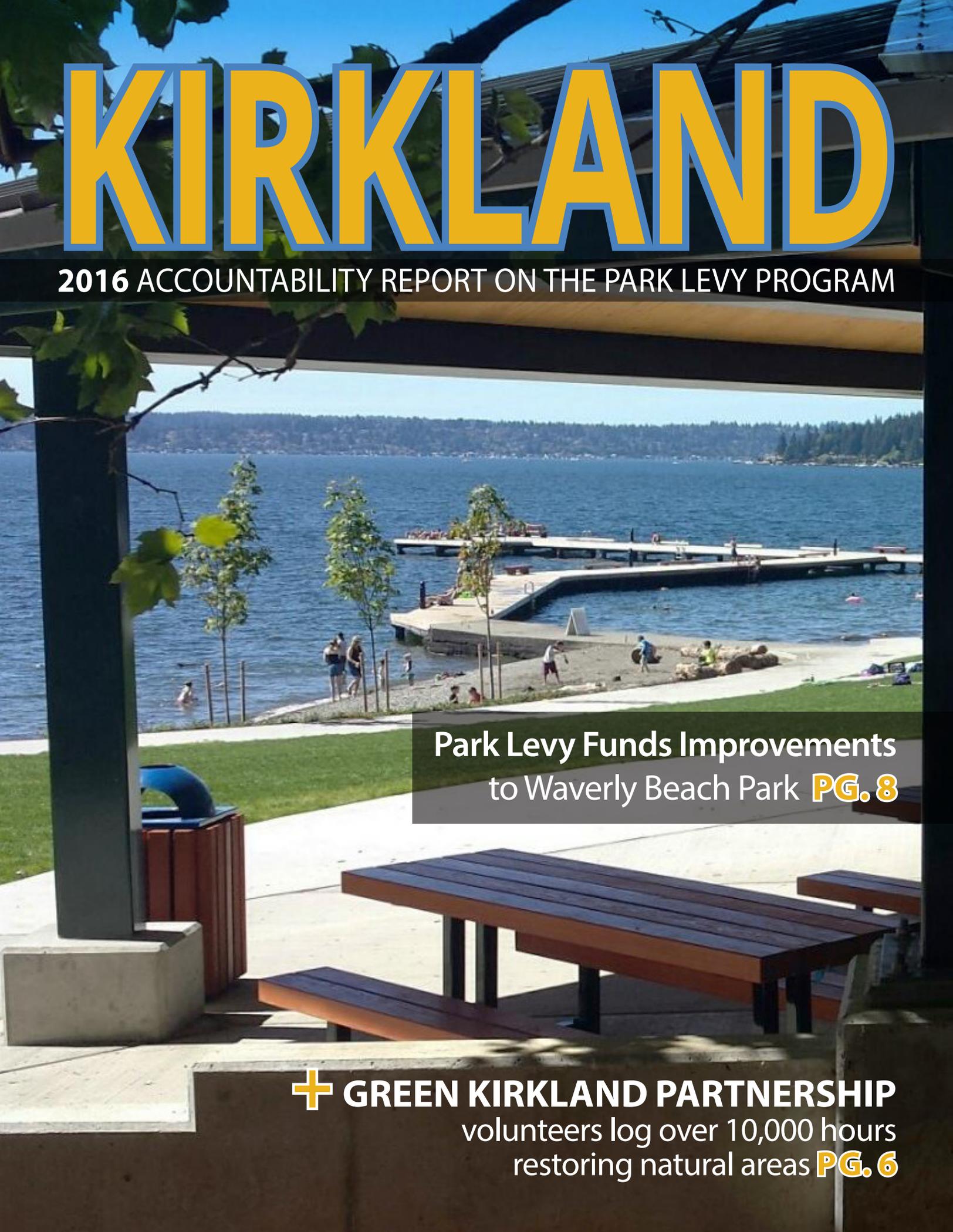


# KIRKLAND

2016 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON THE PARK LEVY PROGRAM



