

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2021



Kirkland Parks and Community Services plans to re-open additional amenities and resume offering in-person programming and services this spring and summer. All actions will adhere to Washington State and CDC COVID-19 guidelines and as such timelines may change.

All Kirkland parks, trails, playgrounds and sport courts are currently open. Park restrooms are open per seasonal schedules. Shelter rentals are underway with group size restrictions, and the Kirkland Marina continues to operate.

Additional facilities and amenities will open starting March 1, including athletic fields opening for organized practice and play. All outside organizations using the fields must submit and follow COVID-19 safety plans. All athletic field users will be offered a 50% discount in the first season from March 1 through July 31, 2021. The Boat launch will reopen on April 1, 2021, per our typical seasonal schedule with the Kirkland Marina fully operational by Memorial Day weekend.



The community centers and Heritage Hall are likely to re-open when City Hall re-opens. Facility rentals will be one of the first in-person services provided. There will likely be significant COVID-19 safety restrictions. In-person recreation programming is planned to start with select outdoor sports, classes, and activities as early as April. Opening will be slow and deliberate and offered on a rolling basis. Summer camps and other programs will begin June 21. If Washington does not progress beyond Phase 2, we will be capped at the current group size limits in the childcare guidelines of 20 youth.

The pool opening is scheduled for June 21. Lifeguarded swim areas at Kirkland waterfront parks will open as scheduled on July 1 in time for the July 4 holiday weekend.



Special events will take place as authorized in the state guidelines. The Juanita Friday Market will run from June 4 through the end of September. Current non-motorized racing guidelines allow outdoor races such as biking and running.



We are working with the Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation to grow our recreation scholarship program with an emphasis on helping more people participate in our programs and services.

We are excited to open additional recreation opportunities to the community because we know that healthy parks lead to healthy people.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Event Services operates out of the Parks and Community Services Department and provides a portfolio of services designed to support Kirkland's neighborhoods, as well as special event, business, and film production industries. Through our one-stop permitting process, our dedicated staff assist with all aspects of events that relate to the use of public property. Two services available through Special Event Services are banner permits and film production permits. To learn more about these permits, and others, go to WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS.



BANNER PERMITS

The City's banner program provides opportunities for the display of public service messages and announcements promoting community events taking place in Kirkland. A combination of thirty-three locations are available for street, vertical, and park banners. Due to limited space and popularity of the program, installations are limited to two weeks per month. To learn more, go to the [SPECIAL EVENT SERVICES WEBPAGE](#) and click on the *Apply for a Banner Permit* tile.

FILM PRODUCTION PERMITS

Film production permits are required for commercial filming activities such as motion pictures, documentaries, music videos, TV episodes, still photo

shoots, web content, etc. which impact normal public use of streets, sidewalks, and parks. Filming on private property does not always require a permit; however, if high risk special effects or pyrotechnics are to be used, permits are required. Kirkland has been featured in many projects, including: *House Hunters International*, *Tiny House Hunting*, *The Great Christmas Light Fight*, *The Bachelor*, *Celebrity Wife Swap*, *What Not to Wear*, and *Extreme Home Makeover* just to name a few. To learn more, go to the [SPECIAL EVENT SERVICES WEBPAGE](#) and click on the *Apply for a Film Production Permit* tile.

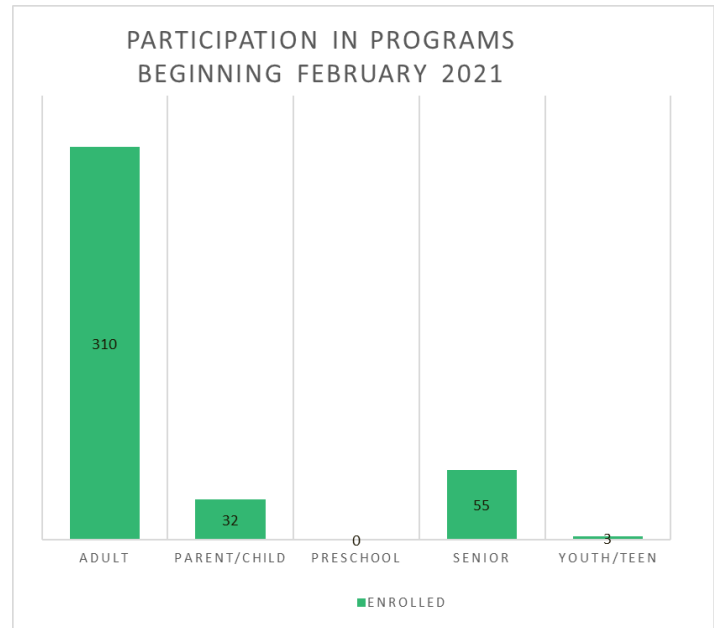


RECREATION SERVICES

PETER KIRK COMMUNITY CENTER SENIOR SERVICES

In January 58 lunches were delivered to seniors in their homes and a total of 256 hot lunches were served at our "To-Go" lunch program. Lunches are now available three days a week, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at the Peter Kirk Community Center. Adults over the age of 60 can reserve a hot meal by calling 425-587-3360. In January a total of 205 rides were given to Kirkland residents to essential appointments or to access food.

