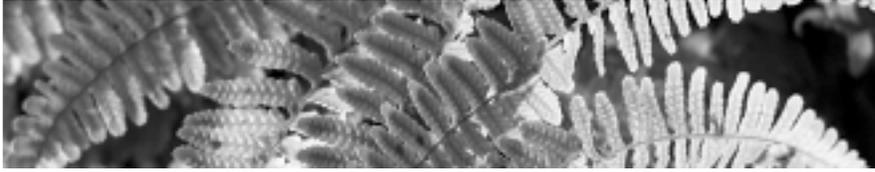




**Major Issues and Opportunities
Recommendations**



SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities

MAJOR ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As we look at current City parks and recreation services and beyond the year 2001, there are a number of important issues and opportunities facing Kirkland. These are:

1. Acquiring and developing additional park land in areas of the City where park land and recreational opportunities are deficient, by providing neighborhood parks, community parks, and open space.
2. Providing additional pedestrian and bicycle trails and linkages, including the acquisition of greenways between parks, open spaces, and neighborhoods.
3. Providing enhanced customer service and convenience facilities such as year-round restrooms, additional benches, and picnic shelters and drinking fountains in new and existing parks.
4. Conducting a City-wide need and feasibility analysis to evaluate the need for additional community recreation facilities to meet City indoor recreation needs for fitness, athletics, recreation classes, and meeting space.
5. Enhancing and expanding recreational opportunities at existing waterfront parks.
6. Providing ongoing renovation and maintenance of parks and facilities.
7. Continuing and enhancing partnerships with the Lake Washington School District, King County, neighboring cities and other agencies in the mutual use and development of Parks and Recreation facilities.
8. Providing diverse and affordable recreation programs to meet citizen needs and interests, particularly those of youth, teens, seniors and residents with special needs, and complement programs offered by other recreation providers in the community. Partnering and cooperating jointly with local organizations to provide special community events that create shared public experiences and a sense of community.
9. Maintaining and beautifying public grounds and other visually prominent areas.
10. Promoting habitat and natural resource conservation through acquisition, preservation, and rehabilitation of important natural areas, and continuing development of interpretive education programs.

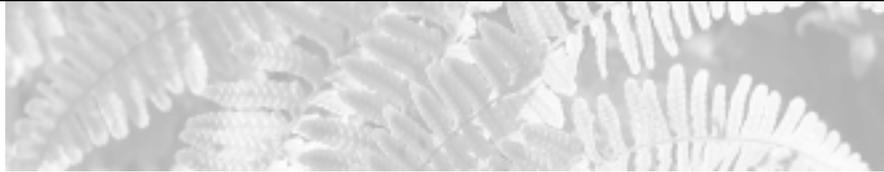
Following is an analysis of each of these ten major issues and opportunities.

“The challenge of our age is whether we shall seize the opportunity to decide what kind of life, what kind of environment and what kind of opportunities we want for ourselves and for our children.”

-Henry M. Jackson

SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities



1. Acquisition of Additional Park Land and Park Development

“The good Lord is makin’ more people but he ain’t makin’ no more land.”

-Will Rogers

Policy 1.1: (Kirkland Comprehensive Plan (KCP), Policy 1.1)

Parks, recreation, and open space facilities should be acquired in those areas of the City facing intense population growth, commercial development and in areas where facilities are deficient.

A major component of the Plan is the need to acquire more park land. Specifically, this includes acquiring land suitable for parks in the City neighborhoods of South Juanita, South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails, Totem Lake, and Houghton. These have been identified as areas of the City where park land is deficient. In addition, the Park Plan points out the need for acquisition of additional park land to link key City parks, open spaces, and neighborhoods through a network of greenways. Further, the plan identifies the need to protect valuable waterfront property adjacent to Forbes Lake.

It is a goal of the Plan to provide neighborhood parks within walking distance of every Kirkland resident. Families with young children should be able to have playgrounds nearby. There should be open fields or playcourts where youths or adults can play a “pick-up” game of baseball, soccer, or basketball. There should be places for families or friends to enjoy a picnic. There should also be places for people to play tennis without having to get in their car and travel long distances to enjoy such recreational pursuits. Many of these kinds of recreation activities can be included in the thoughtful design of park facilities. Ensuring that citizens have these kinds of opportunities close to home is important. However, choice land is in private ownership and will be for sale or redeveloped soon. It is critical that the City act now to obtain these needed properties for park and open space purposes.

DEVELOPMENT

The existing City-owned park system contains approximately 458 acres, of which nearly 154 acres are developed. The developed park system consists of a number of waterfront parks, eighteen neighborhood parks, and four community parks. The balance of the City’s park acreage can be classified as natural/open space areas and underdeveloped community and neighborhood park land.

Natural Park Areas

The natural park areas, such as Juanita Bay Park, Yarrow Bay Wetlands, Heronfield Wetlands, Totem Lake Wetlands (King Conservation District), and Watershed Park provide unique natural resources and critical urban wildlife habitat. They are part of providing a balanced park system for citizens. Passive recreation uses such as walking, bird watching, interpretive educational programs and signage, and non-motorized trail systems may be appropriate for these sites.

Opportunities exist for improving existing trails at Watershed Park; continued reforestation at of the old gravel barrow should continue. In addition, there is opportunity for restoring degraded wetlands and habitat, controlling the spread of noxious plants, and improving the water quality of creeks for fish in parks such as Juanita Bay Park. There is also opportunity to expand the Interpretive Trail System through development of the proposed Forbes Valley Trail.

“The only possible force that could be motivating the effort to preserve natural areas is the moral conviction that it is right - that we owe ourselves and the good earth that supports us.”

