



Quarterly Report: Spring 2026

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

From active recreation and community events to vibrant parks and essential human services, Kirkland Parks and Community Services created opportunities for people to connect, stay active, and thrive throughout the second quarter of 2026. Here's a look at some of the ways the Kirkland community enjoyed this spring.

RECREATION

CARDBOARD CARS & FAMILY FUN

Participants revved their engines and brought their creativity to the Box Car drive in on May 15. About 50 families transformed cardboard boxes into imaginative race cars before settling in together for a movie, popcorn, and pizza, creating memories that celebrated creativity and family fun.



Cardboard creations sparked big imaginations

LEARNING THROUGH ART

Parent/Child Art classes have become a favorite, welcoming 68 young artists and their caregivers this season. Through painting, crafting, and sensory play, families explored creativity together while children built confidence and fine motor skills. Strong demand has inspired the program to expand this fall with new classes for 3- to 5-year-olds, giving even more families the opportunity to learn, create, and connect.



Tiny kickers give their all on the field

GROWING THROUGH SOCCER

The Spring Pee Wee Soccer program kicked off another successful season, with 32 teams, 316 participants, and 90 volunteer coaches. Young athletes developed soccer fundamentals while building confidence, practicing teamwork, making new friends, and discovering the joy of being active.

Making art and memories together





FRESH FITNESS ENERGY

Adults have even more opportunities to improve their health this season with two new fitness instructors bringing fresh classes, including Intro to Jiu-Jitsu and Boot Camp, to Kirkland's recreation lineup. With more than 30 years of combined experience, our new instructors help participants build confidence and strength.



CELEBRATING CREATIVE SPIRIT

The 16th Annual Senior Art Show celebrated the creativity, talent, and lifelong passions of older adults in our community. Hosted by the Kirkland Senior Council and Merrill Gardens Kirkland, the weeklong exhibit featured 72 local artists and more than 175 pieces of artwork. More than an art exhibit, the Senior Art Show continues to foster community connections while recognizing the creative contributions of Kirkland's older adults.

RECREATION

EVERY STEP COUNTS

Older adults took steps toward a more active and healthier lifestyle with the Kirkland Steppers walking program. The 2026 program kicked off on June 2 with more than 130 registered participants, an 11% increase over last year. Participants range in age from 50 to 93, creating fellowship.

Walking together toward better health and new friendships



READY TO MAKE A SPLASH

Summer fun returned to Peter Kirk Pool in June as swimming lessons, lap swim, and aquatic recreation got underway for the season. Behind the scenes, staff hired and trained 114 seasonal employees, including lifeguards and swim instructors, to help provide a safe summer for swimmers across Kirkland.

Ready for a safe, fun summer in and around the water



EVENTS AND SERVICES

Finding hidden treasures and unexpected finds



TREASURE HUNTING RETURNS

Sixty-two sellers filled Juanita Beach Park at the second annual Junk in the Trunk community sale with vintage finds, collectibles, household goods, and more, creating a lively marketplace that encouraged reuse while bringing people together. Several food vendors added to the event and kept everyone fueled for treasure hunting.



20 SEASONS OF COMMUNITY TRADITION

The Juanita Friday Market returned for its 20th season in June, continuing a longtime tradition of supporting local farmers, artisans, and small businesses while creating a welcoming weekly gathering place for the community.

Meet your farmer on Fridays at Juanita Friday Market



COMMUNITY RENTALS ACTIVATE KIRKLAND



532

Reservations



\$119,868

Rental Revenue



2,973+

Hours reserved





MAY:
Crossing the
finish line at
the Kirkland
Half Marathon

EVENTS & SERVICES



APRIL:
A day of fun,
and inclusion
at Marina Park



SPRING SPECIAL EVENTS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Kirkland welcomed thousands of visitors this spring as community organizations hosted races, festivals, cultural celebrations, and family events that brought people together in Kirkland's parks and public spaces.

- In April the Kiwanis Community Egg Hunt brought over 500 children to Peter Kirk Park and Day Out for Autism brought over 500 attendees to Marina Park.
- The Kirkland Half Marathon & 5k kicked off May at Juanita Beach Park and the 7 Hills of Kirkland wrapped up the month with a scenic road bike ride through Kirkland.
- Kirkland Wednesday Market returned to Marina Park in June and a new event, the Ukrainian Green Week Waterfront Food Festival brought around 2,000 attendees to Marina Park to celebrate Ukrainian traditions, cuisine, and community.



JUNE:
Celebrating
Ukrainian
culture and
community.



PARK OPERATIONS & PLANNING

NATURE IN FULL BLOOM

Visitors to Juanita Bay Park have been treated to a colorful display this spring as the restored wildflower meadow burst into bloom. Flowering species include riverbank lupine, western yarrow, large camas, woolly sunflower, and showy fleabane.



A colorful habitat for people, birds, bees, and butterflies



Ready to welcome visitors all summer long

FRIENDLY FACES IN THE PARKS

In June, a new full-time park ranger, Carlos, joined the team along with four seasonal summer rangers. The park ranger program helps visitors feel safe, informed, and welcome while protecting Kirkland's parks and natural areas.

A FRESH WELCOME AT EVEREST PARK

Visitors to Everest Park are now enjoying a modern, accessible restroom building that was completed ahead of schedule and under budget with special features that recognize the park's softball and baseball history.

A more comfortable park experience for every visitor



A GARDEN GROWS A LEGACY

Community members and gardeners gathered in May to celebrate the opening of the Crabby Old Pharts Pea Patch at Rose Hill Meadows. This new community garden honors the legacy of Larry Miller with a welcoming space for neighbors to gather, garden, and grow together. We can't wait to see what sprouts up next!

Gardens open and community growing on Rose Hill



Q2 TOTAL LABOR HOURS: 16,788+



3,611

garbage and recycling



1,043

hand weeding



1,900

mowing



438+

Green Kirkland Volunteer Hours Q2



1,638

restroom cleaning

HUMAN SERVICES

YOUTH LEADING THE WAY

Kirkland Youth Council's Youth Summit took place in April at Lake Washington Institute of Technology with 125 teens from 10 different area schools. The summit gave young people a meaningful opportunity to share ideas, collaborate with peers, and help shape the future of their community.



Teens working together to shape Kirkland's future



Giving back through hands-on environmental stewardship

City staff and Council strengthen community connections at Sheila Stanton Place



HELPING NEIGHBORS THRIVE

When temporary construction displaced residents of Lake Washington United Methodist Church's Safe Parking Program, the Homelessness and Housing Response team ensured they had a safe place to stay by hosting seven vehicle residents at City Hall's Wester Lot. Staff also helped prevent eviction for a longtime Kirkland resident through rental assistance and connected four households with housing at Sheila Stanton Place.

Together, we're creating parks, programs, and community spaces where everyone can belong, stay active, and make lasting memories. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, partnered with us, and helped make Kirkland an even more welcoming community this spring. www.kirklandwa.gov/parks