

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – MAY 2021



Imagine walking through your favorite Kirkland Park and finding a small gnome home. We celebrated May with our Gnome Sweet Home event. Participants were challenged to build a gnome home with natural materials and place it at a park in Kirkland. Homes could be no more than 12"x 12" in size and feature stones, sticks, moss, and each participant's creativity. Prizes were awarded for the most unique, most modern, best reflection of cultural heritage, best use of stones, best use of sticks, and best use of foliage.

This event was a success with 54 registered participants who built and placed gnome homes at parks in Kirkland including Juanita Bay, OO Denney, Moss Bay, North Rosehill Woodlands, the North

Kirkland Community Center, and more. Local businesses including, Green Knight Nursery, Brittany Flowers, and Trader Joe's, supported the event with generous donations. Green Knight Nursery also joined the kick-off event with a small plant sale, specially priced for the event.

Participants shared stories along with their gnome home pictures. Here is feedback from the Magee family.



Hello,

My name is Rylan Magee. I completed this gnome home with my mom, Becky Magee. We have named it, "Gnome Sweet Gnome." We enjoyed this quality time together (w/o my sisters 😊) and thank you for the opportunity to submit our entry for the most Modern Gnome home. Attached are our photos of it at our favorite Herritage [sic] Park in Kirkland, WA.

Rylan and Becky Magee



This free event was a fun and creative way for the whole family to explore Kirkland's parks from a new point-of-view.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Staff supported the activities listed below through permitting; coordination with other City departments for street closures, fire and police support, safety and sanitary regulations and banners; City facility use; evening and weekend on-call logistical support as needed; and communication with the public. Information about permitting can be found at WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS.



MOTHER'S DAY 5K



After fifteen long months, we were excited to welcome the first permitted race to Kirkland on Sunday, May 9, 2021. Orca Running successfully hosted their annual Mother's Day Half Marathon & 5K at Juanita Beach Park. Under Phase 3 guidance, event organizers were required to prepare a comprehensive COVID Safety Plan, limit attendance to 750 participants, release a maximum of 30 individuals per wave, enforce physical distancing, ensure robust sanitation, designate a COVID Supervisor and more. These restrictions resulted in 350 athletes running the 5K on race day, a virtual half marathon, and cancellation of the kids race. We missed seeing the large crowds of family members and friends at the finish line cheering on their runners, but we look forward to welcoming everyone back next year!

THREE BUSY DEBRAS (EPISODE 210)

Representatives of the Seattle-based production company Alive and Kicking spent several days in Kirkland filming a third episode of the popular Adult Swim comedy, *Three Busy Debras*. Filming took place in front of the Kirkland Arts Center, at Heritage Park and on the front steps of Heritage Hall. The large production included 75 staff members, a base camp located in the Lakeshore Parking Lot, intermittent traffic holds on Market Street, street parking, and the use of private parking lots for equipment and production vehicles. To learn more about this project, go to: WWW.ADLTSMW.COM/VIDEOS/THREE-BUSY-DEBRAS



JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET

May has been busy with preparation for the start of the Juanita Friday Market on June 4. We have assembled a team of volunteers and hired a part-time Facility Assistant to provide direct support for our food access programs. We will have over 25 vendors to start the market including farmers with produce and flowers, a winery, a brewery, a Kombucha fermenter, several food processors, artisans, hot food vendors, and fresh frozen seafood from a fishing boat out of Bellingham. As part of our Food Access initiative, the Juanita Friday Market has been approved for WA Department of Health's Farmers Market Nutrition Program and will accept WIC and Senior coupons this summer. The market was also recently awarded a \$10,000 WSDA Relief and Recovery grant through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). To learn more about the market and how to get involved, go to WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET.



