



KIRKLAND PARK BOARD

February 25, 2026; 7:00 p.m.
Peter Kirk Room, Kirkland City Hall
123 5th Avenue Kirkland, WA 98033

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.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Park Board shall be to provide policy advice and assistance to the Department of Parks and Community Services and City Council in order to ensure the effective provision of Parks and Community Services programs and facilities to the residents of the City of Kirkland.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. January 28, 2026

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Green Loop Update 10 minutes
- b. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget Training 20 minutes
- c. Kirkland Municipal Code (KMC) Draft Updates 30 minutes
- d. Joint Session with Council Debrief 15 minutes

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Correspondence
- b. Parks & Community Services 2025 Quarter 4 Report¹
- c. Park Board Member Reports
- d. Staff Updates and Information
- e. Comments from the Chair

7. FUTURE AGENDA REVIEW

- a. 2026 Agenda Overview

8. ADJOURNMENT

Next Park Board Meeting: March 25, 2026

¹ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/parks-amp-comm-services/pcs-admin/reports-studies/pcs-2025-quarter-4-report-optimized.pdf>

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**KIRKLAND PARK BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 28, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The January 28, 2026 Park Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Jared Silvia.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Board Member Amy Ambrosini, Board member Anika Joshi, Board member Katherine Kearny, Board Member Denise Lindberg, Board Member Paul Stull, Vice-Chair Juliana Born, Chair Jared Silvia

Members Absent: Board Member Berenice Bortoni

Staff Present: Deputy Director John Lloyd, Parks Superintendent Jason Filan, Parks Planning & Development Manager Mariah Gill Murphy, Interim Recreation Manager Jairid Hoehn, Administrative Assistant Emily Lima Welch

Recording Secretary: Administrative Assistant Emily Lima Welch

3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 22, 2025 Park Board meeting minutes were presented to the Board and approved by unanimous consent.

The November 19, 2025 Park Board meeting minutes were presented to the Board and approved by unanimous consent.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Peter Kirk Pool Enclosure Update

The Park Board received preview of the upcoming presentation with City Council about enclosing the Peter Kirk Pool from Deputy Director Lloyd.

The Board and Staff discussed.

**PARK BOARD RECESSED AT 7:52 PM
PARK BOARD RECONVENED AT 7:57 PM**

b. Joint Meeting with Council Final Preparation

The Park Board finalized preparation for the upcoming joint meeting with City Council scheduled for February 17, 2026 in a discussion led by Deputy Director Lloyd and Administrative Assistant Welch.

The Board and Staff discussed the following discussion topics for the joint session:

- Park Board Work Plan
- Peter Kirk Pool Enclosure
- Community Engagement and the Kraken Project

The Board and Staff made live edits to the Draft Memo. Staff will make final edits and reviews before submission to City Council.

c. Park Projects Update

Park Planning & Development Manager Murphy presented the status of active and upcoming projects from the current Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

She noted that several events related to capital projects will be upcoming in the next several months including: a ribbon cutting for the improved Juanita Beach Dog Park, a photo opportunity with Council for the upgraded Juanita Beach Park north ballfields, and a dedication of the new “Crabby Old Pharts” community garden located at Rose Hill Meadows. These are expected for Spring 2026.

Staff answered questions from the Board.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Correspondence

None

b. Park Board Member Reports

Board Member Kearny shared a personal anecdote about the Recreation Program Rock Steady Boxing, the community developed there, and the positive impact it has on people’s lives.

Vice Chair Born reported on attending the Market Neighborhood Association meeting. The Markey neighborhood group expressed interest in the next steps on the Kraken project, planning a summer community event at Heritage Park, and in having a Park Board member present at a future Neighborhood Association meeting.

No further reports were presented.

c. Staff Updates and Information

Events & Services Manager Burgess reported on the continued development of the sponsorship program in preparation of Celebrate Kirkland and other events. She also provided some short updates on the Spring/Summer 2026 Parks & Recreation Guide and some future social media campaigns.

Interim Recreation Manager Hoehn reported on 15 new classes beginning this season, including several located at KTUB, including Indoor Play for preschool, Pound Class for adult fitness. He also mentioned some upcoming changes to field allocations for the spring/summer 2026 season.

Parks Superintendent Filan reported on the recent promotion of a Senior Groundsperson and that the team will have 2 open Groundsperson positions in the next several weeks. He also noted that the North Rose Hill Woodlands Park playground is currently closed due to a safety hazard and is pending repair by staff.

Administrative Assistant Welch reported on the 2026 Summer Hiring Season kicked off, and all contingent and seasonal postings will begin going live in the next several weeks.

d. Comments from the Chair

No reports were presented.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REVIEW

The Board previewed the tentative February Park Board agenda. The Board will review the full year of tentative 2026 agendas at next month's session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Silvia adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM by unanimous consent.

Emily Lima Welch, Recording Secretary
Parks and Community Services

Jared Silvia, Chair
Park Board

DRAFT



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board
From: Mariah Gill, Park Planning and Development Manager
Date: February 25, 2026
Subject: Green Loop Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Park Board receive an update on the Green Loop Implementation Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Green Loop Corridor reflects a long-standing community vision led by the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance and Juanita Neighborhood Association community members. Grassroots advocacy has resulted in key parcel acquisitions, conceptual mapping, and sustained momentum, ultimately leading to inclusion of the Green Loop in the City's 2044 Comprehensive Plan¹ and funding support through the King County Parks Levy.

Adopted on December 2, 2024, the 2044 Comprehensive Plan includes Goal FH-5 of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Plan, calling for the establishment of a Green Loop Corridor connecting parks, open spaces, pedestrian trails, wildlife corridors, and natural areas to promote active recreation and environmental preservation. Policies FH-5.1 and FH-5.2 direct the City to develop a master plan (now referred to as the Green Loop Implementation Plan) under Park Board guidance and to secure public easements or acquisitions through the process to advance the corridor.

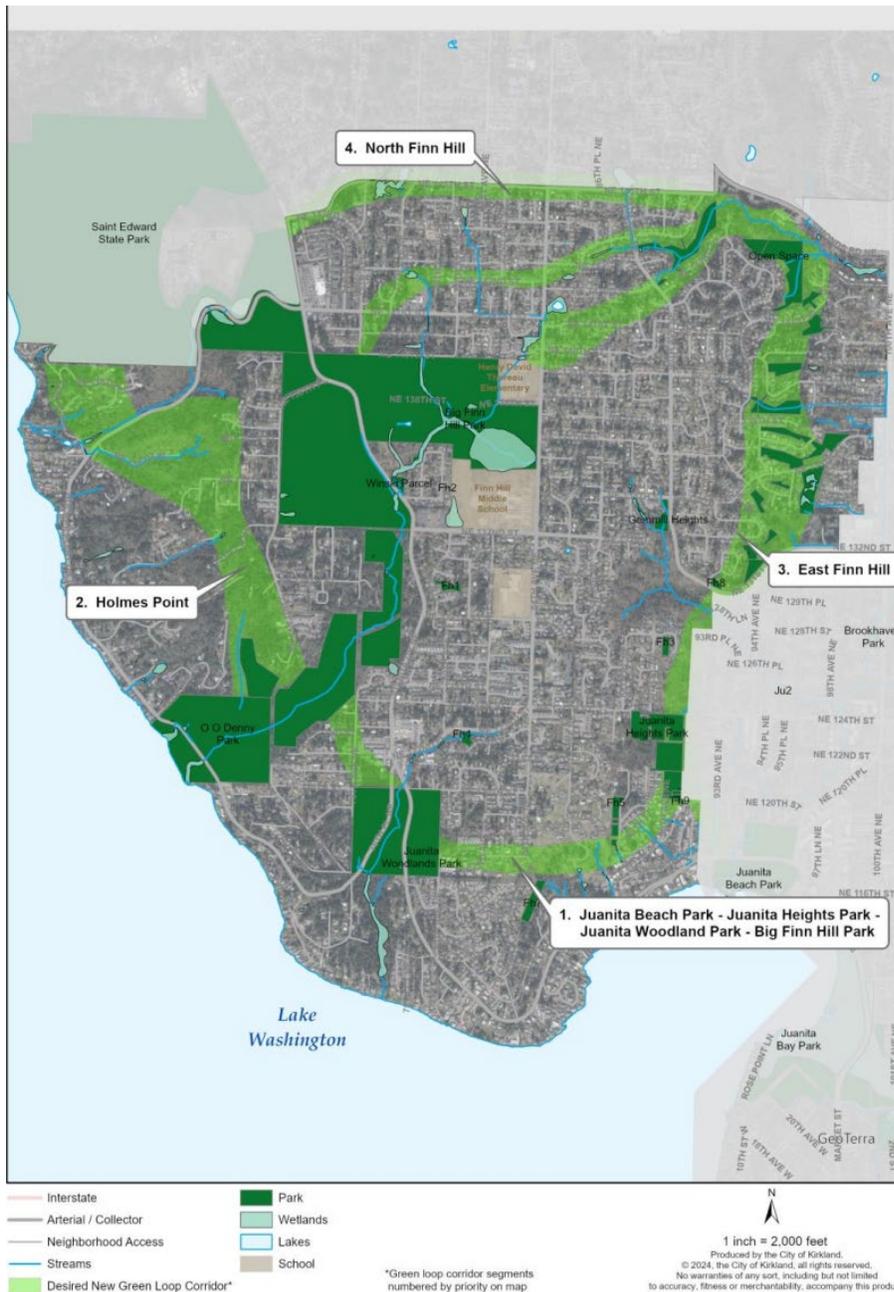
The Green Loop is supported by strong community interest due to its broad public and environmental benefits, including expanding access to nature and recreation, improving pedestrian connections, preserving wildlife corridors, protecting steep slopes, and supporting a healthy tree canopy.

In 2020, Council adopted Resolution R-5446 authorizing the use of King County Parks Levy funds to develop a master plan, acquire key parcels and easements, and construct trail segments consistent with the Finn Hill Neighborhood Plan policies. In 2025, the City initiated development of the Green Loop Implementation Plan to fulfill that direction. The plan is intended to provide corridor alignment, cost estimates, phasing, design standards, and general guidance to support implementation.

It is recognized that implementation of the Green Loop will occur incrementally over several decades, with progress shaped by funding availability and the willingness of private property owners to participate.

¹ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Planning-and-Building/Planning-Projects/Kirkland-2044-Comprehensive-Plan-Update>

Figure 1 2044 Comprehensive Plan Green Loop Concept



DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Community Engagement

In August and September 2025, Alta Planning + Design (Alta), in partnership with City staff, conducted a robust engagement process that included in-person events, neighborhood meetings, updates to Park Board, an online survey with interactive mapping, lawn signs, a project website, and direct outreach. Participation was strong, with 874 survey responses, over 1,500 location-specific map comments, and broad geographic representation across Finn Hill, Juanita, and other Kirkland neighborhoods.

Community feedback emphasized walking and enjoying nature as top priorities, along with wildlife protection, environmental preservation, neighborhood connectivity, and safe access to parks such as O.O. Denny Park and Juanita Beach Park. Residents also identified key barriers, including Juanita Drive and 100th Avenue arterial roads, and expressed interest in amenities such as ADA access, wayfinding, lighting, and potential bicycle accommodations. Concerns raised included ecological impacts, cost, privacy, safety, and impacts to adjacent private property.

The Juanita Neighborhood Association provided targeted alignment suggestions and emphasized access points, use of City-owned parcels, exploration of extensions north of Juanita Heights Park, and the importance of ongoing communication.

