

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – APRIL 2021



Each year, Kirkland recognizes April as Earth Month to honor the value of our environment and natural spaces. The pollinator meadow at Juanita Bay Park is a great example of Kirkland Parks and Community Services' commitment to protecting natural ecosystems in the community.

In spring 2020 we started the multi-year process of transforming the upper lawn space at Juanita Bay Park into a meadow full of native wildflowers that bloom throughout the growing season. The first steps were mowing the grass short and light tilling to provide germination spots for native flower seeds including riverbank lupine, bigleaf lupine, and yarrow. We let the grass grow throughout the summer and were rewarded mid to late summer with dozens of established riverbank lupine blooming in their first year as well as hundreds of new yarrow and bigleaf lupine plants gaining a foothold in the sandy soils.



Juanita Bay Pollinator Meadow, March 2020



Bee on Yarrow flowers, June 2020

We mowed the whole area one time at the end of the summer to mimic a natural fire cycle that would normally break down any shrubby or woody material and feed these nutrients back into the soil. In fall 2020 we heavily tilled several locations throughout the meadow and seeded additional native wildflower species that do better with a chance to overwinter as seeds. Throughout the winter we planted bulbs, plugs and bareroot stock of half a dozen species including camas, checkermallow, goatsbeard, and Douglas aster. We surrounded these more densely planted locations with 3' tall wire fencing to prevent rabbit browse damage.

The meadow is off to a tremendous start in 2021. All of the species planted in 2020 are coming in strong and the riverbank

lupine left standing last year are already flowering as are the camas which were planted in a former sand trap filled with 90 yards of free topsoil provided by a local construction project.

Last year we snapped photo after photo of birds, butterflies, dragonflies, and native bees flitting from flower to flower proving yet again that "if you build it, they will come." We look forward to many more encounters with native pollinators as the meadow continues to grow.

This project is made possible by our wonderful community of neighbors and park lovers that are patiently seeing us through the sometimes-rough transition. We are thankful for the Green Kirkland Stewards that brought this awesome idea to the table, the Washington Native Plant Society which provided funding for much of the flowers and seeds, and the hard-working Parks Management Field Crews that make the magic happen.



Camas at Juanita Bay, April 2021

HUMAN SERVICES

WELCOME NEW HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATOR!

With great excitement, the Human Services Division welcomed Antoinette Smith to the team this month. Her emphasis as a Human Services Coordinator will be equity. She is working part-time until mid-June when she will graduate with a Master's degree from the University of Washington, Seattle School of Social Work with a certificate in Nonprofit Management from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. She returned to school after working for a decade as a nurse in Snohomish County. She is a resident of Redmond and comes with a strong understanding of the Eastside human services landscape through her volunteer work which includes serving on the Redmond Human Services Commission.



YOUTH COUNCIL PARK RESTORATION



On Saturday, April 24, six members of the Kirkland Youth Council assisted with a park restoration project at O.O. Denny park. The group spent two hours hauling and distributing mulch along the steep trail that runs east up the hill from the park.

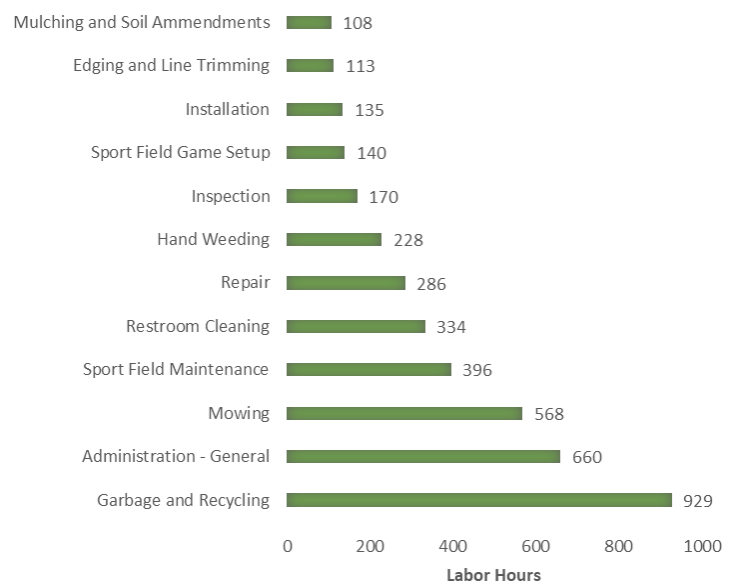
PARKS MANAGEMENT

The pace at Parks Management is fast and getting faster as the warm weather brings people to the parks for ballgames, beach play, and dog walks among the spring flowers. Here are April project highlights for our four Field Crews:

