confidence
FIELD DATES	September 5-10, 2013
GENDER	MALE...50% FEMALE...50%

- The data are presented here in the same order as the questionnaire
- The figures in bold type are percentages of respondents who gave each answer.
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

1. These first few questions are about activities that you may or may not take part in. As I read each one, tell me whether you or someone in your household does this regularly. The first one is…

ROTATE	SELF	OTHER	NONE/NA
A. Walking	84	8	8
B. Getting close to nature	65	9	26
C. Dog walking	40	6	54
D. Swimming	39	10	51
E. Biking	32	10	58
F. Taking classes, such as fitness classes, arts activites Pre-school programs, and so on	36	9	55
G. Tennis	16	6	79
H. Soccer or Softball	11	12	77

2. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in Kirkland, would you say that city parks and recreation opportunities are…

45 Essential to the quality of life here
40 Important
11 Nice to have, but not really necessary
4 More of a luxury that we don't need.
0 [UNDEC]

3. These next questions are about parks in Kirkland. Have you or any member of your household been to a park in Kirkland in the last year?

53 YES, SELF
6 YES, OTHER
34 YES, BOTH SELF & OTHER **TOTAL HOUSEHOLD: 92%**
8 NO

4. Has anyone in your household taken a class or participated in an activity sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Services within the last year?

16 YES, SELF
6 YES, OTHER
5 YES, BOTH SELF & OTHER **TOTAL HOUSEHOLD: 27%**
71 NO
2 DK

5. Thinking about this summer. About how often has someone from your household visit a City Park in Kirkland? Would you say…

42 At least once a week
20 Two or three times a month
13 About once a month
13 Two or three times over the summer
8 [DID NOT VISIT KIRKLAND PARK] > SKIP TO Q6
2 DK/NA > SKIP TO Q6

5.1. [IF 1-4] When you visit a city park, how do you typically get there? Do you…
CHECK ALL THAT APPLY
45 Walk
8 Bicycle
62 Drive
2 [OTHER]

6. If you were to walk, how long would it take you to walk to the city park nearest to your home?

21 Less than 5 minutes
29 5 to 10 minutes
47 More than 10 minutes
4 Not sure

7. Thinking now about all the parks and recreation programs in Kirkland…. What grade would you give Kirkland Parks for overall quality. We'll use a letter grade – like they do in school. Would you grade their overall quality as: A for Excellent, B for Good, C for Satisfactory, D for Unsatisfactory or F for Poor?

43 A=Excellent
42 B=Good
9 C=Satisfactory
1 D=Unsatisfactory
1 F=Poor
4 DK

8. How would you grade the maintenance and upkeep of city parks in Kirkland? Would you give them an A for Excellent, B for Good, C for Satisfactory, D for Unsatisfactory or F for Poor?

37 A=Excellent
44 B=Good
14 C=Satisfactory
1 D=Unsatisfactory
1 F=Poor
3 DK

9. How would you rate the affordability of city recreation programs? Would you say they are…

20 Inexpensive and a good bargain
48 Fair and reasonably priced
8 Too expensive
24 [DK/NA]

10. The City of Kirkland is updating it plans for the future of city parks and recreation, which means thinking about both the number and the type of parks and recreation facilities in the city. These next few questions are about what you would like to see. The first question is about the number of facilities and programs. I am going to read a list of types of recreation facilities. As I read each one, tell me whether you think Kirkland needs A Lot More of that type of facility…A Few More… We have About the Right number now or We have More than we Need already. The first one is…

ROTATE	LOT	FEW	RIGHT	TOO MANY	DK
A. Sports fields, like soccer and baseball	9	24	51	5	11
B. Sport courts, like basketball and tennis	10	32	43	2	12
C. Swimming pools	19	38	33	3	7
D. Trails and walking paths	16	30	49	2	4
E. Playgrounds for young children	10	26	54	4	6
F. Boating and fishing facilities	8	22	54	3	13
G. Indoor sports facilities, like gymnasiums	10	32	38	3	17
H. Organized sports programs	5	16	55	3	20
I. Fitness classes and programs	6	16	55	4	19

11. Now I will read that same list again. This time, tell me how you would rate the overall quality of these facilities and programs in Kirkland. We'll use a letter grade, again, where A is Excellent, B is Good, C is Satisfactory, D is Unsatisfactory and F is Poor quality The first one is…

ROTATE	A	B	C	D	F	DK
A. Sports fields, like soccer and baseball	27	41	20	2	0	9
B. Sport courts, like basketball and tennis	15	41	25	4	0	14
C. Swimming pools	14	37	25	6	4	13
D. Trails and walking paths	30	42	20	2	0	6
E. Playgrounds for young children	32	40	17	2	0	9
F. Boating and fishing facilities	18	35	21	7	3	16
G. Indoor sports facilities, like gymnasiums	9	31	24	8	1	28
H. Organized sports programs	18	39	19	1	0	22
I. Fitness classes and programs	16	35	20	2	0	26

12. Because funding is limited, the city has to prioritize programs and services. I am going to read a list of recreation activities. If Kirkland were to expand its recreation services, tell me whether you think each program should be a Top Priority, a High Priority. Medium of Low Priority for expansion. The first one is…

ROTATE	TOP	HIGH	MED	LOW	DK
A. Before and after school programs for youth	24	37	24	9	6
B. Summer programs for youth	23	39	27	6	5
C. Sports programs for youth	19	39	29	8	5
D. Activities and programs for disabled participants	18	34	32	8	9
E. Community events and festivals	13	26	43	15	3
F. Activities and programs for seniors	16	30	41	9	4
G. Swim instruction and aquatic activities	16	30	38	11	4
H. Health and fitness programs	14	31	38	13	3
I. Programs for preschool age children	14	31	37	13	5
J. Informational and educational classes	12	26	39	17	5
K. Arts and craft classes	7	16	46	27	5
L. Sports programs for adults	5	15	49	27	4

13. There may be some park and recreation experiences that are limited or not available in Kirkland, but are available in neighboring communities. I am going to read a list of some examples. If it came down to a choice between increasing taxpayer support to develop that facility in Kirkland versus not having that in Kirkland, which would you choose?

ROTATE	MORE TAXES	NOT IN KIRK	DK/NA
A. An indoor aquatics center, that could include a pool, slides and other water activities	57	38	5
B. A multi-purpose indoor recreation center	52	45	3
C. Group picnic shelters	39	55	6
D. Lighted, synthetic turf playfields	30	63	8
E. More off-leash dog areas	29	65	6
F. A skateboard park	27	69	5

14. I have just a few last questions for our statistical analysis. How old are you?

11 18-35
22 36-50
38 51-34
25 65+
3 no ans

15. Which of these best describes your household at this time:

31 Couple with Children at Home
38 Couple with No Children at Home
8 Single with Children at Home
20 Single with No Children at Home
2 [NA]

16. And which of these best describes your home:

79 Single family house
3 Duplex or multi-plex
18 Apartment or Condominium

17. Thank you very much. You have been very helpful. [RECORD GENDER]

50 MALE
50 FEMALE

Kirkland Parks & Community Services

On-Line Survey: Priorities and Performance

October 2013

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.

Kirkland Parks & Community Services

On-Line Survey: Priorities and Performance

October 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction 1
   - Methods 2
   - Respondent Profile 3
2. Key Findings 4
3. Findings 5

ELWAY RESEARCH, INC.

Kirkland Parks & Community Services

On-Line Survey: Priorities and Performance

October 2013

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of survey posted on the website of the City of Kirkland Parks and Community Services Department. It was designed as a companion to an earlier random-sample telephone survey conducted to inform the process to update Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan).

This survey followed an extensive community engagement program which also included discussions with stakeholders and community meetings, as well as the telephone survey. Some 788 respondents completed the on-line survey between October 17 and November 4, 2013.

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

The survey was designed by Elway Research, Inc. The questionnaire was designed in collaboration with Conservation Technix, Inc., SvR Design and staff of the Parks and Community Services Department.

The report includes Key Findings, followed by annotated graphs summarizing the results to each question. Where applicable, comparisons with the telephone survey are presented.

METHODS

TECHNIQUE:	Online Survey
SAMPLE:	690 completed the survey 788 people filled out some items
FIELD DATES:	October 17- November 4, 2013
MARGIN OF ERROR:	Not applicable
DATA COLLECTION:	The questionnaire was posted on the city website. Citizens were invited to completed the questionnaire

It must be kept in mind that these results can be interpreted only as representing the answers given by these respondents to these questions at the time they completed the questionnaire. A profile of survey respondents is presented on the following page.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

In interpreting these findings, it is important to keep in mind the characteristics of the people actually interviewed. This table presents a profile of the 788 respondents who completed the on-line questionnaire.

The table below compares the demographic characteristics of those randomly selected the telephone survey to the respondents for the online survey. As this survey was "opt-in," it cannot be considered representative of Kirkland residents, but only those who were motivated to reply to a survey about Kirkland parks.

Note: Here and throughout this report, percentages may not add to 100%, due to rounding.

	Phone	Online	
GENDER:	50%	28%	Male
	50%	72%	Female
AGE:	11%	15%	18-35
	21%	53%	36-50
	38%	21%	51-64
	25%	11%	65+
	3%	0%	No Answer
HOUSEHOLD:	31%	63%	Couple with children
	38%	24%	Couple with no children
	8%	4%	Single with children
	20%	9%	Single with no children
	2%	0%	No Answer
KIRKLAND RESIDENT	100%	96%	Live in Kirkland
		25%	Kirkalnd Business Owner
		18%	Go to School in Kirkland
		3%	Live Nearby Community
		4%	Visit Kirkland

Some 21% of the on-line respondents live in the Finn Hill neighborhood. Another 10% live in North Rose Hill.

The sample for the online survey is skewed toward mothers with children. The opinions of women, those between the ages of 36-50, and couples with children are overrepresented in the sample. This sample probably reflects heavier park users, and thus provides a useful perspective.

KEY FINDINGS

- **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.**
  - 6 in 10 households visited a city park more than once a month over the summer.
  - 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.**
  - Most said Kirkland has "about the right number" of most types of facilities and programs.
  - The notable exception was swimming pools, of which 57% said more were needed.
  - Most graded each type of recreation facility or program as an "A" or "B."
  - The lone exception was "Indoor Sports Facilities, like Gymnasiums," for which 40% gave an "A" or "B."

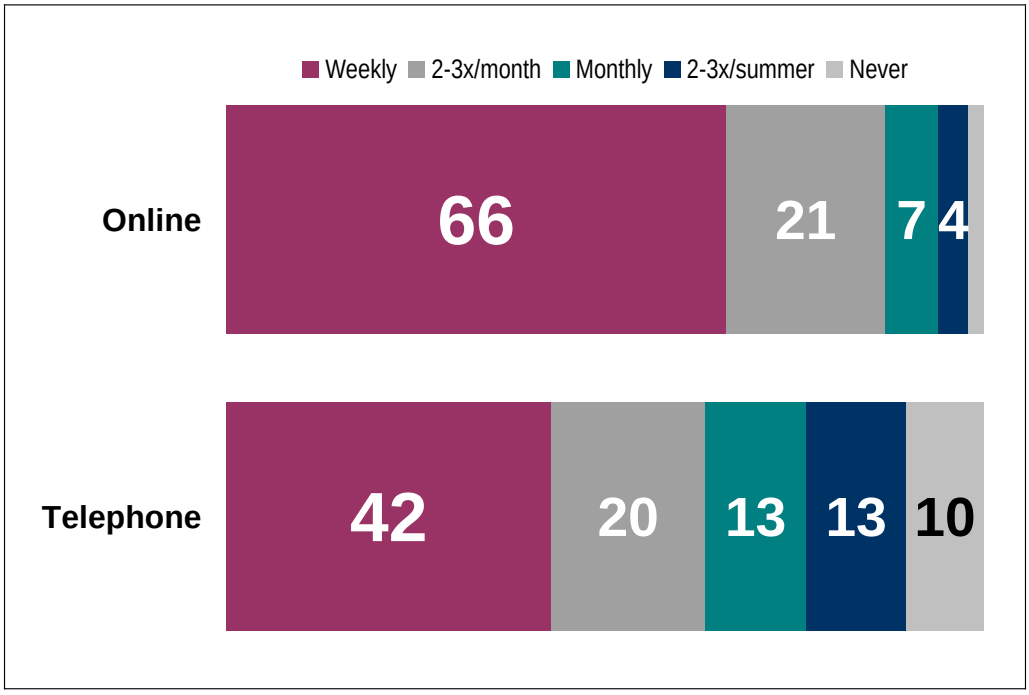
- **Youth programs are the highest priorities for expansion.**
  - The top-rated priorities "if Kirkland were to expand its recreation facilities" were: 1) Before and after school programs; 2) Summer youth programs; and 3) Youth sports.