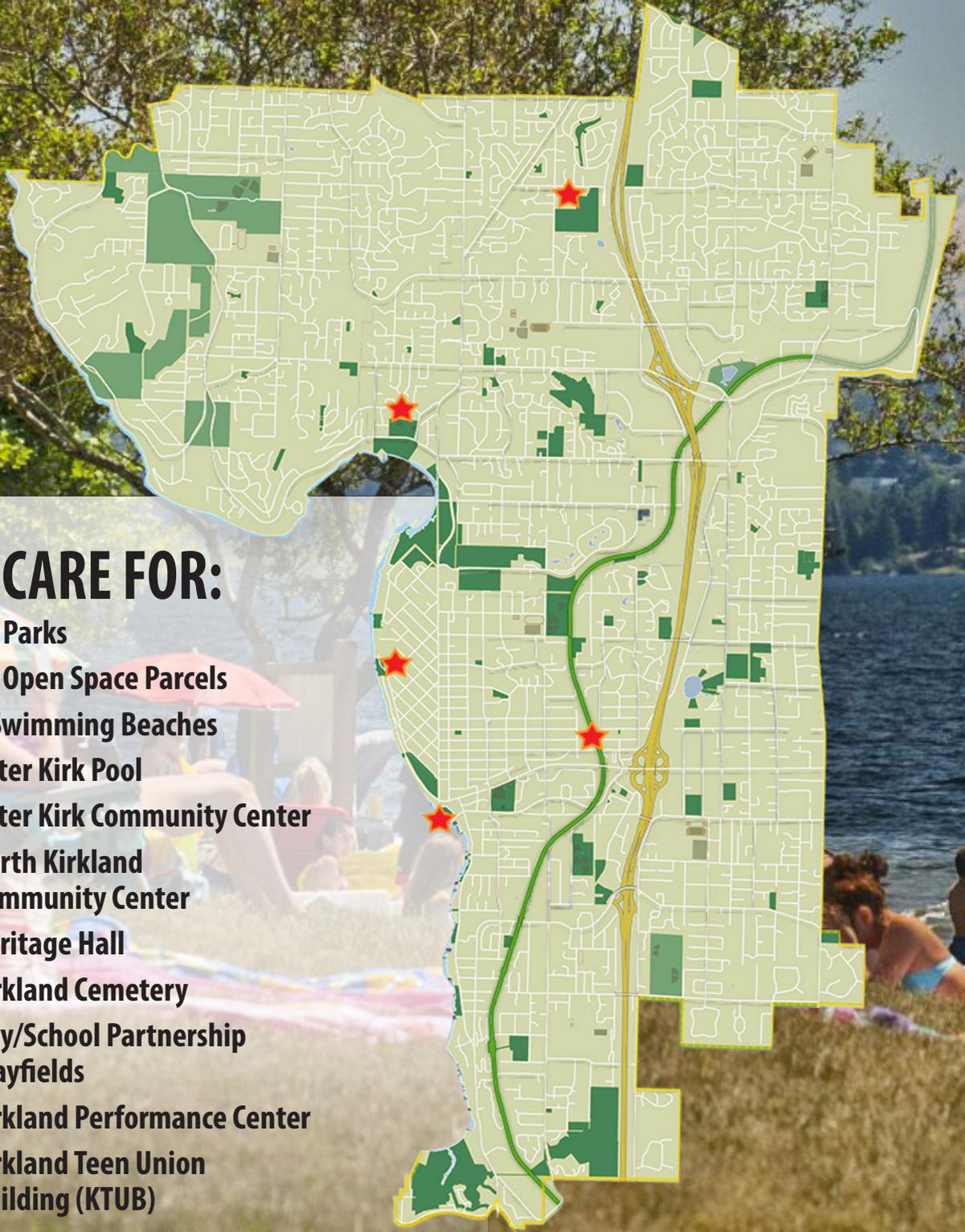
Park Levy Funds Improvements  
to Waverly Beach Park **PG. 8**

