

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – JULY 2021



TOTEM LAKE PARK – NOW OPEN

On Wednesday, July 28, 2021, City Council, Park Board, and City leadership officially opened Totem Lake Park with a ribbon-cutting event on the new boardwalk. The Park is the renovated ecological centerpiece of a series of projects that, when completed, will expedite the transformation of Kirkland's first urban center into the walkable, vibrant, and green village that community leaders envisioned two decades ago.

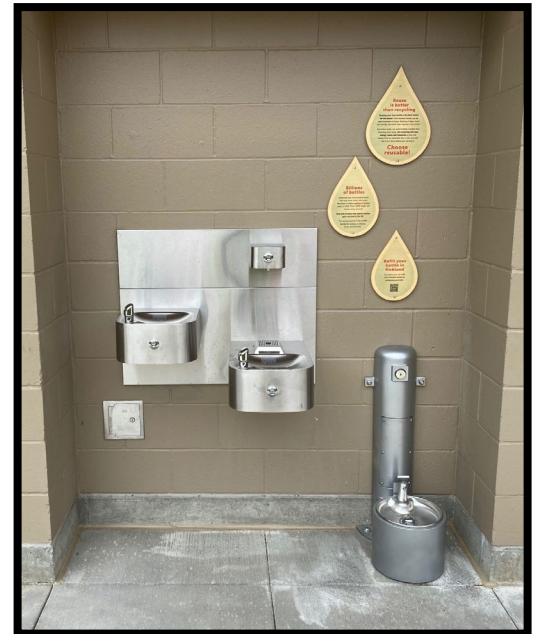
"Good ideas, thoughtful plans, and an incredible amount of hard work can bring us something even better than we first imagined. We are standing amid an impressive display of public and private investment that has been years in the making," said Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet.



The renovated park features a 10-foot wide boardwalk that meanders through the wetlands and connects to the Cross Kirkland Corridor, a playground with features that are accessible to all ages and abilities, new family restrooms, a water bottle filling station, drinking fountains for humans and canines, a community picnic table that's over 48 feet long, as well as a new system to protect the wetland and new native plantings.

The main park parcel including the colorful playground opened to the public on July 2, 2021, in time for families to enjoy over the July 4 holiday weekend. Local family publication, [PARENTMAP](#), published a favorable review of the playground in mid-July 2021. It is no surprise that this park has already earned a nickname, "Rainbow Park," thanks to the vibrant playground turf.

The revitalization of Totem Lake derives from a community vision for an urban village where residents could live, work, and play and the nearly billion dollars that public agencies and private developers have invested in Totem Lake to manifest that vision.



HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSING HELP PROGRAM

Over 70 Kirkland households have responded to the mailer sent out in June 2021. Tenants, landlords, small business owners, and organizations have connected with Human Services staff to learn about the available resources. The number one need is rental assistance. The primary rental assistance program is through **KING COUNTY'S EVICTION PREVENTION AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EPRAP)**.



Are you **behind in your rent**?
Are you a **landlord with tenants unable to pay**?
Are you **behind on mortgage payments**?

\$ Financial assistance is available through the City of Kirkland or one of its partners.
CONTACT US TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY:
www.kirklandwa.gov/housing-help | housinghelp@kirklandwa.gov | (425) 587-3326

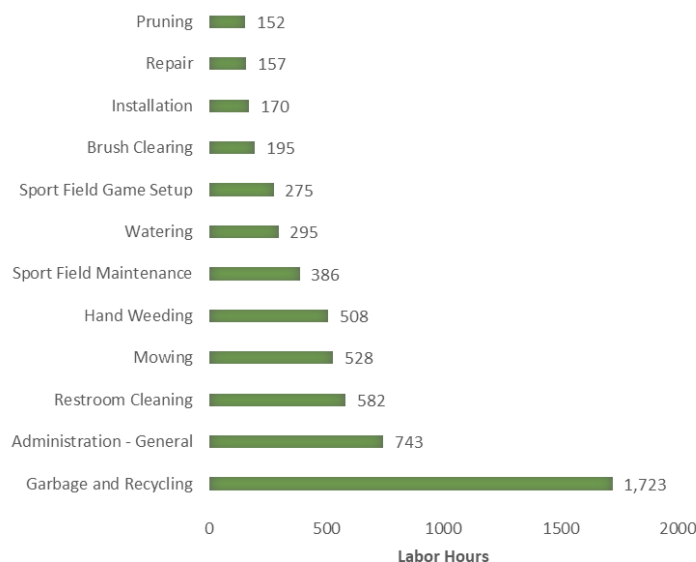
In addition to rental assistance, Human Services staff are helping educate landlords and tenants about the statewide bridge proclamation, Kirkland eviction moratorium, and new tenant protections passed at this year's legislative session. Staff is assisting callers to understand how the different protections work together to ensure housing stability for those in need. As necessary staff provides referrals to **EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**, the **RENTAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON (RHAWA)**, and the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center, to help avoid the eviction process for Kirkland landlords and tenants.