- **Most were willing to increase taxpayer support to develop an Indoor Aquatics Center and an Indoor Recreation Center.**

FINDINGS

Major findings are presented in the following section in the form of annotated graphs and bullets. The full results are appended in detailed cross-tabulations.

Online Survey Respondents Use Kirkland Parks More Frequently Than General Population



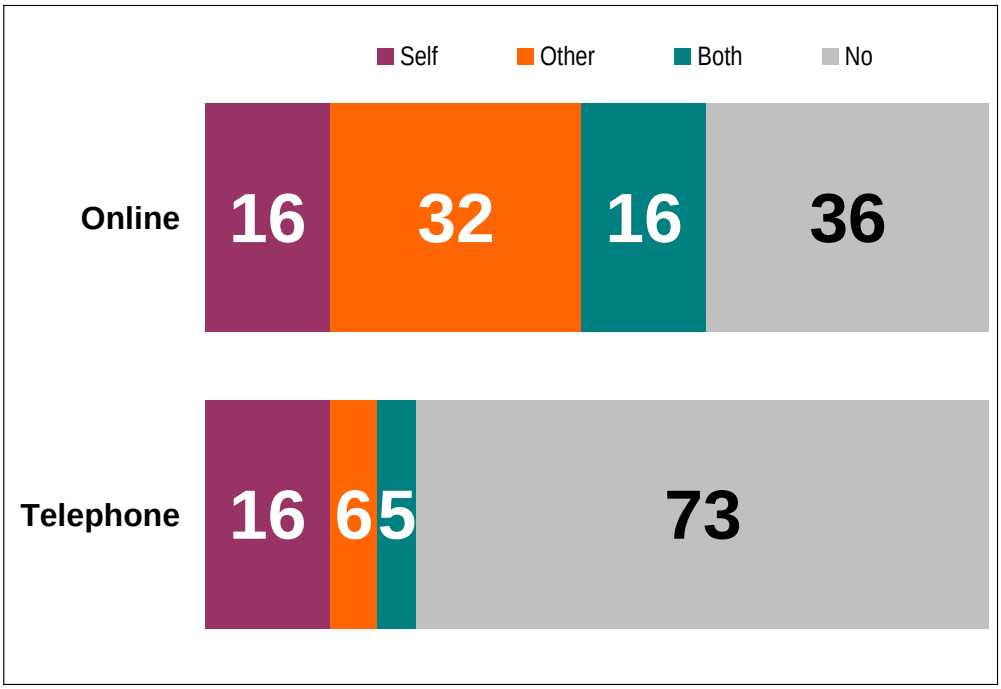
Q1: Thinking about this past summer, about how often has someone from your household visited a City Park in Kirkland?

- **In online survey, 9 in 10 use parks multiple times monthly**
  - This was true for 6 in 10 of all Kirkland residents
  - Indicates that survey results show opinions of those already highly motivated to use parks
- **More frequent usage in South than North**
  - Saying they use parks weekly…

  74% of those in South neighborhoods, but

  59% of those in North neighborhoods

Greater Class Attendance Among Online Survey Respondents



Q2: Has anyone in your household taken a class or participated in an activity sponsored by Kirkland Parks and Community Services within the last year?

- **Compared to telephone survey respondents…**

  32% had taken a class themselves (vs. 21% of phone respondents), and

  48% had someone within their household who took a class (vs. 11% of phone respondents)

- **Highest class attendance among young:**

  72% of 18-35 year olds had or lived with someone who attended a class, v.

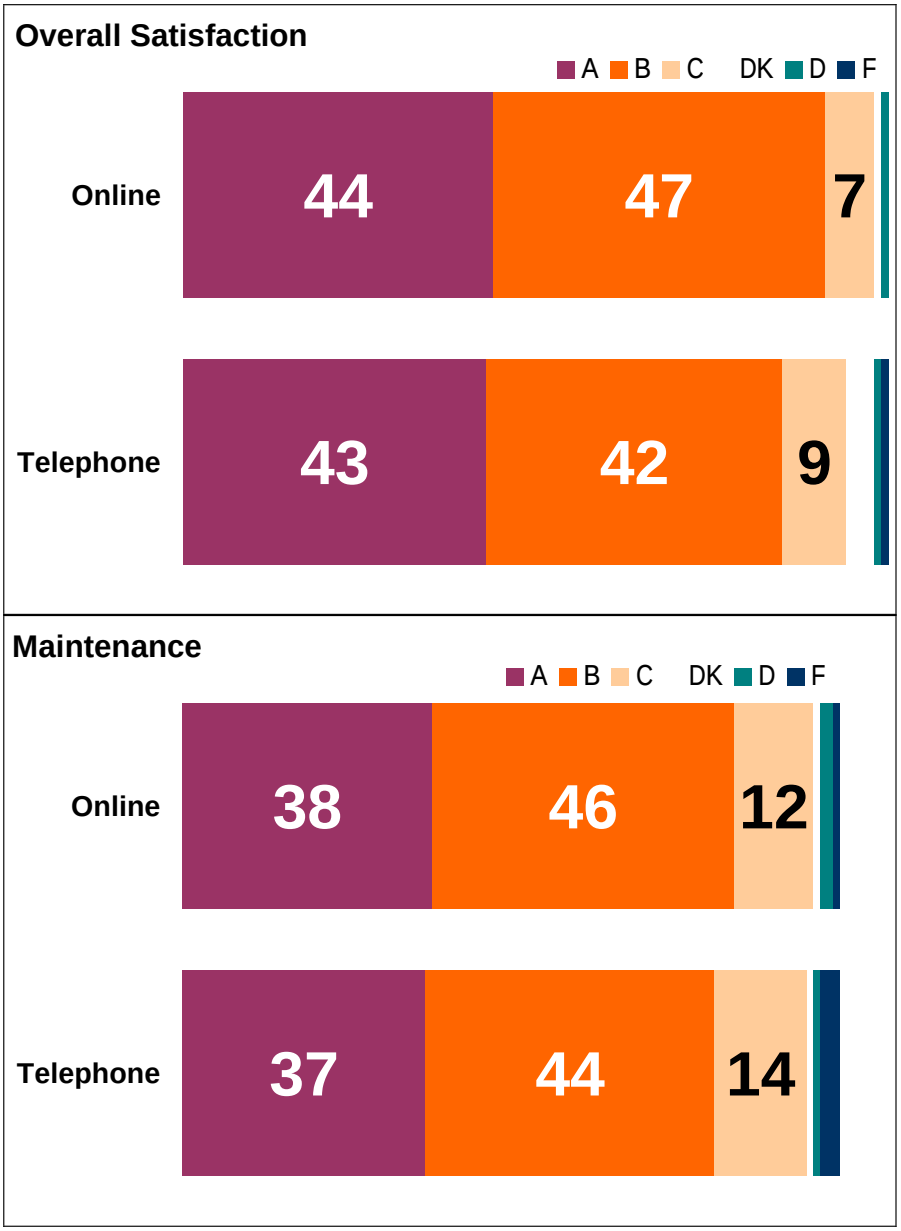
  65% of all others

- **Lowest class attendance among childless couples:**

  49% of couples without children had or lived with someone who attended a class, v.

  71% of all others

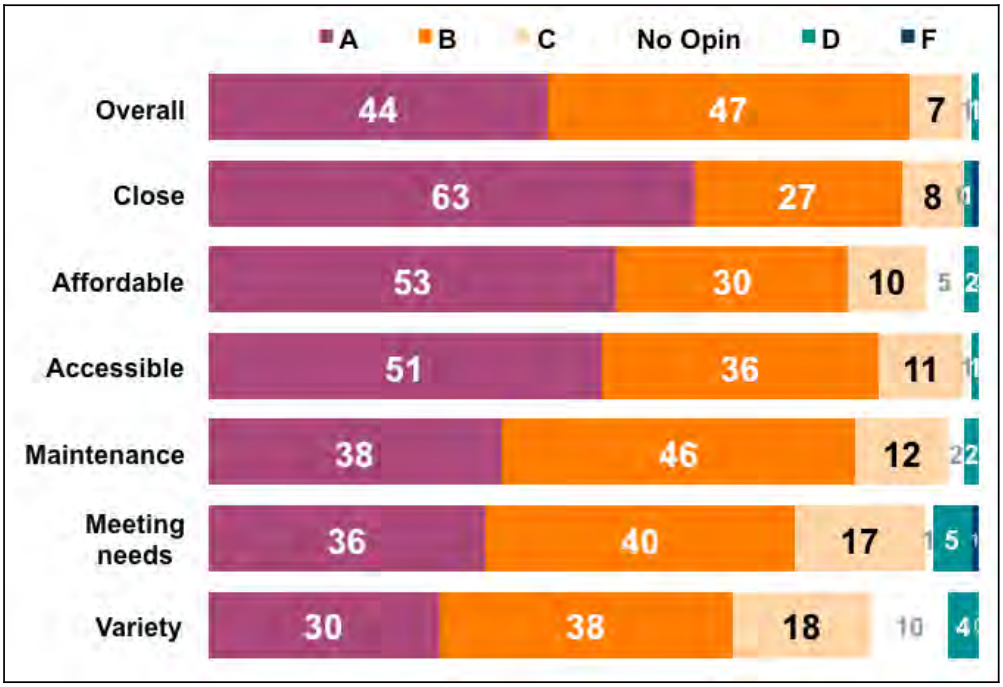
Despite Demographic Differences, Similar Attitudes Toward Parks In Both Surveys



Q3A: Think about all the city parks and recreation facilities and programs in Kirkland. Using a letter grade, like they do in school, what grade would you give Kirkland parks and programs for...Overall quality?
Q3B: ...Maintenance and upkeep?

- **In the two assessment questions that overlapped the two surveys, online and phone respondents gave nearly identical grades**

High Grades To Kirkland Parks

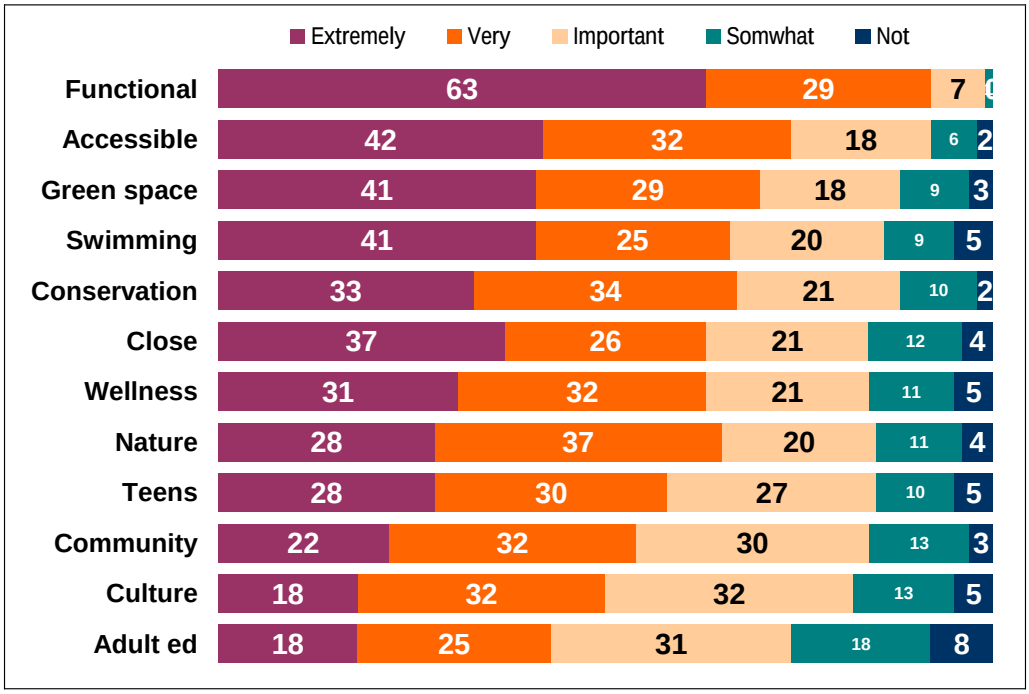


Q3: Think about all the city parks and recreation facilities and programs in Kirkland. Using a letter grade, like they do in school, what grade would you give Kirkland parks and programs for...