BALLFIELDS AND CEMETERY CREW'S APRIL PROJECTS

- Field prep across all ballfield sites multiple times per day
- Mowing, edging, trimming, and weeding all ballfield sites and cemetery
- Prepping all the sports courts for the busy season
- Supporting many cemetery services as families and friends do more outdoor gathering
- Installing and repairing irrigation to be ready for summer
- Adding mulch to tree rings, weeding and sprucing up flower beds at all ballfield sites and cemetery
- Raising and lowering flags per Government direction

APRIL TOP 12 TASKS



SUPPORT CREW'S APRIL PROJECTS

- Getting the pool ready for summer swimming! This includes mechanical repairs and replacements, painting, pool cleaning, and infrastructure upgrades such as installing new urinals
- Installed concrete footing and added a plaque to a new donation bench at OO Denny
- Installed a new water heater, expansion tank and flex connectors at Marina Park
- Painting bollard tops white to improve visibility
- Removing a pair of socks from the impeller within the sewage ejector pump at Houghton
- Repairing, replacing, and moving fencing as needed
- Repairing and replacing bathroom fixtures such as soap and paper towel dispensers as needed



HORTICULTURE CREW'S APRIL PROJECTS

- Mowing, edging and trimming daily
- Leading volunteer weeding projects at Mark Twain and Heritage Parks
- Installing, repairing, and replacing irrigation at many locations
- Addressing tree concerns and removing hanging limbs and deadwood as needed per risk assessment
- Implementing crown reduction projects as needed to reduce treefall risk
- Overseeing contractor tree removal projects at Edith Moulton and Kiwanis
- Repairing parking lot potholes and restriping lots as needed
- Adding mulch to tree rings, weeding and sprucing up flower beds at all their sites
- Blowing goose poop off pathways at waterfront parks



NATURAL AREAS CREW PROJECTS IN APRIL

- Supporting dozens of Steward-led volunteer events with mulch, tool, and portable toilet deliveries
- Installing and filling water cisterns to prepare for summer watering
- Installing workboxes and tools and new Steward sites at South Norway Hill, Crestwoods, and open space JU1
- Mowing, edging, and trimming their sites
- Installing fencing around native plantings being trampled (by visitors) or browsed (by rabbits, deer, or beavers)
- Target tree ivy removal and invasive tree treatments at priority locations
- Removing poison hemlock at all locations and monitoring known sites for regrowth
- Creating and distributing COVID-19 safety kits to Stewards leading volunteer events



VOLUNTEER WITH GKP

The Green Kirkland Partnership has several events every month throughout the City. Pre-registration is required to ensure maximum group size is not exceeded. Face coverings are required for the duration of the event. 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
May 15, 2021 from 10am to 12pm	Care for the Forest at Josten Park	Josten Park	Details and registration
May 16, 2021 from 1 to 3pm	Urban Forest Restoration	South Rose Hill 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

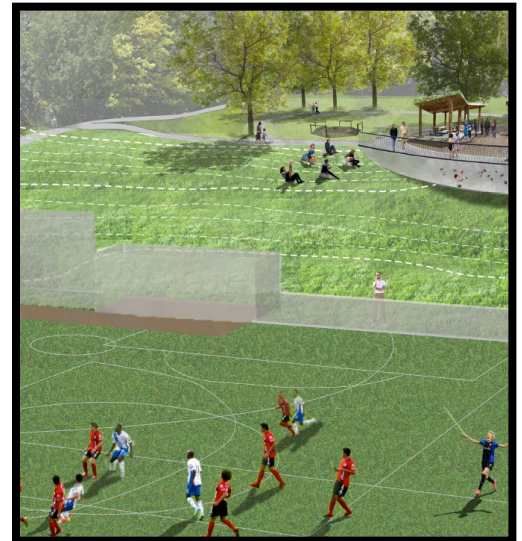
The project has completed design and all outside agency permits have been received. The project has been advertised for bidding with a deadline of April 27, 2021. If we receive a favorable bid, we anticipate construction to begin in June 2021. Construction timeline is one year.

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 has been advertised for bidding with a deadline of May 5, 2021. If we receive a favorable bid, we anticipate construction to begin in July 2021. Construction timeline is one year. Additionally, we recently received a \$500,000 grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) - Aquatics Land Enhancement Account for this project.

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



JUANITA BEACH BATHHOUSE RENOVATION

Juanita Beach Bathhouse and playground have opened to the public. The new spiral slide was closed as of 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 was replaced with a new enclosed spiral slide in April 2021.

