

# Kirkland

2015 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON THE PARK LEVY PROGRAM

City begins improvements  
at Waverly Beach Park **PG. 8**



**GREEN KIRKLAND  
Partnership**

volunteers and staff remove  
over 1,700 invasive trees **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)

# 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

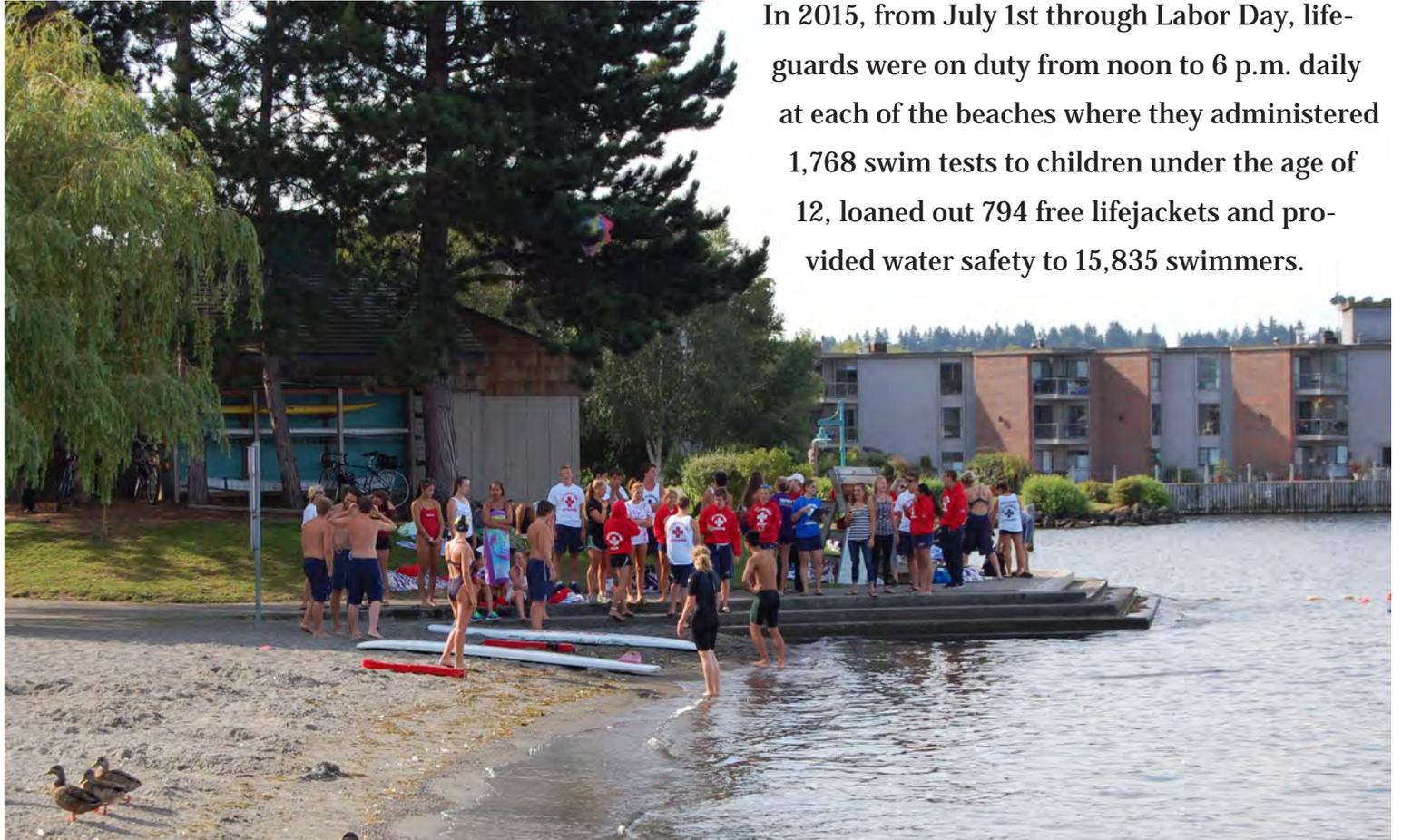
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To request an alternate format or for questions about Kirkland's Title VI Program Coordinator at 425-587-3011 or [titleviordinator@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:titleviordinator@kirklandwa.gov).