- **At least 7 in 10 give an "A" or "B" in each category**
  - No category received less than a "B" on average
- **Lower ratings linked to less frequent use**

  37% of those who visited less than weekly rated overall quality "A", v. 47% of those who visited weekly
  - This gap appeared in every category
  - No difference between those who had taken classes and those who had not

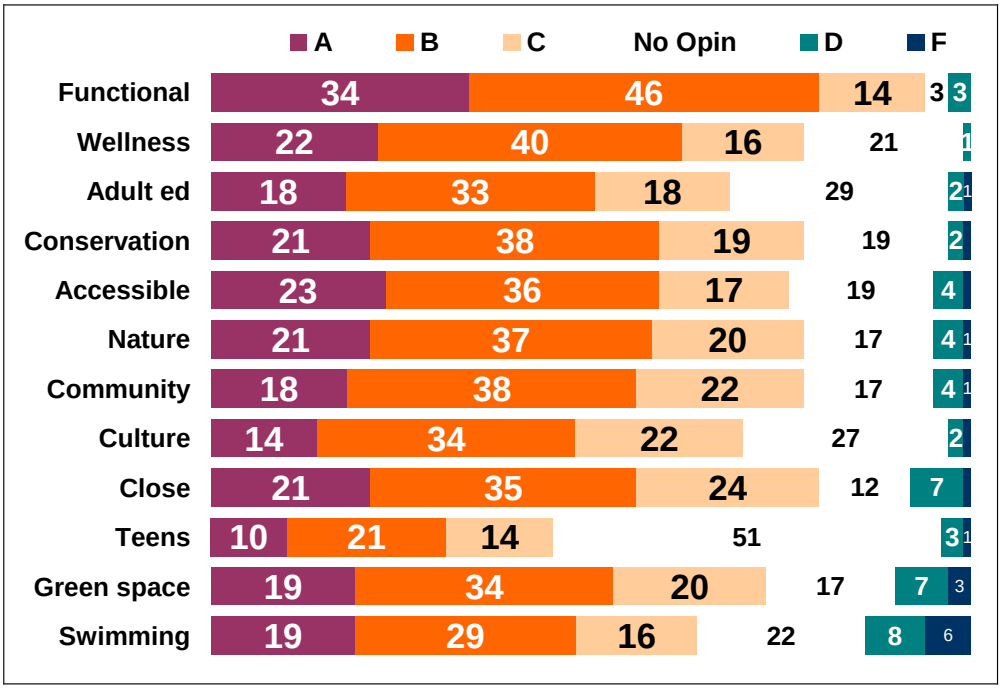
General Qualities of Parks Rated As Important, Specific Programs Less So



Q4: Below is a list of some services and functions provided by the city's Parks and Community Services Department. For each one, please rate how important that service or function is to you and your household.

- **Highest importance placed on general qualities like being "safe, attractive and functional," "programs for all ages, abilities and incomes," and "protected green spaces"**
  - Lower importance on specific activities like adult education programs or programs for at-risk youth and teens
  - Exception is Swimming programs, which (as in phone survey) were rated as highly important
- **Slightly different priorities than in phone survey**
  - General population ranked youth programs as highly important, while programs for teens were of less importance here
  - Similar attitudes about importance of programs for seniors and disabled ("Accessible" here), ranked highly in both
  - Adult classes/activities ranked low in importance in both surveys

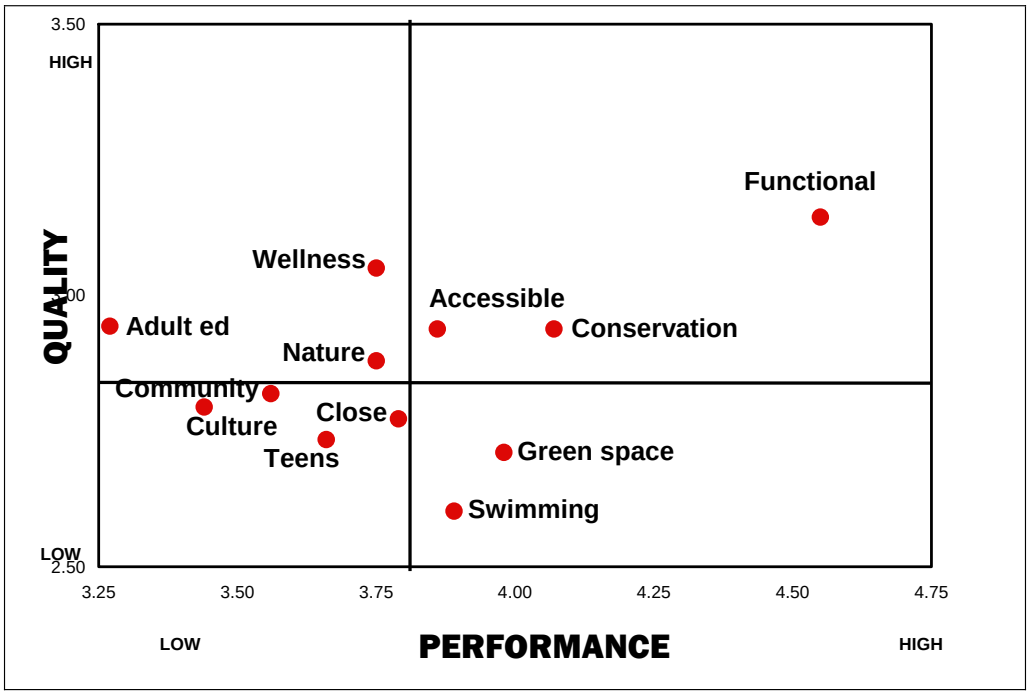
Grades For Most Areas Average Bs, Cs



Q5: Using the same list, please rate how you think the city's Parks and Community Services Department is doing in each area. Using a letter grade, what grade would you give Kirkland for…

- **Grades for all areas were high**
- **Swimming classes were ranked highly in importance but lower in quality**
  - Low grades were consistent across demographic categories
  - Pools also received relatively lower grades in phone survey
- **Relatively lower grades for "protected green spaces" also consistent across groups**

Quality & Importance of Parks Attributes



This graph locates the 12 attributes in terms of the combined ratings for importance of that attribute and the performance of the city at providing it. The intersecting lines in each axis indicate the average (mean) score for all variables on that scale. Locating each attribute above or below the average rating results in four relative categories:

- **High Importance, High Quality:**
  - Safe, attractive and functional
  - Programs for all ages, abilities and incomes
  - Conservation of natural resources
- **High Importance, Low Quality:**
  - Swimming and aquatic safety classes
  - Protected green spaces within each neighborhood
- **Low Importance, High Quality**
  - Programs and facilities that promote health and wellness
  - Adult education and lifelong learning programs
  - Connecting people with nature
- **Low Importance, Low Quality**
  - Promoting a sense of community
  - Cultural arts programs and events
  - Play spaces within close walking distance of every home
  - Programs for at-risk youth and teens

Appendix D: Open House Summaries

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	June 13, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh

TO: FILE

PRESENT: Members of the Public
Staff from Kirkland Parks & Community Services
Members of the Kirkland Parks Board
Project Tem Members from Conservation Technix & SvR

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

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

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

RECURRING COMMENTS FOR SYSTEM-WIDE ENHANCEMENTS

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

Category	Considerable Interest	Moderate Interest	Some Interest
Indoor Recreation	• Pool & Aquatic Facility	• Gym • Indoor fitness space	• Specialized activities: archery, climbing wall, dance, covered spaces, indoor track
Outdoor Recreation	• N Kirkland & Juanita Hill area parks • Off Leash Areas • Sports fields & School access	• Exercise stations	• Community gardens - farm to table • Sunday Parkways style street closures / bike events
Green Linkages	• Finn Hill & Juanita area trails • Sidewalks & pedestrian friendly routes • More multi-use trails	• CKC for pedestrians and bikes • Connections to Burke Gilman, Puget Sound Electric and Sammamish River Trails	• Water trails • Signage / wayfinding • I-405 pedestrian bridge connecting Edith Moulton & Kingsgate
Conservation	• Quiet places to think/ walk/hike • Connecting natural areas	• Nature classes & outdoor education	• Balance natural area acquisition with other needs

DETAILED COMMENTS PER DISPLAY STATION

Indoor Recreation Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

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

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

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

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

- 12 - indoor pool
- 4 – indoor track

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

Green Linkages Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

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

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

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

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

3. Where are the missing links?

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

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

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

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

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

-- Map Board (sticky note comments) --

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

Outdoor Recreation Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-- Map Board (sticky note comments) --

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

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

Conservation Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional sticky notes on Photo Board

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

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

-- Map Board (sticky note comments) --

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

Other sticky notes (not oriented to specific questions)

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

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle
File

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	October 21, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY: Michelle Kunec-North

TO: FILE

PRESENT: Members of the Public
Staff from Kirkland Parks & Community Services
Members of the Kirkland Parks Board
Project Tem Members from Conservation Technix & SvR

SUBJECT: KPROS Open House Meeting Notes: Community Planning Day (10/19/13)

Several long-range and strategic plans are being updated and developed that will shape Kirkland's future in land use, housing, transportation, parks and trails. Community members were invited to a second, citywide Planning Day on Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Peter Kirk Community Center. Information and interactive activities occurred to engage residents and businesses in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan Update, and the Transportation Master Plan, in addition to other on-going projects such as the Surface Water Management Plan, Juanita Drive Study and Totem Lake Master Plan.

As part of the PROS Plan update, the project team prepared informational displays covering survey results from the recently completed phone survey, as well as three major themes for parks and recreation. These display stations included Active Lifestyles, Conservation & Nature, and Green Linkages/Trails. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to explore current issues, needs and interests related to park and recreation services.