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.

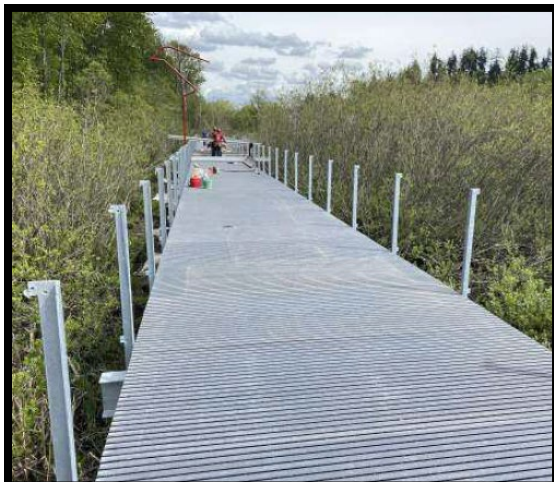
PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN UPDATE

Work has started to update the City of Kirkland Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan). GreenPlay LLC was selected as the lead for this project and the kick-off will be held May 3, 2021. 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.

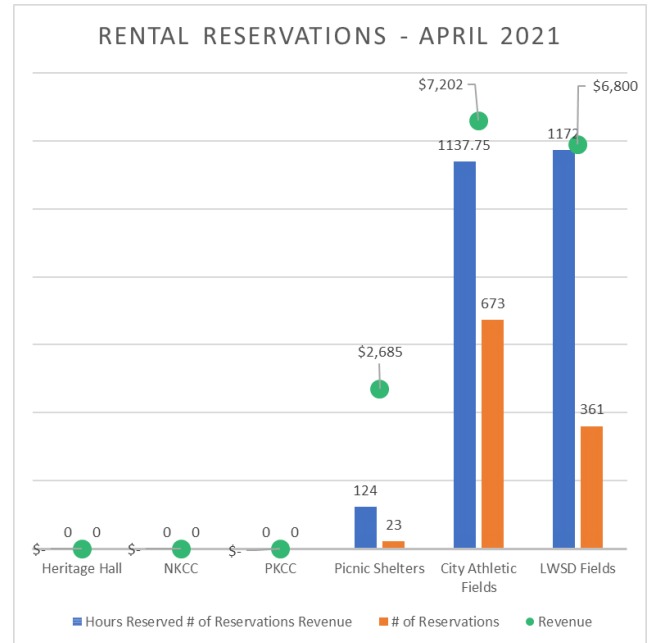


RECREATION SERVICES

FACILITY RENTALS AND MARINA

Athletic fields had over 2,000 hours reserved for the month across City athletic fields and City-School partnership fields combined. Picnic shelter rentals surged to 23 reservations, thanks to the warmer weather. As of April 21, the National Weather Service reported seven consecutive days of temperatures at or above 70 degrees for the first time in Seattle's recorded weather history! Learn more about renting a picnic shelter or other park facility on our [WEBSITE](#).

The Marina Park Boat Launch began requiring payment for a seasonal boat launch card on Friday, April 30, 2021. This year staff worked to update the Boat Launch system to allow the renewal of launch cards from last season instead of purchasing new cards every year. Sixty-four boat launch cards were renewed using the new system and 43 new boat launch cards were sold in April 2021. Learn more about boat launch cards and moorage on our [WEBSITE](#).



PEE WEE SOCCER CLINIC

On Saturday, April 24 staff hosted the first in-person program since early 2020. The Pee Wee Soccer Clinic at Crestwoods Park was a huge success with 62 participants. Staff offered four clinic sessions for children aged 3-6 years and had a waiting list of 21 participants. In each clinic session, participants participated in drills and games that focused on dribbling, passing, and shooting. The goal of this program was for kids to learn the basics of soccer while having fun in a safe environment with COVID safety guidelines. At the end of each session, each child was awarded a Kirkland Parks and Community Services soccer backpack. Staff cheered each child on as they were given their backpack and thanked them for participating in our first 2021 in-person program. The program was a smooth success from start to finish, thanks to the wonderful participants and their parents.