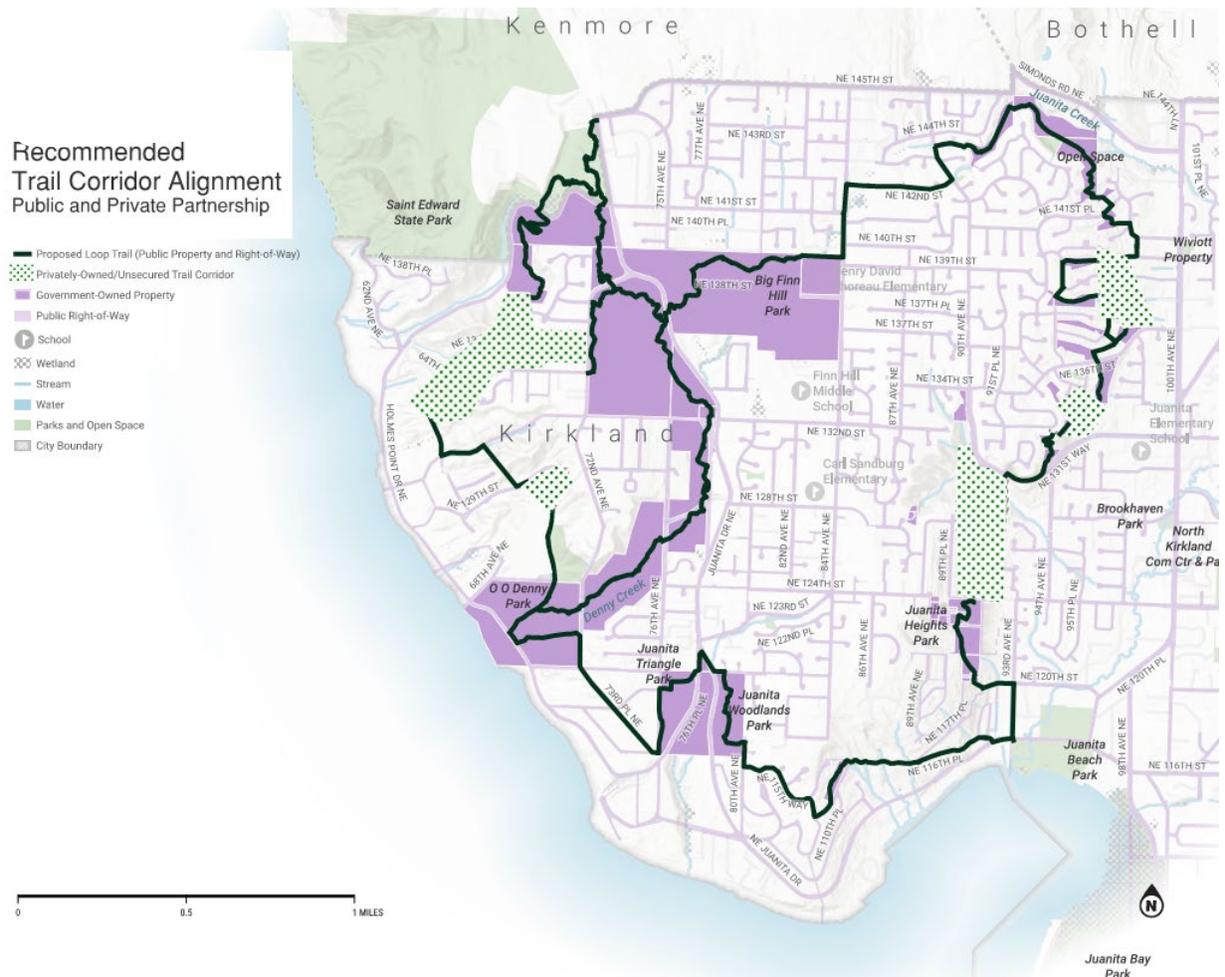
Environmental and Corridor Analysis

Alta, supported by ESA and Cascadia, combined community input with desktop and field-based environmental analysis to evaluate potential corridor alternatives. Staff also conducted field visits across publicly owned parcels to understand site conditions, critical areas, slopes, connectivity opportunities, and constraints. In some areas, connectivity will rely on existing sidewalks, and in other areas will rely on certain unopened rights-of-way with private encroachments that will require further review.

Each corridor alternative was evaluated using the following criteria:

1. **User Experience** – Preferred segments are located within or adjacent to parks and green spaces and provide separation from roadways where feasible.
2. **Slope and Environmental Impacts** – Preferred segments align with natural land contours to minimize excavation, structural elements, tree removal, and impacts to critical areas such as streams and wetlands.
3. **Connectivity** – Preferred segments connect to existing trails, sidewalks, parks, schools, and surrounding neighborhoods to create a cohesive and accessible network.
4. **Public Input** – Preferred segments align with the community's vision, values, and priorities identified through outreach and engagement.
5. **Property Ownership and Conditions** – Preferred segments utilize publicly controlled property that is already secured or readily available for trail development.

Figure 2 Long Term Trail Corridor Alignment Depends on Public/Private Partnership



Consultant Transition

In January 2026, the City and Alta Planning + Design ended their partnership. As a result, City staff will complete the Green Loop Implementation Plan in-house, building upon the technical analysis and community engagement already completed. Staff will carry forward the established evaluation criteria and community priorities as the Plan is finalized and prepared for publication.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will move forward with a focused, implementation-driven approach to complete and publish the Green Loop Implementation Plan and begin advancing priority segments. Staff will:

- Use existing data, maps, and prior community engagement to finalize the Implementation Plan without restarting earlier planning work.
- Shift remaining resources away from broad concept planning and toward targeted acquisition, branding and wayfinding development, foundational construction, and ongoing engagement.
- Recognize that prior large public outreach has already established broad community values; future engagement will be more location-specific and implementation-focused.

Staff will document and communicate progress by:

- Publishing an annual or semi-annual summary of engagement completed.
- Providing ongoing updates through:

- Annual or semi-annual Green Loop status letters to the community
- Periodic press releases and website updates
- Targeted small-group meetings with adjacent property owners, user groups, and segment-specific neighborhood or interest groups.
- Updates to the Green Loop Implementation Plan every 5 years

Staff will also:

- Use remaining King County Levy funding to retain a graphic design and marketing consultant to develop Green Loop trail branding, wayfinding concepts, and a cohesive visual identity.
- Direct available funds toward priority property acquisition and foundational construction of key trail segments.
- Advance property access and acquisition through targeted outreach, prioritizing willing sellers, strategic easements, and parcels that unlock future connections.
- Continue evaluating a range of voluntary land access and ownership tools—including temporary use agreements, licenses, easements, and fee acquisition—with fair compensation and potential owner benefits clearly communicated.
- Coordinate internal stakeholder review with Planning and Public Works to align Green Loop implementation with related City projects and policies.

Staff will complete and publish the Green Loop Implementation Plan by June. The plan will include corridor map and phasing, preliminary cost estimates, a defined ongoing engagement framework, and language establishing the plan as a living document to be formally updated every 5 years.

Park Board

Park Board members will be asked to weigh in on future wayfinding and trail branding concepts, and Staff will also rely on the Board’s assistance in connecting with key user and community interest groups as segment-level implementation moves forward.



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board
From: Mariah Gill, Park Planning and Development Manager
Date: February 25, 2026
Subject: Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget Training

RECOMMENDATION:

That Park Board receives training on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

A capital improvement project includes major investments in public assets such as construction, land acquisition, renovation, or major equipment purchases exceeding \$50,000. These projects are intended to provide long-term community benefit and extend the useful life, capacity, or function of park facilities and infrastructure.

The six-year CIP is a planning and funding framework that identifies and prioritizes capital projects anticipated over the next six years. It helps guide investment decisions, coordinate timelines, and align projects with available funding sources. Only the first two years of the six-year CIP are typically funded through the adopted budget. Projects identified in later years remain planned but unfunded until included in a future budget cycle. The CIP gets biennial budget updates that can include changing out projects, switching funding, updating funding, etc.

Capital projects are funded through a variety of sources, each with specific use limitations:

- **Real Estate Excise Tax (REET):** May be used only for capital purposes, not for operations or maintenance.
- **Park Impact Fees:** One-time charges that are collected from new development projects and restricted to projects that add capacity to the park system (such as new facilities, expanded amenities, or land acquisition that increases service levels).
- **County Park Levy Funds:** May be used for both capital improvements and eligible operational expenses, depending on levy provisions.
- **Grants and Partnerships:** External funding opportunities can influence project timing and scope.

Because each funding source has restrictions, project eligibility and scheduling must align with allowable uses.

Multiple inputs shape the CIP each year and between budget cycles:

1. PROS Plan (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan)

The PROS Plan serves as the primary policy and planning foundation for parks capital investments. It identifies system gaps, level-of-service needs, acquisition priorities, and projects that add park capacity.

2. Council Goals and City Work Program

Annual Council priorities and the City Work Program identify high-priority, citywide initiatives that may affect parks capital investments or timing.

3. Community and Stakeholder Input

Public engagement, user groups, and advisory bodies provide feedback that helps inform project selection and prioritization.

4. Emerging Needs and Issues

Unplanned events — such as severe weather damage, facility failures, or urgent safety needs — can require reprioritization or rapid capital response.

5. Coordination and Synergy Opportunities

Capital projects may be advanced or adjusted to align with transportation, utility, stormwater, or private development projects to improve efficiency and reduce overall cost and disruption.

6. Grant Timing and Special Funding Opportunities

Availability of competitive grants or partner funding can accelerate or reshape project scope and sequencing.

Not all projects listed in the CIP are immediately funded. Unfunded projects remain important because they:

- Document system needs and long-term priorities
- Support grant applications and partnership opportunities
- Help establish the basis for park impact fee calculations
- Provide a ready pipeline of projects when new funding becomes available

Next Steps: 2026 CIP Development Process

The upcoming CIP update process will include the following phases:

1. Develop Complete Project List (February-March)

- Use the 2022 PROS Plan and existing CIP as the foundation
- Audit and update the current CIP project list
- Incorporate staff and community input
- Gather Park Board input and recommendations (Feb 25)

2. Rank Projects (March)

- PCS key staff scoring based on established evaluation criteria
 - Staff to compile ranking results and lead group discussion to establish consensus
 - Establish top 10-20 projects
- Park Board scoring and prioritization input (March 25)
 - Park Board ranking will be done by electronic survey ahead of the March 25th meeting
 - Staff to compile ranking results
 - Group discussion to establish consensus at the March 25th meeting

3. Staff Compile Final Project List (10-20 projects) (April)

4. Refine Project Sheets and Costs (April - June)

- Adjust timing, scope, and preliminary cost estimates
- Confirm funding eligibility and constraints

5. Budget Steering Review (August - September)

- Budget Steering Committee finalizes CIP

6. Public Review and Adoption (October- December)

- Public hearings
- Council review and formal adoption

NEXT STEPS:

The Park Board will review the CIP project list, including all funded and unfunded items, and the criteria for ranking Parks CIP projects. Staff will deliver a digital form to the Board by March 13, 2026 for individual rankings. The Board members should submit form responses by March 20, 2026.

At the March 25, 2026 Park Board session, the Board and Staff will review Board's individual rankings and establish consensus on the Park Board's recommendation to Staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – DRAFT Capital Project Ranking Criteria

Addendum A

CRITERIA FOR RANKING PARKS CIP PROJECTS

	Criteria	None 0 Points	Low 1 Point	Moderate 2 Points	High 3 Points
1	Responds to an Urgent Need or Opportunity, Conforms to Legal, Contractual or Government Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need or urgency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspected need with no substantiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspected need based upon visual inspection, public comment Suspected threat of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report or other documentation has been prepared Confirmed threat of development Fills important gap in park system Significant public comment: survey, petition, public hearing Legal, contractual, gov't mandate
2	Health and Safety Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No known issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspected health or safety issue with no substantiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspected need based upon visual inspection, or public comment visible deterioration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented evidence of unsanitary condition, health and safety code violations, injury
3	Fiscal Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging of funds through partnerships, grants, bonds or volunteers is unlikely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging of funds somewhat likely through partnerships, grants, bonds and volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging of at <u>least</u> 1/2 project funding available from other sources; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging of <u>more</u> than 50 percent of project costs from other sources
4	Conforms to PROS Plan or Other Adopted Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not in any plan document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified in Comprehensive or Functional plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps meet level of service objectives
5	Feasibility, including Public Support and Project Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project simply an idea No public input No other supporting information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some public involvement such as letters, workshops Professional report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schematic or conceptual level approval Property identified High public support Completed appraisal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction documents complete Option or right of first refusal, willing seller
6	Implications of Deferring Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impact No imminent threat of development; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary repair measures available without significant liability or added future cost Indications of possible development Program quality limited or reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of possible structural failure Confirmed private development sale possible Program participation limited or reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imminent possible structural failure, facility closure, or other similar factor Program cancellation Unable to meet level of service Imminent sale for private development
7	Non-Recreation Benefit such as Economic, Environmental, Health and Well-Being, or Community Character and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No identified non-recreation benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal non-recreation benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate non-recreation benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant non-recreation benefit
8	Number of City Residents Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No residents served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only one neighborhood served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than one City neighborhood served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project will serve a City-wide population
9	Maintenance and Operations Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires substantial new M & O, no current budgetary commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources/capacity available without additional budget commitment Requires new resources which are available or likely available in budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has minimal or no impact on existing M & O resources Resources already allocated or planned for project in budget M & O requirements absorbed with existing resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial reduction in M & O.
10	Geographic Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duplicates service, significant number of resources available in area, level of service overlap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate number of Parks are nearby, minimal level of service overlap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks nearby, no level of service overlap, and gaps in service identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underserved area. No facilities within service area.



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board
From: Juliana da Cruz, Management Analyst
Date: February 12, 2026
Subject: **Review draft update to KMC 11.80 Park Rules**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Board review and provide feedback on the update to KMC Chapter 11.80, Park Rules.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Staff recommend that the Board review and provide feedback on the update to KMC Chapter 11.80, Park Rules.
- Increased parks use and confusing code language have created challenges for enforcement of the Park Rules.
- The proposed parks code update creates more a more comprehensive set park rules, covering new and increasingly relevant topics like parking, trail use, swimming, smoking in parks, and encroachment.
- The proposed park code update clarifies violation classifications by separating civil infractions from misdemeanor violations of the Park Rules.
- The proposed park code creates a new mechanism for enforcing the Park Rules through temporary exclusion from parks.
- Staff request Park Board feedback on the proposed code changes. Following Board feedback, staff will return to Park Board in March to ask the Board to consider a formal recommendation of the code updates to City Council.