**+** GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP  
volunteers log over 10,000 hours  
restoring natural areas **PG. 6**

# KIRKLAND PARKS

## WE CARE FOR:

- 49 Parks
- 22 Open Space Parcels
- 3 Swimming Beaches
- Peter Kirk Pool
- Peter Kirk Community Center
- North Kirkland Community Center
- Heritage Hall
- Kirkland Cemetery
- City/School Partnership Playfields
- Kirkland Performance Center
- Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB)
- ★ Parks Levy-Funded Capital Improvement Projects (see page 8)



# QUALITY OF LIFE

## KIRKLAND'S RESIDENTS DECIDED IN 2012 TO SUPPORT MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENTS FOR THEIR PARK SYSTEM.

IN NOVEMBER OF 2012, Kirkland voters approved a permanent property tax levy to restore and enhance funding for daily park maintenance, summer beach lifeguards, major capital improvements, and acquisition of park land. This annual report summarizes how the levy funds are being used to support and enrich Kirkland's cherished quality of life.

The levy raises approximately \$2.35 million annually, of which about \$1.15 million is used to restore, maintain and enhance Kirkland parks and natural areas. The remaining \$1.2 million helps fund the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to complete major repairs and site renovations at parks throughout the community. Priority projects initially identified by the City Council for levy investments include the following:

- Planning for development of the Cross Kirkland Corridor
- Renovations to Waverly Beach Park and Edith Moulton Park
- Park land acquisition for future neighborhood parks
- Docks and shoreline renovations in many of the City's waterfront parks
- Replacement of the Juanita Beach Park bathhouse
- Playfield upgrades at select school sites

**Alternate Formats:** Persons with disabilities may request materials in alternative formats. Persons with hearing impairments may access the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service at 711.

**Title VI:** It is the City of Kirkland's policy to ensure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with the City of Kirkland. To request an alternate format or for questions about Kirkland's Title VI Program Coordinator at 425-587-3011 or [titlevicoordinator@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:titlevicoordinator@kirklandwa.gov).

# SAFER SWIM BEACHES

**THE PARKS LEVY SECURED ONGOING FUNDING OF OVER 1,100 HOURS EACH YEAR FOR LIFEGUARDS AT THREE OF KIRKLAND'S BEACHES.**

In 2016, from July 1st through Labor Day, lifeguards were on duty from noon to 6 p.m. daily at Kirkland beaches where they administered 2,077 swim tests to children under the age of 12, loaned out 699 free lifejackets and provided water safety to 17,419 swimmers.



SWIMMING BEACH	Swimmers (2012-no levy)	Lifejackets Loaned (2012-no levy)	Swimmers (2016)	Lifejackets Loaned ('16)
Houghton	4,370	355	4,534	263
Waverly	1,991	93	1,874	196
Juanita	not staffed	not staffed	11,011	240

# THRIVING PARKS

**THE 2012 LEVY INCREASED MAINTENANCE LEVELS BY RESTORING LABOR HOURS FOR PARKS MAINTENANCE AND APPROXIMATELY \$156,000 ANNUALLY FOR SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND UTILITIES.**

The impact of the increase in labor can be seen in several areas of the maintenance division's operation.

Restroom service has been restored at neighborhood parks, such as North Kirkland Community Center's "Train Park", Phyllis Needy Houghton Neighborhood Park and South Rose Hill Park.

No more brown parks with irrigation resumed at the lawn areas of Peter Kirk, Crestwoods, Everest, 132nd Square, Spinney Homestead, Terrace and other parks. Labor hours for weeding and mulching of landscape beds have been restored.