# SAFER SWIM BEACHES

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



In 2015, from July 1st through Labor Day, lifeguards were on duty from noon to 6 p.m. daily at each of the beaches where they administered 1,768 swim tests to children under the age of 12, loaned out 794 free lifejackets and provided water safety to 15,835 swimmers.

*Lifeguards participate in a skill builder at Houghton Beach.*

SWIMMING BEACH	Swimmers (2012-no levy)	Lifejackets Loaned ('12)	Swimmers (2015)	Lifejackets Loaned ('15)
Houghton	4,370	355	4,839	307
Waverly	1,991	93	2,021	217
Juanita	not staffed	not staffed	8,975	270

# 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.

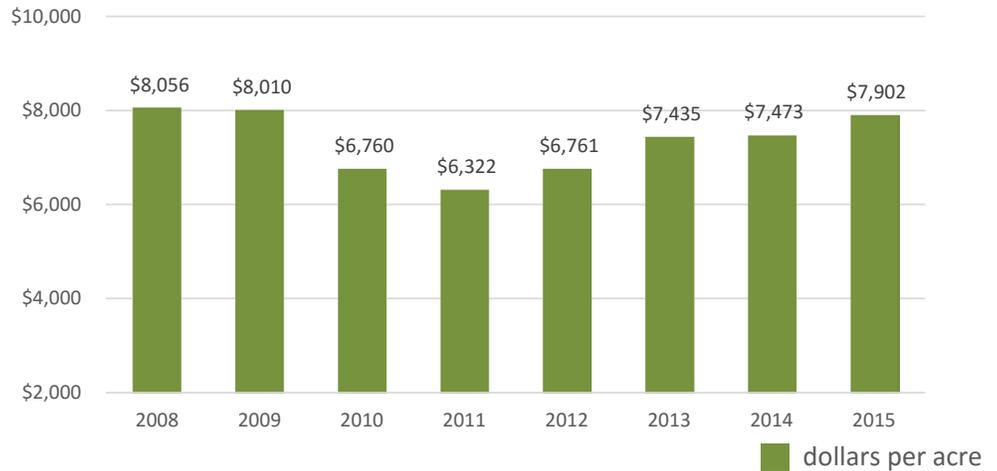
The impact of the increase in labor can be seen in several areas of the maintenance division's operation.

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.

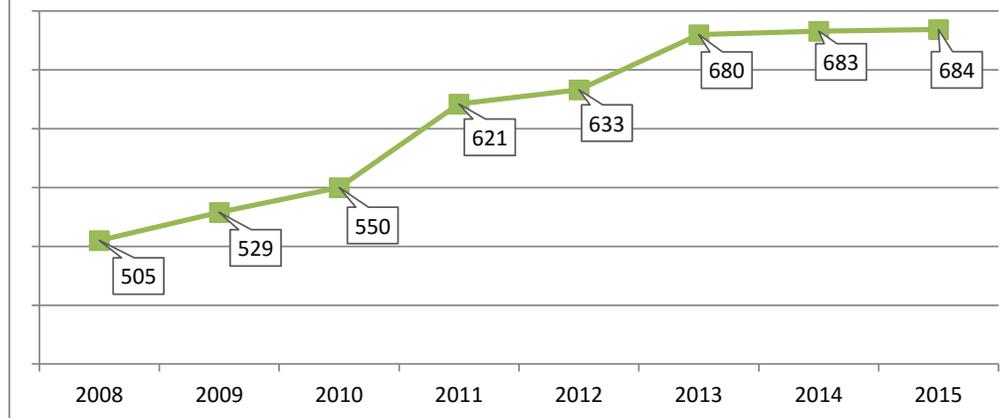
No more brown parks with irrigation resumed at the lawn areas of Peter Kirk, Crestwoods, Everest, 132nd Square, Spinney Homestead, Terrace and other parks. Labor hours for weeding and mulching of landscape beds have been restored.

