



Quarterly Report: Summer 2025

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Summer in Kirkland was all about connection, neighbors gathering for concerts and markets, kids splashing in the pool, and volunteers rolling up their sleeves to care for our parks. Every event, program, and partnership this season helped bring people together and celebrate the spirit that makes Kirkland such a vibrant, welcoming community.

EVENTS & SERVICES

Fun for all – adults relive childhood joy as they test out the new double slide at Everest Park



Neighbors and city leaders gather and cut the ribbon together to open the new playground

Testing the baseball glove slide - a tribute to Everest Park's legacy



A GRAND SLAM FOR PLAY AT EVEREST PARK

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.



CELEBRATE KIRKLAND FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

Kirkland's Fourth of July Parade once again filled downtown with cheers, laughter, and hometown pride. From the bagpipers leading the way to the drill teams marching, and veterans waving from the steps of Heritage Hall, every moment reflected the strength and joy of our community. Together, we made Independence Day unforgettable.

EVENTS & SERVICES



Veterans wave and share smiles as the city honors their service on Independence Day



Piping the way through downtown Kirkland



The Dolls drill team dazzles the crowd with energy and color.



EVENTS & SERVICES

INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT MARKET

The first-ever Kirkland International Night Market transformed Houghton Park and Play into a global celebration of culture, flavor, and creativity. From delicious street food and artisan vendors to music, dance, and hands-on activities, residents experienced the world right here at home. The event brought together families, neighbors, and visitors to share stories, try new things, and celebrate Kirkland's diversity.



Performers light up the market with vibrant dance, stories, and music from around the world



SPECIAL EVENTS & COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

From concerts to farmers markets, summer in Kirkland was filled with opportunities to connect.

- The 19th season of the Juanita Friday Market brought local produce, handmade goods, and community spirit to life each week.
- The Kirkland Wednesday Market, Kids Summer Concerts, and Thursday Evening Concerts at Marina Park drew thousands of attendees, filling waterfront parks with music, laughter, and sunshine.
- Events like Kirkland Uncorked, Obliteride, and the Lammas and Mabon Festivals added even more vibrancy to the season, each one showcasing Kirkland's unique blend of creativity, culture, and community pride.



Local flavor and connections abound at the Juanita Friday Market





Homelessness
Outreach
Coordinator Meli Paulo
helps a neighbor take
the final step from
homelessness to
hope in a
new home

HUMAN SERVICES

HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT: SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACTS

Sometimes the biggest wins come in small, steady steps. This quarter, the City's Homeless Outreach team helped eight households move into permanent housing or treatment, including two households from the temporary RV program who had been living in their vehicles for years.

Through patient, compassionate outreach and collaboration with partners like Move-In Ministry and Sophia Way, staff supported clients through each stage of transition, from securing housing to moving in furniture.

SUMMER POOL VOUCHERS: OPENING ACCESS FOR ALL

This summer, more families enjoyed the Peter Kirk Pool thanks to the City's pool voucher program. Human Services and Recreation staff provided vouchers and free bus tickets to help remove barriers to summer fun. A total of 102 vouchers were redeemed, giving kids and families the chance to splash, swim, and make lasting summer memories.



Making
memories,
one splash
at a time.



Hua
Goldstein



NEW RESOURCE: SEXUAL ASSAULT LEGAL ADVOCATE

Kirkland welcomed its first dedicated Sexual Assault Legal Advocate this quarter. Hua Goldstein, who is bilingual in Mandarin Chinese, brings expertise and empathy to survivors seeking support through the justice process. This pilot program, in partnership with the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC), will continue through 2026 and marks a significant step toward expanding local access to survivor-centered legal advocacy.

PARK OPERATIONS & PLANNING

Beams rise
and dreams take
shape in O.O.
Denny Park's new
picnic shelter

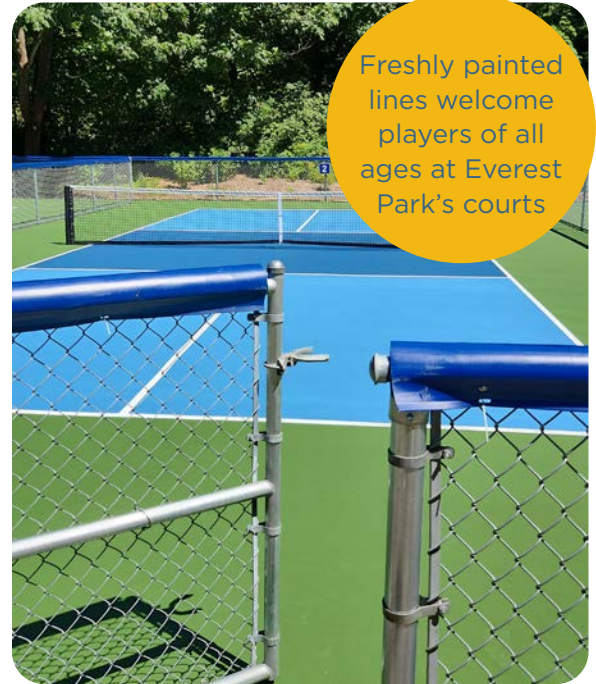


NEW & UPGRADED PARK FEATURES

This quarter, staff worked on park improvements to help neighbors connect, play, and enjoy parks in fresh ways.

