

KIRKLAND

2018 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON THE PARK LEVY PROGRAM

Park Levy Funds Improvements
to Edith Moulton Park **PG. 9**

+ GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP
volunteers log over 10,000 hours
restoring natural areas **PG. 6**

KIRKLAND PARKS

WE CARE FOR:

- 52 Parks
- 22 Open Space Parcels
- 3 Swimming Beaches
- Peter Kirk Pool
- Peter Kirk Community Center
- North Kirkland Community Center
- Heritage Hall
- Kirkland Cemetery
- City/School Partnership Playfields
- Kirkland Performance Center
- Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB)
- ★ Parks Levy-Funded Capital Improvement Projects (see page 8)

QUALITY OF LIFE

KIRKLAND'S RESIDENTS DECIDED IN 2012 TO SUPPORT MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENTS FOR THEIR PARK SYSTEM.

IN NOVEMBER OF 2012, Kirkland voters approved a permanent property tax levy to restore and enhance funding for daily park maintenance, summer beach lifeguards, major capital improvements, and acquisition of park land. This annual report summarizes how the levy funds are being used to support and enrich Kirkland's cherished quality of life.

The levy raises approximately \$2.5 million annually, of which about \$1.25 million is used to restore, maintain and enhance Kirkland parks and natural areas. For the first six years (2013-2018), the remaining \$1.25 million helps fund the Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to complete major repairs and site renovations at parks throughout the community. Priority projects initially identified by the City Council for levy investments include the following:

- Planning for development of the Cross Kirkland Corridor
- Renovations to Waverly Beach Park and Edith Moulton Park
- Park land acquisition for future neighborhood parks
- Docks and shoreline infrastructure renovations in many of the City's waterfront parks
- Replacement of the Juanita Beach Park bathhouse
- Playfield upgrades at select school sites

Alternate Formats: Persons with disabilities may request materials in alternative formats. Persons with hearing impairments may access the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service at 711.

Title VI: It is the City of Kirkland's policy to ensure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with the City of Kirkland.

To request an alternate format or for questions about Kirkland's Title VI Program Coordinator at 425-587-3011 or titlevicoordinator@kirklandwa.gov.

SAFER SWIM BEACHES

THE PARKS LEVY SECURED ONGOING FUNDING OF OVER 1,100 HOURS EACH YEAR FOR LIFEGUARDS AT THREE OF KIRKLAND’S BEACHES.



SWIMMING BEACH	Swimmers (2012-no levy)	Lifejackets Loaned (2012-no levy)	On Shore Beaches (2018)	Swimmers (2018)	Lifejackets Loaned (2018)
Houghton	4,370	355	17,972	4,701	187
Waverly	1,991	93	12,710	3,160	147
Juanita	not staffed	not staffed	19,553	6,536	107

THRIVING PARKS

THE 2012 LEVY INCREASED MAINTENANCE LEVELS BY RESTORING LABOR HOURS FOR PARKS MAINTENANCE AND APPROXIMATELY \$165,000 ANNUALLY FOR SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND UTILITIES.

The impact of the increase in labor can be seen in several areas of the maintenance division's operation.

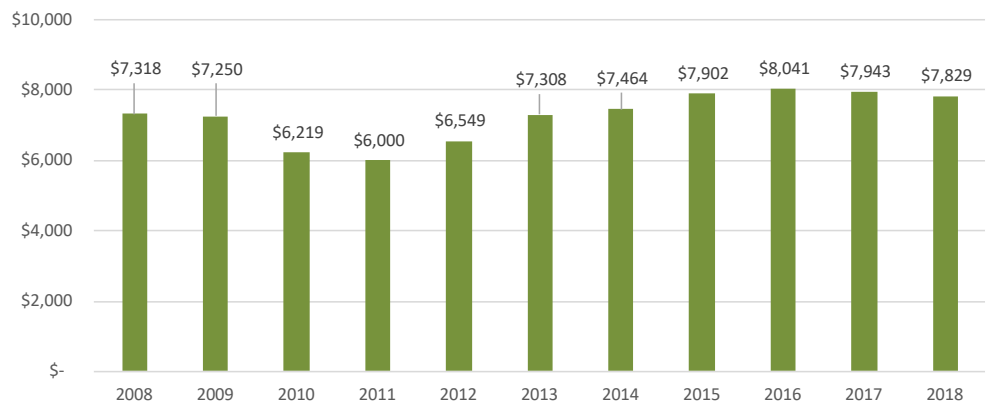
Restroom service has been restored at neighborhood parks, such as North Kirkland Community Center's "Train Park", Phyllis Needy Houghton Neighborhood Park and South Rose Hill Park.

