



# USAGE GUIDE: LOCAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

City of Kirkland, Washington

A guide for City of Kirkland personnel



The purpose of this use guide is to provide options for City of Kirkland Employees, Volunteers, and Elected/Appointed Officials to use Kirkland's Local Land Acknowledgement.

### What is a Land Acknowledgement?

A land acknowledgement is a formal statement that pays tribute to, expresses gratitude and respect for, and helps raise awareness of the Indigenous inhabitants of the local land—past and present. Land acknowledgements are ceremonial in nature and do not carry any legal authority. Land acknowledgements have been adopted by other cities in Washington, including the cities of Edmonds, Everett, and Spokane. Other cities throughout the country have also adopted land acknowledgements, including the cities of Denver, Colorado; Eden Prairie, Minnesota; and Eureka, California.

Kirkland's adopted Land Acknowledgement was informed by input by tribal leaders and has been reviewed by them, though the final acknowledgement is specific to Kirkland and is not the official position of any of the consulted tribal organizations. In adopting this local land acknowledgement, the City is not taking a position on the status of federal recognition for any tribe.

The City Council adopted a local land acknowledgement on December 16, 2021. More information can be found on the City's website:

[www.kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement)

## Kirkland's Official Local Land Acknowledgement Statement

---

*We acknowledge that the Southern Salish Sea region lies on the unceded and ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Suquamish and Tulalip tribes and other tribes of the Puget Sound Salish people, and that present-day City of Kirkland is in the traditional heartland of the Lake People and the River People. We honor with gratitude the land itself, the First People – who have reserved treaty rights and continue to live here since time immemorial – and their ancestral heritage.*

---

### Options for Land Acknowledgement Usage

The Land Acknowledgement can be used:

1. To open City Meetings or Events
2. To help introduce Neighborhood, Master, or Strategic Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents
3. On City Signage and Maps

Guidelines for each usage are provided below. Please contact the City Manager's Office if you are planning to use the Land Acknowledgement for options #2 and #3.

---

### City Meetings or Events

Regarding City Council meetings, the Land Acknowledgement should:

- Be printed on every regular and special Council meeting agenda, and
- Read out loud at Council meetings where appropriate, as determined by the Mayor.

Additionally, the Land Acknowledgement can be used at the beginning of meetings or other events hosted by the City. Such meetings could include, but aren't limited to:

- City staff meetings
- City Board or Commission meetings
- Community meetings hosted by the City, such as town halls, open houses, focus groups, or similar.
- Ceremonial events, such as ribbon-cuttings

*It is not recommended to assert or suggest using the Land Acknowledgement for meetings hosted by other organizations.*

#### Recommendations for Usage at City Meetings or Events:

- The Land Acknowledgement should be read at the beginning of meetings or events.
- Keep it simple and direct: *"Before we start, I would first like to read the City's adopted Land Acknowledgment statement..."*
- Best practice guidance from Indigenous People is that you speak from your heart when reading the Land Acknowledgement but don't make it a performance.
- Do not include other announcements about social, political, or City initiatives alongside the Land Acknowledgement – it should be and feel separate from any other announcements.

If anyone at your meeting or event has a question or concern about why you began the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement, you can refer them to the City's website ([kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement](http://kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement)) and/or the City's Manager Office.

## City of Kirkland Neighborhood, Master, or Strategic Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents

The full text of the Land Acknowledgement can be added to the beginning of City Neighborhood, Master, or Strategic Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents. In this context, "Adopted Documents" is defined as policy documents that are adopted by the City Council.

For such documents, the full text of the Land Acknowledgement should be used, with the following header and footer:

### **City of Kirkland Local Land Acknowledgement**

"We acknowledge that the Southern Salish Sea region lies on the unceded and ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Suquamish and Tulalip tribes and other tribes of the Puget Sound Salish people, and that present-day City of Kirkland is in the traditional heartland of the Lake People and the River People. We honor with gratitude the land itself, the First People – who have reserved treaty rights and continue to live here since time immemorial – and their ancestral heritage."

