

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – MARCH 2021



NEW MUSICAL MARSH PARK FEATURE

At the beginning of March, two sets of wind chimes were installed at Marsh Park. As they perform together, the complementary intervals of these chimes resonate in an intricate palette of soothing, calming, and whimsical tones. Their music serves as an invitation, beckoning park users to pause, reflect, and discover a sense of mindfulness that is rejuvenating and inspiring.

Unlike the typical active park amenity that people pursue to improve physical fitness and overall wellness, music is a more passive experience that can be enjoyed by all, especially individuals who may be unable to



pursue active recreation or are recovering from illness or injury.

Music has been shown to provide stress reduction, induce relaxation and create a sense of wellbeing. Combined with the stunning view from the bench tucked in the trees at Marsh Park overlooking Lake Washington, these chimes seek to encourage park visitors to set aside a moment of time to reflect and recharge amidst the busyness of modern life.

This amenity was the first project implemented from our 2020 staff "challenge" to submit ideas for small new park amenities that could be easily added through staff efforts and a stipend. We hope many can pause and enjoy this new musical amenity.



WE ARE HIRING!

Summer programming is starting in June and we have many open positions to fill. Kirkland Parks and Community Services is hiring lifeguards, swim instructors, summer camp leaders, tennis instructors, harbormasters, seasonal park maintenance staff, and more. Eligible

candidates looking to make a difference in the community, create memories and have fun, are encouraged to apply for a role with our department this summer. For more information, please visit, [Kirkland Summer Jobs](#).



HUMAN SERVICES

COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT ASSISTANCE

The Peter Kirk Community Center is partnering with the Kirkland Fire Department to help everyone that is eligible for a vaccine and would like one can get a vaccine. At times the KFD mobile vaccination units might have a few extra shots available, the number of available vaccines will vary each day. We have started a standby list to help ensure all the available vaccines are used. **Please note that we cannot guarantee appointment so please continue to try to schedule an appointment on your own either online or at your local pharmacy.*

Qualifications

- Must meet Washington state qualification levels at this time.
- You will be asked some general health questions at the time of the call.
- Must be able to get to designated Fire Station on short notice. Don't worry if you can't make one day, we will try you on another day. You will not be removed from the waitlist if you can't make it to the appointment when we call.
- You must be getting your first vaccine. We will NOT provide just the second vaccine.

If you are currently eligible for a vaccine and would like to be added to the standby list, please call us at 425-587-3360.

TRANSPORTATION TO COVID-19 VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS IN KING COUNTY

The City is partnering with Hopelink, King County and several other community partners to ensure transportation is not a barrier to community members accessing the COVID-19 vaccine. Help is available for those having trouble getting to appointments or who need assistance finding the right transportation. The Coordinated Vaccine Transportation Helpline number is 425-943-6706 (press 5 for language assistance) or visit [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3RCUOIK](https://bit.ly/3rcuoik) For more vaccine transportation options, visit [HTTPS://WWW.FINDARIDE.ORG/COVID](https://www.findaride.org/covid).

FARMERS TO FAMILIES DRIVE-THRU FOOD EVENT

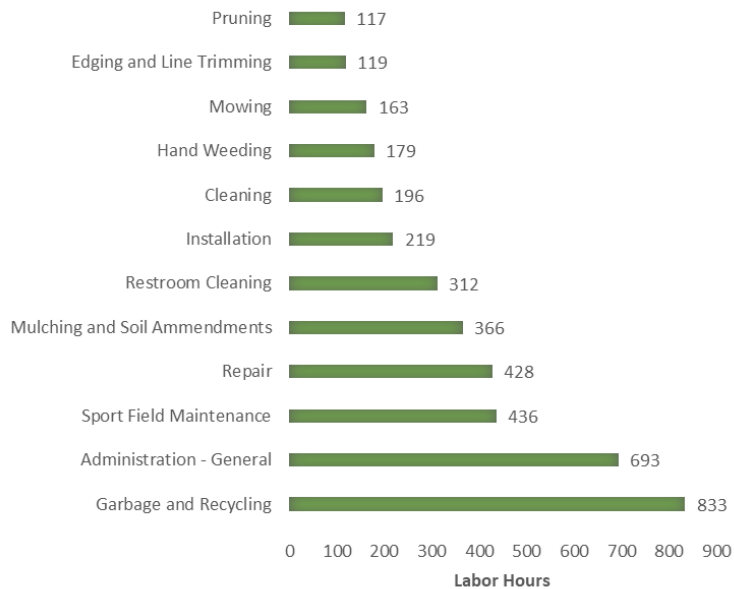
The City partnered with International Nutritional Sustainable Farmers to offer a feed your neighbors, feed your community drive-thru food giveaway event at the North Kirkland Community Center on March 26, 2021.