No more brown parks with irrigation resumed at the lawn areas of Peter Kirk, Crestwoods, Everest, 132nd Square, Spinney Homestead, Terrace and other parks. Labor hours for weeding and mulching of landscape beds have been restored.

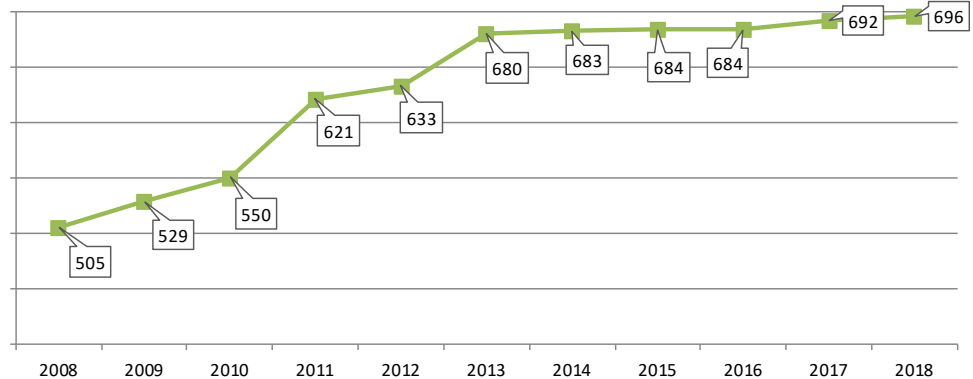
Park benches, pathways, playgrounds, park lighting, restroom facilities, irrigation systems, and other amenities continue to be repaired and replaced via Park Levy funding.

In 2018, some of the parks receiving improvements included Crestwoods, Everest, Edith Moulton, Hazen Hills, OO Denny, Houghton Beach and Marina Park.

Maintenance Funding per Acre



Acres Maintained by Kirkland Parks



THE LEVY ENSURES FUNDING FOR THE GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP, WHICH CONTINUES TO RECRUIT MORE THAN 2,000 VOLUNTEERS EACH YEAR.

THE LEVY CONTINUES KIRKLAND'S COMMITMENT TO RESTORING NATURAL GREEN SPACES. The purpose of the Green Kirkland Partnership is to conserve and restore Kirkland's natural area park land by removing invasive plants and planting native species for the sustainability of urban forests, wetlands and other habitats. Partnering with citizens, groups and businesses since 2005, over 100,000 volunteer hours have restored approximately 95 acres. Invasive plants such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry are removed and replaced with native trees, shrubs and groundcovers needed to sustain these natural areas. These restoration areas continue to benefit from ongoing volunteer efforts to ensure that new plantings thrive.

Between 2005 and 2012, the program was financially at risk of losing sources to fund the necessary staff. Thanks to the passage of the levy, the program has a dedicated funding source for staff to recruit volunteers and businesses, write grants, train volunteers, coordinate restoration events, develop restoration plans, and provide education and outreach to the community on the benefits of healthy forests and other natural areas.



The levy supports natural area restoration activities such as removing invasive plants and planting native plants and trees.



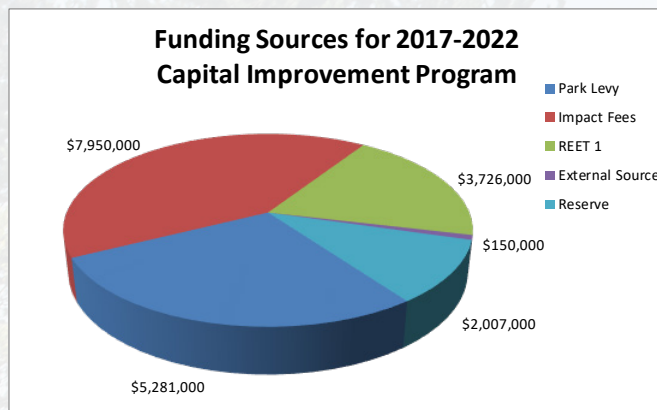
GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP	2012 (no levy)	2018 (with levy)
Number of staff	1	3.5
Number of volunteers	2,164	2,181
Volunteered hours	9,401	10,515
Volunteer work parties	168	227
Volunteer stewards	22	32
Acres in restoration	40.3	108
Invasive trees removed	336	1,262
Native plants and trees planted	5,979	4,337
Woodchip mulch applied (cubic yards)	315	457



INVESTING IN PARKS

THE LEVY PROVIDES OVER \$1 MILLION PER YEAR FOR MAJOR RENOVATIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS TO KIRKLAND'S PARK SYSTEM.