Park benches, pathways, picnic shelters, restroom facilities and other site amenities, maintenance of which has been deferred, are one by one getting repaired. In 2015, for example, the levy supported roof repairs, sport court renovations, asphalt walkway maintenance and irrigation system upgrades at Everest, Heritage, Juanita Bay, Marina, McAuliffe, Spinney Homestead and Van Aalst parks.

**Maintenance Funding per Acre** (in 2015 dollars)



**Acres Maintained by Kirkland Parks**



# GREEN KIRKLAND

PARTNERSHIP



THE LEVY ENSURES FUNDING FOR THE GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP, WHICH RECRUITED MORE THAN 2,000 VOLUNTEERS IN 2012, 2013 AND 2014.

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, over **60,000 volunteer hours** have restored approximately 65 acres. Invasive plants such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry are removed and replaced with native trees, shrubs and groundcover needed to sustain these natural areas.

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.

GREEN KIRKLAND	2012 (no levy)	2015 (with levy)
Number of staff	1	3.5
Number of volunteers	2,164	2,342
Volunteered hours	9,401	8,715
Volunteer work parties	168	228
Volunteer stewards	22	25
Acres in restoration	40.3	64.5
Invasive trees removed	336	1,388
Native plants and trees planted	5,979	4,649
Woodchip mulch applied (cubic yards)	315	441

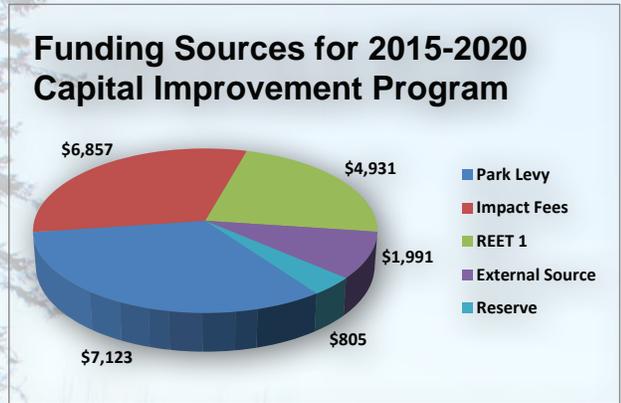


*The levy supports natural area restoration activities such as removing invasive plants and planting native plants and trees.*

# 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 City's northern boundary in 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 will help fund a major renovation of Kirkland's oldest waterfront park. Construction of phase I improvements began in 2015, and will be completed by summer 2016. Additional enhancements to the phase I project are expected due to generous donations by the Kirkland Rotary and Kirkland Parks Foundation. Renovation priorities include the park's extensive shoreline and beach area, pier, pathways, playground, lawn drainage and picnic pavilion.

# 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 2016/2017.

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 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 2015, the City began the planning and design process for the new bathhouse and picnic shelter structures. Construction is anticipated to take place in 2017