BACKGROUND:

Chapter 11.80 of the Kirkland Municipal Code (KMC) outlines the park rules for the city of Kirkland. Chapter 11.80 was last significantly updated in 2011. Since 2011, Kirkland parks have grown, both in use and in the size of the system overall. With this increase in park attendance, violations of existing park rules have increased. Kirkland's existing codified Park Rules are less comprehensive than other neighboring jurisdictions, and undesirable behavior not currently prohibited by the code has become apparent as the parks system has grown and adapted to community needs. For example, challenges at waterfront parks regarding intoxication, interference with lifeguards, and swimming equipment are not currently addressed under Chapter 11.80. These challenges pose safety concerns for park users and staff.

The Parks and Community Services Director, subject to KMC 11.80.220, has the power to promulgate and adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to parks. However, some violators have expressed skepticism regarding the legitimacy of these rules. The Park Rules have stronger perceived authority when cited in code.

In addition to emerging undesirable behaviors, violations of existing Park Rules continue. The most common park violations are marijuana use, alcohol use, dogs off leash, animal waste, litter,

dumping, and moorage violations. These continued violations suggest that new mechanisms are needed for enforcement of Park Rules.

Education & Enforcement

The Parks and Community Services Department has prioritized proactive education to reduce violations of park rules. This includes seasonal and permanent signage and education through the Park Ranger program.



Kirkland Park Rangers

The Park Ranger program is an important component of education and enforcement of park rules. The City employs one full-time, year-round Park Ranger and several seasonal rangers in the peak-use summer months. It should be noted that the seasonal rangers have a strong focus on the waterfront parks. As an ambassador for Parks and Community Services and the City of Kirkland, the Park Ranger provides the following services:

- Provides information about available services, parks, and special events
- Enhances public safety and security in parks by monitoring high-use sites
- Responds to calls for service
- Educates, warns, enforces, and issues tickets for non-compliance with Park Rules
- Responds to emergency situations throughout the park system
- Conducts park walkthroughs and inspections for environmental dumping, defacement, encroachments, homeless encampments, areas showing signs of illicit behavior, or unsafe conditions
- Monitors Marina docks for moorage compliance and safety

The Park Ranger program relies primarily on education and voluntary compliance with park rules. As currently defined by code, the Park Ranger has authority to ticket violators for off-leash dogs and non-payment of moorage slips. In addition, the Park Ranger collaborates with the Kirkland Police Department for enforcement of Park Rules.

Violators have questioned the authority of the Parks Ranger to enforce these issues and the consequences of these violations. As currently written, Chapter 11.80 does not clearly classify the violations of Park Rules as misdemeanors or civil infractions. When park guests decline to comply with Park Ranger instructions, Rangers have limited enforceable options. For example, a Park Ranger may attempt to cite a violator with an off-leash dog with a ticket. The violator may decline to identify themselves, rendering the Park Ranger unable to write the citation and hold the violator accountable to the rule. The Park Ranger does not have the authority to compel a violator to identify themselves. Kirkland Police Department has limited capacity to respond to civil infractions,

meaning that many violations of Park Rules cannot be escalated and remain unenforced. This lack of enforcement has perpetuated repeat offenders of Park Rules.

These increasing challenges with violations and enforcement prompted an update to Chapter 11.80, Park Rules. A successful update to Chapter 11.80 will ensure that Kirkland parks are safe and welcoming, and that rules and consequences are clear.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

This update to Chapter 11.80 involves a broad re-organization of existing code language and the addition of new code sections. The effect of these changes strengthens enforcement authority for Park Rangers and clearly delineates when Kirkland Police Department involvement is required for enforcement.

Major Changes

Enforcement Officer designation

The updated draft code declares Park Rangers to be enforcement officers pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 7.80.040. As defined in RCW 7.80.040, "enforcement officer" means a person authorized to enforce the provisions of the title or ordinance in which the civil infraction is established. By establishing Park Rangers as enforcement officers, the Park Code update grants Parks Rangers the authority to enforce civil infractions. Correspondingly, the code separates civil infractions and criminal violations of the code so that it is clear which violations can be enforced by the Park Ranger.

Civil Infractions & Misdemeanor Classifications

A primary goal of this code update is to clarify which violations are civil infractions and which are misdemeanors. A civil infraction is a violation of a law, ordinance, or regulation that is not considered a criminal offense. Civil infractions typically result in a fine rather than jail time.

A misdemeanor is a minor criminal offense. There are two categories of misdemeanors: simple misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors. A simple misdemeanor carries penalties of up to 90 days in jail and fines of up to \$1,000. A gross misdemeanor is a more serious offense. The misdemeanors described in Chapter 11.80 Article 4 are simple misdemeanors.

By segregating the code into civil infraction and misdemeanor sections, the Park Ranger has clear authority to enforce civil infractions. Kirkland Police are responsible for enforcing misdemeanors. Some categories of infractions vary by severity (e.g. littering), but generally the violations are classified accordingly:

Civil Infractions

- Business activity in parks
- Signs, posters, and notices
- Injury to park property
- Injury to park vegetation
- Pets in parks facilities
- Horses and livestock
- Teasing, annoying, injuring animals
- Public disturbance noises
- Watercraft
- Emergency aid by watercraft
- Motor vehicles
- Parking
- Trucks and Commercial vehicles

- Trail use
- Camping
- Tents and shelters in parks
- Practicing and playing games
- Refuse and litter (below threshold)
- Food waste, washing of clothing, animals
- Vehicle and Animal Races prohibited
- Ice
- Moorage
- False alarm of drowning
- Designated swimming areas
- Open water swimming
- Interfering with lifeguard duties
- Disruption and Harassment of Parks Officials
- Smoking in parks
- Remote controlled models, aircraft

Misdemeanors

- Parks hours
- Aiding and abetting violations
- Refuse and Litter (above threshold)
- Waste from vehicles
- Dumping in water
- Alcohol and marijuana
- Intoxication
- Possession and use of controlled substances
- Trespassing
- Firearms and explosives
- Building Fires
- Encroachment

Exclusion from Parks

The updated draft code creates a process to temporarily exclude violators of Park Rules from parks. This process exists in several neighboring jurisdictions, including Bellevue, Seattle, Renton, Everett, and Spokane. The draft code allows an Enforcement Officer or police officer to deliver an exclusion notice to the offender to exclude from a City park or parks anyone who violates any Park Rule as set forth in KMC 11.80 or violates any provision of the Kirkland Municipal Code or Revised Code of Washington. The exclusion is effective even if the violator refuses to supply their identifying information. Failure to comply with an exclusion from park notice constitutes criminal trespass.

The duration of exclusion depends on the severity and recurrence of the violation. For first-time violations that are not a felony or weapon violation, a violator may be excluded for 7 days. For the second violation within 1 year, the offender may be excluded for 90 days. For the third violation within 1 year or a violation that is a felony or involves a weapon, the offender may be excluded for 1 year. Exclusions longer than 7 days are eligible for appeal through a hearing with the Parks and Community Services Director.

New Code Sections

The following topics are not previously discussed in the park rules. The proposed update includes new code sections including:

- *Civil Infractions:*

- Injury to Park vegetation
- Horses and Livestock
- Parking
- Trucks and Commercial Vehicles
- Trail Use
- Tents and shelters in parks
- Food waste, washing of clothing, animals
- Ice
- Moorage
- False alarm of drowning
- Designated swimming areas
- Open water swimming
- Interfering with lifeguard duties
- Disruption and harassment of Parks Employees
- Smoking in Parks
- Remote controlled models, aircraft
- *Misdemeanors:*
 - Waste from Vehicles
 - Dumping in water
 - False Alarm of Drowning Resulting in Emergency Response
 - Intoxication
 - Possession and use of controlled substances
 - Trespassing
 - Encroachment

Injury to Park Vegetation

Currently, Chapter 11.80.050 prohibits destruction of party property, including any “shrub, tree, fern, plant, [or] flower.” The proposed Park Rules update includes a separate new section prohibiting destruction of park vegetation. The new section includes elaboration on pruning standards and clarifies that damage caused to park vegetation as a result of pruning to vegetation that overhangs a private property is prohibited.

It is a violation of this chapter for any person, except a duly authorized person, to remove, destroy, prune, deface, mutilate, smash, trample, burn, damage or attach any object to any shrub, tree, fern, plant, flower, or any other vegetation lawfully located within any park or in public right of ways adjacent to any park. Such violation may also constitute a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony under state law.

Vegetation in parks that overhang or obstruct private property may, subject to the conditions of this provision and, where applicable, chapter 95 KZC, be trimmed by the private property owner up to the boundary line, except where branches or are more than 1.5 inches in diameter; or where trimming or pruning results in the removal of more than 25% of the living vegetative matter; or where pruning destroys the structural integrity or cosmetic symmetry of the vegetation. Pruning shall conform to the most recent version of the ANSI A300 Pruning Standards. Private property owners are liable for compensating the City for damages when pruning or damage to vegetation results in injury or death of the vegetation.

Per KZC 95.20 a public tree pruning permit may be required to trim, modify, alter, or substantially prune street trees.

Horses and Livestock

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition of horses and other such livestock in park areas or trails, except where specifically authorized by the Parks Director:

Horses, goats, cows, and other such livestock are not permitted in any park area or trails except where specifically authorized by the Department Director or their designee.

Parking

The proposed update to Park Rules clarifies that use of park parking lots is limited to when the vehicle's operator is using the park for the designated recreational purpose. Vehicles cannot be left after park closing time unless authorized by the department. Violators of these rules are subject to towing.

No operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, camper, boat trailer, or other vehicle shall park such vehicle in any city park area, except where the operator is using the area for the designated recreational purpose and the vehicle is parked either in the designated parking area, or in another area with the permission of a department employee. This section shall not apply to emergency, maintenance, or city-authorized vehicles or devices.

No person shall park, leave standing, or abandon a vehicle in any park area after closing time except persons using park facilities as part of an event authorized by the department.

It is a violation of this chapter to park a motor vehicle in a designated handicapped parking space without the officially recognized symbol on the vehicle license plate or placard. All improperly parked vehicles are subject to being towed away at the owner's or operator's expense.

In addition to any penalty provided in this chapter, any vehicle found in violation of this section may be towed away at the owner's expense. This section shall not apply to maintenance and emergency vehicles or vehicles authorized by the department.

Trucks and Commercial Vehicles

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition on the use of park areas or park roads by commercial vehicles, except with the permission of the department:

No person shall cause a truck or other vehicle while being used for commercial purpose to enter upon, use, or traverse any portion of any city park area or any park road except with the express permission of a department employee; provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to city roads, county roads or state highways.

Trail Use

The proposed update to Park Rules includes clarifications about appropriate use of park trails. Trail use is limited to non-motorized use except for motorized mobility devices. Nonmotorized travel on trails must be at speeds that are reasonable, prudent, and controlled and shall not exceed 15 miles per hour:

A. No person shall travel on a trail at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions with regard to the actual and potential hazards then

existing. In every event, speed shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with persons or property. No person shall travel at speeds in excess of 15 miles per hour on a City of Kirkland trail.

B. No person shall travel on a trail in a negligent manner.

C. For the purposes of this section “travel” shall be construed to include all forms of movement or transportation on a trail, including but not limited to foot, bicycle, skateboard, and roller skates.

D. Every person traveling on a trail shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device applicable thereto placed in accordance with applicable laws unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

E. No person shall operate any motor vehicle as defined by WAC 352-20-005, including but not limited to, motorized foot scooter as defined by RCW 46.04.336, moped as defined by 46.04.304, and motorcycle as defined by 46.04.330 (collectively referred to as “motor vehicles”), in a city park, including on a trail, path, or sidewalk in any city park, unless it is a designated park trail and posted for such use.

F. Regional trails, local trail corridors, and paved pathways are open to all nonmotorized users unless otherwise designated and posted. Pedestrians and non-motorized bicyclists are permitted on all maintained soft surface trails unless otherwise posted and designated. Trail restrictions may be posted at park entrances, trailheads or, in some cases, on individual trails. Trail use designations will be based on the park master plan, resource conservation, trail user conflicts, maintenance issues, and safety hazards.

Tents and shelters in parks

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition of temporary structures, such as tents, kiosks, or canopies, except for permitted events:

No person shall erect and use a temporary structure, such as a tent, canopy, table or kiosk, except for permitted events.

Food waste, washing of clothing, animals

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition on cleaning food, vehicles, clothing or animals in parks, except for cleaning fish in authorized fishing areas.

No person shall clean fish in Park areas except in fishing and shell fishing areas authorized by the director and subject to rules promulgated by Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission. No person shall clean food, or wash any vehicles, clothing or other articles for personal or household use, or wash any dog or other animal.

Ice

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition on going out onto ice in park areas, unless in areas specifically designated for that purpose.

No person shall go out onto ice in any City of Kirkland park area, except in areas specifically designated for that purpose. This includes, but is not limited to, lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, and other bodies of water.

Moorage

Kirkland Municipal Code Chapter 14.36 governs City floats and moorage. Because docks and moorage opportunities exist within Kirkland park areas, a reference to Chapter 14.36 is now included in the proposed update to Park Rules:

No person shall moor, anchor or dock a boat or other object overnight in Kirkland in violation of KMC 14.36.

