



KIRKLAND PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division provides department leadership, manages finances and personnel, oversees training and risk management, coordinates regionally, and supports the Park Board.

HUMAN SERVICES

This division coordinates, funds, and facilitates services that meet basic needs, support people through crises, and expand opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents. It collaborates with the Human Services Commission and Kirkland Youth Council.

PARKS MANAGEMENT

This division maintains safe, attractive, and sustainable parks, sports courts, and fields, while supporting community events and environmental stewardship. This division leads park planning, facility design, land acquisition, capital projects, construction management, grant preparation, and long-term policy planning. It also manages the Green Kirkland Partnership.

RECREATION

This division provides inclusive programs that promote physical, mental, and social wellbeing. It also manages beach lifeguards and aquatic activities at the Peter Kirk Pool. The division collaborates with the Kirkland Senior Council.

EVENTS AND SERVICES

This division organizes community events such as Celebrate Kirkland, Harvest Festival, Día de los Muertos, and Lunar New Year. It also manages permitting and support for neighborhood and citywide events, ensuring compliance and safety. This division also oversees the Juanita Friday Market.



New Musical Play Feature at Juanita Beach Park

72.5
EMPLOYEES



53 PARKS
24 OPEN SPACES



741.4
TOTAL ACRES
MAINTAINED



52
CITY & SCHOOL
ATHLETIC FIELDS



**PETER KIRK POOL &
3 SWIMMING BEACHES**



- **HERITAGE HALL**
- **KIRKLAND CEMETERY**
- **KIRKLAND TEEN UNION BUILDING**
- **NORTH KIRKLAND COMMUNITY CENTER**
- **PETER KIRK COMMUNITY CENTER**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2025 OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET: \$25,784,818

GENERAL FUND



78.56%
\$20,257,155

The General Fund is the department's largest funding source. Revenue comes from property, sales, and other taxes as well as charges for goods and services such as recreation programs, and from license and permit fees.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

Aquatics	Juanita Friday Market	Marina	Recreation	Rentals	Special Events	Sponsors	Vendors
\$367,088	\$25,925	\$116,079	\$1,934,980	\$817,737	\$29,813	\$79,000	\$105,603

PARKS LEVY FUND



21.25%
\$5,479,410

The Parks Levy Fund supports the maintenance and operation of park properties and facilities funded by levies approved by voters in 2002 and 2012. The Parks Maintenance Fund (2002 Levy) and Parks Levy Fund (2012 Levy) were merged into one fund in 2024. Levy funding helps maintain Juanita Beach Park, Carillon Woods, North Rose Hill Woodlands, O.O. Denny Park, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and sports courts, and select Lake Washington School District athletic fields. Levy funding also supports beach lifeguards, the Cross Kirkland Corridor (managed by Public Works), and the Green Kirkland Partnership.

CEMETERY FUND



0.19%
\$48,253

The Cemetery Fund covers funeral services, interments, marker installations, and general cemetery infrastructure. Landscaping and general upkeep is funded by the General Fund.



Memorial Day at Kirkland Cemetery



North Kirkland Community Center Basketball Court

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Teens Paint a Mural at KTUB

KIRKLAND TEEN UNION BUILDING

In 2025, the Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB) celebrated its first full year of operations, welcoming 6,722 drop-in visits from local teens. KTUB provides a safe, inclusive space for recreation, connection, and support, including free programs and on-site mental health services. The center's impact was recognized with a Washington Recreation & Parks Association Spotlight Award for Excellence in Equity, Health & Wellness, highlighting KTUB's role in helping Kirkland teens thrive.



Everest Park Playground Opening

EVEREST PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

What was once one of Kirkland's smallest playgrounds was nearly doubled this summer and transformed into a vibrant, inclusive destination designed for all ages and abilities. The new playground features climbing structures, dynamic swings, and an oversized baseball glove slide that pays tribute to the park's baseball heritage. Funded in part by the voter-approved 2020–2025 King County Parks Levy, the updated playground offers modern, accessible fun that welcomes everyone to play, explore, and connect.