-A. Starker Leopold



SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities

1. Acquisition of Additional Park Land and Park Development cont'd.

Community Parks

Community parks are usually 15 to 30 acres in size and are generally defined as larger, diverse recreation areas serving both organized active recreation needs and recreation use benefiting the neighborhood surrounding the site. Community parks are where the majority of active recreation occurs. Community parks often include recreation facilities such as sports fields and community centers.

The opportunity for developing other forms of community parks such as the Waverly Park site is important. The eventual development of the Waverly Park site will provide a city-wide park resource, given its prominence and proximity to the downtown and the lake. Features in this park may include formal gardens, picnic shelters, trails, viewpoints, informal recreational open space, public meeting space at the historic church building, and unique and creative landscapes.

Creative or strategic thinking is essential to meet future demand for facilities commonly provided by community parks, especially as the opportunity for acquiring land diminishes as City population grows and vacant land becomes scarce.

The Comprehensive Park Open Space and Recreation Plan promotes a partnership with the Lake Washington School District to utilize existing school lands and facilities more efficiently and effectively for additional ballfield or other community recreation and park needs.

Neighborhood Parks

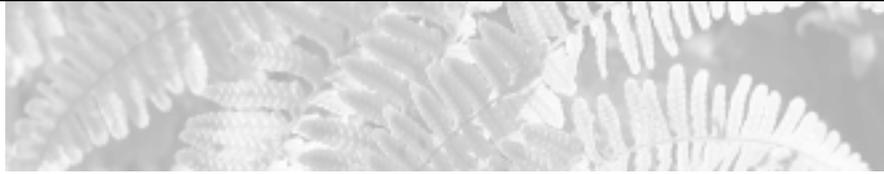
Kirkland's major deficit in park land is in neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks serve both limited active and passive recreation needs of a residential neighborhood within a quarter-mile radius and are usually no more than 15 acres and no less than 0.5 acres in size. Note: plan identifies the average Neighborhood Park as at least two acres in size. The Plan identifies the acquisition and development of five neighborhood parks in the City. Specifically, there are four neighborhoods in Kirkland with either a deficit of neighborhood parks or are without any neighborhood parks. These include South Juanita, Bridle Trails, Totem Lake, and Houghton.

Park Histories

The Kirkland parks system has a rich and interesting history embodied in the participation and commitment of many citizens and elected and appointed City officials whose vision of parkland acquisition and development resulted in an outstanding mosaic of parks and facilities. It is a goal of the Plan that as parks are developed and older parks are renovated, a history of the land and the park, including citizens instrumental in their acquisition or development are acknowledged and efforts described through interpretive signage in parks.

SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities



2. Trails and Greenways

Policy 1.2: (KCP Policy 1.2)

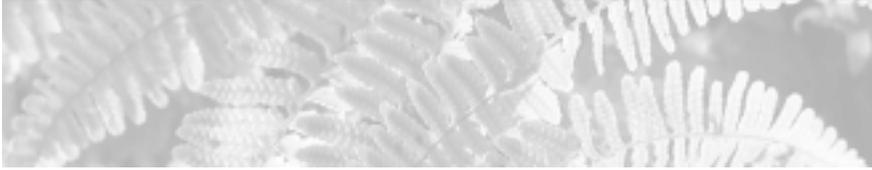
Pedestrian and bicycle linkages between parks and open spaces should be developed where feasible.

Trails provide people with valuable links between neighborhoods, parks, and public schools. In some cases, public trails provide alternative transportation connections between communities. Trails also provide non-motorized recreational opportunities such as roller blading and skateboarding. Greenways and trails offer a new way of looking at a community's cultural, historic, recreational and conservation needs. With their emphasis on connections, greenways and trails can improve the quality of the urban experience. This can be accomplished by connecting existing parks and open spaces through the network of greenways. Public streets, and right-of-ways are component parts of this network. These greenways support wildlife by creating corridors, enhance the environment through preservation, links neighbors with neighbors, and make travel to and from school, work and other community destinations safer and more desirable. Accordingly, the City should develop a Kirkland Greenways Plan.

In 1995 the City adopted its first Non-motorized Transportation plan to establish a strategy for community wide trail planning. This plan is currently in the process of being updated by the Department of Public Works. The City's Non-motorized Transportation Plan (NMT) provides the City's strategic goals and policies related to comprehensive trail planning including route designation, classification, funding priorities, and design standards. The NMT Plan was developed cooperatively by the Departments of Parks and Community Services, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works.

Two important elements for recreational trail planning were noted in the NMT Plan. First was the identification and creation of a minimum of two major north-south and four major east-west pedestrian and bicycle routes through the City. The Forbes Valley Trail in conjunction with the NE 100th Street overpass is a significant east-west route. Second was the consideration for development of a recreational trail within the Burlington Northern right-of-way now known as the CrossKirkland Trail. This proposed trail in could be a precursor of a truly regional facility traveling through the hearts of many eastside cities. It would provide critical links to other existing regional trails such as the Sammamish River Trail. This project requires and interjurisdictional effort for planning and implementation. The City should complete the CrossKirkland Trail Feasibility Plan.

The City's Vision Plan Map for pedestrians and bicyclists is contained in the NMT Plan and is also referenced in the appendix to the Comprehensive Park Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Non-motorized Transportation Plan is implemented under the direction of the Department of Public Works in coordination with the Parks and Community Services and Planning Departments.



SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities

3. Park Design

Park design should evolve and be able to respond and adapt to the changing needs of park users. Park design should address customer convenience such as year-round use of restrooms for major parks facilities like waterfront parks and Juanita Bay Park. In addition, park design should involve all ages, including teens, throughout each step in the planning process. According to the survey, focus group, and public workshops, residents appreciate the opportunity to experience a variety of passive uses including additional benches, and picnic shelters.