No person or persons shall moor, dock, or berth a boat or other watercraft, whether motorized or nonmotorized, to a log boom or float line which delineates a swimming area in a City of Kirkland park area. No person shall launch or load a boat or other watercraft, whether motorized or nonmotorized from a dock in a designated swimming area, except at such places as shall be set apart for such purposes by the director and so designated by signs.

False alarm of drowning

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition on issuing a false alarm of drowning:

Issuing a false alarm that someone is drowning is prohibited. No person shall intentionally give or transmit a false signal or false alarm of drowning in any manner.

Designated swimming areas

The proposed update to Park Rules includes rules for the use of designated swimming areas:

*Swimmers using City parks, beaches and water resources shall obey all posted beach rules and/or the instructions of lifeguards or other City employees. At City parks, beaches and associated marine areas, swimming shall be permitted only within designated swimming areas, except as noted in KMC **11.80.XXX** (Open Water Swimming).*

(1) Designated swimming areas shall be marked with buoys, log booms, or other markers clearly designating the boundaries of such areas.

(2) In designated swimming areas, recreational flotation devices are allowed only at the lifeguards' discretion. In designated swimming areas, the use or operation of nonmotorized watercraft, including but not limited to canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and row boats, is prohibited. Hard-bottomed flotation devices or watercraft are prohibited in designated swimming areas. Propulsion devices, such as paddles, are prohibited in designated swim areas.

(3) Swimmers must stay within designated swimming areas when using flotation devices, except where equipped with a lifejacket and propulsion device.

(4) Swimming or hiding under docks in designated swim areas is prohibited. No person shall jump or launch from a dock in the designated swim area in an unsafe manner, at the discretion of lifeguards on duty.

(5) No person shall swim, sunbathe, or scuba dive in any designated boat launching area, except for a duly authorized person.

Open water swimming

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a new section on permissible open water swimming away from designated swim areas:

Swimming is permitted within a distance of fifty (50) feet from the shore or a pier when wearing a high-visibility, brightly colored swim flotation buoy or tow float and brightly colored swim cap. Swimmers may pass through designed swim beaches if necessary but must swim 50 feet away from designated swim areas and boat launch areas.

Swimming beyond fifty (50) feet from the shore or pier is permitted when wearing a high-visibility, brightly colored swim flotation buoy or tow float and brightly colored swim cap and where swimmer is accompanied by a vessel and is within twenty-five feet of such vessel, and such vessel shall have onboard a personal flotation device for each occupant of said vessel and for each accompanied swimmer.

Interfering with lifeguard duties

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a new section prohibiting interference with lifeguard duties:

Activities that endanger other beach users and interfere or tend to interfere with and distract from or obstruct the performance of lifeguarding responsibilities are prohibited. When circumstances can safely permit games that are commonly played in the water, such games may be conducted only with the consent of a lifeguard or other department employee.

Disruption and harassment of Parks Employees

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition on the disruption or harassment of Parks employees. Abusive or threatening language may constitute a criminal violation under the RCW.

It is a violation of this code to harass or use abusive or disruptive language or conduct when engaging with a lifeguard, park ranger, or other park employee.

Smoking in Parks Prohibited

The proposed update to Park Rules includes a prohibition of smoking, vaping, and tobacco use of any kind:

Smoking and tobacco use of any kind, including but not limited to the use of cigarettes, herbal cigarettes, marijuana, cigars, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, and electronic or vaporized smoking devices, is prohibited in any city park area, trail, athletic field, or recreation facility.

The City of Kirkland is committed to maintaining safe, healthy, and welcoming parks spaces. City parks are intended for the healthy enjoyment of all, but exposure to second-hand smoke is harmful for everyone. Second-hand smoke has a disproportionate health impact on vulnerable populations including children and the elderly, and may cause health issues such as acute respiratory problems, asthma attacks, heart disease, and lung cancer¹. Currently, smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of Kirkland park playgrounds. However, adults and children enjoy all spaces within Kirkland parks, including spaces outside of playground zones. Smoke-free parks policies reduce public exposure to second-hand smoke.

¹ <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dph/documents/safety-injury-prevention/tobacco-vaping/tobacco-free-parks-toolkit.pdf>

Discouraging tobacco use in public spaces is an integral component in public health programs which can help to prevent youth from using tobacco products and supports adults' efforts to smoke less or stop altogether.² Additionally, prohibiting smoking in parks reduces litter. According to the Washington Department of Ecology, smoking litter has increased from 1.3 pounds of litter per acre per year in 1999 to 11.3 pounds of litter per acre per year in 2022 in state and county parks³. Cigarette butts can also leach cadmium, arsenic, and other contaminants which threaten the health of local watersheds and wildlife.

Many cities and counties throughout Washington have prohibited smoking in parks¹. The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits smoking and tobacco use of any kind, including but not limited to the use of cigarettes, herbal cigarettes, marijuana, cigars, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, and electronic or vaporized smoking devices in any city park area, trail, athletic field, or recreation facility.

Remote controlled models, aircraft

The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits the use of motorized aircraft, watercraft, or drones, except with by permit.

It is a violation of this chapter for any person to operate any motorized model aircraft drones, rocket, watercraft, or vehicles in any City of Kirkland park area except by permit obtained through the department; provided that this section does not apply to operation of motorized remote-controlled models by public law enforcement or authorized parks personnel.

Waste from Vehicles

The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits dumping waste in any park area.

No person shall drain or dump any solid or liquid refuse or waste from any trailer, camper, automobile or other vehicle in any park area.

Dumping in water

The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits dumping waste in water.

No person shall pollute or in any way contaminate by dumping or otherwise depositing any waste or refuse of any nature, kind or description, including human and bodily waste, into or near any stream, river, lake or other body of water running in, through, or adjacent to any City of Kirkland park area.

False Alarm of Drowning Resulting in Emergency Response

The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits a false alarm of drowning, which is a civil infraction. A false signal of drowning that results in an emergency response is a misdemeanor, but may also constitute a gross misdemeanor or felony per RCW 9A.84.040. This distinction is important to ensure that the City can collect damages in addition to a fine for wrongful emergency response.

No person shall intentionally give or transmit a false signal or false alarm of drowning in any manner. False alarm of drowning that results in an emergency response may constitute a felony or gross misdemeanor per RCW 9A.84.040.

Intoxication

The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits being in any City park while intoxicated.

² <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC27448/>

³ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2307038.pdf>

Being or remaining in, or loitering in any City park or recreation area, while in a state of intoxication is prohibited.

Possession and use of controlled substances

Possession and use of controlled substances is governed by RCW Chapter 69.50, and is referenced in the update to the Park Rules.

Possession and use of controlled substances in City parks shall be governed by Chapter 69.50 RCW, as the same now exists or as hereafter amended or superseded.

Trespassing

The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits trespassing in any park. This new section is important for the enforcement of the proposed Exclusion from Parks code.

The provisions of this section do not apply to any duly authorized person. For all others, it shall constitute a criminal trespass in a city park if any person knowingly:

- (a) Enters or remains in a park from which he or she has been excluded during the period covered by an exclusion notice pursuant to 11.80.300;*
- (b) Enters, remains in, or is otherwise present within the premises of a park during hours which the park or portion of the park is not open to the public, unless the person is present within the park to participate in an activity either conducted by the parks and recreation department or conducted pursuant to the terms of a permit issued by the parks and recreation department; or*
- (c) Enters or remains in any area of a park which has been designated and posted by the City as a closed area, using such postings as "no admittance" or "closed to use" or "no trespassing."*
- (d) It is not a defense to the crime of trespass in parks:*
 - (i) That the underlying exclusion issued pursuant to this chapter is on appeal when the excluded person is apprehended, charged, or tried under this section; nor*
 - (ii) That the excluded person entered or remained in the park pursuant to a permit that was issued in the name of another person either before or after the date of the exclusion notice.*

Any person trespassing on city park property shall be subject to arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass under RCW 9A.52.080.

Encroachment

The proposed update to Park Rules prohibits encroachment on park lands.

No person shall make unauthorized use of public lands. Any encroachment on, to, under, or over, or modification of, City owned, managed, maintained or leased lands including park, natural area or open space property, public buildings or rights-of-way will be deemed trespassing regardless of when the property was initially encroached upon.

The City will provide the violator(s) of such encroachment with a Notice of Encroachment Violation (NEV), ordering them to remove any and all encroachments to the land, to restore the land to its original condition, and if necessary to provide maintenance for three (3) years following restoration at the

expense of the violator(s). The NEV shall be deemed issued after it is deposited in the U.S. mail. The NEV shall provide a deadline for compliance.

If one fails to comply with the NEV, then the City shall have the right to remove the offending encroachment and recover the landscape to its original condition. The violator shall be responsible for the costs of encroachment removal, recovery, and three (3) years of maintenance following restoration.

Code Sections Moved and Updated

Permits

Currently, Chapter 11.80.180 requires permits for assemblies. The proposed Park Rules update strikes this section and creates a broader language that clarifies that organized or exclusive use of parks areas requires a permit. A comparison of the new language and previous 11.80.180 section is provided below. New language is underlined and removed language is struck.

Groups or individuals which desire to use City park facilities for organized activities or exclusive use must be granted a permit by the department. The department reserves the right to cancel a permittee's reservation for cause or if the department wishes to make use of the facility which, in the judgment of the department, supersedes the need of the permittee. ~~It is unlawful for any person to hold, sponsor, or participate in any organized assembly without first giving to the director notice thereof and obtaining therefrom his written permit to do so. Such notice shall be given at least seventy-two hours prior to the date established for such assembly. Pursuant to Chapter 3.68 and Section 11.80.220, the director is hereby ordered to establish forthwith such rules and regulations pertaining to the issuance of assembly permits as shall permit the fullest peaceful utilization of the parks by all of the general public (including such persons attending such assemblies and such other persons utilizing the park, but not in attendance at such assembly) as shall be reasonably possible and consistent with the health, safety, and general welfare. In this connection, and in addition to the conduct requirements of this chapter, such rules and regulations may require the deposit of "cleanup" undertakings, the furnishing of waste and sanitary conveniences and effective plans for traffic and crowd control and management. Some uses of park facilities will require a Special Event Permit, as described in KMC 19.24.~~

Business Activity in Parks

Currently, Chapter 11.80.100 prohibits business activities in parks. The proposed Park Rules update strikes this section and creates a broader language that clarifies that business activity in parks without a permit is prohibited. A comparison of the new language and previous 11.80.100 section is provided below. New language is underlined and removed language is struck.

~~It is unlawful a violation of this chapter to sell, attempt to sell, solicit or peddle in any park without first obtaining a written permit from the director or their designee pursuant to Section 11.80.XXX. It is unlawful a violation of this chapter to conduct any type of business activity in any park without first entering into a concession contract according to the rules and regulations of the parks and community services department. As used in this section, "business activity" shall include, but not be limited to, the following:~~

- (1) Sale of food, beverages or merchandise;*
- (2) Providing classes or other forms of instruction, free or paid;*
- (3) Use of park facilities for advertising any business, product or service; or*

(4) Use of park facilities to distribute or post any handbills, flyers, circulars, or signs.

This provision excludes Busking, which is addressed under KMC chapter 11.85.

Pets in Park Facilities

The proposed updates to Park Rules includes clarifications that dogs must:

- Be “under control” at all times (regardless of on- or off-leash)
- Be on leash no greater than 8 ft in length, except in dog parks or designated areas
- Not be disturbing bystanders or causing physical damage

In addition, pet handlers are responsible for the animal's conduct and any damage caused by the animal. The handler is responsible for removing the animal's feces from parks. A comparison of the new language and previous KMC 11.80.060 is provided below. New language is underlined and removed language is struck.

~~The provisions of Title 8 of the Kirkland Municipal Code shall apply in all parks. It is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any animal owned by him or within his possession or under his control to run at large in any park or enter any designated swimming area located therein. The director, acting pursuant to Section 11.80.220, may adopt rules prohibiting dogs or other types of domesticated animals from entering certain parks or certain portions of parks after consultation with the city council. Provided, dogs may be allowed off-leash in designated off-leash dog parks, or in specific portions of parks designated as off-leash, or in designated parks during park hours that have been specifically designated as off-leash hours, so long as the dog is under control of the owner or handler.~~

(a) Dogs, pets, or domestic animals are not permitted on any designated swimming beach, athletic field, playground, or in any City of Kirkland building, unless specifically permitted by posting of the department; provided, that this section shall not apply to service animals and animals used by public law enforcement or Fire Department personnel.

(b) In permissible areas, dogs, pets, or other domestic animals must be kept on a leash, tether, or chain no greater than eight feet in length. Dogs, pets, or other domestic animals must be kept under control at all times. No pets shall be allowed which are annoying bystanders or other animals or causing physical damage.

(c) The director, acting pursuant to Section 11.80.XXX (Adoption of Rules and Regulations by Director) may adopt rules prohibiting dogs, pets, or other types of domesticated animals from entering certain parks or certain portions of parks. Provided, dogs may be allowed off-leash in designated off-leash dog parks, or in specific portions of parks designated as off-leash areas, or in designated parks during certain limited hours that have been specifically designated by the department as off-leash hours, so long as the dog is under control of the owner or handler. When permissible, off-leash dogs must be within positive voice control of their owner or handler and must respond promptly to the commands of the owner or handler. At all times, the dog must be within 35 feet of their owner or handler.