Junk in Trunk



Kirkland International Night Market

NEW EVENTS AT HOUGHTON PARK AND PLAY

Staff launched two new community events in 2025: Junk in the Trunk, a community garage sale, which exceeded expectations with over 60 vendors offering everything from vintage treasures to quirky collectibles at the Houghton Park and Play. In August, the Kirkland International Night Market transformed the site into a global celebration of culture, flavor, and creativity. Community members enjoyed delicious street food, artisan vendors, as well as music, dance, and hands-on activities.

2025 PROGRESS

PROS PLAN PROGRESS

The 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan is Kirkland's six-year roadmap for parks and recreation improvements. Progress is measured not just in completions, but in the active partnerships and ongoing investments that shape Kirkland's parks for generations to come.

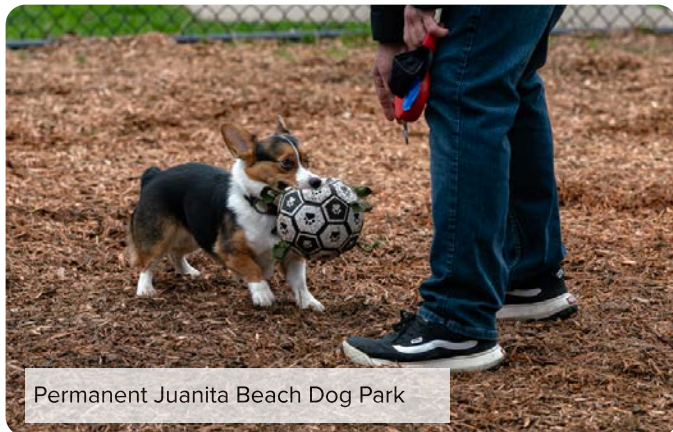
165 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

✓ **34 COMPLETED**
→ **40 ACTIVELY ADVANCING**



2025 PROS PLAN MILESTONES

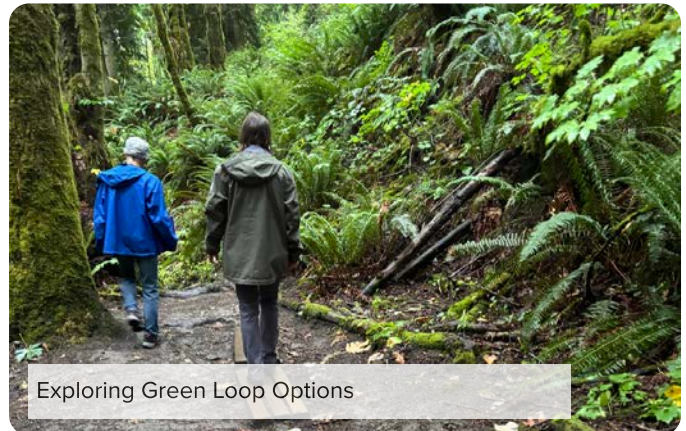
- Green Loop Implementation Launched
- Juanita Beach Ballfield Improvements Completed
- Juanita Beach Dog Park Made Permanent
- Marketing and Outreach Expanded
- Began Safety and Security Upgrades at Two Parks



Permanent Juanita Beach Dog Park

PERMANENT DOG PARK AT JUANITA BEACH

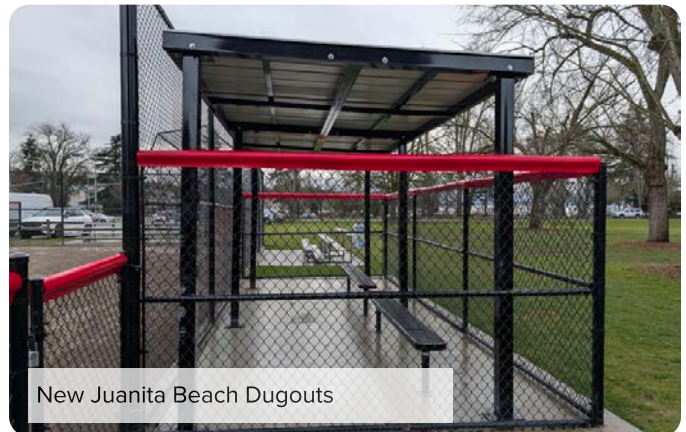
A pop-up dog park launched in 2021 was intended as a temporary, one-month solution, but community demand made the case for something permanent. Improvements to make the space permanent were funded and completed in late 2025.