UPCOMING EVENTS

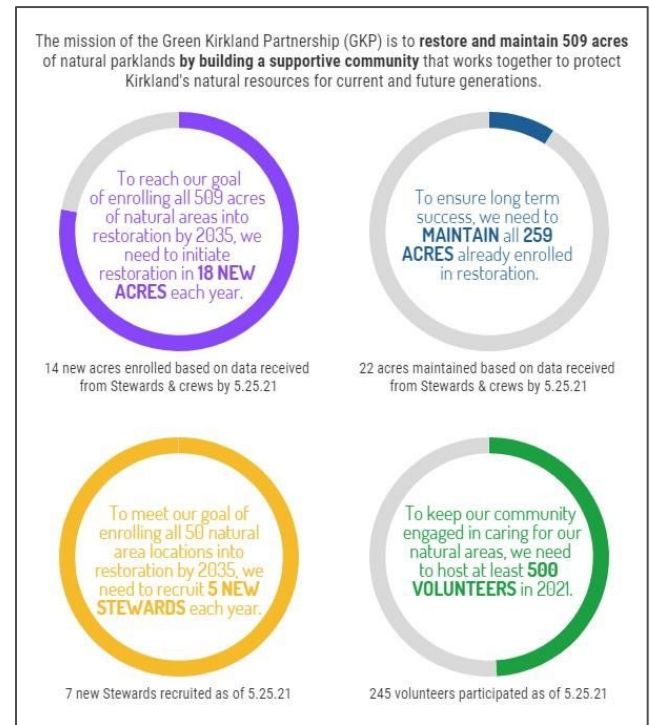
DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
Wednesdays June 2 – Sep. 29, 3pm - 7pm	Kirkland Wednesday Market	Marina Park	www.kirklandmarket.org
Fridays June 4 – Sep. 24, 3pm - 7pm	Juanita Friday Market	Juanita Beach Park	www.kirklandwa.gov/juanitafridaymarket
June 12, 5pm – 10pm	Eastside Salsa Marina	Marina Park	www.lavidastudio.com/adults/salsa
June 18-20, Show times vary	Shakespeare in the Park	Juanita Beach Park	www.studio-east.org

HUMAN SERVICES

Jen Boone (she/her) joined the City of Kirkland as the new Wellbeing Human Services Coordinator on May 3. Jen has spent her career working for nonprofit organizations focused on affordable housing, shelter, and rapid rehousing services. She moved to Seattle in 2017 to pursue her Master's in Public Administration where she focused on nonprofit management and social policy. Her interest in housing policy on the Eastside led her three years ago to a position at Imagine Housing, an Eastside nonprofit developer and service provider. She served first as a case manager to residents and most recently in a community engagement and advocacy-focused role at the agency. She is excited to join the Human Services team to offer her expertise in helping build an equitable and sustainable support network driven by community need. In her free time, Jen enjoys hiking, snowboarding, cooking, and traveling. She loves living in the Pacific Northwest and enjoying the unique amenities, the mountains, coffee scene, and food culture the Seattle region has to offer.



PARKS MANAGEMENT



April showers brought ... more showers but also flowers, weeds, extra trash and recycling, and preparations for several special summer projects. Here's what our four Field Crews have been up to in May:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY TEAM

- Field prep across all fields multiple times per day
- Mowing, edging, trimming, fertilizing and weeding their sites
- Prepping all the sports courts for the busy season
- Supporting cemetery services
- Inspecting and repairing irrigation systems
- Adding mulch to tree rings, weeding and sprucing up flower beds at their sites
- Collecting and disposing of a lot of garbage and recycling
- Prepping for mobile sprinkler and dog parks at select locations this summer



SUPPORT TEAM

- Final repairs and chemical adjustments at the pool for summer swimming
- Replacing broken ADA ramp at OO Denny playground
- Cleaning gutters on Parks buildings and picnic shelters
- Inspecting and clearing sewer lines
- Inspecting and repairing playgrounds and equipment and cleaning synthetic turf
- Installing missing picnic table board at Everest park and replaced table at Tot Lot
- Repairing malfunctioning stormwater outfall at Juanita Beach park
- Coordinating prop locations for a film production at Heritage Park
- Completing repairs to Marina Park dock and respond to reports of sinking vessel



HORTICULTURE TEAM

- Mowing, edging and trimming daily
- Pruning up trees to provide clearance for facilities and mowers
- Installing, repairing, and replacing irrigation at many locations
- Addressing tree concerns and removing hanging limbs and deadwood as needed per risk assessment
- Adding mulch to tree rings, weeding and sprucing up flower beds at all their sites
- Salvaging logs from Public Works for use at Parks restoration projects
- Removing outdated COVID signage
- Dewinterizing the fountain at Marina Park