The Enhance® Wellness Nurse, Social Worker and Community Resource Specialist have continued to work with clients via phone and Skype, they had 92 contacts with Kirkland community members in January.



THE KIRKLAND HEART ATTACK

Recreation staff gave Kirkland a "Heart Attack" by distributing approximately 100 laminated heart signs throughout the City the week before Valentine's Day. Hearts that read "We (Heart) You! - Kirkland Parks" were placed in several parks, and in the front yards of community members, to show our appreciation and continued support of our community.

LOTS TO LOVE

To celebrate Valentine's Day in February, staff shared their love for the community and parks through our "Lots to Love" campaign. For Valentine's Day, staff created a free virtual party on Facebook for families to join. During the party, participants created a mobile craft, snack, and had story time. This virtual party reached 298 people and had 43 engagements on Facebook.

While Kirkland has over 50 parks to love, we highlighted eight favorite parks on Facebook and encouraged community members to explore these unique parks with their loved ones. The goal was to encourage enjoyment of Kirkland parks and share unique features that typically go unnoticed. The chosen parks and unique features were:

- Best Park for Sunset: Waverly Beach Park
- Best Park to Explore: Watershed Park
- Best Park for Wildlife: Juanita Bay Park
- Most Unique Playground: North Rose Hill Woodlands Park
- Best Park for Quiet Stroll: Juanita Heights Park
- Best Park for Adventure: South Norway Hill Park
- Best Park for Picnic: OO Denny Park
- Best Hidden Gem: Food Forest at Windsor Vista Park

The three most popular park posts were: Juanita Heights Park, North Rose Hill Woodlands Park, and Windsor Vista Park. These three posts reached over 1,678 people and had 248 engagements.

HEART OF KIRKLAND SCAVENGER HUNT

February kicked off the Heart of Kirkland Scavenger Hunt. The hunt encourages people to explore Kirkland, introduces them to our history and also promotes our parks and local businesses. The hunt will conclude on Friday, March 5 when participants will submit their final answer to be entered into a prize drawing. Twenty-one local businesses supported the scavenger hunt by donating gift cards for the drawing. To date there are 234 enthusiastic participants, many of whom have e-mailed to express their gratitude for the Heart of Kirkland Scavenger Hunt.

"We are loving the Scavenger Hunt! ... Thank you so much for putting this together. It is the perfect activity for a pandemic and this time of year, when the weather isn't great and there's not a lot to do in town. Receiving the clues always makes me excited and gives my partner and I something to think about together. I'm really happy Kirkland is offering this activity!" – Michelle



CARPOOL CINEMA

In support of local restaurants, Kirkland Parks and Community Services partnered with the Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation and ShopLocalKirkland by offering our first drive in movie "Carpool Cinema" at Juanita Beach Park on Saturday, February 27, 2021. Registered participants were encouraged to purchase meals from local restaurants and dine in their cars while watching the movie "How to Train Your Dragons." The event was very popular, selling out the 28 available slots in less than a day, with an additional of 63 families on the waiting list. In a partnership between Hopelink and the Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation, ten families were sponsored to attend the event.

SHARING PROGRAM

O.O. Denny Park received two heartfelt donations of park amenities that were installed in January and February. We thank Rick and Stephanie Sivertson who donated a bench in honor of their daughter, Hannah Marie Sivertson. We also thank Genevieve Venable who donated a table to OO Denny Park in honor of her dear friend Oswaldo Hernandez.

Juanita Beach Park's recent improvements have included several new benches in the park, which were made available for the Sharing Program. We express our gratitude for each and every one of the community members who have participated in this opportunity! The Rotary Club of Kirkland Downtown provided a community message of, "Enjoy and have fun!" with their donation. Betty Neumann waited several years for the opportunity to donate a bench on behalf of herself and her late husband, Greg Neumann. Christopher and Stephanie Wolf donated in honor of their daughter, Iris Wolf. Laurent Mollicone honored his mother, Marie-Antoinette Mollicone. The final bench donated in this series was in honor of Aunt JoAnn and Uncle Harley Hetland, whose bench was donated by niece Carly Oberg. To learn more about the Sharing Program, please visit KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKDONATIONS.



ATHLETIC FIELD ALLOCATIONS UPDATE

Staff have been working since the end of January to complete the allocation process for community groups to access the fields this Spring/Early Summer. In comparison to previous years, staff usually start the allocation process in December and have about 3 months to complete. Field allocations for the first season of 2021 will be completed within just 1 short month.

Community groups started receiving their field use permits from staff on February 19, 2021. Staff are continuing to work through field rental returns, collecting the required documents and collecting payments for field use. Fields officially open to community groups on March 1, 2021.

PARKS MANAGEMENT



SNOW!