The chart at right shows the funding sources for the 2017-2022 Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Anticipated funding for parks projects averages \$3.62 million per year, with approximately \$1.25 million per year coming from the 2012 levy and the remainder primarily coming from Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and Impact Fees placed on new development.



LEVY-FUNDED PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS INITIATED OR COMPLETED IN 2018 INCLUDE:



CROSS KIRKLAND CORRIDOR (\$100,000 levy funds)

Known as the CKC, the 5.75 mile Cross Kirkland Corridor traverses Kirkland from the South Kirkland Park and Ride to the Totem Lake Business District. The City has completed construction of an interim recreational trail, while levy funding was used to create an overall Master Plan for the corridor.



WAVERLY BEACH PARK (\$0 levy funds)

Improvements to Waverly Beach completed previously included shoreline and beach upgrades, new pier decking, lawn restoration and enhanced drainage, new pathways and new playground. In addition, the Kirkland Rotary Club and Kirkland Parks Foundation raised funds to install a new picnic pavilion for the park. No park improvements were completed in 2018; however, future improvements are in the planning stage.



PARK LAND ACQUISITION (\$300,000 levy funds)

Land acquisitions to plan for growth and to protect important natural resources are funded from the levy. New park land acquired in 2018 included 4.18 acres to be added to Juanita Heights Park.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

CURRENT STATUS

Items in green reflect the current status of the project.

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

EDITH MOULTON PARK (\$1,000,000 levy funds)

Edith Moulton donated her family homestead, a 26-acre heavily wooded property in Juanita, to the public in 1967. Kirkland assumed ownership from King County following annexation in 2011 and completed a park master plan process in 2014. Final design and permitting for park improvements began in 2015 with construction occurring in 2017 and 2018. The renovated Park opened in 2018 and featured a new picnic shelter, playground, restroom, off-leash dog trail, improved trails and environmental protections and enhancements.

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

DOCK AND SHORELINE INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS (\$100,000 levy funds)

Kirkland's 13 diverse Lake Washington waterfront parks provide opportunities for public access while balancing the needs for habitat enhancement and maintaining ecological function. After a 2013 shoreline infrastructure assessment, levy funds were used to complete repairs to Houghton Beach Park in 2014, to improve boat launch and decking at Houghton Beach Park in 2017 and Marina Park pier in 2018. Additional projects still need to be completed in future years.

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

JUANITA BEACH BATHHOUSE REPLACEMENT (\$1,200,000 levy funds)

The levy will contribute funding to the replacement of the Juanita Beach Bathhouse and park improvements. In 2016, the City continued the planning and design process for the park enhancements. In 2017-2018, final design for the new bathhouse, picnic shelters, playground and environmental enhancements were complete. The project was in permitting and approvals in late 2018.

