

The first public forum for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan was held virtually on June 17, 2021. Community members provided comments on several topics. While all comments were collected and documented, duplicated comments were listed only once or combined.

1. Strengths of the parks and recreation programs and services in Kirkland

- Good Maintenance
- The improvements at Juanita Beach Park
- Great outdoor spaces to hang out in. Great athletic fields
- I think the Parks Department created three fantastic pickleball courts at Everest Park a couple of years ago. I would like to see Kirkland add additional courts in the near future
- Diversity...different types of parks and different types of activities

2. Areas for improvement in the parks and recreation programs and services in Kirkland

- Insufficient open space in newly developed and planned development, e.g, State Street in Moss Bay, the new Totem Lake area (both sides of 405) and the Station Area Plan where no new open space is being planned - only urban "gathering spots"
- More pickleball courts are needed to meet the demand
- Maintaining parks and reducing illegal activities such as drinking and using drugs
- Trails need better signage
- Need year-round restrooms

3. Partners the City should be working with in Kirkland

- Little League groups
- Boys and Girls Club
- Neighborhood Associations
- Senior Center members

4. Program ideas the City should consider

- Keeping children busy and teaching teamwork and life skills through organized youth sports...while getting exercise and keeping off of social media and video games
- Pickleball tournaments
- Summertime emphasis on aquatic programs is just fine
- Nature programs with a focus on sustainability and things like promoting pollinators (butterflies and mason bees)
- Blade or quads and roller hockey programs

5. Priorities to consider in the Master Plan

- Maintaining enough parks and open space as density increases
- There are "areas" that need new parks
- Provide safe spaces that everyone should be able to enjoy, better patrolling or some additional oversight and safety precautions for our parks
- Dedicated parking at parks along Lake Washington Blvd.
- A true network of active transportation options will address traffic concerns

- Keeping the Cross Kirkland Corridor “rustic” is more appropriate for the general population than a high intensity paved superhighway for high-speed biking which endangers pedestrians/strollers
- Accessibility of parks/programs, additional pickleball courts and land acquisition
- An active transportation network is designed for everyday users (not speedsters)
- Aerial people mover (like gondola) from 85th to downtown AND all up & down (in the air) above the existing trail system (old RR tracks) that would reduce vehicle traffic and help businesses

6. Amenities in Kirkland parks that may improve park experiences

- More pickleball facilities (the courts at Everest Park are always busy)
- Climbing walls
- Facilities for roller hockey
- Parks to serve high-density tall developments, e.g., Totem Lake and Stations Area
- Dog waste receptacles
- Increased access to restrooms and aquatics
- Lighted pickleball courts (minimum of 8 dedicated courts)
- Covered pickleball courts perhaps using school facilities
- Additional dog parks
- Covered play areas
- Indoor aquatic facility
- Lighted courts
- A little track for young bike riders
- Location for frisbee golf
- Network of safe routes to park facilities so that you can walk, or bicycle
- Current aquatic facilities are appropriate and effective. Expand the current capacity and don't invest in new facilities
- A bubble over the pool during winter
- More community gardens – (pea patches)
- Nature gardens for education

7. Vision for parks and recreation programs and services in Kirkland

- Vision - build capacity that scales appropriately with community growth
- Providing opportunity and access to all community members
- Creating capacity in parks and programs is the greatest long-range issue
- Protect and don't dismantle existing programs and traditions they provide
- Providing lighting in parks to add capacity

8. Additional comments

- Wi-Fi in the park has no real value. The current offering is so restricted that it is not useful which makes sense because the Internet is so dangerous for many people
- Must confess - I end up signing up for programs at Redmond more than Kirkland (despite being a Kirkland resident)
- Meet with King County to make a formal proposal to take over the old garbage dump site (Taylor Fields) and make a multi-use facility...similar to Grass Lawn Park in Redmond
- Acquiring Big Finn Hill Park would indeed be a useful effort
- Better signage to publicize trails
- Pickleball needs to be as distributed throughout the City just as tennis is. Suggest that pickleball be added to tennis rather than displace it
- I agree that pickleball is growing so fast and for all ages of players. There are tennis courts that could also be used as pickleball courts
- I suggest existing tennis courts be lined for pickleball so the courts can be used for either tennis or pickleball
- Security cameras in high traffic areas
- It would be helpful to have more recycling and trash cans in highly trafficked parks. After a busy weekend, the garbage at Houghton park is piled high. Also, add dog poop receptacles and security cameras or ways to ticket those who don't respect the rules or make parks unsafe for others
- The Kirkland Teen Union facility should not be gifted to a private organization (even a non-profit) such as one that puts on plays to make money. Kirkland City should not be picking winning and losing organizations. There should be multiple play/musical producing groups in the City to give the City residents some choice
- Personal experience with security cameras has been negative (information they yield is very rarely valuable and they create an Orwellian feel that we should avoid)
- Kirkland City has a history of producing surveys that are carefully designed to obtain a particular result, e.g., the regular services "satisfaction" survey. Please find a new survey vendor and give them the freedom to find out what people actually think rather than reinforce the prevalent City staff view
- Low pollution lights for the parking lots at parks
- You can line tennis courts in a way that the pickleball court lines do not use the existing tennis net but instead require a portable pickleball net to be set up. This is the preferred way to add lines for pickleball to tennis courts
- Please preserve the natural grass on all baseball and softball fields, especially Lee Johnson Field and Everest Park. It is worth the expense because it makes the Kirkland recreation environment so precious
- I don't play baseball and my kids didn't play baseball past 4th grade. Natural grass is the playing surface of choice. Replacing with soccer fields at Crestwoods Park with artificial turf makes some sense because the fields are so poorly drained and get really beat up
- Parks needs to coordinate better with LWSD, e.g, the football field at Kirkland Middle School is unused wasted space and should be available to the community. After all, the baseball fields at Kirkland Middle School are used by Kirkland - why not the football field?
- Pickleball - Best bang for the buck - Least space requirement, low investment & maintenance versus the number of people served

- Kirkland's current park system offers diverse activities equitably and recognizes that it can't offer every activity for everyone. It also provides something for everyone. It is OK that not everyone gets everything they want
- More police cycles through areas on bike, on foot, in patrol units
- The overall population of Kirkland is well served
- This forum seems like very low participation and half of it seems like repeat people
- Too much input from City staff (as a % of respondents listed on a slide early in the deck)
- Google is an important local partner and they have invested more in activating the Cross Kirkland Corridor than any other entity
- Please avoid using Google as they are completely myopic about the needs of their employees and very few of their employees are Kirkland residents
- Long-range acquisition of land for new parks is needed
- Big business shouldn't dominate our decisions