4. Indoor Recreation Needs

Policy 1.3: (KCP Policy 2.1)

The need for additional community recreation facility space to meet indoor recreation needs for athletics, recreation classes, and meeting space should be examined .

When asked about indoor recreation needs, Kirkland residents identified a wide variety of activities. It was evident that indoor recreation activities were a vital component of providing balanced opportunities for community recreation. However, no clear picture emerged from the survey or the workshops suggesting how these wide ranging opinions on indoor recreation space might be met. An on-going analysis and study of community needs and support for additional public indoor recreation space should occur.

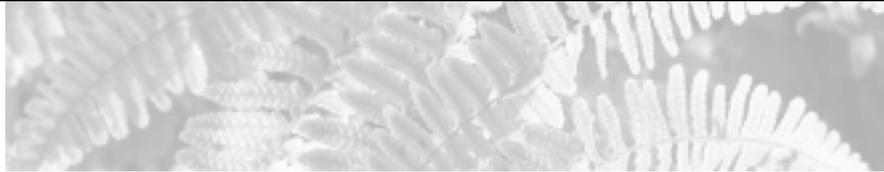
At present, Kirkland has one Community Center and one Senior Center. Both facilities are heavily used for programs and community rentals. A Teen Center will be constructed by the year 2001. For the first time in over 20 years, a gymnasium has been constructed in Kirkland by Lake Washington School District at the B.E.S.T. High School.

The community has been extremely fortunate in being able to use Lake Washington School District indoor facilities for City-sponsored recreation activities and programs. The use of School District facilities has enabled the City to provide a much higher level of service than would otherwise have been possible. However, while the City's recreation program has grown and prospered through the use of School District facilities, a number of notable changes and facility challenges have taken place which fuels the need for additional City-managed public recreation facility space.

1. Interest in City recreation programs increases each year. Facility space at the North Kirkland Community Center is maximized during peak morning and evening time periods, making program expansion to meet demands difficult.
2. Current facility space is at a premium as more and more agencies and activities compete for limited space.
3. School District facilities are not available during the day for community use, consequently, the City must seek out other space.
4. Increases in School District sponsored athletic programs result in less gymnasium space available for community recreation use.
5. School District refurbishment of gymnasium floors and classrooms creates lengthy recreation program cancellations and disruptions of program continuity.

SECTION 2

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4. Indoor Recreation Needs, cont'd.

Due to these types of circumstances, the Parks and Community Services Department is limited in the quantity and variety of leisure opportunities it can provide to Kirkland citizens. Indoor recreation space managed by the City has the following types of advantages:

1. It can be tailored specifically for community use.
2. The City would have the ability to schedule the facility appropriately, eliminating problems that can cause damaging disruptions in activity schedules.
3. The community would have access to a facility that is available during the day.
4. More diverse programs can be provided for the community's benefit.

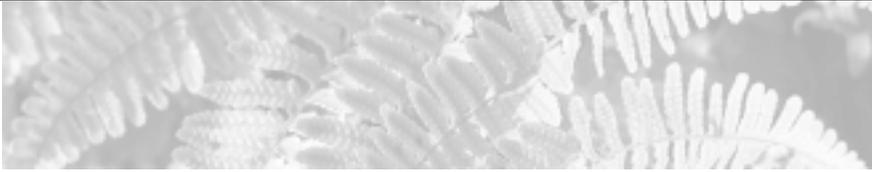
To a much lesser degree, other indoor recreation facilities, such as tennis courts, a swimming pool, neighborhood recreation centers, and racquetball courts, have been suggested as indoor recreation needs.

Providing these kinds of specialized facilities in the future will depend to a large extent on significant public demand and support and whether or not the need is being met elsewhere by other public agencies or the private sector. Accordingly the Parks and Community Services Department should consider the availability of nonpublic facilities to meet community needs.

5. Waterfront Access

Kirkland's waterfront parks are the heart and soul of the City's park system. They bring identity and character to the park system and contribute significantly to Kirkland's charm and quality of life. The 13 waterfront parks (this includes King County and King Conservation District property and City Nature Parks located on the water) stretch from the Yarrow Bay Wetlands to the south to Juanita Bay and Juanita Beach (King County) Parks to the north, providing Kirkland residents year-round waterfront access. Kirkland's waterfront parks are unique because they provide citizens a diversity of waterfront experiences for different tastes and preferences. Citizens can enjoy the passive and natural surroundings of Juanita Bay and Kiwanis Park and more active swimming and sunbathing areas of Houghton and Waverly Beach Parks. The waterfront parks truly identify Kirkland as a waterfront community.

The high visibility and use of Kirkland's waterfront parks requires high levels of maintenance, safety and security, and periodic renovation. Swimming beaches, docks, recreational moorage facilities, boat ramps, and shoreline walkways, where issues of liability are very important, must be kept safe and in good condition for the public's enjoyment and use.



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Major Issues & Opportunities

5. Waterfront Access, cont'd.

Kirkland is blessed with extraordinary waterfront parks, however we should never lose sight of capturing opportunities if additional waterfront property on Lake Washington becomes available. If privately held lakefront parcels adjacent to existing beach parks or at other appropriate locations become available, effort should be made to acquire these pieces. Street ends are wonderful opportunities to expand the public's access to the waterfront. The City has developed two street ends for the public's use and enjoyment. They are located along Lake Washington Boulevard at 10th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South. The Plan recommends that all waterfront street ends be retained in public ownership for open space purposes.