Zip Code	Boxes Distributed	Total People Served	Adults Served	Children Served	Seniors Served
98034	114	367	145	103	119
98033	19	55	22	21	12
ALL (including surrounding cities)	283	819	361	248	210



PARKS MANAGEMENT

MARCH TOP 12 TASKS



The mission of the Green Kirkland Partnership (GKP) is to **restore and maintain 509 acres** of natural parklands **by building a supportive community** that works together to protect Kirkland's natural resources for current and future generations.



8.1 new acres enrolled based on data received from Stewards & crews by 3.24.21



6.6 acres maintained based on data received from Stewards & crews by 3.24.21



4 new Stewards recruited as of 3.24.21



87 volunteers participated as of 3.24.21

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SEASON HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN

The sporadic warm weather has been sufficient to wake up dormant grasses, plants, shrubs and trees and staff are responding with massive amounts of mulch, copious hand weeding, line trimming, and mowing.

WATER QUALITY AND CONSERVATION

The Horticulture team finished inspecting and replacing the irrigation intakes on the waterfront parks. Drawing irrigation water from the lake conserves potable water and saves the city money on irrigation costs.

ACCESSIBLE, SAFE, AND FUN

Staff on the Support team do everything they can to make our facilities accessible, safe, and fun. In March they added an ADA pathway to the new playground at Windsor Vista Park, refurbished donation benches, replaced the water heater at the pool bathhouse, and are getting the pool ready for summer fun!



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Staff on the Ballfields team are in full swing getting the ballfields, sport courts, and pea patches ready for action. Youth sporting leagues are hosting practices and visitors are flocking to tennis, pickleball, basketball and other courts the moment the weather cooperates. The community is ready for spring and summer fun!

A FRESH LOOK AT HERITAGE PARK

Staff just finished planting the gardens at Heritage Park to ensure visitors will be treated to a bounty of color spring, summer and fall. The playground surround was also replaced at Heritage in March to enhance user safety.



TRADING TREES

The Natural Areas team spent much of March removing invasive trees (primarily holly and laurel) from our natural parks and open spaces by hand and by using an EZject lance to administer a targeted herbicide treatment (for trees too large to pull out of the ground by hand). Removing these invasive trees now will make room for native trees to be planted in the fall and winter.

RISK REDUCTION AT GREAT HEIGHTS

Our Parks Arborist teamed up with other staff to significantly reduce dead and dying canopy in a large maple tree adjacent to a home in Juanita Heights Park so we could reduce risk and retain the tree.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE...TO HAVE BETTER TRAILS

Thanks to Scout Riley and business partner Albert Piazza of RJB Wholesale Inc. for helping us improve trail conditions at Crestwoods park. Riley led a small group of volunteers in installing a culvert under a section of trail that receives runoff from a nearby swale and Albert provided the pipe free of charge and delivered it to the site the morning of the event. Thank you Riley, Albert, and volunteers!

VOLUNTEER WITH GKP

The Green Kirkland Partnership has several events every month throughout the City. Check out WWW.GREENKIRKLAND.ORG for days, times, locations, and what to expect. We hope to see you in the forest soon!