(d) Any person whose dog, pet, or other domestic animal is in any City of Kirkland park area shall be responsible for the conduct of the

animal and for removing feces deposited by such animal from the park area. Any person whose dog, pet or other domestic animal is in any City of Kirkland park area shall be held responsible for any damage caused by the animal to any park area.

Any violation of this provision can be prosecuted by the City pursuant to the fines and penalties in Title 8 of the KMC, chapter 1.12 of the KMC, and/or any other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Teasing, Annoying, or Injuring Animals

Currently, Chapter 11.80.080 prohibits teasing, annoying, or injuring animals in parks. The proposed Park Rules update strikes this section and creates a broader language that clarifies that injuring or feeding wildlife is not permitted, except for authorized shell fishing and fishing activities. A comparison of the new language and previous 11.80.080 section is provided below. New language is underlined and removed language is struck.

It is unlawful a violation of this chapter for any person in any park, in any manner, to tease, annoy, disturb, molest, catch, injure or kill or to throw any stone or missile of any kind at or strike with any stick or weapon any animal, bird or fowl; except for licensed fishing and shell fishing in areas authorized by the director and subject to rules promulgated by Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission; or except a duly authorized person or to catch any fish or feed any fowl except at those places as may be so designated for the catching of fish or the feeding of fowl by the director.

It is a violation of this chapter for any person in any City of Kirkland park area to feed wildlife, except that this prohibition does not include licensed fishing or shell fishing activity in designated areas during designated times.

All laws, rules and regulations of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife relating to season, limits, and methods of fishing are applicable to fishing for game fish and shellfish in City of Kirkland park areas and associated marine areas, unless in an area which is posted with a sign prohibiting fishing.

Camping Prohibited

Currently, Chapter 11.80.140 prohibits any person to “camp out” in parks unless at places designated by the director. The proposed Park Rules update strikes this section and creates a broader language that clarifies that camping is prohibited in parks. A comparison of the new language and previous 11.80.140 section is provided below. New language is underlined and removed language is struck.

It is unlawful a violation of this chapter for any person to “camp-out” camp at any park except at places set aside for such purposes by the director and so designated by signs. It is a violation of this chapter for any person to stay overnight in City parks or parking areas, whether inside or outside of a vehicle, except as allowed by KMC 11.80.XXX (Parks Hours section).

Practicing and Playing Games

Currently, Chapter 11.80.150 prohibits any person to practice or play games in parks except in places designated by the director. The proposed Park Rules update strikes this section and creates a broader language that clarifies the types of games that are prohibited outside of

designated areas. A comparison of the new language and previous 11.80.150 section is provided below. New language is underlined and removed language is struck.

It is ~~unlawful~~ for a violation of this chapter for any person to practice or play golf, baseball, softball, cricket, lacrosse, polo, archery, hockey, tennis, ~~badminton~~ or other games of like character or to hurl or propel any missile except at places set apart and developed for such purposes by the department of parks and recreation and so designated by the director. Organized and exclusive use of parks spaces for these purposes may require a permit, pursuant to KMC 11.80.XXX (Permits section).

Minor Changes

Definitions

New definitions were added to the definitions portion currently defined by KMC 11.80.030:

- *“Camp” or “camping” means to pitch, create, use, or occupy camp facilities for the purposes of habitation, living accommodation, or dwelling, as evidenced by the storage of personal belongings in “camp facilities” or the use of “camp paraphernalia.”*
- *“Camp paraphernalia” includes, but is not limited to, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, blankets, mattresses, hammocks, or non-city-designated cooking facilities and similar equipment.*
- *“Camp facilities” include, but are not limited to, tents, huts, temporary shelters, or vehicles if said vehicle is being used as a temporary living quarters.*
- *“Duly authorized person” is a duly authorized department employee in the performance of their duties, or other person duly authorized pursuant to law.*

Depositing Refuse and Litter

Currently, depositing refuse and litter is governed by KMC 11.80.160. The proposed update to Park Rules strikes this section and proposes two new sections of code for refuse and litter. Depositing refuse and litter in volume less than or equal to one cubic foot is a civil infraction. Depositing refuse and litter in volume more than one cubic foot is a misdemeanor.

Parks Hours

Currently, KMC 11.80.250 states that parks are closed between ten p.m. or eleven p.m. and dawn. The proposed update to Park Rules changes opening times from “dawn” to “five a.m.”

Open Containers of Alcoholic beverages and Marijuana prohibited

Currently, KMC 11.80.210 states that open containers of alcoholic beverages or marijuana while in parks is prohibited. The proposed update to Park Rules does not change this prohibition, but changes the title of the chapter to “Alcohol and Marijuana Prohibited” for clarity.

Park Board Feedback

During the February 25, 2026 meeting, staff will review the proposed major changes to the KMC with Park Board. Staff are especially seeking feedback on the new code sections regarding Exclusion from Parks, Smoking in Parks, Trail Use, Interference with Lifeguard Duties, and Disruption and Harassment of Parks Employees. Staff request that Park Board identify any other proposed changes that are needed, concerning, or confusing. Staff also request Park Board recommendations on how to best educate the community about the update to and implementation of new park rules. Following the February meeting, staff request that the Park Board solicit feedback from community members and bring additional feedback to the March Park Board meeting.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will incorporate Park Board feedback into the draft Park Rules code. Staff will return to the March Park Board meeting and ask the Board to consider a recommendation for the City Council to adopt these code changes.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Draft Updates to KMC 11.80

DRAFT UPDATE:

**Chapter 11.80
PARK RULES**

Sections:

- ~~[11.80.010](#)—Title of chapter.~~
- ~~[11.80.020](#)—Police power.~~
- ~~[11.80.030](#)—Definitions.~~
- ~~[11.80.040](#)—Signs, posters and notices.~~
- ~~[11.80.050](#)—Injury to park property a violation of this chapter.~~
- ~~[11.80.060](#)—Animals at large prohibited—Exceptions—Off-leash parks.~~
- ~~[11.80.070](#)—Firearms and explosives.~~
- ~~[11.80.080](#)—Teasing, annoying or injuring animals prohibited.~~
- ~~[11.80.090](#)—Public disturbance noises in parks.~~
- ~~[11.80.100](#)—Business activity in parks.~~
- ~~[11.80.110](#)—Watercraft.~~
- ~~[11.80.120](#)—Emergency aid by watercraft.~~
- ~~[11.80.130](#)—Riding vehicles and animals.~~
- ~~[11.80.140](#)—Camping areas.~~
- ~~[11.80.150](#)—Practicing and playing games.~~
- ~~[11.80.160](#)—Depositing refuse and litter.~~
- ~~[11.80.180](#)—Permit for assemblies required.~~
- ~~[11.80.190](#)—Races prohibited.~~
- ~~[11.80.200](#)—Building fires.~~
- ~~[11.80.210](#)—Open containers of alcoholic beverages and marijuana prohibited.~~
- ~~[11.80.220](#)—Adoption of rules and regulations by director.~~
- ~~[11.80.230](#)—Aiding and abetting violations.~~
- ~~[11.80.250](#)—Parks closed between ten p.m. or eleven p.m. and dawn.~~

Article 1— General

11.80.010 Title of chapter.

This chapter may be cited as the park rules for the city of Kirkland.

11.80.020 Police power.

This chapter is hereby declared to be an exercise of the police power of the city for the public peace, health, safety and welfare and its provisions are to be liberally construed.

11.80.XXX Enforcement Officer

Pursuant to RCW 7.80.040, City of Kirkland Park Rangers shall be enforcement officers authorized to enforce the civil infractions established in this title. Park Rangers shall be designated by a City of Kirkland Park Ranger uniform.

11.80.XXX Failure to Comply with Enforcement Officer

As set forth above at KMC 11.80.0XX, park rangers are enforcement officers and have authority to enforce the provisions of this code.

Pursuant to RCW 7.80.060, a person who is to receive a notice of civil infraction under RCW 7.80.050, based upon a violation of this code, is required to identify themselves to the enforcement officer by giving their name, address, and date of birth. Upon the request of the officer, the person shall produce reasonable identification, including a driver's license, identification card, or other personal form of identification.

11.80.030 Definitions.

Wherever consistent with the context of this chapter, words in the present, past or future tenses shall be construed to be interchangeable with each other and words in the singular number shall be construed to include the plural.

The terms herein used, unless clearly contrary to or inconsistent with the context in which used, shall be construed as follows:

(1) "Director" means the director of the parks and ~~community services recreation~~ department of the city as established by Chapter 3.68 of this code.

(2) "Park" means and includes all city parks and all areas within the boundaries of a city park, including structures, regardless of whether the area is under the management and control of the parks and ~~recreation~~–community services department. "Park" also includes open spaces, lakes, ponds, streams, and shorelines, and natural areas managed by the parks and community services department.

(3) "Park board" means the board of park commissioners as established and created by Chapter 3.36 of this code.

(4) "Under control" means the animal is either under competent voice control or competent signal control, or both, so as to be restrained from approaching or injuring any bystander or other animal and from causing or being the cause of personal or physical property damage ~~when off a leash.~~

~~(5) Wherever consistent with the context of this chapter, words in the present, past or future tenses shall be construed to be interchangeable with each other and words in the singular number shall be construed to include the plural. "Camp" or "camping" means to pitch, create, use, or occupy camp facilities for the purposes of habitation, living accommodation, or dwelling, as evidenced by the storage of personal belongings in "camp facilities" or the use of "camp paraphernalia."~~

~~(6) "Camp paraphernalia" includes, but is not limited to, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, blankets, mattresses, hammocks, or non-city-designated cooking facilities and similar equipment.~~

~~(7) "Camp facilities" include, but are not limited to, tents, huts, temporary shelters, or vehicles if said vehicle is being used as a temporary living quarters.~~

~~(8) "Duly authorized person" is a duly authorized department employee in the performance of their duties, or other person duly authorized pursuant to law.~~

TITLE: Article 2 – Administration

11.80.XX Adoption of rules and regulations by director

The director shall have the power, pursuant to Chapter 3.68 of this code, to promulgate and adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the operation, management and use of the parks, and shall post the same in conspicuous places in the parks. Such rules and regulations shall include a procedure for granting permits encompassing any particulars of this chapter. Such rules and regulations may include the establishment of hours during which any park or portion thereof, as designated by signs located within the designated portion, shall be closed to the general public; such closures may be for reasons of public safety, welfare and convenience, or for reasons of park maintenance. It is unlawful for any person to violate or fail to comply with any park rule or regulation duly adopted and posted by the department.

11.80.XXX Permits

Groups or individuals which desire to use City park facilities for organized activities or exclusive use must be granted a permit by the department. The department reserves the right to cancel a permittee's reservation for cause or if the department wishes to make use of the facility which, in the judgment of the department, supersedes the need of the permittee.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.68 and Section **11.80.XX**, the director is hereby ordered to establish forthwith such rules and regulations pertaining to the issuance of assembly permits as shall permit the fullest peaceful utilization of the parks by all of the general public (including such persons attending such assemblies and

such other persons utilizing the park, but not in attendance at such assemblies) as shall be reasonably possible and consistent with the health, safety, and general welfare. In this connection, and in addition to the conduct requirements of this chapter, such rules and regulations may require the deposit of “cleanup” undertakings, the furnishing of waste and sanitary conveniences and effective plans for traffic and crowd control and management. Some uses of park facilities will require a Special Event Permit, as described in KMC 19.24

TITLE: Article 3 – Penalties- Civil Infractions

11.80.XXX Civil Infractions

Failure to perform any act required or the performance of any act prohibited by Article III of this chapter will be designated as a civil infraction.

Any person found to have committed a civil infraction shall be assessed a monetary penalty of one hundred fifty dollars per violation; provided, however, that the following escalating penalties shall apply to violations of this section:

- (1) A penalty of two hundred dollars for a second violation within the same calendar year as an initial violation; and
- (2) A penalty of two hundred fifty dollars for a third or subsequent violation within the same calendar year as an initial violation.

TITLE: Rules Governing Use of Facilities – Civil Infractions

11.80.XXX Business activity in parks.

It is a violation of this chapter to sell, attempt to sell, solicit or peddle in any park without first obtaining a written permit from the director or their designee pursuant to Section 11.80.XXX. It is a violation of this chapter to conduct any type of business activity in any park without first entering into a concession contract according to the rules and regulations of the parks and community services department. As used in this section, “business activity” shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Sale of food, beverages or merchandise;
- (2) Providing classes or other forms of instruction, free or paid;
- (3) Use of park facilities for advertising any business, product or service;
or
- (4) Use of park facilities to distribute or post any handbills, flyers, circulars, or signs.

This provision excludes Busking, which is addressed under KMC chapter 11.85.

11.80.040 Signs, posters and notices.

(a) ~~It is unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person, except a duly authorized person, without prior written permission of the director or otherwise consistent with regulations established by the director consistent with this section, to attach any notice, bill, poster, sign, wire, rod or cord to any tree, shrub, railing, post or structure within any park.