Significant bodies of water in Kirkland, other than Lake Washington, include Forbes Lake, Forbes Creek, Juanita Creek, and Totem Lake. These resources provide valuable habitat for wildlife and contribute to wetland water quality. Totem Lake Park is owned by the King Conservation District. This site was probably the only opportunity to provide a public use and access opportunity for the Totem Lake area. Limited passive development of Totem Lake for the public's use and enjoyment was completed in 1994. The Plan identifies development of Forbes Lake Park and renovation of Kiwanis Park and Marsh Park shoreline. This work will ensure that our waterfront parks are functional, safe, and efficiently maintained.

Forbes Lake in North Rose Hill is surrounded by single- and multifamily residences. The City currently owns 5.5 acres and 280 lineal feet of shoreline on the Lake. If portions of land become available adjacent to City-owned property, the City should consider acquiring this property to expand public access to the lake.

Policy 1.4: (KCP Policy 2.2)

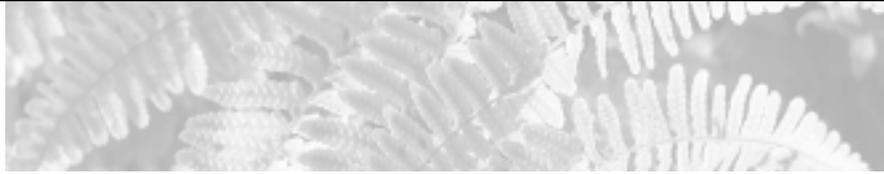
Small craft water-oriented activities/programs should be encouraged along the shoreline where appropriate and consistent with public interest and needs.

With miles of shoreline, the City has preserved significant portions of its waterfront in public ownership as parks. The City should strive to maximize waterfront use to benefit its citizens. Providing opportunities for small craft programs such as canoeing/kayaking, sailing, rowing, and sail-boarding should be encouraged. Programs oriented around non-motorized boating activities provide excellent opportunities to teach lifelong recreation skills emphasizing water and boating safety.

Another important aspect of waterfront access is boating. Two boat launch facilities exist in Kirkland. A small facility in Houghton Beach Park provides for hand launching of non-motorized boats. At Marina Park in the downtown area, a one-lane facility exists for trailerable boats. Public boat launch facilities provide important access to Lake Washington. The City should cooperate with other jurisdictions to assure that this regional need is addressed with regional participation and resources. Such facilities are best located where there is an opportunity for adequate on-site parking and where intrusions into neighborhoods can be kept to a minimum.

SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities



6. Renovation and Maintenance of Parks and Facilities

Policy 1.5: (KCP Policy 1.3)

Parks or recreational facilities should be developed only when adequate maintenance and operation funding is available to assure maintenance efficiency, safety, and public enjoyment, and to protect public investment.

The public survey and workshops identified high level maintenance as among the highest of spending priorities for parks and facilities. There is significant public financial investment in developing parks, playgrounds, buildings, and special facilities such as the Peter Kirk Pool. It makes good sense to keep these amenities in good repair, practice preventative maintenance, and renovate when necessary to stabilize or reduce maintenance and operation costs. Consequently, it is very important to provide adequate maintenance and operation support when new parks and other facilities are developed. By deferring maintenance and operation support, maintenance levels fall. This results in less effective use of existing staff to monitor conditions and practice preventative maintenance. A decline in park and facility appearance will be the outcome. When preventative maintenance is not practiced, long-term maintenance and operation costs rise, facilities deteriorate sooner, resulting in premature replacement or repair.

Public access easements on private property are often created as a condition of development in the City. These easements are commonly used as trails. These public access easements should be required when adequate funding is available for maintenance and operations. Prior consideration approval by the Department of Parks and Community Services should be required before any new public access easement is accepted.

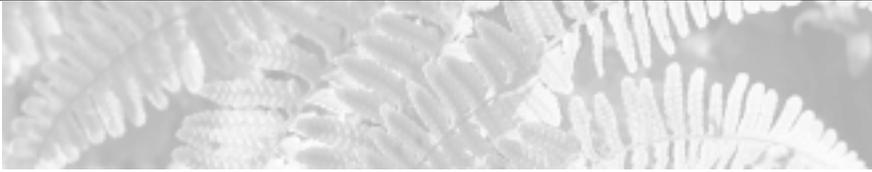
A Public Trails and Pathways Maintenance Plan should be developed identifying inventory, standards and funding strategies for maintenance, renovation and rehabilitation.

Policy 1.6: (KCP Policy 1.4)

Parks and facilities should be renovated in a manner that will conserve the use of energy and maximize efficient maintenance practices.

To maintain efficiency in the areas of renovation and maintenance, the City's parks maintenance program includes:

- A systematic inventory of parks system infrastructure, including site furniture, sports courts, park pathways, playgrounds, and buildings in order to project future budgeting and timing for replacement and repairs.
- Use of modern, efficient and certified equipment.
- Efficient and effective use of seasonal part-time employees.
- A scheduled preventative maintenance management system to efficiently allocate and plan maintenance activities.



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Major Issues & Opportunities

6. Renovation and Maintenance of Parks and Facilities, cont'd

- Supplementation of park maintenance with volunteer groups, School District, and Lake Washington Technical College students, neighborhood groups, and service organizations.
- Ongoing training provided for full-time maintenance staff.
- Use of contract maintenance in selected functions to meet peak demands and help maintenance staff respond to more specialized and urgent work needs.

Renovation is a key component to a healthy park system. As Kirkland grows, and park use increases in frequency and intensity, periodic renovation is essential to keep pace with recreational needs, changes in safety guidelines, demands on use, and the need for continued effective and efficient maintenance.

7. Partnerships

Policy 1.7: (KCP Policy 2.3)

The City should coordinate with neighboring cities, King County, Lake Washington School District and other agencies in the planning and provision of recreation activities and facilities.

