



February 18, 2025

Dear Neighbors,

This letter is to update you on the City of Kirkland's former Houghton Park & Ride and temporary "Park and Play" site. The City partially purchased this property with park impact fees and has been exploring potential long-term use of the site that supports the 2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS) Plan. The PROS plan was informed by extensive community input and reflects residents' desire for more recreational services, facilities, and programs.

The City is considering a proposal from the Seattle Kraken professional ice hockey team to develop an iceplex and community center. As the City has explored this opportunity, we activated a temporary "Park and Play" at the site including bike course and pump track, community gardens, pickleball, and skate park for the community to enjoy.

Our negotiations with the Kraken continue to achieve the public benefits outlined by Council Resolution R-5645 and fulfill its PROS plan. To learn more about our findings and potential benefits, please visit: <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/City-Managers-Office/Exploration-of-Seattle-Krakens-Iceplex-Proposal>. While the potential collaboration with the Kraken remains our long-term goal for the site, no decisions have been made.

In the coming days, you may notice signage at the Park and Play about the City's proposal to rezone the property from its current zoning designation of **Residential to Park**. The Park zone is used for parks, recreation facilities, and community centers throughout Kirkland. **The proposed rezone does not indicate a decision on the Kraken iceplex proposal; rather, it is an action the City would take regardless to ensure any future use of the site serves the City's PROS goals.**

The public hearing for the proposed rezone will be held during the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday March 13, at 6 p.m. (subject to change). See the Planning Commission webpage for more information on how to participate.

The temporary Park and Play will remain open until a decision is reached about the site's long-term use and any construction begins that requires moving the amenities. You can stay updated via the website, tuning in to future City Council meetings (the next Kraken update is expected this spring), or by following the City's regular communication channels.

Thank you,

CITY OF KIRKLAND


Kurt Triplett
City Manager