Homeowners are another population seeking assistance in response to COVID-19. The Department of Commerce received funding for a **HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF)** pilot program. The public comment and hearing period ended on June 7 and the program is anticipated to go live in the coming weeks to support homeowners avoid foreclosure. Staff have been referring homeowners to sign-up for the program and visit **THE WASHINGTON HOMEOWNERSHIP RESOURCE CENTER** for additional resources.

The Human Services team encourages tenants, landlords, and homeowners to contact the Housing Help phone line at (425) 587-3326 or email HOUSINGHELP@KIRKLANDWA.GOV with questions or in need of assistance. There is an updated Resource Library on the **RESOURCES FOR KIRKLAND RESIDENTS PAGE** that residents can visit to learn more about resources and assistance available.

PARKS MANAGEMENT

JULY 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.

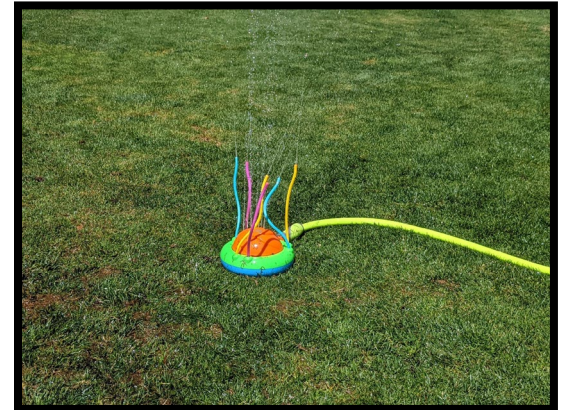


SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING

Sun, sun, sun leads to fun, fun, fun in our parks. All that fun also means a lot of regular maintenance just to keep up. Here is a summary of what our four field crews have been up to in July:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY TEAM

- Staged, connected, and tested sprinkler park features
- Moved shed and equipment out of 132nd Square park for construction
- Repaired sports courts as needed such as sagging nets on the pickleball courts
- Fertilized and repaired damaged turf on and around sports fields as needed
- Field prep across all fields multiple times per day
- Mowed, edged, trimmed, and weeded all their sites
- Inspected and repaired irrigation systems
- Supported multiple burial services
- Leaf removal from pathways and parking lots



SUPPORT TEAM

- Installed new water safety signage at OO Denny Park
- Popped up a new (temporary) off-leash dog area at Heritage Park
- Poured concrete for a new donation bench at OO Denny Park
- Re-installed disc swing with new ropes and hardware at Waverly Beach
- Inspected swim ladders at Marina, Waverly, and Juanita and repaired or replaced as needed
- Frequent pool maintenance and repair such as backwashing the pool filter
- Replaced seats on tables at Houghton Beach and Reservoir Parks
- Repaired leaking drinking fountains at Everest Park
- Installed new No Lifeguard on Duty signage on lifeguard chairs at Juanita Beach



HORTICULTURE TEAM

- Mowed, edged, and trimmed daily
- Surveyed trees for sun damage and watered as much as possible to help them survive the heat
- Added a picnic table to the pop-up dog park at Juanita Beach
- Crown raised trees at NKCC for parking and street clearance
- Led volunteer event at Rose Hill Meadows, weeding flower beds
- Responded to a report of a fire in a cedar tree at Edith Moulton and coordinated follow up with Fire
- Mulched tree rings at OO Denny
- Washed garbage can lids and surrounds at Houghton, Marsh, Brink, and Marina Parks
- Addressed tree concerns and removed hanging limbs and deadwood as needed per risk assessment