Partnership with Lake Washington School District

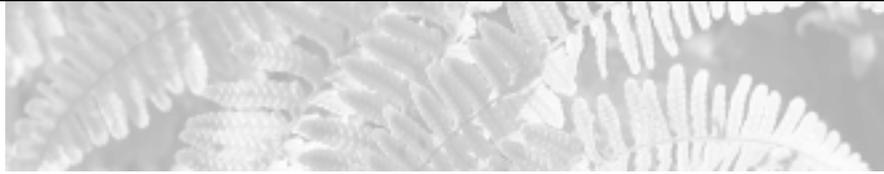
For years the City has enjoyed a cooperative relationship with the Lake Washington School District in the use of their indoor facilities for a variety of organized recreation and sports activities. The use of School District facilities has enabled the City to provide a much higher level of service than would otherwise have been possible. Each school year, nearly 100,000 visits to 18 school sites are a direct result of City-sponsored recreation programs. The City's Parks and Community Services Department has become dependent upon use of school facilities to meet short and long term recreational needs. 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 during the Spring and Summer months. These services involve coordination of practice and game activities for approximately 2,500 participants on over 50 sites in Greater Kirkland. 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. Adult and youth sports agencies utilize this service as a means to promote cooperation and lessen conflict over scarce resources.

The school system is a major partner in the provision of the City's park and recreation. There continues to be high demand and insufficient supply for facilities such as practice and game fields and indoor recreation facilities. Population growth will aggravate this situation. Conditions will not improve without effective partnerships between sports organizations, the City, the School District, and other providers of recreation.

SECTION 2

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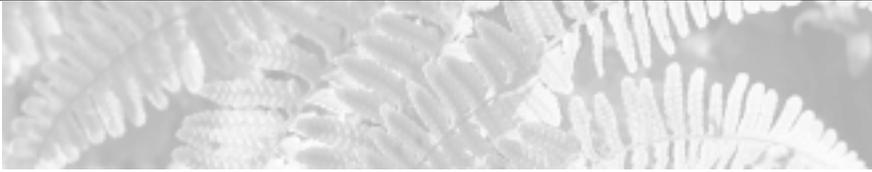
7. Partnerships, cont'd.

Our goal is to ensure a continued high level of cooperation between the City of Kirkland and the Lake Washington School District in providing broad, balanced and long-term recreation opportunities for local residents. School District facilities are vital to the community's recreation needs because they provide sports fields, gymnasiums and multi-purpose rooms, and classroom space. In many cases, City sponsored recreation activities are located in schools because they provide recreation opportunities close to home.

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 necessary for reciprocal use of recreation facilities, participation in joint capital projects, and the terms for future joint maintenance of facilities. As the City conducts more in-depth study regarding the need for indoor recreation recommended by the Plan, partnership with the school district should be a key component of the analysis.

The City should work with the School District to actively explore opportunities for greater joint use of facilities. The first in a series of joint capital projects was begun in 2000 with improvements to Mark Twain and Lakeview Elementary Schools. These two projects included improvements to school property resulting in either net increases to the number of playfields available to the community or improvements to existing playfields to enable increased use. Independent sports organizations are experiencing a shortage of practice times and space. Continuing and increasing the level of cooperative effort on the part of the School District and the City to renovate existing playing fields on school sites is essential to providing needed ballfield space for soccer, softball, and baseball. With facility upgrades and ongoing maintenance, facilities can be more playable and safer to use.

City/School District partnerships are sensible and cost effective in many ways. School District properties contain land that is publicly owned and available, the land is often readily accessible, and there is existing infrastructure such as parking, traffic circulation, and field space. As community sports organizations continue to experience growth and needs and the availability of suitable land becomes even more limited, the community should consider School District playfield sites as a public resource suitable for multiple uses. To meet the challenge of renovation, maintenance and operations of School District ballfields used by community groups, cooperative efforts should be pursued by the City, District, and community sports organizations.



SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities

7. Partnerships, cont'd.

Partnership with King County

As the Eastside continues to urbanize, the role of King County parks becomes more important in acquiring, developing, and maintaining the larger land holdings for the region. Creation of the Cougar Mountain Regional Park is an excellent example. In the future, there will be an increasing need for regional parks. The role of King County in providing parks is also changing with a major focus on systems of open space corridors that conserve natural resources, and agriculture lands that provide recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, and regional trails that link cities and communities. The May 1995 Executive Proposed County Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan shifts local parks and open space responsibility in the urban areas to cities such as Kirkland in the next ten-years.

For Kirkland, this could mean the transfer of nine park sites totaling 141 acres (a figure that represents almost 35 percent of the City's total current park acreage inventory). Eight of the parks are in unincorporated King County but within Kirkland's Urban Growth Area. In accordance with the County's proposed Park Plan, the County would not transfer any of these parks until annexations occur. One County park, Juanita Beach Park, is located within Kirkland City limits and should become part of the City's park system. Its assumption would represent a significant capital maintenance and operation cost liability. Any possible future transfer of this park to Kirkland needs to be part of a negotiated Interlocal Agreement with the County to guide future financial responsibility from both a capital cost and ongoing maintenance perspective.

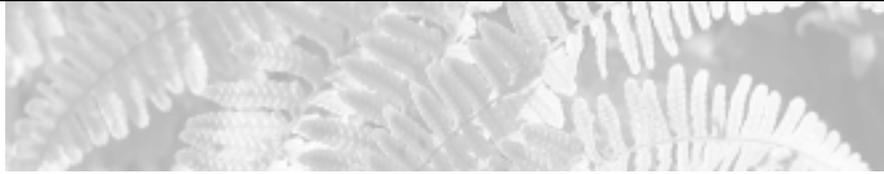
Another important component in partnering with King County is acquiring local parks sites in the unincorporated urban areas. The City should work with King County to acquire sites for future park land in Kirkland's planning areas to be landbanked for future development. Possible methods of acquiring future sites in unincorporated areas include grant funding, and conservation futures tax funding.