(b) ~~It is unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person, except a duly authorized person, without prior written permission of the director or otherwise consistent with regulations established by the director consistent with this section, to use, place or erect any signboard, sign, billboard, bulletin board, post, pole, or device of any kind for advertising in any park, or to place or erect in any park a permanent or temporary structure of any kind.

(c) Before granting any such permit or other permission under this section, the director shall establish general rules and regulations pertaining hereto, including provisions pertaining to removal, protection of the city park department and its employees, and protection of the interests of the general public. The director may generally authorize the erection of temporary directional signs or decorations on occasions of public celebration and picnics within the general rules and regulations without requiring specific permit for such temporary directional signs or decorations. The director may authorize youth sports leagues, in partnership with the city, to engage in a field banner promotion program, where the league solicits community partnerships in order to keep registration fees affordable and offset the costs of equipment and uniforms and provides the community partner the opportunity to advertise its name on a banner displayed at a city field.

11.80.050 Injury to park property ~~unlawful~~.

~~It is unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person, except a duly authorized person, to remove, destroy, mutilate or deface any structure, or any part of any structure, or any fixture therein, or attached thereto, or any monument, statue, vase, fountain, wall, fence, railing, vehicle, bench, ~~shrub, tree, fern, plant, flower,~~ lighting system or sprinkling system, or any other property lawfully located within any park. Such violation may also constitute a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony under state law.

11.80.0XX Injury to park vegetation and trees

It is a violation of this chapter for any person, except a duly authorized person, to remove, destroy, prune, deface, mutilate, smash, trample, burn, damage or attach any object to any shrub, tree, fern, plant, flower, or any other vegetation lawfully located within any park or in public right of ways adjacent to any park. Such violation may also constitute a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony under state law.

Vegetation in parks that overhang or obstruct private property may, subject to the conditions of this provision and, where applicable, chapter 95 KZC, be trimmed by the private property owner up to the boundary line, except where branches or are more than 1.5 inches in diameter; or where trimming or pruning results in the removal of more than 25% of the living vegetative matter; or where pruning destroys the structural integrity or cosmetic symmetry of the vegetation. Pruning shall conform to the most recent version of the ANSI A300 Pruning Standards. Private property owners are liable for compensating the City for damages when pruning or damage to vegetation results in injury or death of the vegetation.

Per KZC 95.20 a public tree pruning permit may be required to trim, modify, alter, or substantially prune street trees.

11.80.060 Animals at large prohibited – Exceptions – Off-leash parks. Pets in City Parks Facilities

~~The provisions of Title 8 of the Kirkland Municipal Code shall apply in all parks. It is unlawful for any person to allow or permit any animal owned by him or within his possession or under his control to run at large in any park or enter any designated swimming area located therein. The director, acting pursuant to Section 11.80.220, may adopt rules prohibiting dogs or other types of domesticated animals from entering certain parks or certain portions of parks after consultation with the city council. Provided, dogs may be allowed off-leash in designated off-leash dog parks, or in specific portions of parks designated as off-leash, or in designated parks during park hours that have been specifically designated as off-leash hours, so long as the dog is under control of the owner or handler.~~

(a) Dogs, pets, or domestic animals are not permitted on any designated swimming beach, athletic field, playground, or in any City of Kirkland building, unless specifically permitted by posting of the department; provided, that this section shall not apply to service animals and animals used by public law enforcement or Fire Department personnel.

(b) In permissible areas, dogs, pets, or other domestic animals must be kept on a leash, tether, or chain no greater than eight feet in length. Dogs, pets, or other domestic animals must be kept under control at all times. No pets shall be allowed which are annoying bystanders or other animals or causing physical damage.

(c) The director, acting pursuant to **Section 11.80.XXX** may adopt rules prohibiting dogs, pets, or other types of domesticated animals from entering certain parks or certain portions of parks. Provided, dogs may be allowed off-leash in designated off-leash dog parks, or in specific portions of parks designated as off-leash areas, or in designated parks during certain limited hours that have been specifically designated by the department as off-leash hours, so

long as the dog is under control of the owner or handler. When permissible, off-leash dogs must be within positive voice control of their owner or handler and must respond promptly to the commands of the owner or handler. At all times, the dog must be within 35 feet of their owner or handler.

(d) Any person whose dog, pet, or other domestic animal is in any City of Kirkland park area shall be responsible for the conduct of the animal and for removing feces deposited by such animal from the park area. Any person whose dog, pet or other domestic animal is in any City of Kirkland park area shall be held responsible for any damage caused by the animal to any park area.

Any violation of this provision can be prosecuted by the City pursuant to the fines and penalties in Title 8 of the KMC, chapter 1.12 of the KMC, and/or any other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

11.80.XXX Horses and livestock

Horses, goats, cows, and other such livestock are not permitted in any park area or trails except where specifically authorized by the Department Director or their designee.

11.80.080 Teasing, annoying or injuring animals

It is ~~unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person in any park, in any manner, to tease, annoy, disturb, molest, catch, injure or kill or to throw any stone or missile of any kind at or strike with any stick or weapon any animal, bird or fowl; except for licensed fishing and shell fishing in areas authorized by the director and subject to rules promulgated by Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission; or except a duly authorized person. ~~or to catch any fish or feed any fowl except at those places as may be so designated for the catching of fish or the feeding of fowl by the director.~~

It is a violation of this chapter for any person in any City of Kirkland park area to feed wildlife, except that this prohibition does not include licensed fishing or shell fishing activity in designated areas during designated times.

All laws, rules and regulations of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife relating to season, limits, and methods of fishing are applicable to fishing for game fish and shellfish in City of Kirkland park areas and associated marine areas, unless in an area which is posted with a sign prohibiting fishing.

11.80.090 Public disturbance noises in parks.

It is ~~unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person, except a duly authorized person, to cause a sound that is a public disturbance noise so as to unreasonably disturb the peaceful enjoyment of public park space. It is also a violation of this chapter to operate or use any loudspeaker or sound amplification devices in any park without first obtaining a written permit from the director. Any

noise that can be heard fifty feet or more from the source is considered a public disturbance noise regardless of use of amplification or source. Sources of potentially prohibited noise include, but are not limited to, musical instruments, radios, stereos, speakers, bullhorns, amplifiers, horns, sirens, and voices including singing, shouting, yelling and whistling.

~~11.80.100 Business activity in parks. Reserved~~

~~It is a violation of this chapter to sell, solicit or peddle in any park without first obtaining a written permit from the director. It is a violation of this chapter to conduct any type of business activity in any park without first entering into a concession contract according to the rules and regulations of the parks and recreation department therefor with the city. As used in this section, "business activity" shall include, but not be limited to, the following:~~

- ~~(1) Sale of food, beverages or merchandise;~~
- ~~(2) Providing classes or other forms of instruction for a fee or other valuable consideration; or~~
- ~~(3) Use of park facilities for advertising any business, product or service.~~

11.80.110 Watercraft.

~~It is unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person to have, keep or operate any boat, float, raft or other watercraft in or upon any bay, lake, slough, river, or creek, within the limits of any park, or to land the same at any point upon the shores thereof bordering upon any park, except at such places as shall be set apart for such purposes by the director and so designated by signs.

11.80.120 Emergency aid by watercraft.

~~It is unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person to land or dock a boat at any swimming dock or float, nor shall any boat be allowed within a swimming area except in an emergency involving rescue or lifesaving.

11.80.XXX Motor Vehicles

No person shall operate any motor vehicle as defined by WAC 352-20-005, including but not limited to, motorized foot scooter as defined by RCW 46.04.336, moped as defined by 46.04.304, and motorcycle as defined by 46.04.330 (collectively referred to as "motor vehicles"), in a city park, including on a trail, path, or sidewalk in any city park, unless it is a designated park trail and posted for such use. No person shall operate a motor vehicle within the boundaries of a city park area except on roads, streets, parking lots, parking areas, or where otherwise permitted by proper posting. No person shall ride or drive any motor vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit or in excess of fifteen miles per hour

where no speed limit is so posted. This section shall not apply to emergency, maintenance, or city-authorized vehicles or devices.

The following are permitted within the parks: Electric personal assistive mobility devices: RCW 46.04.1695; power wheelchairs: RCW 46.04.415; and wheelchair conveyances: RCW 46.04.710.

Electric assisted bicycles are permitted upon parks pathways or trails under manual power, unless a sign designates otherwise. Electric assisted bicycles are not allowed to be ridden off of pathways or trails at any time, even under manual power. No person shall clean or wash any automobile or other vehicle in any City of Kirkland park area.

11.80.XXX Parking

No operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, camper, boat trailer, or other vehicle shall park such vehicle in any city park area, except where the operator is using the area for the designated recreational purpose and the vehicle is parked either in the designated parking area, or in another area with the permission of a department employee. This section shall not apply to emergency, maintenance, or city-authorized vehicles or devices.

No person shall park, leave standing, or abandon a vehicle in any park area after closing time except persons using park facilities as part of an event authorized by the department.

It is a violation of this chapter to park a motor vehicle in a designated handicapped parking space without the officially recognized symbol on the vehicle license plate or placard. All improperly parked vehicles are subject to being towed away at the owner's or operator's expense.

In addition to any penalty provided in this chapter, any vehicle found in violation of this section may be towed away at the owner's expense. This section shall not apply to maintenance and emergency vehicles or vehicles authorized by the department.

11.80.XXX Motor Vehicles – Trucks and Commercial Vehicles

No person shall cause a truck or other vehicle while being used for commercial purpose to enter upon, use, or traverse any portion of any city park area or any park road except with the express permission of a department employee; provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to city roads, county roads or state highways.

11.80.XXX Trail Use

A. No person shall travel on a trail at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions with regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. In every event, speed shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with

persons or property. No person shall travel at speeds in excess of 15 miles per hour on a City of Kirkland trail.

B. No person shall travel on a trail in a negligent manner.

C. For the purposes of this section “travel” shall be construed to include all forms of movement or transportation on a trail, including but not limited to foot, bicycle, skateboard, and roller skates.

D. Every person traveling on a trail shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device applicable thereto placed in accordance with applicable laws unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

E. No person shall operate any motor vehicle as defined by WAC 352-20-005, including but not limited to, motorized foot scooter as defined by RCW 46.04.336, moped as defined by 46.04.304, and motorcycle as defined by 46.04.330 (collectively referred to as “motor vehicles”), in a city park, including on a trail, path, or sidewalk in any city park, unless it is a designated park trail and posted for such use.

F. Regional trails, local trail corridors, and paved pathways are open to all nonmotorized users unless otherwise designated and posted. Pedestrians and non-motorized bicyclists are permitted on all maintained soft surface trails unless otherwise posted and designated. Trail restrictions may be posted at park entrances, trailheads or, in some cases, on individual trails. Trail use designations will be based on the park master plan, resource conservation, trail user conflicts, maintenance issues, and safety hazards.

11.80.140 Camping Areas Prohibited

~~It is unlawful a violation of this chapter for any person to “camp-out” camp at any park except at places set aside for such purposes by the director and so designated by signs.~~ It is a violation of this chapter for any person to stay overnight in City parks or parking areas, whether inside or outside of a vehicle, except as allowed by KMC 11.80.XXX.

11.80.XXX Tents and Shelters in Parks

No person shall erect and use a temporary structure, such as a tent, canopy, table or kiosk, except for permitted events.

11.80.150 Practicing and playing games.

~~It is unlawful for a violation of this chapter for any person to practice or play golf, baseball, softball, cricket, lacrosse, polo, archery, hockey, tennis, badminton or other games of like character or to hurl or propel any missile except at places set apart and developed for such purposes by the department of parks and recreation and so designated by the director.~~ Organized and exclusive use of

parks spaces for these purposes may require a permit, pursuant to KMC

11.80.XXX

11.80.160 ~~Depositing Refuse and litter~~

~~It is unlawful. Consistent with KMC 11.64.040, it is a violation of this chapter for any person to throw any refuse, such as but not limited to, litter, broken glass, crockery, nails, shrubbery, trimmings, junk or advertising matter in any park or to deposit any waste or abandoned material anywhere except in designated receptacles. It is a civil infraction for a person to litter in an amount less than or equal to one cubic foot. It is a misdemeanor for a person to litter in an amount greater than one cubic foot but less than one cubic yard. It is a gross misdemeanor for any person to litter in an amount of one cubic yard or more. In each case hereunder, the litter cleanup restitution payment and other obligations of KMC 11.64.040, as applicable, shall apply. It is a violation of this chapter for a person to litter in any amount whatsoever, even if such litter is less than or equal to one cubic foot. It is a violation of this chapter for a person to leave feces deposited by a dog or other animal under their control in a park area, except in designated receptacles.~~

11.80.XXX Food Waste, washing of clothing or animals prohibited

No person shall clean fish in Park areas except in fishing and shell fishing areas authorized by the director and subject to rules promulgated by Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission. No person shall clean food, or wash any vehicles, clothing or other articles for personal or household use, or wash any dog or other animal.