RECURRING COMMENTS FOR ENHANCEMENTS

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

Category	Considerable Interest	Moderate Interest	Some Interest
Active Lifestyles	• Pool & Aquatic Facility • Climbing/Bouldering wall • Mountain biking and BMX • Playgrounds	• Indoor recreation facility • Outdoor fitness stations • Lake access for kayaks • Arts and cultural opportunities	• Dog parks • Basketball courts • Pea-patches
Green Linkages	• Connections to Cross Kirkland Trail • Trail improvements in south Kirkland (Lake Trail, Yarrow Bay, CKC, Watershed Park)	• CKC parking access • Greenway Trail along Forbes Creek north through Juanita • I-405 bike/pedestrian crossings • Crestwood Park bike access	• Trail access to regional destinations (Sammamish River, Woodinville)
Conservation & Nature	• Improvements at existing parks and natural areas. • Connecting existing natural areas	• Use parks for ecosystem services (water quality, etc) • Powerline greenways	• Urban forestry

DETAILED COMMENTS PER DISPLAY STATION

Active Lifestyles Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

1. **What are the most needed amenities in the next 5 years for parks, recreation and open space?**
   1.1. Indoor pool, including lap swim (7x)
   1.2. Playgrounds
   1.3. More drinking fountains in parks (by playgrounds)
   1.4. Walking opportunities and trails

2. **What recreation opportunities are too limited or missing in Kirkland?**
   2.1. Outdoor climbing/bouldering wall (3x)
   2.2. Mountain biking trails (2x)
   2.3. Playgrounds
      2.3.1. Equipment for older kids at Grasslawn Park (2x) [this park is in Redmond]
      2.3.2. Playgrounds for young children
      2.3.3. Playgrounds that are fully accessible (i.e. with sled swings)
   2.4. Indoor recreation for all ages (0-100) (2x)
   2.5. Fitness facility with parking
   2.6. Have something like the Lynnwood water park & library & fitness center & restaurants all together
   2.7. Better lake access for put-in / pull-out for kayaks (2x)
   2.8. Arts and cultural center - large and vibrant; Cultural and recreation spread throughout the city; Outlets for the creative population
   2.9. Basketball courts
   2.10. Farm to table at McAuliffe
   2.11. Pea-patches
   2.12. Aerial park
   2.13. Bicycle parking in parks that have sports (baseball, soccer) practice or games
   2.14. The parks system is adequate the way it is without needing to spend more
   2.15. The City should sponsor more neighborhood volunteer activities (i.e., park and trail clean-up days)

3. **What are some priority areas for new active use parks?**
   See Map Board comments below.

4. **What are some current physical constraints to having a more active lifestyle in Kirkland?**
   4.1. Lack of neighborhood sidewalks and main road (NE 70th Street) is too noisy to walk along.

-- Map Board --

- Parking lot at Lake Street and Central Way: Turn into a park
- Possible school district partnership at their new acquisition across from Reservoir Park
- Waverly Beach Park: Add a changing area and/or update bathrooms to include one.
- Snyder Corner:
  - Add a dog park (2x)
  - Workout stations
- Taylor Fields:
  - BMX park (3x)
  - Outdoor workout/fitness stations (3x)

- Benches at landfill
- Area east of I-405 at 70th St is lacking in parks with walking distance, there is so much potential at old landfill besides/in addition too ballfields. No bright lights please!
- Please enhance the landfill – passive OK, but needs so much TLC

- Mark Twain: Bathroom access
- Edith Moulton Park: Add a kids play area
- Houghton Beach Park: Add a place to sit out in the water (on dock) similar to the platform that was removed.
- Holmes Point and 130th: New pocket park near boat launch
- Kingsgate Park: Bike skills course (3x), keep it beginner (ages 6-10) not big air (2x)

Green Linkages Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

1. What connections (besides the Cross Kirkland Corridor) would you like to see completed in the next 5 years?

1.1. Connections between Cross Kirkland Corridor and:
- 1.1.1. parks/schools
- 1.1.2. Watershed Park
- 1.1.3. Yarrow Bay (and transit station)
- 1.1.4. Terrace View Park
- 1.1.5. Everest Park
- 1.1.6. Houghton Center (shopping)
- 1.1.7. Improve the public path that runs behind the Post Office east up to the CKC
- 1.1.8. Complete sidewalk along 60th Street to CKC
- 1.1.9. Greenways network grid with CKC connections
- 1.1.10. the Sammamish River (near 124th Street)

1.2. Other Cross Kirkland Corridor comments:
- 1.2.1. Keep CKC as a pedestrian/bicyclist greenway (no motorized or transit use)
- 1.2.2. Parking access along corridor, to drop off kids to bike
- 1.2.3. Parking at CKC and Watershed Park
- 1.2.4. Pea patches along CKC

1.3. New/complete greenway trail along Forbes Creek, north through Juanita Bay Park, west through Juanita Beach Park, then north along slope connecting to Juanita Heights, and west to Big Fin Hill Park and St. Edwards State Park. Could also branch east to area north of Juanita Elementary School.

1.4. Trail under N-S powerlines?

1.5. Access to Juanita Heights Park from NE 124th Street

1.6. Connection missing at northern end of Totem Lake Park (but shown on map)

1.7. Bike and pedestrian access over I-405 at 124th Avenue

1.8. Bike and pedestrian access across I-405 at 70th Avenue

1.9. Safer and more bike paths

1.10. More transit connections with indoor and outdoor facilities

1.11. Bike/trail access north to Woodinville

2. How can we achieve better access to and along Lake Washington?

2.1. Improve lake trail in southern portion before Yarrow Bay (may be privately owned here) – remove obstacles, improve signage and connections

2.2. Better transit to downtown (more frequent)

2.3. Sound transit to Totem Lake and more growth and Park & Rides there.

3. **What community destinations or landmarks would be well served by direct and safe bike/pedestrian trails and neighborhood greenways?**
   3.1. Schools
   3.2. Parks that have sports programs (ex. Terrace, Crestwoods, Everest)
   3.3. Improved bike access at Crestwoods Park, add bike stair channel/ramp at Crestwood Stairs (3x)

-- Map Board --

- Are there other City trails (possibly owned by Public Works) that are not shown and should be part of the trail system? For example, trails that run south from 60th Street to Watershed Park (along 114th Avenue)

Conservation & Nature Station

-- Comments from Question Board --

1. **Where are those special 'natural places' that are not currently protected? Where are the natural habitats and wildlife corridors?**
   1.1. Slope from Juanita Bay through Juanita Heights Park: protect and restore for slope stability and water quality
   1.2. Greenbelt opportunity along north-south powerline corridor (near 124th Avenue)
   1.3. Protect continuous habitat corridors (don't chop them up)
   1.4. Need stronger protections for large canopy trees
   1.5. Use parks to help improve water quality

2. **Which places would benefit from invasives removal, tree planting, habitat restoration or other natural enhancements?**
   2.1. Clean up Totem Lake
   2.2. Yarrow Bay wetlands
   2.3. Forbes Lake Park
   2.4. North Rose Hill Woodlands Park
   2.5. Big Finn Hill Park
   2.6. Snyder's Corner Park:
      2.6.1. Add landscaped buffers from road and landscape in park. Keep it passive use.
      2.6.2. Community garden or pea patch in sunny area
      2.6.3. Defined soggy and dry areas
      2.6.4. Picnic tables and kids' play equipment.
      2.6.5. Fire station currently uses to dig trenches

3. **Which of these interactions with nature is valuable to you? Why?**
   Exploration: hiking, biking, picnicking, viewing wildlife
   Restoration: weeding, planting natives and removing litter to return landscapes to naturally functioning ecosystems; volunteer with the Green Kirkland Partnership
   Environmental education: creating demonstration spaces like rain gardens or monitoring existing conditions such as shorelines, wetlands and riparian corridors

   No responses.

-- Map Board --

All responses categorized by question above.

KPROS Open House Meeting Notes: Community Planning Day (10/19/13)
Kirkland PROS Plan
Project Number #05-13-PK
Page 5

Comment Card Responses

Comment Card:

A swimming pool for the region is important. It needs to have a deep end as well as lap lanes. Possibly a warm water pool that can be used for PT and older people & the disabled. The Odle Pool in Bellevue is a good example. Or a partnership with YMCA would be nice.

Comment Card:

People in the neighborhood might live 2 miles away from a 'neighborhood park'. The idea is people will walk to neighborhood parks. But if you are a small child, a pregnant woman or an older person, you might not be able to wait to pee - you can't make it home in time. Bathrooms and porta potties are needed in more parks. Also, they give homeless people a place to pee also.

Comment Card:

It would be beneficial to install a bathroom facility in Mark Twain Park on 132nd Avenue. It is a nice little park and it would help people to use this park in a better way.

Comment Card:

Terrace Kirkland Parkplace - 8 stories backing up to 6th, escalating down to 5 stories in front - terraced rooftops - lowering stories towards playground.

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle
File

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	February 28, 2014
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY:	Jean Akers / Michelle Kunec-North
TO:	FILE
PRESENT:	Members of the Public Staff from Kirkland Parks & Community Services Project Team Members from Conservation Technix & SvR

SUBJECT: **KPROS Open House Meeting Notes: Community Forum (02/27/14)**

Several long-range and strategic plans are being updated and developed that will shape Kirkland's future in land use, housing, transportation, parks and trails. Community members were invited to a third planning forum on Thursday, February 27th, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Peter Kirk Community Center. Information, displays and one-on-one interaction occurred to engage residents in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC) Master Plan was shared through displays, information materials, and formal presentations in the adjacent space. Approximately 60 people moved through the PROS and CKC displays and participated in the Cross Kirkland Corridor presentations.

As part of the PROS Plan update, the project team prepared informational displays covering the major themes for parks and recreation. These display stations included "Thrive" (park & recreation system needs), "Connect" (trail system), "Nurture" (stewardship, conservation, restoration) and Neighborhood-based recommendations for each neighborhood association in Kirkland. City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to explore identified needs and proposed recommendations related to park and recreation services.

COMMENTS FOR PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS BY THEME

THRIVE

Indoor aquatic facility

- Totem Lake area best, no impact on park & forest areas

Edith Moulton Park

- Bridge over creek

CONNECT

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- Start with project that benefits the most users – pave it!

Eastside

- Restore natural areas
- Look at all the proposed new bikeways. Let's make them designed for all ages and abilities.
- Take advantage of green space on slope – like through Juanita Heights.
- Connect boardwalks at Juanita Beach and Juanita Bay.
- Energize East looking at alternative powerline corridors – 116th and PSE?

KPROS Open House Meeting Notes: Community Forum (02/27/14)
Kirkland PROS Plan
Project Number #05-13-PK
Page 2

NURTURE

No written comments

DETAILED COMMENTS PER NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED DISPLAY STATIONS

Bridle Trails Neighborhood

Snyder's Corner Park

- Add potential for natural area restoration

Central Houghton Neighborhood

Carillon Woods Park

- Continue Green Kirkland forest restoration program

Watershed Park

- Detention pit area being planted by Green Kirkland
- Avoid use of word "develop" for restoration and/or natural areas

Evergreen Hill Neighborhood

Kingsgate Park

- Expand Kingsgate Park to the north, including Juanita Creek

South Norway Hill Park

- Implement Green Kirkland forest restoration plan

General Area

- Need public open space/park in commercial/apartment area; library? Old F.S.?

Finn Hill Neighborhood

Big Finn Hill Park

- Already has a neighborhood trail plan; coordinate proposed trails with existing plan before designing new.
- No new trails!

Juanita Heights Park

- Continue Green Kirkland forest restoration plan
- Explore expansion of park area to the south to preserve and protect more existing forest.
- Pursue original intent to move access – entrance to Juanita Heights Park to NE 124th Street from 89th Pl NE.
- Education signage i.e. tree ID, plant ID, vs. passive open space

Juanita Woodlands (King County)

- No new trails!
- The residents would like to preserve this space to protect wildlife habitat.

OO Denny Park (Seattle)

- Add natural area/forest restoration

Highlands Neighborhood

Cotton Hill Park

- Continue Green Kirkland restoration and enhancement program

Market Neighborhood

Kiwanis Park

- Clarify timber steps as part of trail treatment (not treatment for entire slope).

Norkirk Neighborhood

Crestwood Park

- Continue Green Kirkland restoration efforts

North Juanita Neighborhood

Edith Moulton Park

- Continue Green Kirkland restoration efforts

North Rose Hill Neighborhood

Mark Twain Park

- Continue Green Kirkland restoration efforts

North Rose Hill Woodlands Park

- Implement Green Kirkland restoration of natural areas

South Juanita Neighborhood

Juanita Beach Park

- Continue Green Kirkland restoration of natural areas

Juanita Bay Park

- Continue Green Kirkland restoration of natural areas

McAuliffe Park

- Green Kirkland restoration of natural forest areas

South Rose Hill Neighborhood

Rose Hill Meadows Park

- Green Kirkland restoration of natural areas

South Rose Hill Park

- Continue Green Kirkland restoration of forested areas

Totem Lake Neighborhood

Totem Lake Park

- Pea patch opportunity?