President's Day weekend was all 'gloved' hands on deck for snow response. Parks staff worked from very early in the morning until very late in the night throughout the holiday weekend to clear snow and ice from City facilities including the fire stations, Justice Center, and City Hall.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TREES

February is a great time for our Natural Areas team to remove ivy from mature trees and to remove invasive trees such as holly and laurel using weed wrenches and stem injection techniques. Over the month the team worked to free dozens of mature trees from ivy and remove/treat hundreds of invasive trees popping up in our forests and open spaces. The photos below show some of the invasive vines and the tree from which they were removed!



SPRING MEANS SPORTS

Our Ballfields/Cemetery team is hustling to get all fields and sport courts ready for action. This work includes weeding, raking, testing irrigation systems, posting and replacing signage, and inspecting and repairing bleachers, concessions, nets, locks, and fences.

SHINY AND NEW

The Support team is adding new, stainless steel fixtures such as toilets and urinals to the bathrooms at Houghton Beach and new soap dispensers and faucets at Peter Kirk Park. They also installed the donation pavers into the front walkway at Heritage Park; cleaned the roof and solarium at McAuliffe Park; repaired broken pipes at South Rose Hill, the dog park gate at Edith Moulton, and the lights at Marina Park; and refurbished many of our wooden picnic tables. This is all part of our on-going efforts to maintain our parks and park facilities.

THINKING ABOUT SUMMER

The Horticulture team is already getting ready for summer by tuning up our irrigation systems. At most of our waterfront parks, this work includes donning SCUBA gear to check the intakes on irrigation systems using water from Lake Washington. This team is also doing a whole lot of hand weeding and general sprucing up of our park entrances, tree rings and flower beds as well as partnering with Public Works on the dog waste awareness campaign happening at Peter Kirk and Juanita Beach parks.

MULCH, MULCH, AND MORE MULCH

All teams are heavy on the mulching right now to get our tree rings, flower beds, and restoration sites in the best possible condition before the grass starts growing and we switch to an emphasis on mowing. This is a key component of our integrated pest management strategy as more mulch results in fewer weeds, healthier soils, and less watering.

PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Below is a high-level summary and status update of the active Park Planning and Development projects. Please visit the Park Planning and Development [WEBSITE](#) to learn more about these projects, to access project files, master plans, outreach efforts, and other details.

TOTEM LAKE PARK

Construction has begun with anticipated completion in June 2021. The photos below show progress on the playground and future boardwalk around the lake.



Background of Project: With the acquisition of a parcel adjoining Totem Lake Park, the City will create a new neighborhood park. The park will include pathways, an inclusive playground, restrooms, scenic view locations, environmental restoration and a boardwalk connecting the park through the eastern side of the lake property to the Cross Kirkland Corridor.

132ND SQUARE PARK

The project has completed design and all outside agency permits have been received. Project bidding is anticipated in late March 2021 with construction to begin in June 2021.

Background of Project: The City is replacing a non-regulation grass sports field with a synthetic turf field after the installation of a surface water detention structure underneath the field.

DAVID BRINK PARK SHORELINE RENOVATION

The project has completed 100% design. All outside agency permits have been received. Project bidding is anticipated in early 2021.

Background of Project: This is part of a larger shoreline infrastructure project conducting major maintenance of docks, piers and shorelines.



PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN UPDATE

Work has started to update the City of Kirkland Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). A Request for Qualifications was posted on February 16, 2021 with submissions due by March 9, 2021. It is anticipated that this project will last approximately 12 to 18 months.

GREEN LOOP ACQUISITIONS

In February we completed the acquisition of Winski LLC property parcel. This .83-acre forested property is located south of Big Finn Hill Park and will be integrated in the Green Loop Corridor. It will add valuable green space for public use and help conserve habitat biodiversity in the Denny Creek watershed.

Background of Project: This project aims to create a continuous woodland pathway and connections to parks and regional trails.

PARK PLAY AREAS AND ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS

Two inclusive attractions will be added to Marsh Park and Peter Kirk Park this spring. These ideas were the result of a department “challenge.” The Marsh Park will host musical chimes and seek to encourage park visitors to set aside a moment of time to reflect and recharge amidst the busyness of modern life. Peter Kirk Park will host a painted “Candy Land” – style game painted on the pathways surrounding the playground designed to attract children of all ages and abilities and bring an element of fun.



JUANITA BEACH PARK UPDATE



Juanita Beach Bathhouse and playground has opened to the public. Unfortunately, the new spiral slide was closed as of Monday, February 22, 2021, due to reports of children sliding off the slide. The slide was built to industry specifications, installed by a professional design and installation company and independently inspected on December 18, 2020, just prior to opening. The slide will remain closed until a replacement solution has been determined.

Background of Project: This is phase II of the Juanita Beach Park development project. This phase includes replacing the bathhouse, adding two new picnic shelters and installing an all-inclusive new playground. Numerous environmental improvements will occur throughout the park.

JUANITA HEIGHTS TRAIL PROJECT

Staff continues to explore trail options.

Background of Project: The expanding Juanita Heights Park is envisioned to allow trail connections to the surrounding neighborhoods all the way down to Juanita Bay Park.