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
April 14, 2021 from 10am to 12pm	Stewardship Wednesday	Juanita Bay Park	Details and registration
April 17, 2021 from 10am to 12pm	Habitat Restoration	Juanita Beach Park	Details and registration
April 18, 2021 from 1 to 3pm	Monthly Stewardship Party	Edith Moulton Park	Details and registration
April 28, 2021 from 10am to 12pm	Stewardship Wednesday	Juanita Bay Park	Details and registration
May 16, 2021 from 1 to 3pm	Monthly Stewardship Party	Edith Moulton Park	Details and registration

PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Below is a high-level summary and status update of the active Park Planning and Development projects. Please visit the Park Planning and Development [WEBSITE](#) to learn more about these projects, to access project files, master plans, outreach efforts, and other details.

132ND SQUARE PARK

The project has completed design and all outside agency permits have been received. The project has been advertised for bidding. If we receive a favorable bid, we anticipate construction to begin in June 2021. Construction timeline is one year.

Background of Project: The City is replacing a non-regulation grass sports field with a synthetic turf field after the installation of a surface water detention structure underneath the field.



DAVID BRINK PARK SHORELINE RENOVATION

The project has completed 100% design and construction drawings. All permits have been received. The project will be advertised for bidding in early April. If we receive a favorable bid, we anticipate construction to begin in June 2021. Construction timeline is one year.

Background of Project: This is part of a larger shoreline infrastructure project conducting major maintenance of docks, piers and shorelines.



GREEN LOOP CORRIDOR

Staff continue to evaluate properties associated with Green Loop funding.

JUANITA BEACH BATHHOUSE RENOVATION

Juanita Beach Bathhouse and playground have opened to the public. The new spiral slide was closed as of Monday, February 22, 2021 following reports of children sliding off. The slide was built to industry specifications, installed by a professional design and installation company, and independently inspected on December 18, 2020, just prior to opening. The slide will be replaced with a new enclosed slide in approximately a month.

Background of Project: This is phase II of the Juanita Beach Park development project. This phase includes replacing the bathhouse, adding two new picnic shelters, and installing an all-inclusive new playground. Numerous environmental improvements will occur throughout the park.

JUANITA HEIGHTS TRAIL PROJECT

Staff continues to explore trail options.

Background of Project: The expanding Juanita Heights Park is envisioned to allow trail connections to the surrounding neighborhoods all the way down to Juanita Bay Park.

PARK PLAY AREAS AND ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS

A musical chimes attraction was added to Marsh Park in March. Peter Kirk Park will host a painted “Candy Land” – style game later this spring.

Background of the Project: Park held a staff competition in winter 2020 to identify innovative and inclusive features to add to parks and play areas.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN UPDATE

Work has started to update the City of Kirkland Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). Interviews of the top four candidates were completed March 26, 2021. Contract negotiations with the top-ranking firm will happen in early April. Project work is anticipated to start by the end of April. It is expected that this project will take approximately 12 to 18 months to complete.

TOTEM LAKE PARK

Construction is well underway with anticipated completion in June 2021.

Background of Project: With the acquisition of a parcel adjoining Totem Lake Park, the City will create a new neighborhood park. The park will include pathways, an inclusive playground, restrooms, scenic view locations, environmental restoration and a boardwalk connecting the park through the eastern side of the lake property to the Cross Kirkland Corridor.