Exploring Green Loop Options

GREEN LOOP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Kirkland's long-envisioned Green Loop is one step closer to reality. Staff kicked off the plan for this community investment to connect people with parks, natural areas, schools, and bus stops in the Finn Hill and Juanita neighborhoods through a continuous network of trails and green spaces.



New Juanita Beach Dugouts

JUANITA BEACH BALLFIELDS REFRESHED

A major investment at Juanita Beach Park North upgraded one of Kirkland's busiest recreation areas with renovated ballfields, improved dugouts, new fencing, irrigation upgrades, and refreshed turf.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Strategic investments in outreach, engagement, and communications continued to strengthen community connections in 2025. These efforts helped connect more community members with parks, recreation programs, capital investments, and volunteer opportunities while supporting informed community participation.



14k
E-NEWS
SUBSCRIBERS

600+
SOCIAL POSTS



49k+
CLICKS

EVENTS AND SERVICES

COMMUNITY BUILDING

The department hosts cultural and inclusive events that bring Kirkland together while supporting local businesses. In 2025, more than 41,000 people attended events like Harvest Festival, Celebrate Kirkland, See Spot Splash, Día de los Muertos, Lunar New Year, and Movies in the Park.

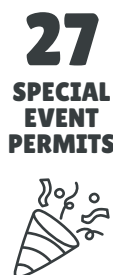


LUNAR NEW YEAR

Kirkland's 3rd annual Lunar New Year filled every corner of the Peter Kirk Community Center and Kirkland Teen Union Building, as more than 700 neighbors gathered to celebrate the Year of the Snake with crafts, wishes, and cultural performances, culminating in a lion and dragon dance.

PERMITTED SPECIAL EVENTS

Kirkland's parks came alive in 2025 with concerts, festivals, races, walks, and theater in the park. The community welcomed the 7 Hills of Kirkland bike ride and the Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt, alongside favorites like the Evening Summer Concert series and a seasonal celebration from Uncorked.



JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET

The City's farmers market celebrated its 19th season at Juanita Beach Park, drawing neighbors together in a safe and welcoming space. Shoppers enjoyed a wide variety of goods from 56 diverse vendors, including fresh berries, baked goods, flowers, and handmade goods. Marketgoers also enjoyed entertainment from 30 groups from jazz quintets to hula dancing.

56
REGISTERED
VENDORS



\$350,000
Estimated SEASON SALES



HUMAN SERVICES

2025 KIRKLAND HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

Nearly 1,300 community members took part in the fifth annual Kirkland Health and Wellness Fair at Juanita High School in September. The City contracted with King County Promotores Network to host the event. Over 3,500 flyers were distributed in 10 languages including Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian, Arabic, and Simplified Chinese. Community members received essential healthcare services such as health screenings, childhood immunizations, flu shots, PPE distribution, overdose prevention education, Naloxone distribution, information on local social and health programs and more.



HOMELESS OUTREACH AND RESPONSE

Kirkland continued to invest in a coordinated response to support residents experiencing homelessness. In 2025, the City adopted its first 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, shelter, and housing. The City continued funding critical resources, including severe weather vouchers, showers, laundry, and storage. In addition, the City funded two new Human Services positions, a Human Services Supervisor and a Housing Navigation Coordinator, to expand support for relationship-based outreach and housing navigation. Staff also supported the development and approval of the Code of Conduct, Safety and Security Plan, and Community Relations Plan/Good Neighbor Agreement for Sheila Stanton Place, the first permanent supportive housing project developed through King County Health Through Housing. Formerly known as the Kirkland Health Through Housing project, Sheila Stanton Place officially opened at the end of 2025.