- At O.O. Denny Park, crews raised the beams on a new picnic shelter, creating a welcoming space for community gatherings.
- Contractors resurfaced tennis and pickleball courts across the city to improve playability and safety – allowing groups of all ages to stay active.
- Staff began work on Juanita Beach Park's north side including new fencing for the tennis courts and ballfields, renovated dugouts, new field irrigation, and turf restoration. These updates will make the courts and fields more comfortable for all players for years to come.
- At Juanita Beach and Houghton Beach, staff refreshed the beach volleyball courts with new sand, ensuring smooth play for friendly competitions under the sun.

Freshly painted
lines welcome
players of all
ages at Everest
Park's courts



STEWARDSHIP, TRAILS & RANGERS

Kirkland's parks and green spaces thrive because of the people who nurture them.

- Green Kirkland Partnership volunteers and staff led 27 restoration events across local parks and welcomed a new group of stewards during fall orientation.
- Staff kicked off the Green Loop Implementation Plan with consultant-led outreach at community events to gather input and build momentum for this future trail around Finn Hill.
- Ranger Tanner Thoreson joined the team full-time after serving seasonally, enhancing our presence in parks and strengthening connections with visitors and volunteers alike.

Exploring
options for the
Green Loop
to connect
neighbors and
nature



Q3 TOTAL LABOR HOURS: 18,745+



4,692+
garbage and
recycling



574+
watering



983
repairs



1,503+
hand
weeding



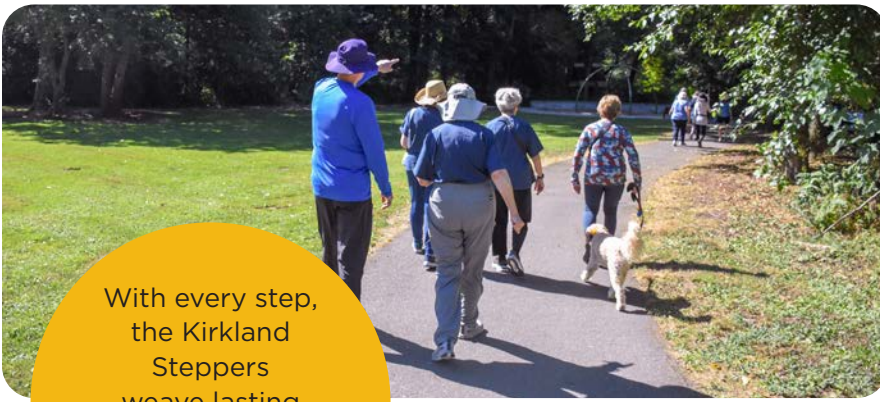
1,699+
restroom
cleaning

RECREATION

STAYING ACTIVE AND CONNECTED

A record 123 community members joined the Kirkland Steppers Walking Club this summer, taking part in weekly walks through local parks and trails. Designed for older adults, the program saw remarkable participation, with half of the walkers over age 75. Participants said walking together improved their endurance, balance, and sense of connection, with 85% noting a boost to their mental well-being.

With every step, the Kirkland Steppers weave lasting friendships through neighborhood parks in Kirkland



BUILDING CONNECTION AND CONFIDENCE AT KTUB

At the Kirkland Teen Union Building, staff and partners focused on creating a safe, supportive environment where teens can relax, express themselves, and grow. Staff from KTUB, 4 Tomorrow, and Youth Eastside Services participated in a safety and de-escalation refresher over the summer. The collaborative training strengthened teamwork and gave staff new tools to handle conflict calmly and confidently, ensuring KTUB remains a welcoming space for every teen.

KTUB staff unite for team training, ready to foster a safe haven for Kirkland teens



Tiny teammates and devoted coaches gather for a post-game cheer



KIRKLAND'S SMALLEST PLAYERS MAKE BIG PLAYS THIS SEASON

In late summer, over 500 players ages 3-6 took to the fields at 132nd Square Park and Crestwoods Park in Kirkland's Pee Wee Soccer program. Supported by 120 volunteer coaches, players learned teamwork, sportsmanship, and the joy of play. Demand for this program continues to grow, with 181 on the waiting list this year.



RECREATION



Aquatics staff celebrate another successful season



Confident grins mark swim lessons at Peter Kirk Pool.

AQUATICS 2025 - BY THE NUMBERS



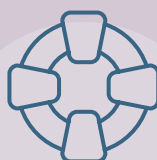
20,273

public swim entries



544

lifejackets loaned



16

pool rescues



1,990

swim lesson participants



14

beach rescues



71,096

beach visitors

AQUATICS: A SEASON OF TEAMWORK AND ACHIEVEMENT

The Aquatics team made a splash this season, successfully staffing 96 positions including lifeguards, swim instructors, coaches, and supervisors. The team scheduled 493 swim lesson classes for every level, from Aquatots to adult learners, and maintained pool operations nearly 16 hours a day.



From vibrant festivals and concerts to expanding programs and vital human services, summer 2025 was filled with moments that brought Kirkland together. Each event, partnership, and volunteer effort reflected the heart of our mission, to create spaces and opportunities where everyone feels welcome and connected.

More events, programs, and more ways to connect are coming this summer to make Kirkland a place where everyone belongs, every season. www.kirklandwa.gov/parks