



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Mary Gardocki, Park Planning and Development Manager
Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks & Community Services

Date: September 1, 2020

Subject: Resolution Establishing a Development Policy for the Green Loop Corridor

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approves the attached Resolution Establishing a Development Policy for the Green Loop Corridor. This resolution outlines the goals and staff direction related to funding, acquisition and development of the Green Loop Corridor.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The Green Loop Trail was a goal identified in the Finn Hill Neighborhood Plan and adopted into the City's Comprehensive Plan in 2018. Priorities discussed in the plan are open space conservation, desired improvements to existing parks, expansion of park land, creating a Green Loop Corridor, pedestrian and bike trails, and improved access to Lake Washington. Specifically, **Goal FH-5** identifies the establishment of a Green Loop Corridor that circles the neighborhood connecting parks, open spaces, pedestrian trails, wildlife corridors and natural areas, with priority segments shown in **Attachment B to the Resolution**.

Furthermore, policies that support the establishment of a Green Loop Corridor are listed below:

***Policy FH-5.1:** Develop a Master Plan for the Green Loop Corridor using a public review process under the direction of the Park Board that:*

- *Includes the location, design and functions for the different segments.*
- *Promotes uses that meet the diverse needs of people for recreation, including walking, hiking, wildlife viewing, dog walking, and other forms of recreation.*
- *Prioritizes the segment of the loop connecting the Lake Washington shoreline to the top of Finn Hill, Juanita Beach Park to Juanita Heights, Juanita Woodlands and Big Finn Hill Park (see Figure FH-5.2 for priority locations).*
- *Maintains and promotes retention of native vegetation and trees in natural areas, wildlife protection, stream and fish protection.*

- *Encourages public and private restoration efforts to remove invasive plant species and plant native herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees.*

Policy FH-5.2: *Through the development review process, secure public easements or greenbelt easements to provide public access and preserve natural areas within the Corridor.*

It will be necessary to obtain public access easements over private property to connect the Corridor together with public parks, open space and public rights-of-way. One way to do this would be to obtain public access easements as part of the development review and approval process of a short plat or subdivision application in order to link pedestrian connections within the Corridor.

Funding mechanisms could also be explored for acquisition of land, trails or easements needed to create improvements within the Green Loop Corridor such as through the Capital Improvement Program, grants or donations from nonprofit organizations. For example, development impact fees could be set aside for the acquisition of green space needed to create the Green Loop Corridor.

These policies will be implemented in the Green Loop Master Plan and guide staff direction in achieving **Goal FH-5**.

Additionally, in support of this goal, the City received a letter of intent from King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Division of Parks and Recreation outlining funding that will be available for this project, **Attachment A to the Resolution**. Specifically, the King County Parks Levy has identified the "Kirkland Green Loop Trail" project as an approved project. The project will be funded through the Levy's Regional and Other Public Trails System program and funded at approximately \$2,400,000. Exact funding will be determined as the levy is assessed from 2020-2025. These proceeds will accumulate over the course of the 6-year levy and are not available immediately.

The City of Kirkland Parks and Community Services staff and the King County Parks and Recreation staff developed a project timeline that reflects the accumulation of the Levy funds. It is King County's intent to channel the Levy funds to the City of Kirkland and develop an agreement that provides Kirkland with decision-making authority over the planning, land acquisition and construction of the Kirkland Green Loop Trail. The draft project timeline is as follows:

- 2021-2022 Approximately \$400,000: Funding for a master plan and acquisition of an immediately available parcel adjoining Juanita Drive
- 2023-2024 Approximately \$1,000,000: Funding for acquisition and construction as outlined in the master plan
- 2025-2026 Approximately \$1,000,000: Funding for acquisition and construction as outlined in the master plan

The initial step to begin the master plan's development will be funded from the levy and is estimated to cost \$160,000. Staff anticipates beginning the master plan process in 2022. This

timeline allows the Department to complete 2 major park development projects, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and Synthetic Turf Strategic Plan.

It should be noted that the City of Kirkland currently has funding for CIP project PKC 13530, Juanita Heights Park Trail in the amount of \$243,800. Ultimately, this trail will become part of the Green Loop Trail. However, this was a pre-established project and is considered separate at this time. Associated with the Juanita Heights Park Trail is funding from a Conservation Futures Tax grant in the amount of \$160,000 for property acquisition.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the City Council approves the attached Resolution Establishing a Development Policy for the Green Loop Corridor.

Addendum A: Resolution Establishing a Development Policy for the Green Loop Trail

Attachment A: King County Letter of Intent

Attachment B: Green Loop Corridor and Development Priorities Map