RECREATION SERVICES

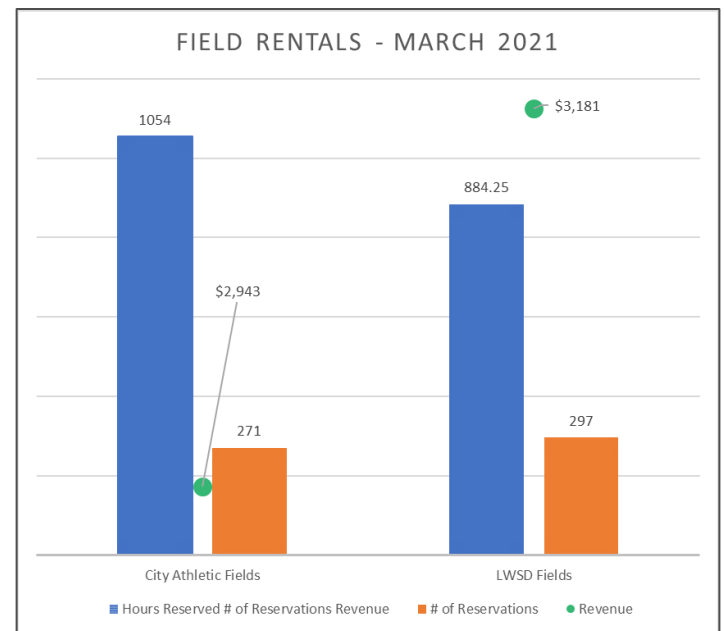
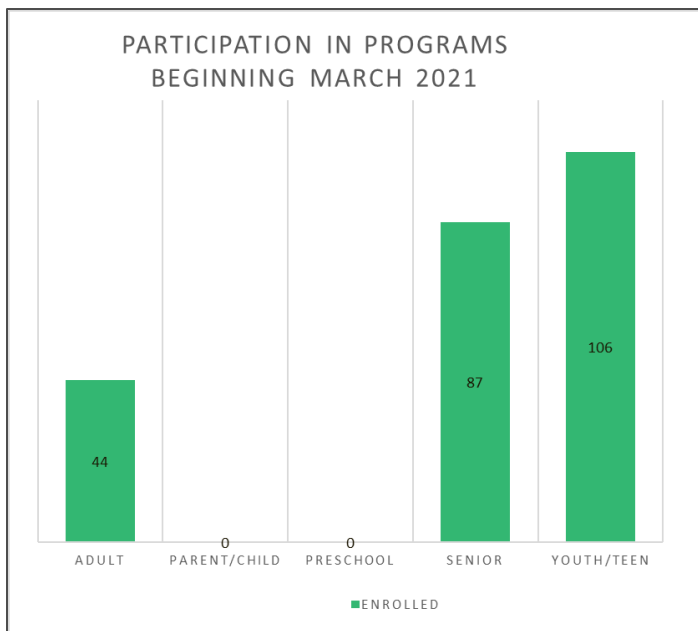
BEGINNING IN-PERSON RECREATION PROGRAMS

We are delighted to begin offering in-person recreation programs this spring. Registration opened in March for a Pee Wee Soccer Skills Clinic on April 24, 2021 and a Cornhole Classic Tournament on May 8, 2021.

Recreation staff been busy planning lots of fun for the summer as well. Registration for all summer programs will open at 7:00 a.m. on May 4, 2021. Summer programs are available to browse at WWW.KIRKLANDPARKS.NET.

This summer, join us for:

- Day camps at our parks and community centers
- Aquatics programs at the Peter Kirk Pool including swim lessons, open swim and lap swim
- Life-guarded swim areas at Houghton Beach Park, Waverly Beach Park and Juanita Beach Park
- Adult sports including volleyball, softball, pickleball and cornhole
- Continued virtual programs and self-led adventures



FIELD AND SHELTER RENTALS

Athletic fields opened for the season on March 1, 2021 with great interest and nearly 2,000 hours reserved for the month across City athletic fields and City-School partnership fields combined. Picnic shelter rentals also increased this month with five rentals totaling 27 hours reserved. Learn more about renting a picnic shelter or other park facility on our [WEBSITE](http://WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/RECREATION).

RECREATION SCHOLARSHIPS EXPANDED

Kirkland Parks and Community Services strives to offer recreation programs that are welcoming and inclusive for all. Recreation Scholarships are available to Kirkland residents. Scholarship applications are accepted year-round. This year scholarship amounts have been increased to \$450 per Kirkland resident per year and may be used for multiple programs throughout the year. Scholarship recipients may work with staff to register for programs up to one week before general registration, which for the summer 2021 season will be on Tuesday, April 27. To learn about income eligibility requirements or to apply for a Recreation Scholarship, visit WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/RECREATIONSCHOLARSHIPS.

