



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



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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



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.