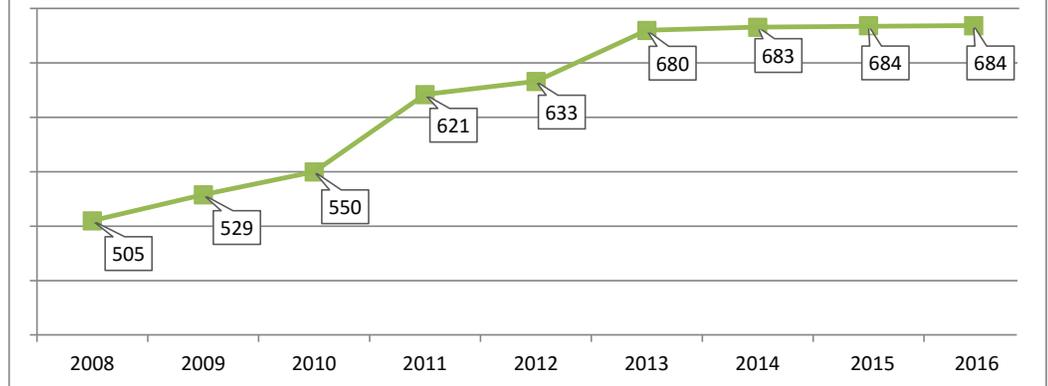
Park benches, pathways, playgrounds, park lighting, restroom facilities, irrigation systems, and other amenities continue to be repaired and replaced via Park

Levy funding. In 2016 some of the parks receiving improvements included Peter Kirk, Marsh, David Brink, Spinney Homestead, McAuliffe, Crestwoods and Juanita Beach.

**Maintenance Funding per Acre** (in 2016 dollars)



**Acres Maintained by Kirkland Parks**



# GREEN KIRKLAND

PARTNERSHIP

## THE LEVY ENSURES FUNDING FOR THE GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP, WHICH CONTINUES TO RECRUIT MORE THAN 2,000 VOLUNTEERS EACH YEAR.

THE LEVY CONTINUES KIRKLAND'S COMMITMENT TO RESTORING NATURAL GREEN SPACES. The purpose of the Green Kirkland Partnership is to conserve and restore Kirkland's natural area park land by removing invasive plants and planting native species for the sustainability of urban forests, wetlands and other habitats. Partnering with citizens, groups and businesses since 2005, over 78,000 volunteer hours have restored approximately 81 acres. Invasive plants such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry are removed and replaced with native trees, shrubs and groundcovers needed to sustain these natural areas. These restoration areas continue to benefit from ongoing volunteer efforts to ensure that new plantings thrive.

Between 2005 and 2012, the program was financially at risk of losing sources to fund the necessary staff. Thanks to the passage of the levy, the program has a dedicated funding source for staff to recruit volunteers and businesses, write grants, train volunteers, coordinate restoration events, develop restoration plans, and provide education and outreach to the community on the benefits of healthy forests and other natural areas.



The levy supports natural area restoration activities such as removing invasive plants and planting native plants and trees.

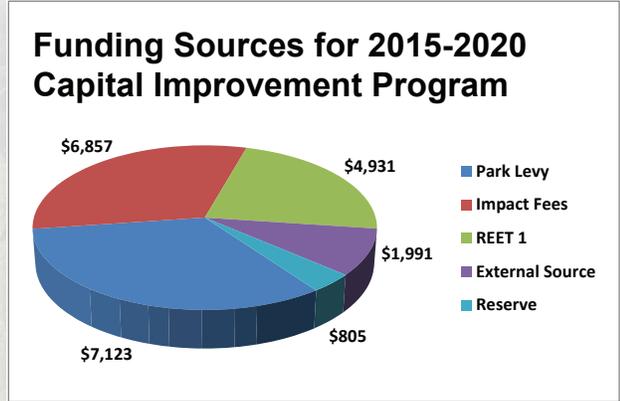
<b>GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>2012 (no levy)</b>	<b>2016 (with levy)</b>
Number of staff	1	3.5
Number of volunteers	2,164	2,331
Volunteered hours	9,401	10,046
Volunteer work parties	168	244
Volunteer stewards	22	29
Acres in restoration	40.3	81
Invasive trees removed	336	1,333
Native plants and trees planted	5,979	5,902
Woodchip mulch applied (cubic yards)	315	438



# INVESTING IN PARKS

## THE LEVY PROVIDES OVER \$1 MILLION PER YEAR FOR MAJOR RENOVATIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS TO KIRKLAND'S PARKS SYSTEM.