NATURAL AREAS TEAM

- Supporting Steward-led volunteer events with mulch and tool deliveries
- Filling water cisterns weekly for Stewards to water their sites
- Mowing, edging, and trimming their sites
- Leading a group volunteer event at Kingsgate park
- Completing the first round of invasive tree treatments and removals at South Norway Hill
- Installing native plants around the stormwater outfalls at Juanita Beach park
- Installing signage explaining bioswales and iron-oxidizing bacteria at Juanita Beach park
- Cutting bamboo in preparation for fall herbicide treatments
- Responding to tree concerns and fallen branches blocking public pathways

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 received eight total bids. Staff will present recommendations for contract award on June 1 to City Council. If awarded, 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 received six total bids. Staff will present recommendations for contract award on June 15 to City Council. If awarded, 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 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

Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups have been scheduled for the week of June 7, 2021. A Public Forum will be held on June 17, 2021. Details about the plan and ways to get involved can be found at [**KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PLAYITFORWARD**](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/playitforward). Sign up for our [**EMAIL LIST**](#) to learn about upcoming events and progress.

Background of the Project: The department is updating its Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan in 2021 to reflect substantial growth and changes in the community and to the park system. GreenPlay LLC was selected as the consultant for this project. It is expected that this project will be complete by April 2022 with an anticipated adoption by City Council.

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

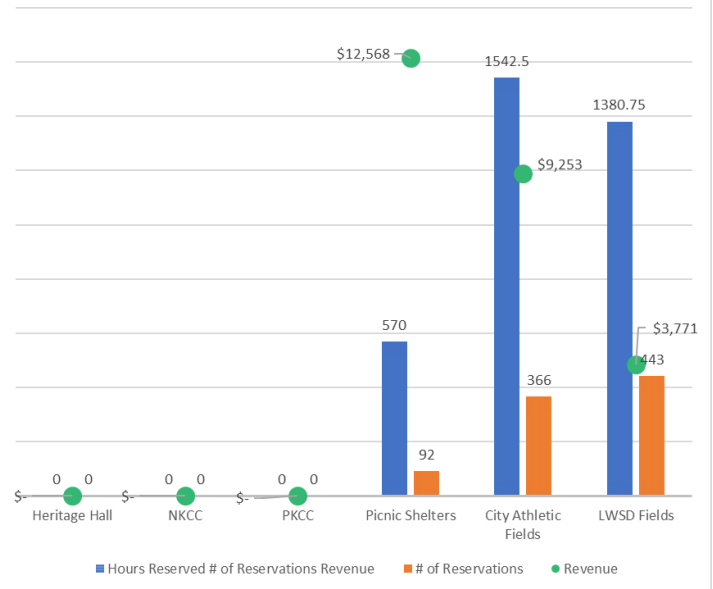
Athletic fields saw nearly 3,000 hours reserved this month. Picnic shelter rentals also increased with 92 rentals totaling 570 hours reserved. Thirty-six boat launch cards were renewed using the new system and 32 new boat launch cards were sold during May 2021. Learn more about boat launch cards and moorage on our [WEBSITE](#).

PETER KIRK COMMUNITY CENTER SENIOR SERVICES

In April, 93 lunches were delivered to seniors in their homes and a total of 576 hot lunches were served at our "To-Go" lunch program. 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 April, a total of 219 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 video conference. They had 127 contacts with Kirkland community members last month.

RENTAL RESERVATIONS - MAY 2021



WELCOME 2021 AQUATICS TEAM MEMBERS!

On Saturday, May 22, we welcomed 65 new and returning aquatics team members for their new hire and pool orientations. Aquatics staff participated in a morning Zoom orientation with City of Kirkland Human Resources staff and with the aquatics leadership team where they discussed city policies and aquatics specific operations. After the morning orientation, staff participated in an in-person orientation covering pool operations. The aquatics team is eagerly awaiting the start of swim season to assist with keeping our community safe this summer!



KIRKLAND CORNHOLE CLASSIC

Staff hosted a cornhole tournament, the Kirkland Cornhole Classic, for the community on Saturday, May 8. Twenty teams participated in the event, which was held on the outfield at Lee Johnson Field. Playing the championship matches under the lights at center field made for an exciting conclusion to a fun night. The biggest piece of feedback we heard was, 'can we do this again?' We hope to host a second Kirkland Cornhole Classic later this summer.