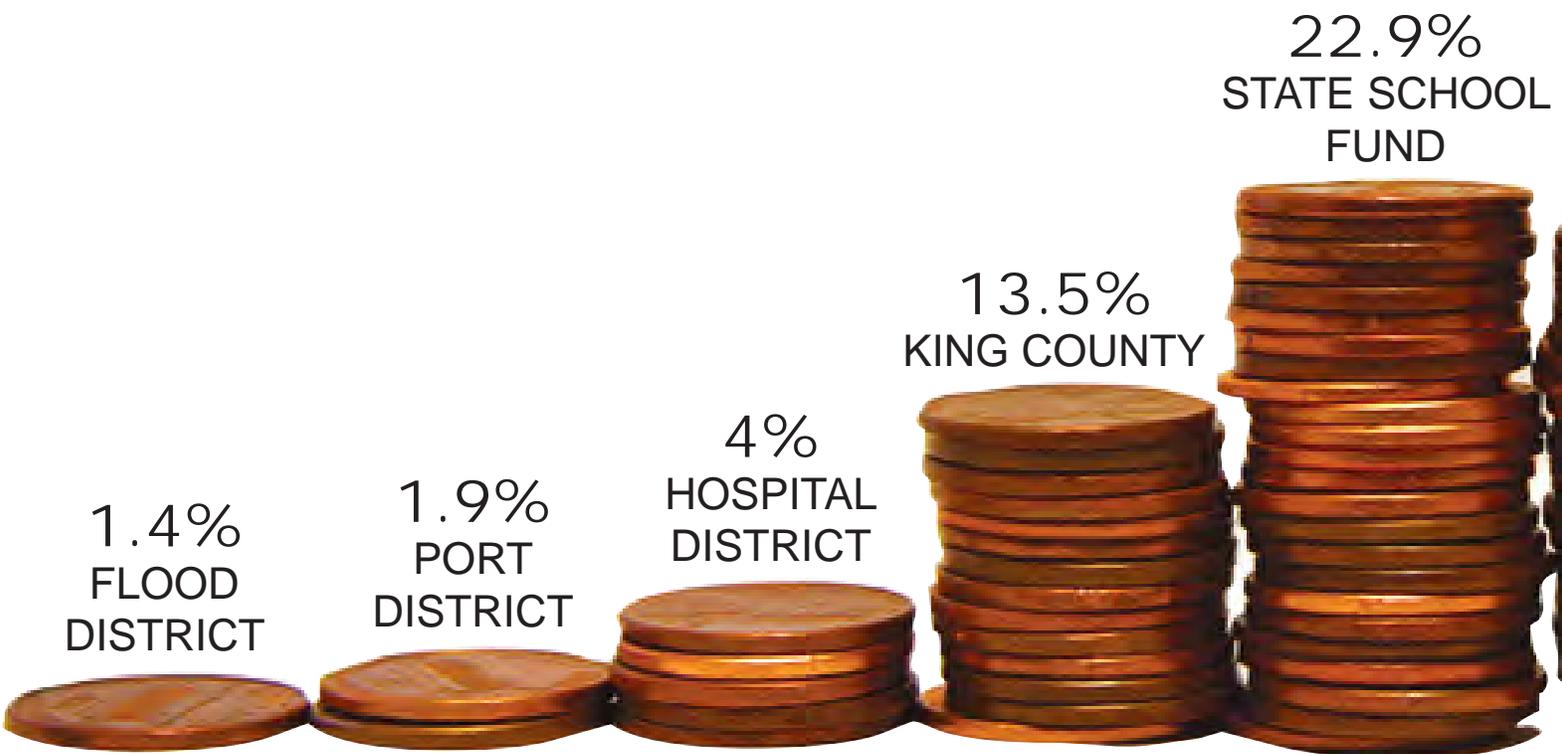
#### FUTURE LEVY-FUNDED PROJECTS 2016 - 2022

- City/School Partnership Field Improvements
- Everest Park Restroom/Storage Building Replacement
- Neighborhood Park Land Acquisitions

# WHERE PROPERTY TAXES GO

## ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON THE 2012 PARK LEVY PROGRAM: 2015 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 implicit price deflator 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.