Human Services administered

\$2,885,567

in grants, supporting over 18,000 individuals in the following areas:



Housing Stability and Food Security
\$1,582,336



Physical and Mental Health Care Services
\$713,920



Community-Building & Supportive Relationships
\$372,950



Safe Haven and Violence & Abuse Prevention
\$172,591



Employment and Education
\$43,770



Supportive funding from the City covered:

76
COLD-WEATHER
VOUCHERS
COVERED



558
NIGHTS OUT OF THE
COLD

2326
SHOWERS



455
LOADS OF
LAUNDRY



PARKS MANAGEMENT

In 2025, Parks Management made visible improvements across Kirkland's park system, enhancing and restoring natural areas and preparing parks to welcome visitors year round.



56,610
LABOR HOURS

\$12,919

PER ACRE
budget per acre of
space maintained



2,000+
**POUNDS OF
PRODUCE**

harvested and donated
in partnerships with Tilth
Alliance and CityFruit



8,392,954
GALLONS OF WATER

Lake Washington water
used to irrigate parks saved
the City over \$100,598



Resurfaced courts at Everest Park

SPORT COURT REFRESH

Courts at Everest, Heritage, Forbes Creek, Van Aalst, and the North Kirkland Community Center parks were refreshed for use by thousands of community members for pickleball, basketball, and tennis.



Wildflower meadow at Juanita Bay Park

WILDFLOWER MEADOW

At Juanita Bay Park, staff transformed a previously underutilized area into a new wildflower meadow that will support pollinators, improve habitat, and add seasonal beauty for park visitors for years to come.



WINTER ELVES SPOTLIGHT

Parks staff spread holiday cheer in December, dressing as elves while performing the essential behind-the-scenes work that keeps Kirkland's parks welcoming.

GRANTS AWARDED

Staff applied for and were awarded multiple grants to support Kirkland's parks including:

- **\$75,000** - King Conservation District Member Jurisdiction Grant to support Green Kirkland Partnership
- **\$603,268** - King County Conservation Futures Grant to support Fisk Family Park acquisition
- **\$1,131,441** - King County Conservation Futures Grant to support Juanita Heights Park expansion acquisitions

GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

1,845 **INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS**

8,909 **VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

The Green Kirkland Partnership continues
Kirkland's commitment to restoring natural
areas in parks.

4,770 **NATIVE PLANTS INSTALLED**

5 **NEW ACRES IN
RESTORATION**

337 **TOTAL ACRES IN
RESTORATION**

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS & LEVY PRIORITIES



O.O. Denny Park Picnic Shelter

O.O. DENNY PARK PICNIC SHELTER

A new picnic shelter opened at O.O. Denny Park in October, providing additional space for gatherings, celebrations, and community events. Funded through contributions from Dick and Nancy Gode, the former Finn Hill Park and Recreation District, and the City, the project reflects a shared investment in community spaces.

JUANITA BAY PARK EXPANSION

In December, the City expanded Juanita Bay Park through the acquisition of 1.5 acres along Forbes Creek Road. The property protects mature trees and environmental buffers while creating opportunities for future habitat restoration, trails, gardens, and environmental education.



Juanita Bay Park Expansion

SYNTHETIC TURF FEASIBILITY STUDY

A feasibility study was completed to evaluate opportunities to increase field capacity and improve year-round playability via synthetic turf at two Kirkland parks. Design work is underway, with construction at Crestwoods Park anticipated to begin in late 2026, pending funding and permitting.

ROSE HILL MEADOWS EXPANSION

The City received a property donation from longtime Kirkland resident Larry E. Miller, fulfilling his vision of creating a community garden. In 2025, the site was prepared for the Crabby Old Pharts Pea Patch.



Miller Property Donation

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS

Key capital projects progressed in 2025 and will continue in 2026 including:

- Everest Park Restroom Replacement
- Marina Park Dock and Shoreline Renovations

2012 PARKS LEVY PRIORITIES

Lifeguarded Beaches	ongoing
O.O. Denny Park Maintenance	ongoing
Parks Facilities Asset Maintenance	ongoing
Green Kirkland Partnership	ongoing
Dock and Shoreline Renovations	ongoing
City-School District Playfields Partnership	✓
Waverly Beach Park Renovation	✓
Edith Moulton Park Renovation	✓
Cross Kirkland Corridor Interim Trail	✓
Juanita Beach Bathhouse Renovation	✓
Open Space and Park Land Acquisition	✓



Everest Restroom Replacement Design

RECREATION



RECREATION SCHOLARSHIPS

No Kirkland resident should miss out on recreation due to cost. The City offers high-quality, affordable programming for all ages and abilities, and recreation scholarships help ensure that financial barriers don't stand in the way of participation.