The chart at right shows the funding sources for the 2015-2020 Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Anticipated funding for parks projects averages \$3.62 million per year, with approximately \$1.187 million per year coming from the 2012 levy and the remainder primarily coming from Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and Impact Fees placed on new development.



## LEVY-FUNDED PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS INITIATED OR COMPLETED IN 2015 INCLUDE:



### CROSS KIRKLAND CORRIDOR (\$500,000 levy funds)

Known as the CKC, the 5.75 mile Cross Kirkland Corridor traverses Kirkland from the South Kirkland Park & Ride to the Totem Lake Business District. The City has been actively embracing the community's energy around the corridor's future development as a multi-modal transportation corridor and recreation asset. The City has completed construction of an interim recreational trail, while levy funding was used to create an overall Master Plan for the corridor.



### WAVERLY BEACH PARK (\$500,000 levy funds)

The levy funded a major renovation of Kirkland's oldest waterfront park in 2016. Improvements to Waverly Beach included shoreline and beach upgrades, new pier decking, lawn restoration and enhanced drainage, new pathways, and new playground. In addition, the Kirkland Rotary Club and Kirkland Parks Foundation raised funds to install a new picnic pavilion for the park.

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

## CURRENT STATUS

Items in green reflect the current status of the project.

### ONGOING

#### **PARK LAND ACQUISITION (\$2,350,000 levy funds)**

Land acquisitions to plan for growth and to protect important natural resources are funded from the levy.

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

#### **EDITH MOULTON PARK (\$1,000,000 levy funds)**

Edith Moulton donated her family homestead, a 26-acre heavily wooded property in Juanita, to the public in 1967. Kirkland assumed ownership from King County following annexation in 2011 and completed a park master plan process in 2014. Final design and permitting for park improvements began in 2015 with construction scheduled for 2017/2018.

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

#### **DOCK AND SHORELINE RENOVATIONS (\$800,000 levy funds)**

Kirkland's 13 diverse Lake Washington waterfront parks provide opportunities for public access while balancing the needs for habitat enhancement and maintaining ecological function. In 2014, levy funds were used to complete repairs to Houghton Beach Park and in 2016 to begin engineering for upgrades to the dock and boat launch at Marina Park.

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

#### **JUANITA BEACH BATHHOUSE REPLACEMENT (\$1,200,000 levy funds)**

The levy will fund the replacement of the Juanita Beach Bathhouse. In 2016, the City continued the planning and design process for the new bathhouse. Construction is anticipated to take place in 2018.