General Comments (blank flip chart)

- "Love all the new proposed bikeways"
- "Let's make them designed for all ages and abilities"
- "I second that!"
- "Start with a project on CKC that benefits the most users."
- "Pave it."

Attendees placed dots on proposed projects or concepts with emphasis in the following order (high to low):

- CKC – 18 dots
- Indoor aquatic facility – 3 dots
- Green Kirkland – 3 dots
- Totem Lake – 2 dots
- McAuliffe – 2 dots
- Edith Moulton, Peter Kirk Elementary, Terrace Park, Bay to Valley, Eastside, Urban Agriculture – one dot each.

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle
File

Appendix E: Stakeholder Summaries

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	June 11, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh

TO: FILE

PRESENT: Sue Keller, Chair
Shawn Fenn, Vice Chair
Sue Contreras
Ted Marx
Rick Ockerman
Kevin Quille
Adam White
Jennifer Schroder – Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Michael Cogle – Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Jason Filan - Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
Jean Akers – Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Parks Board (05/08/13)

Michael introduced Steve Duh and Jean Akers of Conservation Technix, the consultants selected to help update the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. He reviewed the overall scope of work for the PROS Plan update and mentioned that the plan will link with other city planning efforts underway this year, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Cross Kirkland Plan and others.

The Board was asked for feedback on the current state and the future of the City's recreation programs and parks system.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

What memories do you want residents to keep of being in Kirkland?

- Happy faces of recreation; People enjoying their time in recreation; Pictures of father-daughter dances, doge ball
- Photos from turn of the century at Juanita Beach; Families playing and having fun - little league, taekwondo tournaments, playing at playgrounds; Heritage of good experiences.
- Parks are the community's front porch - places to congregate, to gather and create relationships; Connectivity with trails and without needing a car; Grounded in the community.
- Surprising them with something in a park; People interacting with others they might not otherwise; Interactions and relationships with staff
- Marine Park - its access to ice cream, beaches and baseball; Juanita Beach - history with beach house and cabins
- The best part of Kirkland is the parks; there is something for everyone; childhood memories; "timeless happiness" - where they loved their childhood, loved being in Kirkland
- Sports fields - there is a need for more field space, move into multi-use fields across sports venues; Marymoor as an example

What's missing?

- Need more skateboard parks; more parks to fill the known gaps; indoor recreation space
- The limiting factors are acquisitions and funding; Can't find large enough land for needed facilities; Could facilities be leased - look at Totem Lake Mall. It could be a community hub, as economic development, as an "incubator" for re-invigorating commercial space. [Jennifer reminded the Board of the indoor facilities plan and that subsequent action toward the establishment of a new center will require a business plan, a cost/benefit assessment and a desirable location.]
- Consider opportunities for a cooperative, joint use venture; The Goat Hill homeowners association owns a small strip of land next to Juanita Beach Park; this could be used for a boat launch or for KDOG water access; There may be a concern about adjacent wetlands and ensuring their integrity with those uses.
- Seek partners in pursuing land acquisitions; indoor aquatic facility needs a partner to make economically feasible - look to Northwest University, Kenmore, Bothell, Woodinville, Evergreen
- There are significant neighborhood park gaps, especially in the annexation area; There is under-utilized city-owned property in the Finn Hill neighborhood
- Can more elements be added to existing parks, such as Parkour or exercise stations?
- More pea patches, edible forests, community gardens; demonstrate where food comes from.

What are other priorities?

- Hold true to the list of levy projects; the levy was sold on that list and we need to deliver on it
- Getting existing parks back to good condition and commit to the park maintenance included in the levy

What recreation opportunities are missing? What are the constraints?

- The City's programming is "best practice" and current; staff are great
- The only drawback is lack of space; there is a lot of demand - summer camps are full, swim classes are full
- Take advantage of water/lake context (i.e., stand-up paddle boarding)
- Find collaborations for more adult programs – currently limited due to facility inventory and school district priority for youth activities

How is community awareness about City programs and parks?

- In the annexation area, some people don't necessarily understand or comprehend all that is available; staff does a great job of promoting and communicating
- Need more equitable access to recreation programming
- Parks and Rec is on top of their game; it is the selling feature for the business community
- Levy success demonstrates community support of parks and its importance. We're moving at good, steady, thoughtful pace. Keep pace with good fiscal management and stewardship of resources

What are the key items to be incorporated into this Plan?

- Indoor recreation facility; Revitalize Totem Lake
- Balance - between recreation, natural areas, wetlands, parks

Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Parks Board (05/08/13)
Kirkland PROS Plan
Project Number #05-13-PK
Page 3

- Dovetail neighborhood plans into planning process, although some areas have not yet been planned
- Consider easy/cheap tasks (low-hanging fruit) for immediate implementation (i.e., pea patches) and move slower for harder projects
- Staff has done well at finding the balance and being deliberate with easy/hard projects or moving fast/slow

Michael reminded the Board of the opportunity for joint planning and collaboration between this plan and other city projects. He referenced the upcoming Open House on June 8th from 10am to 2pm. He requested Park Board member participation.

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	May 17, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY:	Steve Duh
TO:	FILE
PRESENT:	Kirkland Parks & Recreation Staff (approx 45) Steve Duh – Conservation Technix Jean Akers – Conservation Technix Nate Cormier – SvR Design Company

SUBJECT: **Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Internal Staff (05/08/13)**

Jenny opened the meeting and offered an overview of the PROS Plan and the importance of staff feedback in developing the plan update. Michael reviewed the scope of the PROS Plan in general and introduced the project team.

CONTEXT

Steve provided a brief overview of the PROS Plan project and introduced his team. He started the group discussion with the Department mission as a reminder and referenced the major influences/efforts and ho these recent changes may impact or affect the 'what/how/when' for future efforts. Comments were recorded as the consultant team tried to explore the Department's strengths and weakness, along with areas in which more attention is needed.

Major Influences

- 2013 Comprehensive Plan - Kirkland 2035
- 2013 Cross Kirkland Corridor planning
- 2012 Levy Passage - $2.3m/yr to restore services, renovate/buy parks, upgrade facilities
- 2011 Annexation - added 31,000 to now over 81,000
- 2010 PROS Plan
- 2007 Indoor Rec Facility Study - discussed gym / pool / programming space
- 2007 Active Living Task Force
- 2005 Green Kirkland Partnership

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

What are some the key strengths?

- Diversity in services, parks and programs
- Resources - financial; physical assets
- Customer service
- People / staff - resources, adaptable
- Community support
- Pride in programs
- Urban forest plan will help lead toward being more sustainable

Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Internal Staff (05/08/13)
Kirkland PROS Plan
Project Number #05-13-PK
Page 2

- Strong partnerships

What are some of the core challenges / weaknesses?

- More or improved community center space / indoor pool
- More restrooms at parks
- Improved facilities / centers
- Maintenance center / shop
- Environmental center
- Field turf management / lighting
- ADA - other accommodations - infrastructure and programs
- Need to do more to capitalize on business partners
- Need in-house construction inspectors and construction management for CIP projects
- Staff allocation / decentralized - administrative efficiencies if more coordinated/centralized

What has happened too fast?

- Green Kirkland Partnership - too much going on, more resources needed
- More facility support needed
- Upgrade the indoor facilities - address traffic/parking issues; expand facilities/campuses; explore a third site (need & feasibility)
- Reassess Rec supervisor staffing allocation

What is happening too slowly?

- Maintenance facility needs not being addressed - need more/better space
- Indoor pool - opportunity with school district at Juanita High
- Community gardens
- Sports fields - turf & lighting
- Funding sources for facility needs
- How to take best advantage of the lake - access, revenue potential

What's Missing

- Extend the 20-year forest plan into new neighborhoods
- More neighborhood parks in north
- More Rec staff for programming
- Green infrastructure concepts
- Connected parks & trails
- Interconnected trail system - beyond the street system
- Connecting a green network - 132nd, 124th, utility easements/corridors
- Parking needs

School/Parks relationship:

- Disconnect between on-site and administrative school staff; frequently changing staff
- Sports field scheduling & programming
- Parks & Rec are the glue for the school facility partnership

Following the identification of issues and concerns by staff, a list of the major issues were surfaced and were noted as core areas for the Department to face in the coming years.

Big Topics
- New facilities - Community Cente and Pool; Maintenance Yard
- Green Connections
- Natural Area Management
- Revenue Generation
- Field Turf & Lighting

The group was segmented into three small subgroups for focused discussions about each major issue, with the goal to discuss ways to elevate this issues and think through potential strategies.

New Facilities Subgroup

Maintenance Yard
- No parking, limited room to expand
- Limited office space
- No showers
- Future expansion likely tied to current facility - opportunities to grow
- PW site is centrally located
- Consider options for McAuliffe Park
- Funds used to lease current facility could be redirected toward acquisition
- Need more space now and will need more in the future

Community Recreation Center
- High demand for programs and need for community center - surveyed well on levy discovery
- Was not included in levy since it was not levy-ready
- Need for space is known within the community
- Ideas for NKCC - raze and rebuild; has no ADA/elevator; security issues due to dual level entries; no lockers or gym space
- Political will and interest groups can pull forward either a pool or a recreation center
- Collaborations (with staff and partner programs) can be enhanced at a single, larger center
- Transportation and access at NKCC is issue - difficult to exit during peak periods; limited transportation options for seniors; public transportation

Revenue Generation & Field Turf Subgroup

Concession Opportunities
- Cost recovery - look at the indoor facility study for guidance
- Program and facility fees - not covering costs & needs updating
- Tournament play - as regional hub and destination

Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Internal Staff (05/08/13)
Kirkland PROS Plan
Project Number #05-13-PK
Page 4

- Diversify the types of sports accommodated - add lacrosse
- Field policy update - allow new sports into the mix
- Field lighting policy - public acceptance; fee enhancements
- Identify staff resources to support expanded sports program
- Competitive advantage through website upgrade - twitter, facebook
- Provide improved spectator facilities
- Have a sports complex - 4 fields
- Alternative uses for fields - concerts, runs, festivals, multiple purposes
- Parking fees for major events
- Restaurants
- Marina - more/expanded services
- Large shelter to serve up to 100
- Wedding venues - rental income
- Enhance program registration for easier use / online

Gaps
- Design of park sites needs O/M considerations
- O/M - design review role and construction management needed
- Park and facility inventory assessment - evaluate shortcomings (i.e., shelters without restrooms, elevator at NKCC)
- Pea patch - program evaluation and enhancement

Partnerships
- Fitness options in parks / facilities
- Wedding "vendors"
- Medical / healthcare / clinics
- Water craft vendors

Green Corridors Subgroup

Strengthen the partnership between Green Kirkland and Natural Parks
- Equipment sharing
- Web-based reporting tool to track volunteer progress
- Grant writing support
- Highlighting recreational opportunities in natural areas
- Information sharing (logistics, resources, progress, etc.) between Green Kirkland and Natural Parks
- Demonstrate stormwater benefit (and other ecosystem services) to seek utility rate funding through Public Works

Connect parks with greenways
- Make parks easier to access
- Build a system that is bigger than the sum of its parts

- CKC is the spine, but where are the ribs? Locate in relation to existing park assets.
- Parks are the emeralds, greenways are the necklace
- Need new green street typologies and coordination with other departments

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle
File

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	May 16, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh

TO: FILE

PRESENT:
Michael Cogle – Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Sharon Rodman – Green Kirkland Partnership
Katie Cava – Green Kirkland Partnership
Deb Powers – Kirkland Urban Forester
Teresa Swan – Kirkland Planning & Community Development
Ted Marx – Kirkland Parks Board
Adam Jackson – King Co Conservation District
Margaret Schwender – Sustainable Kirkland
Steve Duh – Conservation Technix
Jean Akers – Conservation Technix
Nate Cormier – SvR Design Company