\$25,008
SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDS USED

\$13,442
SCHOLARSHIP
DONATIONS
RECEIVED



2,312
RECREATION
PROGRAMS



19,786
RECREATION
PARTICIPANTS



11,131
ATHLETIC FIELD
HOURS RESERVED

6,538
PICNIC SHELTER
HOURS RESERVED

SENIOR SERVICES

The Peter Kirk Community Center offers health, wellness, and support for older adults through partnerships and onsite staff. These services help older adults remain connected and healthy in their own community.

8,246
SENIOR SERVICE
APPOINTMENTS

4,309
SENIOR
MEALS

8,274
MEALS ON
WHEELS



AQUATICS



71,096
BEACH
VISITORS
(JUNE 29 - SEPT. 7)



544
LIFEJACKETS
LOANED



20,273
PUBLIC SWIM
VISITS



30
RESCUES BY
LIFEGUARDS



ADVISORY GROUPS

PARK BOARD



Park Board members tour Kirkland parks

In 2025, the Park Board developed a Work Plan and advised on the Iceplex & Kirkland Community Center and the Peter Kirk Pool enclosure concepts. Board members attended neighborhood meetings, ribbon cuttings at the updated Everest Park playground and new Fisk Family Park, and volunteered at the Celebrate Kirkland Parade. The Board's input ensures Kirkland's parks continue to reflect the needs, values, and aspirations of the community.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION



Joint Eastside Commission Meeting

In early 2025, the Human Services Commission heard from local nonprofits about the impacts of federal immigration policy changes on immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking community members. Commissioners reviewed 24 grant applications requesting more than \$1 million in human services funding and made recommendations to City Council. This resulted in rapid response funding for six agencies providing essential services and support to immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking residents.

SENIOR COUNCIL



Senior Council at City Hall for All

The Kirkland Senior Council advocates for residents age 50+ by promoting active aging, accessibility, and community connection. In 2025, the Council advanced education, housing advocacy, transportation access, and partnerships that support older adults. A major achievement was helping Kirkland join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, a milestone that will help shape a more accessible, inclusive, and livable community for all ages.

YOUTH COUNCIL



Kirkland Youth Council's Holly Day Brunch

Youth Council members served their community through leadership, service, and civic engagement in 2025. They continued the peer-led Teen Traffic Court program, which heard 18 cases, awarded 17 mini-grants totaling nearly \$7,000 to support youth-focused projects and activities, and volunteered over 200 hours at eight community events throughout the year. Their work helped amplify youth voices and create positive opportunities for Kirkland teens.



Kirkland City Council

Pictured from left to right: Neal Black, John Tymczyszyn, Penny Sweet
Mayor Kelli Curtis, Amy Falcone, Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Jon Pascal

Park Board

Chair: Amy Ambrosini

Vice Chair: Jared Silvia

Juliana Born | Berenice Bortoni

Katherine Kearny | Denise Lindberg

Paul Stull | Anika Joshi (Youth)

Human Services Commission

Chair: Gabriela Lopez Vazquez

Vice Chair: Sriram Rajagopalan

Kobey Sage Chew | Jory Hamilton

Cristian Liu | Shannon Quinn

Tasnim Rehamani | Eric Dodd (Youth)

City Leadership

City Manager: Kurt Triplett

Deputy City Manager: James Lopez

Deputy City Manager: Julie Underwood

Parks and Community Services

Director: Lynn Zwaagstra

Deputy Director: John Lloyd

Parks Superintendent: Jason Filan

Park Planning and Development Manager: Mariah Gill

Recreation Manager: Sara Shellenbarger

Human Services Manager: Jen Boone

Events and Services Manager: Maryke Burgess

Our mission is to support a healthy and sustainable community by providing high quality parks and recreation services, ensuring a collaborative community response to basic human needs, and protecting our natural areas.

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