~~11.80.180 Permit for assemblies required. Reserved~~

~~It is a violation of this chapter for any person to hold, sponsor, or participate in any organized assembly without first giving to the director notice thereof and obtaining therefrom his written permit to do so. Such notice shall be given at least seventy-two hours prior to the date established for such assembly. Pursuant to Chapter 3.68 and Section 11.80.220, the director is hereby ordered to establish forthwith such rules and regulations pertaining to the issuance of assembly permits as shall permit the fullest peaceful utilization of the parks by all of the general public (including such persons attending such assemblies and such other persons utilizing the park, but not in attendance at such assembly) as shall be reasonably possible and consistent with the health, safety, and general welfare. In this connection, and in addition to the conduct requirements of this chapter, such rules and regulations may require the deposit of "cleanup" undertakings, the furnishing of waste and sanitary conveniences and effective plans for traffic and crowd control and management.~~

11.80.XXX Vehicle and Animal Races prohibited.

It is unlawful a violation of this chapter for any person in any park to engage in, conduct or hold any trials or competitions for speed, endurance or hill climbing involving any vehicle, boat, aircraft or animal, except at specified places and times designated for such activities by the director upon his ~~his~~ their determination that:

- (1) Adequate provision has been made to ensure that the health and safety of participants in and spectators of any such activities will not be subject to undue hazard;
- (2) Such activities will be conducted in such a manner as to minimize potential damage to public or private property;
- (3) Such activities will not constitute a public nuisance; and
- (4) Such activities will not unduly interfere with the use of park facilities by the general public.

11.80.XXX Ice

No person shall go out onto ice in any City of Kirkland park area, except in areas specifically designated for that purpose. This includes, but is not limited to, lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, and other bodies of water.

11.80.XXX Moorage

No person shall moor, anchor or dock a boat or other object overnight in Kirkland in violation of KMC 14.36 .

No person or persons shall moor, dock, or berth a boat or other watercraft, whether motorized or nonmotorized, to a log boom or float line which delineates a swimming area in a City of Kirkland park area. No person shall launch or load a boat or other watercraft, whether motorized or nonmotorized from a dock in a designated swimming area, except at such places as shall be set apart for such purposes by the director and so designated by signs.

11.80.XXX False Alarm of Drowning

Issuing a false alarm that someone is drowning is prohibited. No person shall intentionally give or transmit a false signal or false alarm of drowning in any manner.

11.80.XXX Designated Swimming Areas

Swimmers using City parks, beaches and water resources shall obey all posted beach rules and/or the instructions of lifeguards or other City employees. At City parks, beaches and associated marine areas, swimming shall be permitted only within designated swimming areas, except as noted in KMC **11.80.XXX.**

(1) Designated swimming areas shall be marked with buoys, log booms, or other markers clearly designating the boundaries of such areas.

(2) In designated swimming areas, recreational flotation devices are allowed only at the lifeguards' discretion. In designated swimming areas, the use or operation of nonmotorized watercraft, including but not limited to canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and row boats, is prohibited. Hard-bottomed flotation devices or watercraft are prohibited in designated swimming areas. Propulsion devices, such as paddles, are prohibited in designated swim areas.

(3) Swimmers must stay within designated swimming areas when using flotation devices, except where equipped with a lifejacket and propulsion device.

(4) Swimming or hiding under docks in designated swim areas is prohibited. No person shall jump or launch from a dock in the designated swim area in an unsafe manner, at the discretion of lifeguards on duty.

(5) No person shall swim, sunbathe, or scuba dive in any designated boat launching area, except for a duly authorized person.

11.80.XXX Open Water Swimming

Swimming is permitted within a distance of fifty (50) feet from the shore or a pier when wearing a high-visibility, brightly colored swim flotation buoy or tow float and brightly colored swim cap. Swimmers may pass through designed swim beaches if necessary but must swim 50 feet away from designated swim areas and boat launch areas.

Swimming beyond fifty (50) feet from the shore or pier is permitted when wearing a high-visibility, brightly colored swim flotation buoy or tow float and brightly colored swim cap and where swimmer is accompanied by a vessel and is within twenty-five feet of such vessel, and such vessel shall have onboard a personal flotation device for each occupant of said vessel and for each accompanied swimmer.

11.80.XXX Interfering with lifeguard duties

Activities that endanger other beach users and interfere or tend to interfere with and distract from or obstruct the performance of lifeguarding responsibilities are prohibited. When circumstances can safely permit games that are commonly played in the water, such games may be conducted only with the consent of a lifeguard or other department employee.

11.80.XXX Disruption and Harassment of Parks Employees

It is a violation of this code to harass or use abusive or disruptive language or conduct when engaging with a lifeguard, park ranger, or other park employee.

11.80.XXX Smoking in Parks Prohibited

Smoking and tobacco use of any kind, including but not limited to the use of cigarettes, herbal cigarettes, marijuana, cigars, pipe tobacco, smokeless tobacco, and electronic or vaporized smoking devices, is prohibited in any city park area, trail, athletic field, or recreation facility.

11.80.XXX Remote controlled models, aircraft

It is a violation of this chapter for any person to operate any motorized model aircraft drones, rocket, watercraft, or vehicles in any City of Kirkland park area except by permit obtained through the department; provided that this section does not apply to operation of motorized remote controlled models by public law enforcement or authorized parks personnel.

TITLE: Article 4 – Penalties - Misdemeanors

Any person found guilty of violating any provision of Article IV of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished as provided in RCW chapter 9A.20, by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

Rules Governing Use of Facilities - Misdemeanors

11.80.XX Parks Hours

The provisions of this section shall apply to all parks, improved and unimproved, within the city or owned by the city.

(1) Except for permitted overnight moorage holders, all waterfront parks, including vehicle parking areas within the parks, within the city or owned by the city shall be closed to the general public between the hours of ten p.m. and five a.m. of the following day.

(2) Except as otherwise provided herein, all other parks, including vehicle parking areas within the parks, within the city or owned by the city shall be closed to the general public between the hours of eleven p.m. and five a.m. of the following day.

(3) It is a violation of this chapter for any person, other than a police officer, authorized park department employee, or persons using park facilities as part of an event authorized by the department, to enter into or remain within a park within the city or owned by the city at any time between the closing hour designated above and five a.m. of the following day.

11.80.230 Aiding and abetting violations.

Any person participating in a violation of this chapter whether directly committing the act or omitting to do the thing constituting the offense or who aids or abets the same, and whether present or absent, and anyone who directly or indirectly counsels, encourages, hires, commands, induces, or otherwise procures another to commit such offense, shall be proceeded against and prosecuted as such.

11.80.XXX Refuse and Litter – Misdemeanor

No person shall deposit any household or commercial garbage, refuse, waste, or rubbish in a garbage can or other receptacle designated for such purpose in a City of Kirkland park area. It is a violation of this code to deposit any garbage, refuse, waster or rubbish in a city park anywhere other than in a designated receptacle. The penalties for littering set forth in KMC 11.64.040 shall apply to litter wrongfully deposited in a park.

11.80.XXX Waste from Vehicles

No person shall drain or dump any solid or liquid refuse or waste from any trailer, camper, automobile or other vehicle in any park area.

11.80.XX Dumping into water

No person shall pollute or in any way contaminate by dumping or otherwise depositing any waste or refuse of any nature, kind or description, including human and bodily waste, into or near any stream, river, lake or other body of water running in, though, or adjacent to any City of Kirkland park area.

11.80.XXX False Alarm of Drowning Resulting in Emergency Response

No person shall intentionally give or transmit a false signal or false alarm of drowning in any manner. False alarm of drowning that results in an emergency response may constitute a felony or gross misdemeanor per RCW 9A.84.040.

11.80.200 ~~Building fires.~~ - Reserved

~~It is a violation of this chapter for any person to build any fire in any park except in such areas as may be designated by the director and such designation is clearly defined by signs posted in such area.~~

~~11.80.210 Open Containers of Alcoholic beverages and Marijuana prohibited.~~ Alcohol and Marijuana Prohibited

~~It is an unlawful civil infraction~~ a violation of this chapter for any person to possess an open container of any alcoholic beverage or marijuana while in any city park. Any person having an open container within one's immediate reach or control (such as at a bench, picnic table, blanket, or motor vehicle where that person is sitting) within a city park may be considered to be in possession of the container for the purposes of this section. A person is exempt from this section

as it relates to alcoholic beverages to the extent that his/her actions are in accordance with a parks and community services department use permit.

11.80.XXX Intoxication

Being or remaining in, or loitering in any City park or recreation area, while in a state of intoxication is prohibited.

11.80.XXX Possession and use of controlled substances

Possession and use of controlled substances in City parks shall be governed by Chapter 69.50 RCW, as the same now exists or as hereafter amended or superseded.

11.80.XX Trespassing

The provisions of this section do not apply to any duly authorized person. For all others, it shall constitute a criminal trespass in a city park if any person knowingly:

(a) Enters or remains in a park from which he or she has been excluded during the period covered by an exclusion notice pursuant to 11.80.300;

(b) Enters, remains in, or is otherwise present within the premises of a park during hours which the park or portion of the park is not open to the public, unless the person is present within the park to participate in an activity either conducted by the parks and recreation department or conducted pursuant to the terms of a permit issued by the parks and recreation department; or

(c) Enters or remains in any area of a park which has been designated and posted by the City as a closed area, using such postings as “no admittance” or “closed to use” or “no trespassing.”

(d) It is not a defense to the crime of trespass in parks:

1. That the underlying exclusion issued pursuant to this chapter is on appeal when the excluded person is apprehended, charged, or tried under this section; nor

2. That the excluded person entered or remained in the park pursuant to a permit that was issued in the name of another person either before or after the date of the exclusion notice.

Any person trespassing on city park property shall be subject to arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass under RCW 9A.52.080.

11.80.220 Adoption of rules and regulations by director. -- Reserved

~~The director shall have the power, pursuant to Chapter , to promulgate and adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to the operation, management and use of the parks, and shall post the same in conspicuous places in the parks. Such rules and regulations shall include a procedure for granting blanket permits~~

~~encompassing any particulars of this chapter to locally and nationally recognized organizations or associations. Such rules and regulations may include the establishment of hours during which any park or portion thereof, as designated by signs located within the designated portion, shall be closed to the general public; such closures may be for reasons of public safety, welfare and convenience, or for reasons of park maintenance. It is a violation of this chapter for any person to violate or fail to comply with any park rule or regulation duly adopted and posted by the department.~~

~~11.80.250 Parks closed between ten p.m. or eleven p.m. and dawn five a.m.~~
~~Reserved~~

~~The provisions of this section shall apply to all parks, improved and unimproved, within the city or owned by the city.~~

~~(1) Except as otherwise provided herein, all waterfront parks, including vehicle parking areas within the parks, within the city or owned by the city shall be closed to the general public between the hours of ten p.m. and dawn five a.m. of the following day.~~

~~(2) Except as otherwise provided herein, all other parks, including vehicle parking areas within the parks, within the city or owned by the city shall be closed to the general public between the hours of eleven p.m. and dawn five a.m. of the following day.~~

~~(3) It is unlawful for any person, other than a police officer or authorized park department employee, to enter into or remain within a park within the city or owned by the city at any time between the closing hour designated above and dawn five a.m. of the following day.~~

~~(4) For the purposes of this section, "dawn" means the time of official sunrise for the particular day as published by the U.S. Weather Service.~~

11.80.070 Firearms and explosives.

It is ~~unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter to shoot, fire or explode any firearms, fireworks, firecracker, torpedo or explosive of any kind or to shoot or fire any air gun, bows and arrows, B.B. gun, or use any slingshot or other propelling device wherein the applied human energy or force is artificially aided, directed or added to in any park, except in such designated recreational areas as may by the department of parks and recreation be developed and provided for such activities.

11.80.XX Building fires.

~~It is unlawful~~ a violation of this chapter for any person to build any fire in any park except in such areas as may be designated by the director and such designation is clearly defined by signs posted in such area.

11.80.XX Encroachment

No person shall make unauthorized use of public lands. Any encroachment on, to, under, or over, or modification of, City owned, managed, maintained or leased lands including park, natural area or open space property, public buildings or rights-of-way will be deemed trespassing regardless of when the property was initially encroached upon.

The City will provide the violator(s) of such encroachment with a Notice of Encroachment Violation (NEV), ordering them to remove any and all encroachments to the land, to restore the land to its original condition, and if necessary to provide maintenance for three (3) years following restoration at the expense of the violator(s). The NEV shall be deemed issued after it is deposited in the U.S. mail. The NEV shall provide a deadline for compliance.

If one fails to comply with the NEV, then the City shall have the right to remove the offending encroachment and recover the landscape to its original condition. The violator shall be responsible for the costs of encroachment removal, recovery, and three (3) years of maintenance following restoration.

TITLE: Article 5 – Administrative Sanctions

A. In addition to any prescribed penalty, any person failing to comply with any provision of this chapter shall be subject to the loss of park or recreation facility use privileges and exclusion from the City of Kirkland park area, as set forth in section 11.80.XXX, below.

11.80.XXX Exclusion from Parks

A. The Enforcement Officer or a police officer may, by delivering an exclusion notice in person to the offender, exclude from a City park or parks, anyone who within a City park:

1. Violates any park rule or regulation as set forth in this Chapter, KMC 11.80; or
2. Violates any provision of the Kirkland Municipal Code or Revised Code of Washington.