PETER KIRK COMMUNITY CENTER SENIOR SERVICES

In February, 100 lunches were delivered to seniors in their homes and a total of 486 hot lunches were served at our "To-Go" lunch program. As of February, lunches are available three days a week, every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Peter Kirk Community Center. Adults over the age of 60 can reserve a hot meal by calling 425-587-3360. In February, a total of 264 rides were given to Kirkland residents to essential appointments or to access food. The Enhance® Wellness Nurse, Social Worker and Community Resource Specialist have continued to work with clients via phone and Skype, they had 81 contacts with Kirkland Community Members last month.

POT OF GOLD NUGGET HUNT

The "Luck of the Irish" was not needed to participate in our Pot of Gold Nugget Hunt in March, just patience, a love of the outdoors, and your peepers. Staff spray painted rocks gold; hand wrote participants' names on them and hid them throughout McAuliffe Park. Children were encouraged to search for their special rock, and all were entered into a prize drawing at the end. Registration was limited and participants were divided into morning and afternoon hunt times to allow for better control of social distancing. One hundred twenty children, ages four to eight, participated in this event with 60 children on the waiting list.



EYE ON THE PRIZE SCAVENGER HUNT



Recreation staff partnered with the Lake Washington High School PTSA to provide a safe, socially distanced, scavenger hunt through downtown Kirkland March 5-7. High school students were incentivized to get off their screens and spend some time downtown in the Eye on the Prize scavenger hunt. Participants searched for hidden symbols that were located on the windows of local businesses. Once they found all the symbols, participants deciphered the code to come up with a final answer. Approximately 100 teens registered for the event, and 75 submitted correct answers and were entered into a drawing for various prizes. Prizes consisted of gift cards donated by the local merchants. The recreation department is grateful for the support of the local merchants who generously donated to this event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

On January 5, Governor Inslee announced the new [HEALTHY WASHINGTON - ROADMAP TO RECOVERY](#) plan, which lays out the process to safely reopen Washington state. The plan includes guidance for many event-related businesses and industries. The City of Kirkland is currently accepting applications and working with organizers on their event planning.

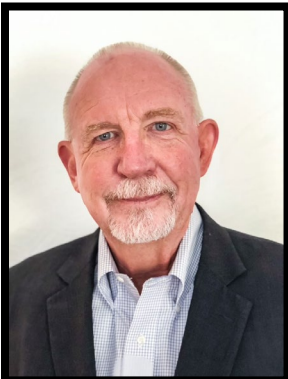
This month the Special Event Service Team reviewed applications for the Kirkland Downtown Association's Kirkland Wednesday Market which is held in Marina Park from June through September and Studio East's Cultural Folktales from Around the World which will be held in Peter Kirk Park near the Kirkland Teen Union Building on three weekends in July.

JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET



We are pleased to welcome Robert Hezlep to the Parks and Community Services Team! Robert answered our call for someone looking to serve the community and meet a lot of great people while managing the Juanita Friday Market.

Robert's skills and knowledge exceeded our expectations. He has more than 20 years of experience in operations, sales, and marketing. His background includes new business development, including the viability of new markets and products; establishing strategic business plans; and team building through mentoring and training. He is also a certified CPR Trainer. We wanted to know more so we asked Robert to tell us a little about himself, here is what he shared.



"I do not talk, or write, about myself very well, but here goes. Though I would not consider myself a "foodie", I enjoy eating and preparing food, primarily in the "comfort foods" arena. I am certainly better at eating than preparing. My family is very important to me. My wife and I have four children (three of which live in Snohomish County) and thirteen grandchildren. I enjoy sports, especially college football, history, and travel."

Robert jumped right in and completed Market Manager Bootcamp Training so he is ready to go. We wish him, and our 2021 vendors, a successful market season! Learn more about the [JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET](#) and how you can get involved.