Visit [www.kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement) for more information.

As some documents have pages that are intentionally left blank, the Land Acknowledgement should appear on the first page that has text after the cover page. The Land Acknowledgement should appear before all other text elements.

No visual or graphic should accompany or be integrated into the Land Acknowledgement text.

The Land Acknowledgement should be set in the same font as other text in the document. Italics may be used at the author's discretion.

## Signage and Maps

The Land Acknowledgement can be added to printed City signage and maps. These could include, but aren't limited to:

- Folded paper City maps, such as the "Kirkland Parks, Facilities, & Trails Guide"
- Large format maps, such as in a City park or on the Cross Kirkland Corridor
- Informational kiosks, such as in a City park

For such a use, the full text of the Land Acknowledgement should be used, with the following header and footer:

### **City of Kirkland Local Land Acknowledgement**

"We acknowledge that the Southern Salish Sea region lies on the unceded and ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Suquamish and Tulalip tribes and other tribes of the Puget Sound Salish people, and that present-day City of Kirkland is in the traditional heartland of the Lake People and the River People. We honor with gratitude the land itself, the First People – who have reserved treaty rights and continue to live here since time immemorial – and their ancestral heritage."

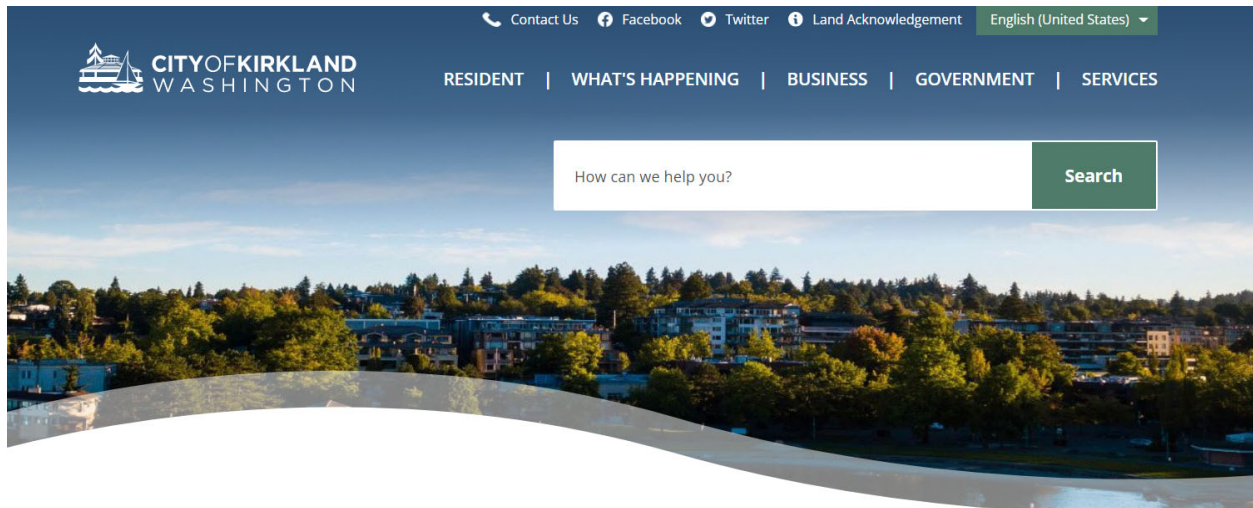
Visit [www.kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/LandAcknowledgement) for more information.

No visual or graphic should accompany or be integrated into the Land Acknowledgement text.

The Land Acknowledgement should be set in the same font as other text in the document. Italics may be used at the author's discretion.

## Land Acknowledgement on City Webpages

A link to the Land Acknowledgement webpage has been added to the top banner of the City's website and is therefore included on every webpage. As such, the Land Acknowledgement **should not be included** on specific project, program, or other webpages.



---

For questions or concerns on using the City's Local Land Acknowledgement, please contact the City Manager's Office at (425) 587-3001.