The offender does not need to accept the exclusion notice or provide their identifying information for the notice to be effective. The offender need not be charged, tried, or convicted of any crime or infraction in order for an exclusion notice to be issued or effective. The exclusion may be based upon observation by the Enforcement Officer or upon the sort of civilian reports that would ordinarily be relied upon by police officers in the determination of probable cause.

B. If the offender:

1. Has not been excluded from any or all City parks by an exclusion notice issued within one (1) year prior to the violation and the current violation is not a felony violation or weapon violation, then the Enforcement Officer may exclude the offender from any or all City Parks for a period not exceeding seven (7) days from the date of the exclusion notice;

2. Has been the subject of only one (1) prior exclusion notice issued within one (1) year prior to the current violation and neither the current nor the past violation was a felony violation or weapon violation, then the Enforcement Officer shall exclude the offender from any or all City Parks for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the exclusion notice;

3. Has been the subject of two (2) or more prior exclusion notices issued within one (1) year prior to the current violation, or if the current violation is a felony violation or weapon violation, then the Enforcement Officer shall exclude the offender from all City Parks for a period of one (1) year from the date of the exclusion notice;

C. The exclusion notice shall be in writing and shall contain the date of issuance. The exclusion notice shall specify the length and places of exclusion. It shall be signed by the issuing individual. Warning of the consequences for failure to comply shall be prominently displayed on the notice.

D. An offender receiving an exclusion notice longer than seven (7) days may seek a hearing before the Director of Parks and Community Services, or their designee, to have the exclusion notice rescinded or the period of exclusion shortened. The request for a hearing shall be delivered to the Director or postmarked no later than seven (7) days after the issuance date of the exclusion notice. The request for hearing shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by a copy of the exclusion notice on which the hearing is sought. The hearing should, if reasonably possible, occur within seven (7) days after the Director receives the request for hearing. The Director shall take reasonable steps to notify the offender of the date, time, and place of the hearing.

E. At the hearing, the violation must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence in order to uphold the exclusion notice. If the exclusion notice was issued because of the alleged violation of any criminal law, the offender need not be charged, tried, or convicted for the exclusion notice to be upheld. The exclusion notice establishes a prima facie case that the offender committed the violation as described. The Director shall consider a sworn report or a declaration under penalty of perjury as authorized by RCW 9A.72.085, written by the individual who issued the exclusion notice, without further evidentiary foundation. The Director may consider information that would not be admissible under the evidence rules in a court of law but which the Director considers relevant and trustworthy.

F. If the violation is proved, the exclusion notice shall be upheld; but upon good cause shown, the Director may shorten the duration of the exclusion or otherwise modify the

exclusion. If the violation is not proved by a preponderance of the evidence, the Director will rescind the exclusion. If the Director rescinds an exclusion, the exclusion shall not be considered a prior exclusion for purposes of **KMC Section 11.80.300.**

G. The Director's decision is final. An offender seeking judicial review of the Director's decision must file an application for a writ of review in the King County Superior Court within fourteen (14) days of the date of that decision.

H. The exclusion will remain in effect during the pendency of any administrative or judicial proceeding.

I. No determination of facts made by a person conducting a hearing under this section will have any collateral estoppel effect on a subsequent criminal prosecution or civil proceeding and will not preclude litigation of those same facts in a subsequent criminal prosecution or civil proceeding.



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board

From: Emily Lima Welch, Administrative Assistant
Jason Filan, Parks Superintendent

Date: February 25, 2026

Subject: Joint Session with Council Debrief

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park Board have a debrief discussion following their joint special meeting with City Council.

BACKGROUND:

On February 17, 2026, the Park Board held a special joint meeting with City Council¹. The purpose of the joint meeting was to discuss Park Board priorities and concerns with City Council. Staff will lead a discussion with Park Board members to answer any questions or discuss any potential follow-up items.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Consider:

- What went well during preparations and the joint session itself? What should the Park Board continue to do for future joint sessions?
- What would you change during the preparation period and the joint session itself? What should the Park Board change or improve for future joint sessions?
- What stood out to you during preparations or the joint session itself? What actions did you identify during the discussion that the Park Board should take?

NEXT STEPS:

Based on Board discussion, Staff will make notes for future joint session planning.

¹ <https://kirkland.granicus.com/player/clip/5163>



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board

From: Maryke Burgess, Events and Services Manager
Sarah Rock, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Date: January 29, 2026

Subject: Parks and Community Services 2025 Quarter 4 Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Park Board receives the Parks and Community Services Department's Quarterly Report for October through December 2025.

BACKGROUND:

This report highlights the department's activities for the fourth quarter of 2025 and their community impact.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

This report highlights the Parks and Community Services second quarter 2025 activities and their impact on the community. The report illustrates the direct impact of City initiatives and the positive difference they make in the community.

Notable fourth quarter highlights include:

- Thousands of community members connected through Harvest Festival and Día de los Muertos hosted by the City as well as permitted events in Kirkland's parks including Samhain Celebration at Marina Park, Winterfest tree lighting at Peter Kirk Park, and Google Lights at Feriton Spur Park.
- A new parcel acquisition at Juanita Bay Park will protect mature habitat and create space for future gardens, trails, and environmental programming.
- Ballfield users will enjoy key improvements that were completed at Juanita Beach Park including improved dugouts, added irrigation, and restored turf to create improved play experiences for the community.
- The Kirkland Youth Council welcomed 12 new members and Kirkland Senior Council welcomed six new members.
- Recreation programs strengthened cross-generational connection with strong participation in teen programs, preschool celebrations, and senior holiday events.

The Parks and Community Services Quarter 4 2025 Report will be posted on the department website¹ for community access.

ATTACHMENTS

¹ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/parks-amp-comm-services/pcs-admin/reports-studies/pcs-2025-quarter-4-report-optimized.pdf>

Attachment 1 – 2025 Fourth Quarter Parks and Community Services Report



Quarterly Report: Fall 2025

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

From seasonal festivals and cultural traditions to investments in housing stability, youth leadership, and park infrastructure, the department created places where people feel welcome and engaged.

EVENTS & SERVICES

A FALL FAVORITE RETURNS: HARVEST FESTIVAL

In October, the 5th Annual Harvest Festival transformed Juanita Beach Park into a gathering place for over 6,000 neighbors, families, and friends. With 30 local vendors and 12 food trucks, the festival showcased local creativity and flavor. Local bands set the tone, while pickleball and interactive contests invited festivalgoers to join the fun.

Pony rides, friendly faces, and fall games made the Kids Korral a festival favorite for families



La Catrina and Gema Choir filled the event with powerful voices and joyful movement



HONORING LIFE AND TRADITION AT DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

The 4th Annual Día de Los Muertos Celebration offered a meaningful space for remembrance, cultural learning, and connection through music, art, and tradition. At the heart of the celebration, the Book of Life community art installation invited participants to add memories of loved ones, creating a shared sense of belonging.





Runners of all ages brought energy, costumes, and holiday cheer to Kirkland streets



SEASONAL RUNS: MOVING TOGETHER

Kirkland brought people together through movement with a series of permitted races this fall. More than 700 runners joined the Lake Washington Half Marathon, over 500 people of all ages took part in the Kirkland Turkey Trot, and the 12Ks of Christmas filled the streets with holiday costumes and cheer.

EVENTS & SERVICES



Neighbors count down together as the Winterfest tree lights up Peter Kirk Park with winter cheer



WINTER TRADITIONS THAT SHINE

Kirkland's parks shone brightly with winter traditions that brought the community together. The Winterfest tree lighting ceremony moved to Peter Kirk Park and the Kirkland Downtown Association hosted an inaugural ice rink also at Peter Kirk Park. Google Holiday Lights at Feriton Spur Park and the Grand Menorah Lighting at Marina Park Pavilion brought neighbors together to celebrate the season's light. Together, these traditions reinforced Kirkland's parks as places of connection during winter.

ADMIN

KIRKLAND COMMUNITY CENTER TAKES SHAPE

While Council and City leadership pursued an agreement with the Seattle Kraken NHL team to develop an Iceplex and Community Center at the former Houghton Park & Ride, staff focused on maximizing community uses for the second-floor designs, which are expected to be finalized in early 2026.



The new Kirkland Community Center takes shape



Becky Gilley,
Human
Services
Supervisor



Alex Bundrick,
Housing
Navigation
Coordinator

HUMAN SERVICES



COMPASSION IN ACTION: BUILDING PATHS OUT OF HOMELESSNESS

Kirkland continues to invest in compassionate, coordinated responses to support residents experiencing housing instability and other critical needs. This quarter, the City advanced its Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan, a roadmap designed to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Developed with community input, the plan outlines 77 actions focused on prevention, outreach, housing stability, and public space use. To support this work, the City added new Human Services staff focused on relationship-based outreach and housing navigation.

A hand-crafted
statue reflects
trust and dignity
built through
relationship-
based outreach



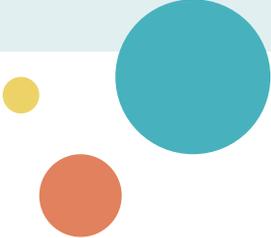
One moment this quarter captured the heart of this work supporting the community. A client gifted a small, hand-crafted statue depicting one person helping another up. The gesture reflected trust, dignity, and the impact of being seen, affirming the value of relationship-driven outreach.



Youth Council
members give
back through
hands-on
community service
and leadership

KIRKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL: YOUNG LEADERS IN ACTION

The Kirkland Youth Council welcomed 12 new members from 85 applicants. This quarter, members supported park restoration, assisted at major events, hosted the Holly-Day Brunch, heard 11 Teen Traffic Court cases, and funded three youth-led programs, showcasing how young leaders shape Kirkland's future.



PARK OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE & PLANNING



A helpful elf finishes the ballfield dugouts at Juanita Beach Park



GROWING JUANITA BAY PARK FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

This fall the City of Kirkland celebrated the expansion of Juanita Bay Park through the acquisition of 1.5 acres along Forbes Creek Road. The acquisition protects mature trees and critical buffers while opening doors for restoration, near term affordable housing, and future gardens, trails, and an environmental outpost.



New land at Juanita Bay Park protects habitat and expands trails and future access

READY FOR SPRING PLAY AT JUANITA BEACH BALLFIELDS

The Juanita Beach Park ballfield renovation improved field conditions and prepared the site for spring play, supporting safer, more reliable access for leagues and families.



Preparing Juanita Bay for wildflowers and spring color



Q4 TOTAL LABOR HOURS: 10,383.25



2,520.75
garbage and recycling



2,298
leaf removal



522.25
repairs



334.50
event support



607.75
restroom cleaning



STEWARDSHIP YOU CAN SEE ACROSS KIRKLAND PARKS

Ribbon cuttings at O.O. Denny Park and Fisk Family Park marked completion of community requested improvements, while restoration at Juanita Bay and along Juanita Creek prepared wildflower meadows, planted bulbs, and enhanced creek corridors in Windsor Vista and Edith Moulton Parks to support habitat health and seasonal beauty.



Teen-made holiday treats, ready to share

RECREATION



CREATIVITY TAKES SHAPE AT KTUB

Teens explored creativity and connection through hands-on workshops at the Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB). The Recording Studio wrapped up its first advanced class in December! SewCial workshops introduced sewing skills through social learning, while a Holiday Baking Workshop brought teens together to create treats to share with family and friends.



NEW VOICES JOIN KIRKLAND SENIOR COUNCIL

Community leadership also remained strong with successful recruitment for the 2026 Kirkland Senior Council. Six new members were selected from a highly competitive pool of 16 applicants, reflecting strong community interest in advocating for and supporting older adults in Kirkland.

TEEN NIGHTS: A PLACE TO BELONG

KTUB Teen Nights continued to draw steady participation, with an average of 25 teens per evening. These drop-in events offered relaxed spaces for teens to share meals, play games, dance, and form friendships, creating consistency, comfort, and connection.



Teens gather at KTUB for meals, games, and lasting connections

RECREATION



Costumes, games, and treats create magical moments for Kirkland's youngest neighbors



BIG JOY FOR LITTLE ONES ALL SEASON LONG

Seasonal preschool celebrations delighted families at the North Kirkland Community Center. Pee Wee Monster Bash welcomed 187 participants for Halloween fun, while the Snowflake Ball offered children ages 3-10 an enchanting evening of dancing, crafts, and memories.



Seniors celebrate the season together

CELEBRATING TOGETHER AT PETER KIRK COMMUNITY CENTER

The holiday season offered meaningful opportunities for seniors to connect and celebrate. More than 200 seniors participated in events including Turkey Treats, the Holly-Day Brunch hosted by the Kirkland Youth Council, and Holiday D'Lights. These gatherings fostered connection, reduced isolation, and created moments of joy during the winter months.

Q4 SENIOR SERVICE STATS



1,063

lunches served



2,537

meals on wheels delivered



1,348

transportation rides

This quarter reflected what makes Kirkland special: shared experiences, meaningful service, and places that bring people together. Thank you to the staff, volunteers, partners, and community members who make this work possible as we look ahead to another season of impact.