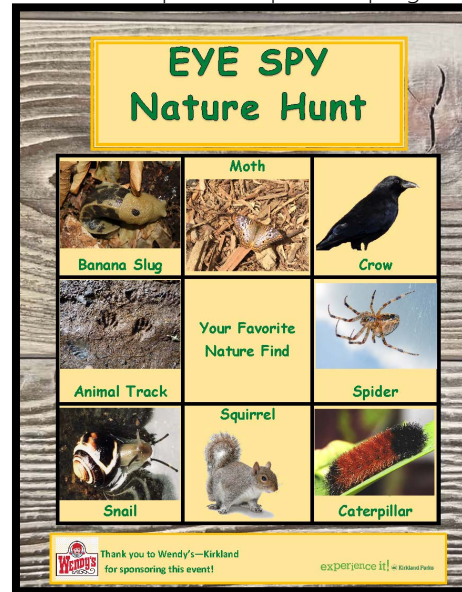
VIRTUAL CAT SHOW

The Cat's Meow of Kirkland, a virtual cat show held during April, had 60 meow-velous entries. Participants could enter categories ranging from Smitten Kitten (under 9 months), Garfield-like (pudgy), What's New Pussy Cat (Tom appeal), AARP (American Association of Retired Pussycats), Duchess (regal ladies), and Hell Cat (overly enthusiastic). Prizes were sponsored by Denny's Pet World, Blue Dog Pet Designs, and Seatown Sweets. See if you can guess the categories for the two entries below!



EYE SPY NATURE HUNT

Staff created a nature hunt to encourage youth aged 3-8 to explore Kirkland's parks during April. Each participant received a bingo card with pictures of creatures such as snails, squirrels and crows. Once the card was completed it could be turned in at the North Kirkland Community Center for a prize! Thanks to Wendy's Kirkland for their sponsorship of this program.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Event Services operates out of the Parks and Community Services Department and provides a portfolio of services designed to support Kirkland's neighborhoods, as well as special event, business, and film production industries. To learn more about these services, go to: WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS.

FILM PRODUCTION PERMITS

Staff supported the activities below through permitting; coordination with neighboring jurisdictions and other City departments for street closures, fire and police support, safety and sanitary regulations; City facility use such as parking lots and streets; evening and on-call logistical support as needed; and communication with the public.



THREE BUSY DEBRAS (EPISODES 201 & 202)

Representatives of the Seattle-based production company Alive and Kicking spent several weeks in Kirkland prepping for two days of filming this month. Scenes for the popular Adult Swim comedy, *Three Busy Debras*, were filmed along Park Lane in downtown Kirkland and at the Kingsgate Reservoir in the Kingsgate neighborhood. The large production included 75 staff members, a base camp located in the Lakeshore Parking Lot, closure of Park Lane for half a day, street parking and multiple private parking lots for equipment and production vehicles. To learn more about this project, visit the [ADULT SWIM WEBSITE](http://WWW.ALSWIM.COM).



JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET

The 2021 Juanita Friday Market season started on April 1, 2021, when the new online Vendor Application process went live. The new application process has worked well, and we have over twenty applicants for this year. Most have applied to be full-season vendors. Staff will continue to recruit more vendors so the market can have a more complete offering to the community. We are recruiting volunteers, with orientation planned for May. For more information on how to get involved, go to: WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
May 9 8am – 11am	Mother's Day 5K	Juanita Beach Park	WWW.ORCARUNNING.COM/MOTHERS-DAY-HALF
Wednesdays June 2 – September 29 3pm - 7pm	Kirkland Wednesday Market	Marina Park	KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG
Fridays June 4 – September 24 3pm - 7pm	Juanita Friday Market	Juanita Beach Park	KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET
June 12 5pm – 10pm	Eastside Salsa Marina	Marina Park	WWW.LAVIDASTUDIO.COM/ADULTS/SALSA
June 18-20 Showtimes vary	Shakespeare in the Park	Juanita Beach Park	WWW.STUDIO-EAST.ORG

ADMINISTRATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO KIRKLAND PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

On April 29, 2021, the City of Kirkland hosted the annual Community Engagement Appreciation Event to celebrate and recognize all those who contributed their time and talents as volunteers over the past year. Though this year was a little different with a fully online celebration it was a wonderful reminder of all the ways that our community cares about each other and our shared spaces!

A hearty congratulations to those who received volunteer special recognition awards:

- *Leadership Award*: Christin Deakins (Green Kirkland Partnership)
- *Above and Beyond the Call of Duty*: Tiffany Malicoat and Luci Johnston (Green Kirkland Partnership)
- *Behind the Scenes*: Kari Bachle (Juanita Friday Market) Karen Massena (Green Kirkland Partnership)
- *Eileen Trentman Youth Scholarship Award*: Nelly Canul (Kirkland Youth Council) and Asher Devine (Green Kirkland Partnership)

The Kirkland Parks and Community Services is lucky to have so many dedicated and talented volunteers – thank you to all who gave time in the past year!