SUBJECT: **Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Environmental Groups (05/08/13)**

Michael welcomed everyone and initiated the meeting. He thanked everyone for their participation and mentioned that the PROS Plan update will link with other city planning efforts underway this year, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Cross Kirkland Plan and other specific site plans.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Steve provided a brief overview of the PROS Plan project and introduced his team. He highlighted the elements of the planning process for the Plan and noted a set of questions that were the focus this session's discussion.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

- There are good choices across the city for a variety of play opportunities.
- Understanding the current state of the city's urban forest requires a look at quantity and quality. Public tree inventories are outdated and do not include the annexed neighborhoods. The Green Kirkland Partnership has made improvements to several natural areas, but more work is needed. An urban forestry canopy goal of 40% was written into comprehensive plan based on an older Puget Sound study. Annexation has allowed the city to meets its canopy coverage goal. A recent canopy assessment shows progress on this goal and includes data by watershed, land use and parcel. The 40% canopy goal may be reassessed in the pending comprehensive plan update to refine the policy and possibly segment the goal by land type or other use classifications.
- Stormwater is a concern, especially in the Finn Hill and North Juanita areas. How is the tree removal allowance going to affect stormwater management? The city is planting trees in stormwater management areas and restoration sites; this is a good program. Can the city do more in this area?
- What are the corridors for wildlife through Kirkland's open spaces and what animals are present? The Audubon Society has lists of birds and some mammals on a site-by-site basis, but this information is not available on a park system-wide basis. The Bridal Trails State Park contributes to habitat for coyotes and

rabbits, and the landfill site on the south side of the city has been an ongoing issue regarding nuisance pests.

- Regarding the 33-acre landfill site and transfer station, Little League currently has a lease agreement for its use of the site for ballfields. There had been consideration of the site for a 9-hole executive golf course. The city and county have concerns about the long-term liability for the recreational use of the capped landfill. The adaptable re-use of the landfill is an untapped resource for the city, and the current landfill management practices limit potential habitat value. It is the city's position that the existing activities on the landfill are happenstance, and future remediation, restoration and re-use of the site requires an intentional plan.

- The Audubon Society is under-utilized resource. Juanita Bay is good example.

- Kirkland is designated a Community Wildlife Habitat, the sixth in Washington to receive this honor, by the National Wildlife Federation. The Community Wildlife Habitat team has mapped all of the certified properties, including 5 parks. Restoration projects are coordinated with habitat protection and the seasonal needs of wildlife.

- The restoration of Totem Lake is untapped potential. The Cross Kirkland Corridor is perceived as a potential green connection as a wildlife corridor, for increasing tree canopy and as an edible forest. It connects to 7 parks.

- The perception of "green" walking corridors can extend beyond actual parks and trails to situations such as Park Lane – green space in the street and separation from traffic. There may be opportunities for more green/urban (ROW) spaces and sidewalks. There is a potential to integrate parks & greenway connections and concepts with transportation and public works (comp plan) programming under review this year.

- The 2006 Shoreline Conditions Plan showed that 90% is 'bulk headed' and much of the are has mown lawn to the edge of the water. There is a list of park renovation projects to support shoreline restoration and lake ecology. Private property owners are looking to the city to take the lead on bulkhead removal and shoreline/lake improvements. An intern was hired by Planning to identify grants to help fund shoreline restoration projects. The PROS Plan should address and reinforce the shoreline enhancement program.

- There are environmental concerns about boaters, docks and marina activities. Can they be more sustainable in terms of dock materials or fuel? A structural analysis of City's docks currently is underway.

- Land acquisition can target key protection projects. Finn Hill had a "plan" for green connections.

- The goal is for having parks within a certain distance of every household. A GIS analysis, particularly of new annexation, could reveal oversized lots, canopy coverage, acquisition opportunities, among others. As part of the comprehensive plan update, a land capacity analysis for new annexation is expected from GIS in mid-June and may reveal potential park acquisition and urban forestry canopy preservation areas that can be useful to the PROS planning effort.

- The Green Kirkland Partnership has restoration volunteers at Peter Kirk school – which connects between two parks. The city needs an environmental center for seminars and classes.

- How can we use public lands as venues for public (environmental) education, programs, signage, events,..? Recent survey results highlighted public education and outreach as priorities for urban forestry. Green Kirkland program participants like the interpretive signs with plant identification, process, and

nature information. Message the stewardship programs. Two-pronged value to help park projects or take-home information for ecological improvements.

- Consider demonstration gardens with native plantings, composting practices, worm bin, etc. Install more kiosks with information about parks and their projects. Work with the school district to include environmental learning gardens in new school projects.
- Use the website to promote environmental volunteer opportunities and share information about community organizations (i.e. help seniors pull blackberries)
- Tap into the Environmental Horticulture program at Lake Washington Institute of Technology to teach people to grown native plants or work with landscape professionals.
- Park rangers give tours at Juanita Bay every Sunday. The rangers are volunteers and offer tours for school groups and support the Audubon with annual bird counts. The program operates on grant funding. Program publicity is through local newspapers, Audubon Society and park kiosks.
- Are there opportunities for more green roofs? What can the city do to incentivize or "credit" green roofs, living walls,..?

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle
File

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	June 11, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh

TO: FILE

PRESENT:
Michael Cogle – Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Bridget Powers - Kirkland Boys & Girls Club
Alan Lofquist - Juanita Baseball Club
John Rudolph - Kirkland American Little League
Seth Andersson - Kirkland American Little League
Steve Lytle - Kirkland Lacrosse
Tim Mortimore - Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
Bill Johanson - Juanita Baseball Club
John Bacon - Northwest University
Phil Lavesy - Kirkland National Little League
John Chadwick - Junior Softball World Series
Pauline Miller - Senior Co-Ed Softball
Glenn Beard - Kirkland Baseball Commission
Nesah Thomas-Schadt - Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Jason Filan - Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Steve Duh – Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: **Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Parks Board (05/08/13)**

Michael welcomed everyone and initiated the meeting. He thanked everyone for their participation and mentioned that the PROS Plan update will link with other city planning efforts underway this year, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Cross Kirkland Plan and other plans.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Steve provided a brief overview of the PROS Plan project and noted a set of questions that were the focus this session's discussion.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

League Overviews

- LWSYA: 7,000 players in league overall, with 700 in Kirkland; participation rates have been flat over the past few years; the boy/girl ratio has been even
- KNLL: 450 players in league, and there has been a slight decline in recent past; Softball is generally one-quarter of the league; their region is north Kirkland
- KALL: 720 players in league; their region is south Kirkland
- Senior Co-Ed Softball: has 10-12 teams and they play on Mondays & Wednesdays at Crestwoods Park
- City Recreation: Softball enrollment has been down last four years; Pee Wee soccer has been growing
- 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

- Junior Softball World Series: 10 teams
- KNLL & KALL have approximately 20% softball and 80% baseball; 100% Kirkland residents; 72 teams, ages 4-12, softball to 16 yrs old; Kirkland LL plays at Kirkland Middle School or the Lee Johnson field; there is a need for fields for practice
- Juanita Baseball: 100 players, 3 teams, under 17 years old, mostly Kirkland residents; the league is an outgrowth of KNLL - it is north Kirkland centric and aims to develop players for Juanita High School; it is an American league team and the home field is Juanita High School; the season starts at the end of the high school season - Memorial Day through early July
- Boys & Girls Club has a field onsite; 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

School District Facilities & Relations

- Lake Washington School District has hard fields in poor condition; there is a lack of agreement on field improvements
- Need a better master agreement with Lake Washington School District, especially since the District can't afford to maintain their fields
- The change from middle schools to junior high schools has led to a reduction in school sports; this has created a trickle down with increasing demand for youth sports. Finn Hill and Kamiakin merged leagues; 7th and 8th graders are not being well-served; there is a need to reintroduce Pony and Junior leagues
- Finn Hill Junior High baseball infield unsafe; Kamiakin fields are being reclaimed by nature

Field Inventory & Maintenance

- Overall field inventory - Kirkland city parks look great; Lake Washington School District needs to transfer to city parks the field maintenance and scheduling to control usage;
- Kirkland doesn't have ability to do tournaments due to the lack of fields or a complex
- Regarding soccer fields, there is one at Crestwoods Park and others at the middle schools, but school fields have holes and ruts and are generally unsafe. LWSD is out of money
- Juanita Beach Park - field is good for younger kids, but bigger kids hit it too far
- 132nd Square Park - same issue
- Crestwoods and Everest as tournament fields
- High level players are doing practices on elementary school fields
- There are no fields suitable for 10+ year old or Junior level players
- LWYSA uses web-based scheduling of fields; the City stopped watering Spinney Homestead Park and it is hard to play [Note: with passage of the Parks Levy, funding for irrigation for this site has been restored]
- Field fees - KNLL pays approximately $23,000 in rental payments to King County; Pony league can't afford additional field fees

- Lake Washington School District locked up fields to avoid paying custodians

Field Needs

- Turf surfacing - look at Sammamish and Bellevue; field rentals is a charge for use (pay to play).
- Kirkland needs turf fields to help avoid rain outs and for better field safety; explore the capital expense versus the operations and maintenance costs; it is different for turf fields. Turf fields are always rentable. Turf fields can accommodate a portable pitcher's mound and multiple pegs for different base line lengths.
- Crestwoods Park field #2 has lip at outfield which is dangerous and causes balls to pop up; it also has foul line, slope, and fencing issues to navigate
- Girls lacrosse is an upcoming program and will have capacity impacts; overall need would be for four turf fields for spring for boys and girls lacrosse, and they still would need practice fields in other areas.
- Kirkland is an older city with limited open spaces and vacant lots; it is hard to piece together large enough parcels to aggregate for a large sports complex
- New growth will occur in north Kirkland; the Kingsgate area now has many seniors, but younger families with kids are moving in
- As a long-term option, re-look at Seahawks facility at Northwest University; it has zoning/use issue to overcome
- Two years ago there was a field study completed as part of the preparation for the parks levy - see Michael Cogle for study/report. One option was to expand Lee Johnson for year-round usage for soccer, lacrosse and baseball

Other Comments

- Look at Northshore Soccer / Woodinville as example - Woodinville youth soccer field became little league and soccer field; $5.8 million invested with $3.5 million coming from the soccer club
- Marymoor is another example - multi-sport fields, partial turf (i.e., turf infield, grass outfield)
- I-405 is a divider - football is split by freeway
- Field lighting - NIMBYs are the greatest challenge, lighting not necessarily desired since it enables play that is too late into the evening, kids need time to do homework
- Kirkland Baseball Commission is an affordable option for kids; it is a non-profit, and all funds raised go back into community; paid for and built scoreboards at Juanita Beach Park; KBC needs access to affordable fields to keep their program accessible to local youth; caution about equity and loss of leagues from charging for field use. Crestwoods Park lost leagues due to field quality (no fence, wonky lines)
- Scheduling - field allocation should be set by number of kids in the league and geography - scheduling needs to be a give and take; LWSD needs to release the maintenance of their fields
- Developer of Park Place Mall has considered swapping location of buildings in exchange for extra fields at Peter Kirk Park

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

-- *End of Notes* --
cc: Michael Cogle

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	June 6, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh

TO: FILE

PRESENT: Michael Cogle – Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Karen Story - Highlands Neighborhood
Deirdre Johnson- South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails Neighborhood
Katrina Thomas - North Rose Hill Neighborhood
Johanna Palmer - Evergreen Hill (Kingsgate) Neighborhood
Jill Keeney - Everest Neighborhood
Carol Buckingham - Central Houghton Neighborhood
Sue Keller - PB & Highlands Neighborhood
Denise Campbell – Market Neighborhood
Janis Rabuchin - Market Neighborhood
Jeanette Leach - Finn Hill Neighborhood
Steve Duh – Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Neighborhood Association Group (06/03/13)