PLANNING/DESIGN

PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

COMPLETE

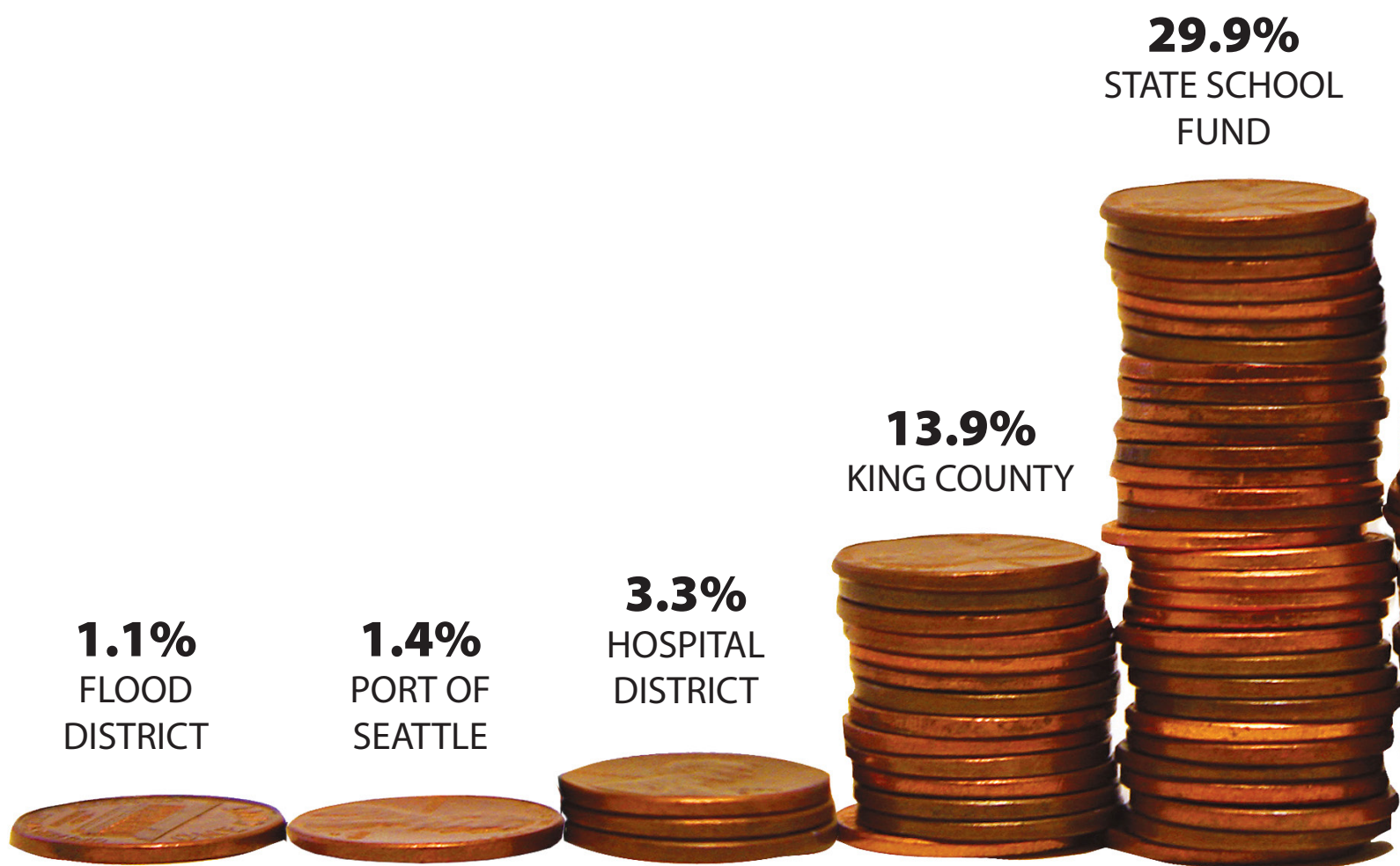
CITY/SCHOOL PLAYFIELD PARTNERSHIP (\$1,000,000 levy funds)