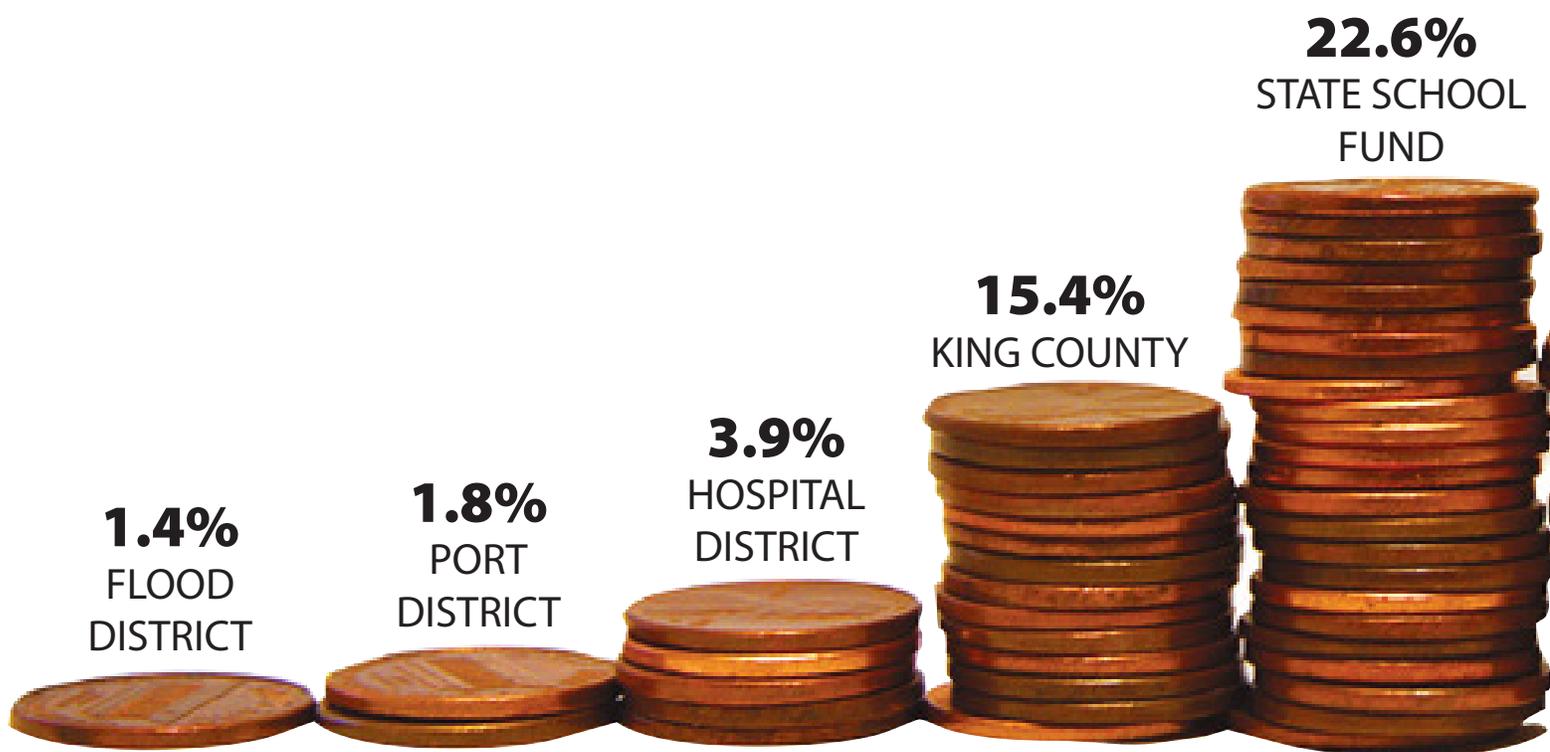
#### **FUTURE LEVY-FUNDED PROJECTS 2016 - 2022**

- City/School Partnership Field Improvements
- Neighborhood Park Land Acquisitions

# WHERE PROPERTY TAXES GO

## ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON THE 2012 PARK LEVY PROGRAM: 2016 EDITION

The 2012 Park levy accounts for less than 2 percent of Kirkland residents' property taxes, and yet it pays for more than half of City's park improvement projects and makes up 20% of the department's budget for park maintenance and operations. Property tax is the largest of Kirkland's nine primary sources of revenue. It accounts for 19.5% of the General Fund. State law limits Kirkland to an annual increase of its regular property tax levy by the rate of inflation or by 1%, whichever is less. State law also allows for new construction. Voters can give Kirkland authority to exceed this limitation, which they did November 6, 2012, when they passed the Park Levy.