Other Partnerships

Some prime examples of other joint efforts include opportunities to serve special populations by working jointly with the City of Bellevue and other similar service providers, and working closely with the East Lake Washington Audobon Society to develop environmental awareness programs.

SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities



8. Recreation Services

Policy 1.8: (KCP Policy 2.4)

Kirkland citizens of all ages and abilities should have the opportunity to participate in diverse, challenging, and high-quality recreation programs that are both accessible and affordable.

Comprehensive recreation opportunities are a major ingredient of a healthy community. By providing services that are creative, productive and responsive to the needs of the public, the City Community Services Division can enhance the quality of life in Kirkland.

Citizens can choose from a wide array of activities, including fitness, sports, swimming, outdoor recreation, day camps, cultural programs, creative movement, and a variety of other programs and special events for all ages.

City-sponsored activities continue to grow steadily. Emphasis should be placed on programs, activities and events that are safe, appropriately priced, and held at convenient locations and times. The City intends to closely monitor local and national trends to offer the most diverse, accessible, and affordable recreation opportunities possible.

Kirkland citizens are also served by other leisure providers. The City should continue to act as a resource agency for the community to promote, coordinate, develop, and maintain community leisure activities. It is important that the City work with other leisure providers to complement and support each other in the cooperative provision of leisure services. Innovative methods of service delivery can be developed through continued arrangements with the School District, private non-profit agencies such as the Boys and Girls Club and Kirkland Arts Center, private fitness clubs (seeking subsidized general public access for a certain number of hours) and the local business community.

There are several opportunities for City-sponsored recreation programs that can be realized during the next decade including:

Youth Programs

A healthy community emphasizes plentiful recreation opportunities for its youth. The need for recreation programming for children of all ages continues to grow. The City should work to expand its current offerings and work with other leisure providers in the following areas:

- Increased after-school and summer activities that address an expanding need for safe, supervised, and productive activities. Opportunities for low-cost, drop-in recreation activities within neighborhoods should be expanded, working hand in hand with the School District and other agencies.
- Increased activities for pre-school children.
- Ensure the success of the Kirkland Teen Center as a recreation and social hub for youth, particularly those interested in music, art and technology activities.
- Increased indoor and outdoor facilities for youth sports programs, particularly baseball, soccer, and basketball.

SECTION 2**Major Issues
& Opportunities****8. Recreation Services, cont'd.****Adult Programs**

An increasing need in the following adult program areas must be met:

- Health and fitness activities, particularly for activities that are safe, inexpensive, and easily accessible. A diverse selection should be offered, including aerobic exercise classes, swimming programs, trails and facilities for jogging and walking.
- Adult sports programs, particularly softball and volleyball. New facilities will need to be developed to meet this need.
- Lifelong learning (self-improvement) activities.

Family Programs

The City will need to emphasize opportunities for family recreation. The City will need to award new, innovative programs allowing family members to participate in leisure activities together. Programming emphasis will be on:

- Outdoor activities that take advantage of the unique physical surroundings of the Kirkland community.
- Lifetime family fitness activities, such as walking and swimming.
- Special events for families to foster a greater sense of community, such as the Fourth of July Celebration, TASTE! Kirkland, Summerfest and similar community-wide events.

Senior Adult Programs**Policy 1.9: (KCP Policy 2.5)**

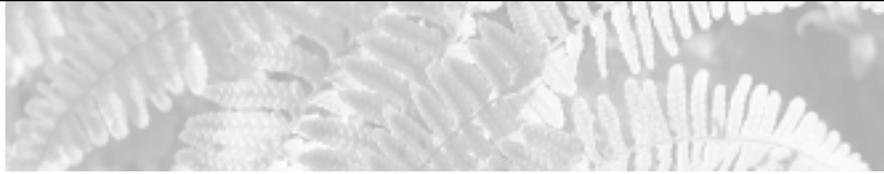
The quality of life for the older adult population should be enhanced by providing opportunities to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional, and health programs designed to encourage independence.

The Kirkland Senior Center is a valuable community resource which can be managed to meet many of the diverse recreation needs of older adults, and serve as a hub of community life for this population. Emphasis should be placed as follows:

- Partnerships with community agencies to create a structured lifelong learning partnership program headquartered at the Senior Center, with a focus on a variety of classes and seminars held during evenings and weekends at the Center and perhaps other locations. Potential partners include Cascadia Community College, Bellevue Community College, and Lake Washington Technical College, among others.
- Classes and programs at the North Kirkland Community Center targeted to meet the needs and interests of senior adults.
- Use of the Parks and Community Services seasonal brochure and the City web page to create links, provide telephone numbers and general information about community lifelong learning opportunities available from local agencies.
- New programs geared toward taking advantage of the Teen Center facility, including those related to the technology lab, the sound studio, and the art room.
- New appealing programs at the Senior Center to better meet the needs and desires of the next generation of senior adults.

SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities



8. Recreation Services, cont'd.

Special Populations

Policy 1.10: (KCP Policy 2.6)

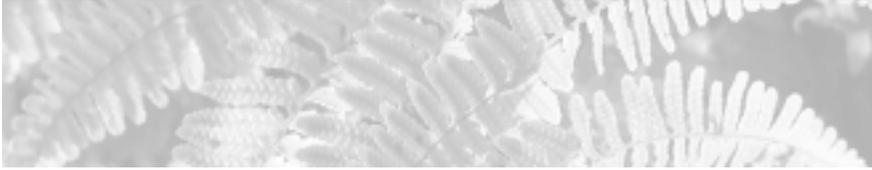
Provide an on-going analysis of needs and provide continued access to recreation programs for citizens with physical and developmental disabilities.