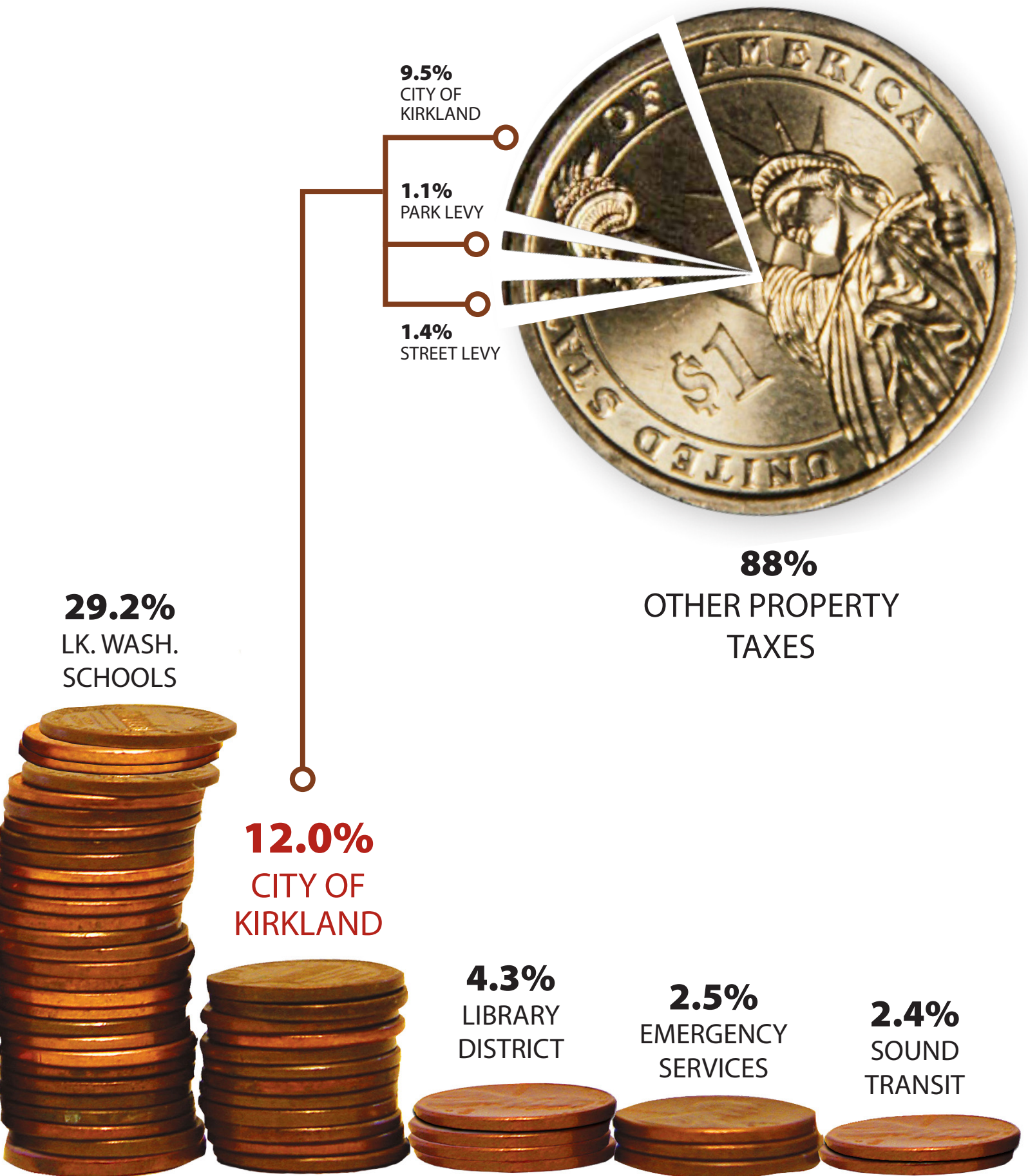
In 2017, enhancements to the Finn Hill Middle School (FHMS) baseball and softball fields as well as the multi-purpose field at Peter Kirk Elementary School were approved. The 2018 planned renovation at FHMS was delayed. Peter Kirk Elementary School is under construction.

WHERE PROPERTY TAXES GO

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT ON THE 2012 PARK LEVY PROGRAM: 2018 EDITION

The 2012 Park levy accounts for just over 1 percent of Kirkland residents' property taxes, and yet it pays for more than half of the city's park improvement projects and makes up 20% of the department's budget for park maintenance and operations. Property tax is one of the largest City revenue sources and provides significant support of the General Fund, Street Fund, and Park Levy funds. It accounts for nearly one-fifth of the City's General Fund. State law limits Kirkland to a maximum annual revenue increase of 1% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. State law also allows for new construction. Voters can give Kirkland authority to exceed this limitation, which they did November 6, 2012, when they passed the Park Levy.





KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

(425) 587-3001



Mayor Amy Walen



Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold



Penny Sweet



Dave Asher



Tom Neir



Jon Pascal



Toby Nixon

KIRKLAND PARK BOARD

Chair Rosalie Wessels | **Vice Chair** Kelli Curtis

Susan Baird-Joshi | Uzma Butte | Kobey Chew | Jason Chinchilla | Richard Chung | Kevin Quille

The Kirkland Park Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.



CITY STAFF

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Kurt Triplett, **City Manager** | 587-3001

Marilynne Beard, **Deputy City Manager** | 587-3008 • Tracey Dunlap, **Deputy City Manager** | 587-3101

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lynn Zwaagstra, **Director** | 587-3300