**11.7%**  
CITY OF  
KIRKLAND

**1.3%**  
PARK LEVY

**1.6%**  
STREET LEVY

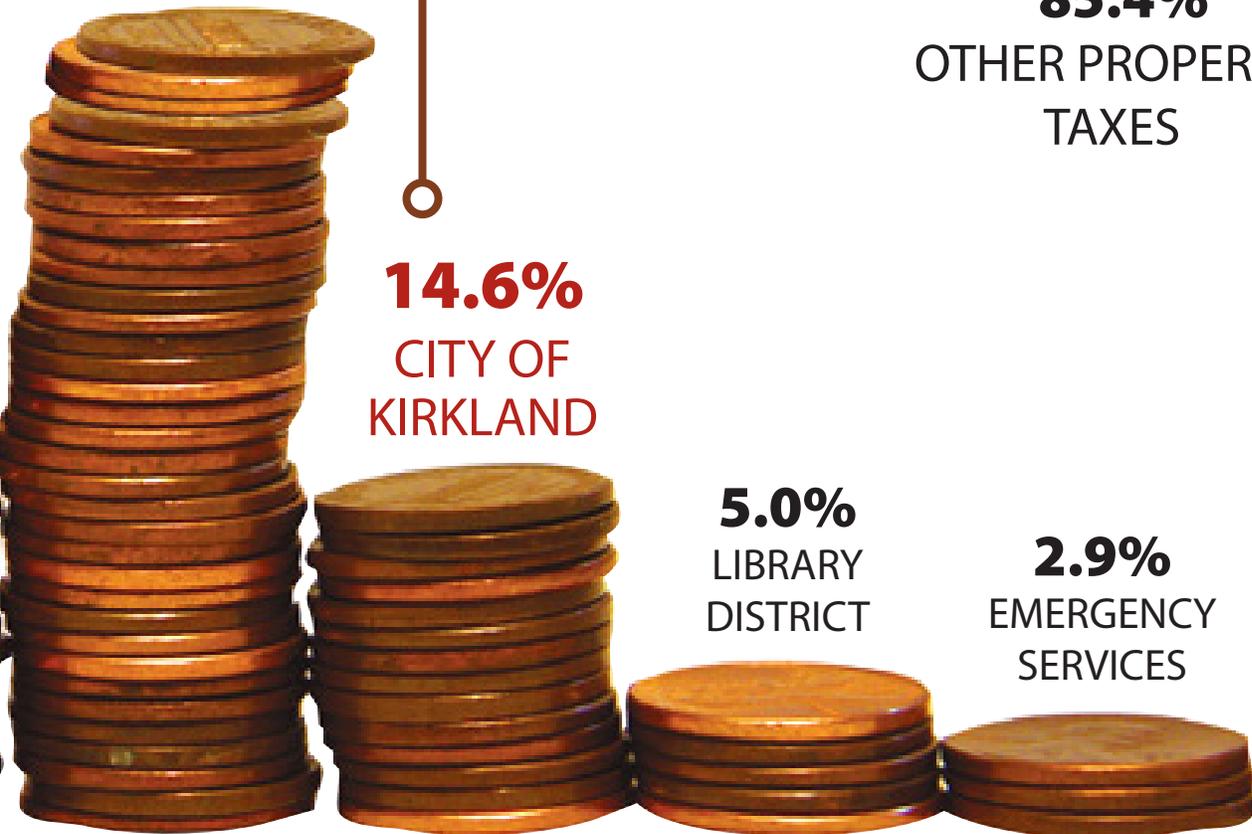
**32.4%**  
LK. WASH.  
SCHOOLS

**85.4%**  
OTHER PROPERTY  
TAXES

**14.6%**  
CITY OF  
KIRKLAND

**5.0%**  
LIBRARY  
DISTRICT

**2.9%**  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICES



# KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

(425) 587-3001

Mayor Amy Walen ♦ Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

Dave Asher ♦ Doreen Marchione ♦ Toby Nixon ♦ Jon Pascal ♦ Penny Sweet

## KIRKLAND PARK BOARD

Chair Kevin Quille ♦ Vice Chair Rosalie Wessels

Johanna Andrews

Kobey Chew

Jason Chinchilla

Richard Chung

Sue Contreras

Kelli Curtis

The Kirkland Park Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.



## CITY STAFF

### CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Kurt Triplett, City Manager.....587-3001  
Marilynne Beard, Deputy City Manager.....587-3008  
Tracey Dunlap, Deputy City Manager.....587-3101

### PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lynn Zwaagstra, Director .....587-3300