The need for specialized recreation programs for mentally and physically challenged individuals will continue and take on regional significance. The City will continue to work with other leisure providers such as the City of Bellevue in serving Kirkland citizens with special needs.

9. Public and Private Grounds Beautification

In addition to maintaining 34 parks, the Kirkland Cemetery, City Hall grounds, Library/Parking Garage landscaping, and an outdoor swimming pool, a major responsibility the Parks and Community Services Department also maintains street trees and planted medians in the Central Business District. The Department maintains gateways to the City, neighborhood entry signs, street triangles, and arterial sidewalk landscape strips in the Central Business District. Their contribution to the beauty and scenery of the City is significant. Flowers planted in street medians and gateways to the City soften the continuous stretches of urban asphalt and concrete and provide a positive impression of the City. The City's seven street triangles provide visible pockets of green spaces and beautiful tree species, such as cherry, plum, oak, and maple. Street trees provide beauty, shade, reduce certain types of air pollutants, and can substantially reduce erosion. Trees serve as symbols of nature in the urban environment.

Not all of these landscaping efforts require significant amounts of funding and labor. Landscaping of lawn areas and planting of wildflowers, annuals, perennials, and street trees, are often a public benefit requirement of new private development. Entrances or gateways to neighborhoods can be enhanced and taken care of by homeowners or neighborhood associations. Kirkland should continue its strong tradition of working with volunteers from service organizations, scouting groups, neighborhoods, and businesses in litter control and planting efforts.



SECTION 2

Major Issues & Opportunities

10. Natural Resources and Habitat Conservation

Policy 1.11: (KCP Policy 3.1)

The City should work cooperatively with numerous resource management agencies and citizens to care for streams, enhance degraded forests and wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, and provide limited public access.

Policy 1.12: (KCP Policy 3.2)

The City should preserve opportunities for people to observe and enjoy wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Natural areas and open spaces are a vital component of the health and well being of the community. Conservation, preservation and enhancement of the ecological resources found within the City is a key component of its land use and park planning. The completion, adoption, and implementation of a Comprehensive Natural Resources Management Plan integrating all the policies and practices of the City is essential.

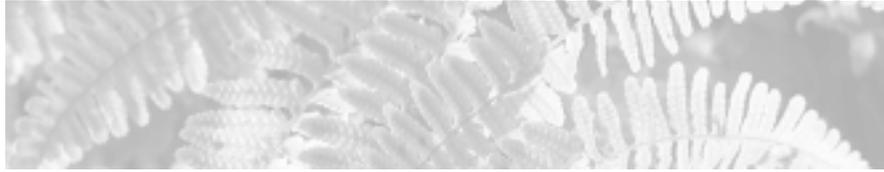
Within the City's 9.2 square miles are over 459 acres of City administered parks and open spaces. Another 550 acres of State and County parks are within its planning area.

Over 60% of the City's park land inventory provides valuable habitat for urban wildlife. These parks also provide opportunities for interpretive education to instruct adults and school children about the value of these resources. Acquisition is a key component to protection of valuable habitat.

The City's Habitat Conservation Element for the Comprehensive Park Open Space and Recreation Plan is contained in Appendix A.

SECTION 2

Recommendations



RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy 1.13: (KCP Policy 1.5)

Acquire and develop needed park facilities using traditional and new funding sources while maintaining high-level maintenance standards and program quality throughout the system.

Recommendations for implementing the Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan encompass the following three categories:

Acquisition

Development

Renovation

This section of the report will address a number of issues concerning the implementation of the Park Plan including:

- Capital Project Recommendations and Priorities
- Costs and Funding Alternatives

The recommendations being made focus on the parks and recreation needs from the year 2001 and through 2007. Beyond that, the City will re-evaluate priorities and resources. In establishing recommendations, all of the competing needs for parks and programs were considered. The proposed recommendations include a mixture of acquisition, development, and renovation.

Capital Improvement Project Recommendations

The three categories of capital improvement projects include acquisition, development, and renovation. This is consistent with how the Parks and Community Services Department currently prepares and identifies its annual submittal of projects in the City's Six-Year Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Some of the recommended projects have already been identified in the CIP. While the Plan is a tool for the next six years, longer term projects have also been identified to address expected community demands and needs.

The priorities for acquiring, developing, and renovating parks are intended to be fluid and dynamic. Priorities will change continually as opportunities and needs arise. Opportunities will arise in these areas concurrently or at different times, and must be weighed against available resources. The identified list of recommended capital projects is not set or fixed. We expect that over time, new opportunities might present themselves. Therefore, the list does not preclude changing circumstances. Whether or not a project from the list will actually be implemented is determined by a

SECTION 2**Recommendations****Capital Improvement Project Recommendations, cont'd.**

combination of factors: opportunities that surface; funding available; support for the project; and long-term maintenance and operation costs.

Follows is a brief description of each category of park capital improvements.

Acquisition

A goal of the Kirkland Parks system is to capture opportunities for acquiring and preserving unique park sites. Unique park sites are often located adjacent to existing parks, unusual in size, and exceptional in character.

Public surveys place a high priority on acquisition of land for parks and open space. If land is not acquired now, it will cost more later.

Development

There is a real need to develop new neighborhood parks in certain areas of the City to provide neighborhood playgrounds, picnic areas, and playcourts within walking distance. Additionally, there is a need to expand the City's public trail system.