Michael welcomed everyone and initiated the meeting. He thanked everyone for their participation and mentioned that the PROS Plan update will link with other city planning efforts underway this year, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Cross Kirkland Plan and other plans.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Steve provided a brief overview of the PROS Plan project and noted a set of questions that were the focus this session's discussion.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

Memories About Being in Kirkland

- Playing in the woods
- Waterfront parks - showcasing the lake and water access
- Pitching at Lee Johnson field under the lights
- Picnics at Juanita Beach Park
- Wandering about and playing - being free to roam
- Talking about how cool/fun the equipment is and having special names for the parks (i.e., castle park)
- Wooded wetlands in Everest Neighborhood
- Going off into the woods and roaming for hours
- Dragging big sticks and having open places for kids run
- Volleyball at Houghton Beach

General Comments

- Half of Evergreen Hill is within a private facility (Kingsgate/Queensgate), which has many homeowners associations that are strong with their own parks and pools. The 132nd Square Park is the only park serving the rest of the neighborhood association. Finding additional land will be difficult. Largest lots are near school. Another development of 75 units is going into the neighborhood
- Houghton is extremely fortunate with park spaces. The under-developed sites are neat. Phyllis Needy is a tot lot that sees a lot of use and has a restroom. The Emerson campus has ball fields. Parking is lacking, and the challenge is getting people to the parks
- Need to educate folks on walkability (i.e., walking paths with distances and elevations). The 60th Avenue pedestrian route runs from the water to over the hill (and 405)
- Connect parks with safe walking trails, paths and sidewalks. People have to wander to find minor trails; they are hidden or unknown
- Woodlands Park & Mark Twain Park have parking issues
- South Rose Hill - Rose Hill Meadows Park has parking issues; needs designated parking off the main thoroughfares
- Market Neighborhood Association has some pedestrian safety and access concerns. Connectivity is a concern, especially near Juanita Beach near the old Jack in the Box
- Waverly Beach has minor drive with no turn-around or parking
- Need restrooms and basketball at Heritage Park
- Citywide, we need another multi-use community center
- Finn Hill Neighborhood Association has 15,000 residents, but is underserved. O.O. Denney is down a little road; Big Finn Hill is nice and large, but it is a county property and has connectivity/safety issues across Juanita Drive. The neighborhood needs more playgrounds and parks within a 1/4 mile

5-Year Look Forward: What is needed?

- More off leash areas and better enforcement of places and signage where dogs can/can't be off leash and for waste pickup. Jasper Dog Park is wall to wall dogs. City needs to get in front of the off leash issue (re: enforcement, waste, kids intimidated) [Michael Cogle mentioned that off leash areas may be considered as part of future master plans for new parks, such as in the planning process for Edith Moulton Park. There is less interest in trying to locate off leash areas within existing developed parks.]
- Regarding trails, it would be nice to have separated sections for cyclists and walkers/runners
- Mountain bike skills area - no park within Kirkland accommodates mountain biking. The wooded area of Ben Franklin School has a history of use for dirt bikes, but the area is degraded and highly compacted.
- Better connectivity - look for easements under power lines and over pipeline; connecting with them has been a challenge
- Signage - interpretive signs at Juanita Bay are nice and educate people about the site and wildlife. Consider adding more signage and historical information to celebrate places and people from the past
- Tie the downtown to Park Place

Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Neighborhood Association Group (06/03/13)
Kirkland PROS Plan
Project Number #05-13-PK
Page 3

- Consider a splash park (zero depth water fun) in the downtown area - possibly at Heritage Park or Peter Kirk Park
- Covered parks - covers over playgrounds for more all-season use
- All-season turf fields - the community missed out with Lake Washington High School; they could do something about Juanita High when it is rebuilt
- Restrooms are needed at more parks
- Juanita Bay - restrooms closed in winter months, which is high time for birding season and counts to aid Audubon
- Garbage cans - maybe more reliance on pack in/out mantra
- There is no recycling at Everest Park

Communications

- Controversy is required to get people's attention
- Consider adding more kiosks, like the Everest kiosk; if available in different places, they could serve as a community message boards
- The City uses a lot of ways to communicate, maybe a bit too much - sometime we are inundated. Brevity in message is the key, then provide a link with keywords
- The City's list serves overlap; the NHAs get messages from the City liaison, plus individual departments
- Provide small, localized (neighborhood area or smaller) maps of nearby parks
- Not all parks have addresses; some are hard to find. Google doesn't even have it right; some parks with nicknames are also a challenge

What is different in Kirkland in 2035?

- We have a first class recreation center - multipurpose center with pool
- We have more connections to the water - water trails, swim lessons at public beaches, sailing club. Look at Meydenbauer Bay - club with kayaking and boating
- We have more active parks. In the future, there will be more units with small lots or no usable outdoor space. Provide more sport courts

Are there community activities your neighborhood has considered as a partnership project with the City?

- Parks are the community front porch - a basketball court could be that place were people gather; the City needs more outdoor courts
- Develop an improvement program that is neighborhood based. What can residents do and how to get approvals for work? Is there a list of work to be done for each park? Provide a way for neighborhoods to take ownership of small improvements.
- Rotary partnered with Starbucks for the shelter at Everest Park
- More shelters are needed. For neighborhood events, tent rentals consume the event budget. Shelters are income source for the City, but they need associated parking

- Denneyfest - parking is an issue. O.O. Denney is down a narrow road; people park at Finn Hill Middle School and use a shuttle bus to get to the park for the event.

Recreation

- 'Wild teens of Finn Hill' - encourage kids to participate in live-action activities or tournaments (e.g., hunger games style competitions); Parkour classes
- It is a headache to drive around the region for year round swim lessons because the options are very limited within Kirkland
- Swimming is a safety issue - in the past, residents had access to St Edwards and now Juanita High School is threatened.
- Barefoot boogie - DJ in gazebo or park space for open dance
- Recreation programs can be a little pricey when you have several kids taking classes; do more with pass options or punch cards
- Spread out the recreation venues - use alternative locations (i.e., schools)

Where Should the City Focus Efforts for the Future?

- Plan and implement the Cross Kirkland Trail
- Providing all-season turf for ball fields for year-round play
- Another community center
- Provide an indoor pool
- An indoor and covered high activity area (i.e., covered playground)
- Easy walking access to parks
- Integrate the PROS Plan elements with other City projects and plans

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle
File

CONSERVATION TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER:	#05-13-PK	ISSUE DATE:	June 6, 2013
PROJECT NAME:	Kirkland PROS Plan		

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh

TO: FILE

PRESENT: Michael Cogle – Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Gail Schaffer - PKCC Advisory Board President
Jeanne Thompson - PKCC Advisory Board
Matt Kreitlow - Slow Pitch Softball
Tyson Wellock - WAVE Aquatics
Laura Caron - participant of North Kirkland Community Center
Laurene Burton - EvergreenHealth
Dave Wager - Senior Council
Linda Murphy – Kirkland Parks & Community Svcs
Steve Duh – Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Recreation Program Users Groups (06/03/13)

Michael welcomed everyone and initiated the meeting. He thanked everyone for their participation and mentioned that the PROS Plan update will link with other city planning efforts underway this year, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Cross Kirkland Plan and other plans.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Steve provided a brief overview of the PROS Plan project and noted a set of questions that were the focus this session's discussion.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

General Comments

- I like that Kirkland has a small town feeling
- My involvement started through the Senior trips
- Crestwoods / Norkirk - park slide, I like that the City offers different types of experiences
- As newer resident to Kirkland, it's friendly but a bit difficult to meet people - programs offered allowed for development of friends and wider social circle
- Do more cutting edge things (i.e., Parkour games/course, teen art, ninja warrior obstacle course). Develop a scavenger hunt or geocaching program. Build an app to better inform people of what's available
- Downtown has great destination parks but no playgrounds for kids. Need more kid parks.
- Need more activities and spaces for teens and young adults. City offers a lot for young kids and adults/seniors.
- EvergreenHealth is starting to review a health needs assessment for the community. Physical activity and nutrition are major factors. Community gardens could be a strong linkage. Recreation programs allow the

community to participate in activities that lead to being healthier. Walking is a great exercise but it is unsafe in many places of the city.

Facilities

- Indoor recreation space is needed. Consider a community center with indoor vendors for social gathering; an indoor gym and running track. Totem Lake Mall may be a good site for center.
- Consider indoor small rides for kids and people with disabilities (i.e., swing that can accommodate a wheelchair)
- Need more places for walking. Kirkland is not a good running/walking city, since there are too few sidewalks and many difficult street crossings. Trails are good, but we need better access to them
- Kirkland loses folks to other places for ball fields and tournament play. Need a complex with 4 softball fields and overlay with soccer/lacrosse. Look at Everett/Renton/Lynnwood
- Crestwoods Park has ball field safety issues (outfield, foul line delineation, fencing, slope)
- The potential loss of Juanita High School pool is a serious issue for the community. WAVE Aquatics runs the pool via an agreement with LWSD and serves approximately 300 kids per month. WAVE provides swim lessons through competitive swim and aqua aerobics. The pending construction bond for LWSD and redesign for Juanita HS likely does not include a new pool. This would leave only the Kingsgate pool (semi-private) and Peter Kirk Pool (outdoor, 2-3 month) to serve the community.

5-Year Look Forward: What is needed?

- Senior Center is in good shape - has nice people, good staff and good programs (incl. senior law, tax assistance). Parking onsite is a challenge and detracts from coming here. Need more parking and need better enforcement. Add better signage.
- There is more evening use of the Senior Center, since the younger seniors are working during the day and may have prolonged their employment. During the daytime, it is mostly older seniors.
- City has no center for hosting larger events. Senior Center has only very narrow windows when it is not booked. Scheduling for a four day event extends out over the next year. A large recreation center could be such a venue for 250-400 people - could be in partnership between adjoining communities.
- WAVE Aquatics brings in close to 400 participants to the region for team and swim competitions. Link to local economic development, hotel rooms and need for pool space
- Provide more for teens (i.e., family dance at school with teen break dance performers from the teen center)
- Provide more marketing for what we have and for things happening. Look at the Seattlego website for ideas. Attend the Farmers Market, Sr Volunteer Fair and EvergreenHealth fair with an information booth/kiosk to market city services - have games for kids, flyers, program guides. Develop a mobile app - something to spark interests in finding local recreation facilities.
- Review the city's demographics against the programs offered and facilities to explore gaps in service.
- Consider a reader board on Main St. Install more location/directional signage to point people to parks and destinations.

Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: Recreation Program Users Groups (06/03/13)
Kirkland PROS Plan
Project Number #05-13-PK
Page 3

- EvergreenHealth provides levy funds for senior center. Partnering with City to design community wellness program. Use social media platform to provide more information about health and wellness topics and activities.

Where Should the City Focus Efforts for Future?

- Advertise what you have and get more information out into community
- Indoor pool - all ages, therapy pool, zero depth entry, lap pool with cool water for competitions
- Large community recreation center - with aquatics and gym space
- Interactive social media platforms
- Safe environments to walk - don't sacrifice the notion of developing a broad, safe walking network for one big trail (Cross Kirkland Trail).

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

-- End of Notes --

cc: Michael Cogle
File

Appendix F: Implementation Tools

Local Funding Options

The City of Kirkland possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks and recreations program. The sources listed below represent likely potential sources, but some also may be dedicated for numerous other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, discussions with city leadership is critical to assess the political landscape to modify or expand the use of existing city revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

Councilmanic Bonds

Councilmanic bonds may be sold by cities without public vote. The bonds, both principal and interest, are retired with payments from existing city revenue or new general tax revenue, such as additional sales tax or real estate excise tax. The state legislature has set a maximum debt limit for councilmanic bonds of 1½% of the value of taxable property in the city.