12.1%  
CITY OF  
KIRKLAND

1.3%  
PARK LEVY

1.7%  
STREET LEVY

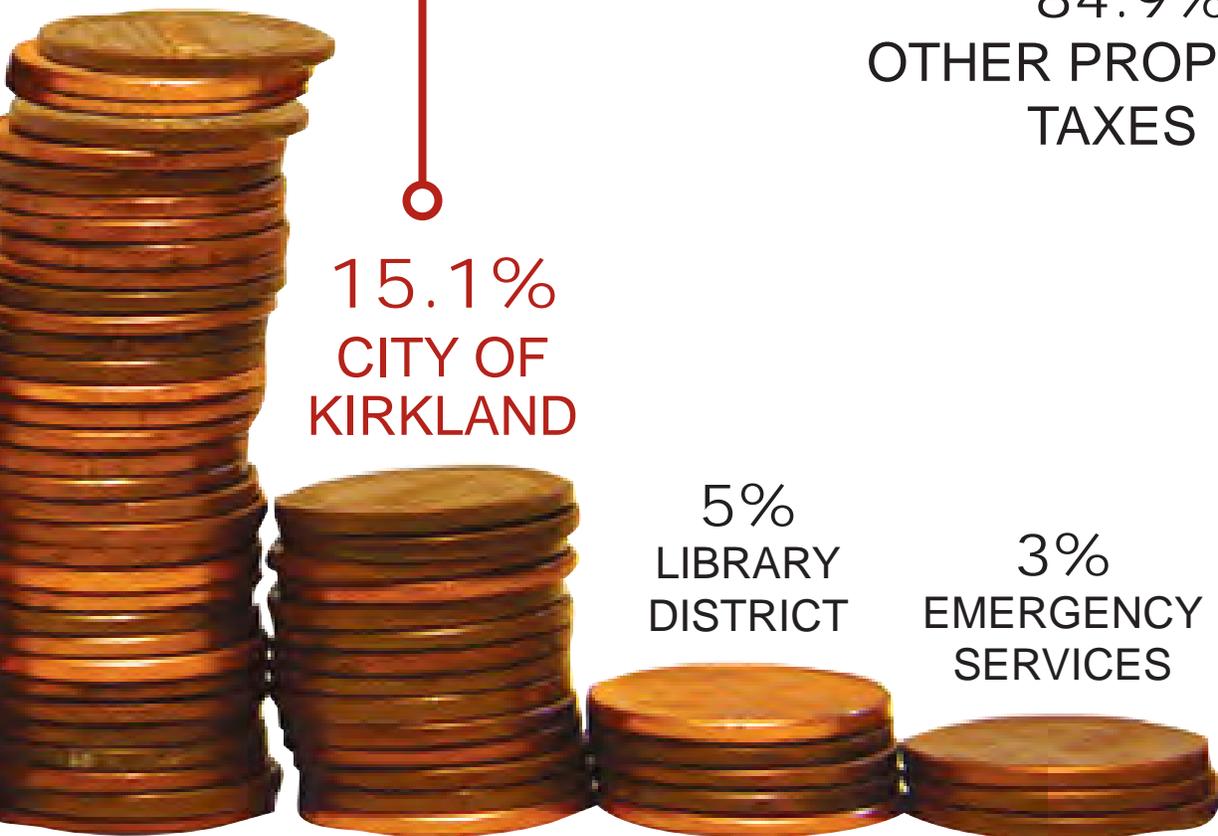
33.2%  
LK. WASH.  
SCHOOLS

84.9%  
OTHER PROPERTY  
TAXES

15.1%  
CITY OF  
KIRKLAND

5%  
LIBRARY  
DISTRICT

3%  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICES



# KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

(425) 587-3001

Mayor Amy Walen ♦ Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold

Dave Asher ♦ Shelley Kloba ♦ Doreen Marchione ♦ Toby Nixon ♦ Penny Sweet

## KIRKLAND PARK BOARD

Chair Kevin Quille ♦ Vice Chair Rosalie Wessels

Jason Chinchilla

Richard Chung

Sue Contreras

Kelli Curtis

Jim Popolow

Adam White

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