In determining when a park should be developed, several key factors should be considered:

- Will park resources be made more accessible?
- Will it respond to an opportunity or demand?
- Will it help to achieve a balance among park types?
- Will it make the site more accessible, interesting, and safer for the public's use?

Renovation

One of the most important things that must be done with the park system is to keep it in high quality condition. Practicing preventative maintenance and improving parks and facilities on a scheduled basis maintains user satisfaction, protects the public's investment and is part of maintaining the community's positive image.

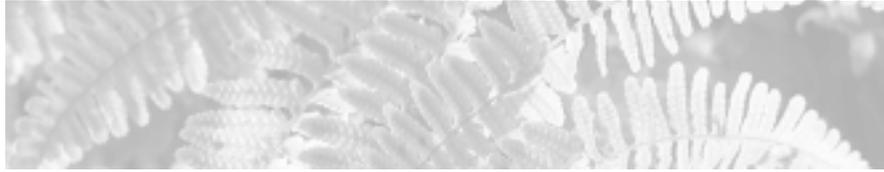
There are key factors that influence the need to renovate parks including:

- Age and condition of facility
- Changing use patterns
- Safety and liability problems
- Unnecessary maintenance costs

Many of the parks and facilities acquired when the system was first developed are in need of renovation now and others will have to be renovated in the future to extend their usefulness to the public. The City's recent renovation work to restrooms, playgrounds, docks, and other facilities has proven to stabilize or reduce maintenance and operation costs through improved design and use of better materials.

SECTION 2

Recommendations



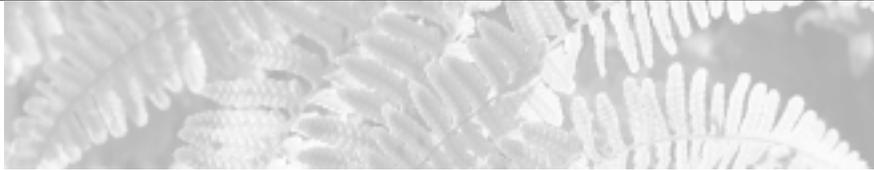
Financing the Plan



On a biennial basis, the City prepares a Six-Year Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The State Growth Management Act also requires that the City adopt a Six-Year Capital Facilities Plan. Within the CIP, parks capital project needs and funding sources are identified. Financing capital projects comes from a variety of sources such as current operating funds, reserve funds, impact fees, grants, private sector support, and general obligation voter-approved bonds. The list of recommended capital projects in the Plan (Section 2, page 27) totals approximately \$11 million in current dollars.

Several funding sources are available to accomplish capital projects listed in the CIP. The following is a list of many of those funding sources. Background information and descriptions of each of these potential funding sources is found in Appendix B.

- Reserves
- Quarter Percent Real Estate Excise Tax (REET)
- General Obligation Bonds
- Councilmanic Bonds
- Conservation Futures Tax (CFT)
- Fee-in-Lieu of Park and Open Space Fees
- Impact Fees
- Grants
- Donations
- Other Alternatives



SECTION 2

Recommendations

Capital Recommendations

Acquisition

Development

Renovation

The top priorities for Parks and Community Services for the City of Kirkland through the year 2007 include a unique mix of recommendations for Acquisition, Development, and Renovation.

This illustrates the top priorities of the Plan.

ACQUISITION	DEVELOPMENT	RENOVATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Natural Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creek buffers Wetlands adjacent to existing parks Habitat corridors Potential Annexation Areas* ● Waterfront <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Washington Forbes Lake ● Neighborhood Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Rose Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West of NE 122nd St North Juanita <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East of Juanita High School North Rose Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West of Mark Twain Park North Rose Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North West of Mark Twain Park South Juanita <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East of Juanita Bay Park Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South of Juanita Bay Park Houghton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West of 108th Ave NE Totem Lake Neighborhood North Juanita <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South West of Brookhaven Park Potential Annexation Areas ● Community Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential Annexation Areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community/City Wide Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waverly Park Site Potential Annexation Areas ● Open Space/Natural Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watershed Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Watershed Park Trails ● Neighborhood Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Totem Lake South Juanita Park Site (NE 116th) Houghton – West of 108th Ave NE Potential Annexation Areas Neighborhood Open Space Tracts Ohde Avenue Park B.E.S.T. High School/Park North Park Site (South Rose Hill) South Rose Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West of NE 122nd North Juanita <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South West of Brookhaven Park North Juanita <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East of Juanita High School North Rose Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West of Mark Twain Park North Rose Hill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North West of Mark Twain Park South Juanita <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East of Juanita Bay Park Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South of Juanita Bay Park Forbes Valley Area ● Special Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forbes Valley Trail Gymnasium Indoor Recreation Space Picnic Shelters Secondary School Facility Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Washington High School Kirkland Junior High Juanita High School Elementary School Sportsfield Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rose Hill Elementary Juanita Elementary AG Bell Elementary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crestwoods Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer/Baseball Fields Crestwoods Park Playground Everest Park Playground and Restroom/Storage Building Former Christian Science Church Building ● Neighborhood Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reservoir Park ● Waterfront <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoreline Restoration Marina Park Restroom Waverly Beach Park Juanita Beach Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (presently owned by King County) needs significant restoration ● Special <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Courts, Tennis Courts, pathways and Parking area Resurfacing Marsh Park Dock Nonmotorized boat access Improvements for Waverly Beach and Houghton Beach parks <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 20px;">* Potential Annexation Areas include the neighborhoods of Finn Hill, Juanita, and Kingsgate. References to capital projects in these neighborhoods are meant to reflect opportunities to meet City standards in those areas as they become available.</p>