General Obligation Bond

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.056

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities and counties have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election. If approved, an excess property tax is levied each year for the life of the bond to pay both principal and interest.

Excess Levy

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.52.052

Washington law allows cities and counties, along with other specified junior taxing districts, to levy property taxes in excess of limitations imposed by statute when authorized by the voters. Levy approval requires 60 percent majority vote at a general or special election.

Regular Property Tax - Lid Lift

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.55.050

Cities are authorized to impose ad valorem taxes upon real and personal property. A city's maximum levy rate for general purposes is $3.375 per $1,000 of assessed valuation. Limitations on annual increases in tax collections, coupled with changes in property value, causes levy rates to rise or fall; however, in no case may they rise above statutory limits. Once the rate is established each year, it may not be raised without the approval of a majority of the voters. Receiving voter approval is known as a lid lift. A lid lift may be permanent, or may be for a specific purpose and time period.

Sales Tax

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.14

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of cities and counties to impose sales and use taxes at a rate set by the statute to help "carry out essential county and municipal purposes." The authority is divided into two parts. Cities may impose by resolution or ordinance a sales and use tax at a rate of ½% on any taxable event within their jurisdictions. Cities may also impose an additional sales tax at a rate up to ½% on any taxable event within the city or county. In this case, the statute provides an electoral process for repealing the tax or altering the rate.

Impact Fees

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.02.050

Impact fees are charges placed on new development as a condition of development approval to help pay for various public facilities the need for which is directly created by that new growth and development. Counties, cities, and towns may impose impact fees on residential and commercial "development activity" to help pay for certain public facility improvements, including parks, open space and recreation facilities. Funds received must be spent on approved capital projects within 10 years of collection. Kirkland adopted a park impact fee ordinance in 1999 (KMC 27.06). The current park impact fee amount is $3,949 per single-family residential dwelling unit and $2,583 per multi-family dwelling.

Real Estate Excise Tax

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.010

Washington law authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. This authority may be divided into three parts relevant to park systems.

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax (REET 1) on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ¼% of the selling price to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan . . ."

A city or county may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ½%, in lieu of a ½% sales tax option authorized under state law. These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism.

A city or county – in counties that are required to prepare comprehensive plans under the new Growth Management Act – are authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax (REET 2) on all real property sales in the city or unincorporated parts of the county, respectively, at a rate not to exceed ¼%. These funds must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan."

The City share of the real estate excise tax is two one-quarter percent amounts (0.5%) that are restricted for capital projects per RCW 82.46. Revenues collected by this tax are deposited in a special capital improvement fund according to KMC 5.18.040. Since REET collections are directly tied to the frequency and valuation of real estate transactions, this funding source is widely variable with local real estate conditions. REET 1 funds capital projects for parks.

Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas (King County)

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=82.46.070

Boards of County Commissioners may impose, with majority voter approval, an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed 1% of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation defines conservation areas as "land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations..." These areas include "open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas, and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna." King County does not currently assess a Conservation REET.

Conservation Futures Tax (King County)

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=84.34

The Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. King County imposes a Conservation Futures levy at a rate of $0.0625 per $1,000 (6 ¼%) assessed value for the purpose of acquiring open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife habitat and trail rights-of-way proposed for preservation for public use by either the county or the cities within the county. General open space criteria are listed in KCC Section 26.12.025 and are similar to the public benefit rating system identified in the Current Use Taxation program operated by King County. Funds are allocated annually, and cities within the county, citizen groups and citizens may apply for funds through the county's process. The CFT program provides grants to cities to support open space priorities in local plans and requires a 100% match from other sources.

Federal & State Grants and Conservation Programs

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America. http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/.

Community Development Block Grants

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. King County administers CDBG funds on behalf of the King County CDBG Consortium. The Consortium is established under interlocal cooperation agreements between the County and 34 cities and towns and has a Joint Recommendations Committee to advise King County on CDBG funding and program guidelines decisions.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program

US Fish & Wildlife Service

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Two competitive grants programs exist (Standard and a Small Grants Program) and require that grant requests be matched by partner contributions at no less than a 1-to-1 ratio. Funds from U.S. Federal sources may contribute towards a project, but are not eligible as match. http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm.

The Standard Grants Program supports projects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats. In Mexico, partners may also conduct projects involving technical training, environmental education and outreach, organizational infrastructure development, and sustainable-use studies.

The Small Grants Program operates only in the United States; it supports the same type of projects and adheres to the same selection criteria and administrative guidelines as the U.S. Standard Grants Program. However, project activities are usually smaller in scope and involve fewer project dollars. Grant requests may not exceed $75,000, and funding priority is given to grantees or partners new to the Act's Grants Program.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wrp/

The WRP provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

www.rco.wa.gov

The Recreation and Conservation Office was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources. Historically, these have included the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, state bonds, Initiative 215 monies (derived from unreclaimed marine fuel taxes), off-road vehicle funds, Youth Athletic Facilities Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

The RCO is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails and water access categories. Funds for local agencies are awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year, and the State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

National Recreational Trails Program

The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program

The YAF provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund

Grants are awarded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for acquisition or restoration of lands directly correlating to salmon habitat protection or recovery. Projects must demonstrate a direct benefit to fish habitat. There is no match requirement for design-only projects; acquisition and restoration projects require a 15% match. The funding source includes the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund.

STP/CMAQ Regional Competition - Puget Sound Regional Council

http://psrc.org/transportation/tip/selection/

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds are considered the most "flexible" funding source provided through the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU). Many types of projects are eligible, including transit, carpool/vanpool, bicycle/pedestrian, safety, traffic monitoring/management, and planning projects, along with the more traditional road and bridge projects. The purpose of the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program is to fund transportation projects or programs that will contribute to attainment or maintenance of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. The two goals of improving air quality and relieving congestion were strengthened under SAFETEA-LU by a new provision establishing priority consideration for cost-effective emission reduction and congestion mitigation activities when using CMAQ funding. The King County Growth Management Planning Council serves as the countywide board in the allocation of some federal transportation grant funds to projects within King County, through the Puget Sound Regional Council.

King County Grant Exchange

http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grants.htm

The Grant Exchange is a clearinghouse of grant and technical assistance programs offered by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks with the goals of protecting and enhancing the environment, increasing community stewardship, and providing expertise and consultation to projects. Grants and technical support are an important way in which King County increases opportunities for community stewardship of natural resources. These funds are leveraged by developing and strengthening partnerships with community organizations and local governments. On average, every dollar invested through grants is matched by three dollars in cash and in-kind contributions.

Wild Places in City Spaces

http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/wildplaces.htm

Wild Places in City Spaces provides grants up to $10,000 to volunteer organizations, community groups and government agencies for projects reforesting urban areas and restoring habitat within the urban growth area of King County. Funds are available under the Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration Grants Program. Grants support projects to reforest urban areas, remove invasive non-native plant species or provide wildlife habitats.

Natural Resource Stewardship Network

http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/NRSN.htm

The Natural Resource Stewardship Network assists urban forestry and watershed stewardship projects and provides grants and technical assistance to projects that involve communities and youth in improving neighborhood green spaces and forests. Grants of up to $20,000 are available for projects within the urban growth area of King County that enhance, protect and manage urban forest, soil and water resources and will reimburse up to 50% of labor and materials costs. Inner-city and low income communities receive priority for support. Funds are provided by the King County Forestry Program and the King Conservation District.

WaterWorks Grants

http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/waterworks.htm

Individual grants up to $50,000 are available for community projects that protect or improve watersheds, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and tidewater. Projects must have a demonstrable positive impact on the waters of King County and provide opportunities for stewardship. A minimum of 10 percent cash match is required for awards more than $2,500.

King County Youth Sports Facilities Grant (YSFG)

The Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program is intended to facilitate new athletic opportunities for youth in King County by providing matching grant funds to rehabilitate or develop sports fields and facilities. The maximum award is $75,000 and projects should be located on public land or have public access for the proposed youth sports use.

Other Methods & Funding Sources

Metropolitan Park District

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=35.61

Metropolitan park districts may be formed for the purposes of management, control, improvement, maintenance and acquisition of parks, parkways and boulevards. In addition to acquiring and managing their own lands, metropolitan districts may accept and manage park and recreation lands and equipment turned over by any city within the district or by the county. Formation of a metropolitan park district may be initiated in cities of five thousand population or more by city council ordinance, or by petition, and requires majority approval by voters for creation.

Park and Recreation District

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.69

Park and recreation districts may be formed for the purposes of providing leisure-time activities and recreation facilities and must be initiated by petition of at least 15% percent of the registered voters within the proposed district. Upon completion of the petition process and review by county commissioners, a proposition for district formation and election of five district commissioners is submitted to the voters of the proposed district at the next general election. Once formed, park and recreation districts retain the authority to propose a regular property tax levy, annual excess property tax levies and general obligation bonds. All three require 60% percent voter approval and 40% percent voter turnout. With voter approval, the district may levy a regular property tax not to exceed sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for up to six consecutive years.

Public Facilities District

http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=35.57

Public facilities districts may be formed to develop, redevelop, own and operate regional centers, such as convention, conference or special event centers that serve a regional population and cost at least $10 million. A public facilities district may be created by the legislative authority of any town or city in a county with a population of less than one million or by agreement of the legislative authorities of contiguous towns or cities in a county or counties with less than one million population. The district must have boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of the town, city or group of towns and cities that create the district. PFDs governed by a five-member board appointed by the city legislative authority, or by a seven-member board appointed by the combined cities and towns. They may also charge a tax of not more than one cent on twenty cents on admissions charges to the regional center and a tax of not more than ten percent on parking charges at facilities owned or leased as part of a regional center. The district may also sell general obligation bonds and revenue bonds for authorized purposes. Voter approval requires sixty percent majority.

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works and utility providers.

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fund raising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

Acquisition Tools & Methods

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.

Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a "reserved life estate." Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller's power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Park or Open Space Dedication Requirements

Local governments have the option to require developers to dedicate land for parks under the State Subdivision Law (Ch. 58.17 RCW) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW). Under the subdivision law developers can be required to provide the parks/recreation improvements or pay a fee in lieu of the dedicated land and its improvements. Under the SEPA requirements, land dedication may occur as part of mitigation for a proposed development's impact.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the "sending" and "receiving" property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details).

Current (Open Space) Use Taxation Programs

Property owners whose current lands are in open space, agricultural, and/or timber uses may have that land valued at their current use rather than their "highest and best" use assessment. This differential assessed value, allowed under the Washington Open Space Taxation Act (Ch.84.34 RCW) helps to preserve private properties as open space, farm or timber lands. If land is converted to other non-open space uses, the land owner is required to pay the difference between the current use annual taxes and highest/best taxes for the previous seven years. When properties are sold to a local government or conservation organization for land conservation/preservation purposes, the required payment of seven years worth of differential tax rates is waived. The amount of this tax liability can be part of the negotiated land acquisition from private to public or quasi-public conservation purposes. King County has four current use taxation programs that offer this property tax reduction as an incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland or forestland on their property. More information is available at

http://dor.wa.gov/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/OpenSpace.pdf or http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/sustainable-building/resource-protection-incentives.aspx

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Forterra (formerly called the Cascade Land Conservancy) is the regional land trust serving the Kirkland area, and their efforts have led to the conservation of more than 234,000 acres of forests, farms, shorelines, parks and natural areas in the region (www.forterra.org). Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.

Regulatory Measures

A variety of regulatory measures are available to local agencies and jurisdictions. Available programs and regulations include: Critical Areas Ordinance, Kirkland; State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA); Shorelines Management Program; and Hydraulic Code, Washington State Department of Fisheries and Department of Wildlife.

Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors. A Seattle City Lights powerline corridors travels north-south through the eastern edge of Kirkland providing linear opportunities for parks, trails and connections to neighborhoods.

City of Kirkland
Parks & Community Services Department
505 Market Street, Suite A
Kirkland, WA 98033