



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Parks and Community Services
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
425-587-3000

Council Meeting: 11/19/2024
Agenda: Announcements
Item #: 5. a. (1)

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

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

Date: November 6, 2024

Subject: **Acceptance of Donation from Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation for Fisk Family Park**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends acceptance of a donation from the Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation (KPCF) in the amount of \$79,153.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The city purchased 0.421-acre property near the Cross Kirkland Corridor at 212 6th Street South through Resolution R-5601 on September 5, 2023.
- The property was named Fisk Family Park and is now under the management of the Parks and Community Services Department.
- With R-5601, the City Manager was directed to pursue external funding and partnerships to support the acquisition.
- The KPCF represents this partnership and implemented a fundraising effort in Spring 2024. They raised \$79,153 to support the acquisition and would like to present their donation to City Council.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2023, the City purchased a 0.421-acre property near the Cross Kirkland Corridor at 212 6th Street South¹ which is largely undeveloped and contains a stream running through it. This purchase aligns with 2014 Cross Kirkland Corridor Master Plan which contemplates acquisition of land in this area as outlined in the Character Zone Scrapbook 6.4 Everest Edge to support the "naturalistic stretch of the trail" in a manner that "adds interest, but not overactivation", as well as using this parcel as part of a "Daylighted Everest Creek crossing and connection to Everest Park". The City found this to be a unique opportunity to preserve this pocket of open space along the Cross Kirkland Corridor. The new park is now called Fisk Family Park.

The \$800,000 purchase was funded through Neighborhood Park Land Acquisition Project (PKC 13330) and an inter-fund loan from the Surface Water Management Utility (421) to the General Capital Fund (310) to fund the acquisition which is to be repaid in three years. The City Manager was directed in the Resolution to pursue external funding and partnerships to repay the interfund loan.

The KPCF's donation represents such partnership to repay the interfund.

¹https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-council/agenda-documents/2023/september-5-2023/9b_business.pdf

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Attachment 1 is a memorandum from Carmin Dalziel, Executive Director, Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation outlining the organization's commitment in supporting preservation in the community. As extracted from the memo, "Fisk Family Park is more than just a park; it's a living reminder of Kirkland's history, the spirit of its people, and the legacy we wish to leave behind. The KPCF is honored to be part of this journey and looks forward to working with the City to ensure this property remains a cherished part of our community."

NEXT STEPS:

It is recommended that City Council accepts the donation from the Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Memorandum from Carmin Dalziel, Executive Director, Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation

Memorandum from Carmin Dalziel, Executive Director, Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation

Memo to the City of Kirkland

Subject: Fisk Family Park: A Historic Treasure and Legacy for the Kirkland Community

Date: November 3, 2024

From: Carmin Dalziel, Executive Director, Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation

Introduction and Background

The Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation (KPCF) is proud to have partnered with the City of Kirkland and our community to preserve a unique and historical property—now Fisk Family Park—on 6th Street. This land, nestled alongside the Cross Kirkland Corridor, represents not only a slice of Kirkland's rich past but also the enduring spirit of our community's dedication to preserving it for future generations.

The property's focal point, a small red cottage with white trim built in 1945, has been a source of intrigue and admiration for nearly 80 years. Built by the Fisk family, a significant name in Kirkland's history, this cottage is surrounded by Everest Creek and old railway trails, enhancing its natural beauty and historic charm. The cottage's design—a peaked roof, vintage mullioned windows, and a front porch with turned posts—has made it a landmark, sparking curiosity and speculation about its past. Its setting along the historic Belt Line railroad route evokes a sense of mythologizing, adding to its allure as a beloved part of Kirkland's landscape.

The Fisk family's ties to Kirkland date back to 1914 when Walter Marshall Fisk and Grace Berto Fisk arrived from Wisconsin and settled on Rose Hill. Their descendants, including James Gregory Fisk and Joyce Fisk Rainier, both graduates of Lake Washington High School, spent their childhood on this land. Although details about the cottage's original purpose remain elusive—used possibly as storage or even a potential residence for railroad workers—it undeniably holds a place in the hearts of many Kirkland residents.

Purpose and Importance of Preservation

KPCF's commitment to this project stems from our mission as a community foundation to act as a catalyst and convener. We help bring people together to make a positive impact on Kirkland. When several residents reached out to the City, advocating for this land to become a park, it aligned perfectly with our vision. We knew we had to support preserving this one-of-a-kind property, which offers a peaceful retreat and connects our community to Kirkland's history and natural beauty. Our goal is to maintain and enhance this space as a community gathering spot, a tribute to Kirkland's heritage, and a place where future generations can appreciate both nature and history.

Generous Donors Who Made This Possible Today the KPCF is presenting a check in the amount of \$79,153.00 towards the purchase of the Fisk Family Park. We are deeply grateful for the generous contributions from our community that have allowed us to support this project. Thanks to the following community members who provided donations of over \$1000 each, we are closer to securing the Fisk property's place in Kirkland's park system:

Memorandum from Carmin Dalziel, Executive Director, Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation

- Lisa and Richard Altig
- Joan McBride and Margaret Meister
- Amazon
- Ulrich and Nona Ganz
- Neir/Otten Family
- Dulude Family Foundation
- Kathy and James Feek
- Craig Gaudry
- James and Janet Hill
- Aaron Jacobson
- Bea and Bruce Nahon
- Tavan Pechet
- Mark and Sue Shinstrom
- Team Snapp Charitable Fund

Their commitment, along with that of many others who provided smaller donations to this preservation effort, underscores the community's support for a lasting legacy.

Conclusion

Fisk Family Park is more than just a park; it's a living reminder of Kirkland's history, the spirit of its people, and the legacy we wish to leave behind. The KPCF is honored to be part of this journey and looks forward to working with the City to ensure this property remains a cherished part of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to enhancing Kirkland's park system. Together, we are preserving a piece of Kirkland's past while creating a meaningful space for the future.