NATURAL AREAS TEAM

- Supported Steward-led volunteer events with mulch and tool deliveries
- Watered recent plantings and filled water cisterns weekly for Stewards to water their sites
- Cleared blackberry and brush along the trails at Totem Lake Park in preparation for the grand opening
- Installed additional irrigation at Watershed Park to allow additional planting in the borrow pit
- Posted and removed beach closed signage at Juanita Beach in response to water quality
- Treated all known stands of invasive bamboo in natural areas with herbicide
- Removed buried corrugated pipe at Steward site at JU1
- Removed tree swing installed in the natural area at Crestwoods
- Located and removed more populations of poison hemlock at McAuliffe Park



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 contract was awarded to Allied Construction Associates, Inc., for \$8.35 million. Construction started June 28, 2021, with the first round of tree removal. Progress was made on the excavation for the surface water vault construction. The western side of the park with the playground and walking area is expected to remain open into September. The area in the outfield of the softball field is expected to remain open throughout construction. The remainder of the park will be closed to the community during the estimated one year of construction. The open field and basketball hoop along NE 132nd Street between 135th and 136th have been leased and are available to the community during construction.

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 park renovation project was awarded to Wyser Construction Company for \$1,151,831.34. Additionally, we received a \$500,000 grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) - Aquatics Land Enhancement Account for this project. A groundbreaking photo opportunity took place on July 15, 2021. Construction begins in August 2021 and the timeline is one year.

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



JUANITA HEIGHTS TRAIL PROJECT

In July, the City of Kirkland moved forward with closing on a small parcel known as the Emmel property. This parcel will potentially serve as a trailhead to the park. Staff continues to explore trail options.

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

OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS

Temporary pop-up dog parks at Juanita Beach Park, Heritage Park, and Snyder's Corner were approved as part of the 2021 Summer Action Plan. These temporary areas are intended to test and evaluate how to incorporate additional dog amenities into our system. As of July, The City has received significant positive feedback regarding the pop-up dog parks at Juanita Beach Park and Heritage Park.

Background of Project: This is part of the 2021 Summer Action plan. The need for off-leash dog amenities was identified in the 2015 PROS Plan. Staff conducted public outreach in 2018 and a draft proposal was presented for feedback and comments in late 2019.

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



The PROS Plan team and consultants are currently conducting technical analysis on the findings from June park visits. The consultants have also conducted a self-evaluation of all relevant facilities, programs, and services to identify existing and future accessibility needs per the Americans with Disabilities Act. During July staff conducted pop-up interviews in our parks to capture additional feedback. A survey will be mailed in September and additional focus groups will take place. Details about the plan and ways to get involved can be found at 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.

TOTEM LAKE PARK

The park and boardwalk opened to the public on July 28, 2021, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

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.

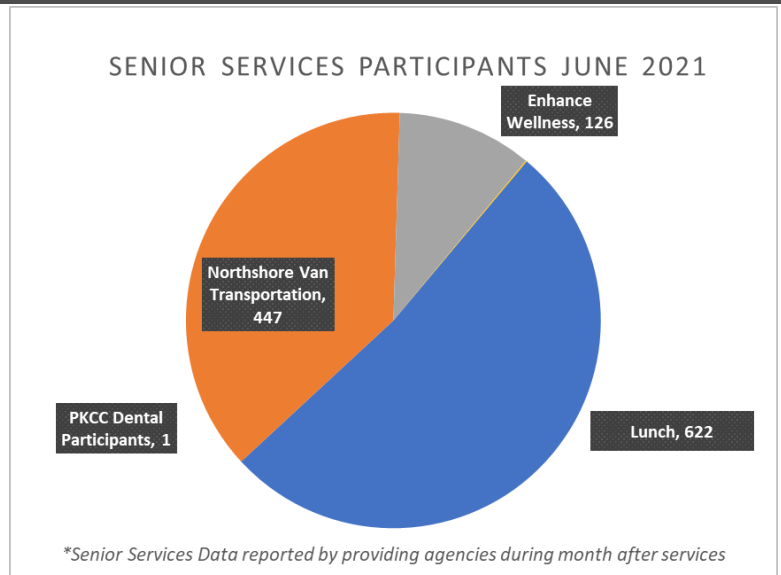
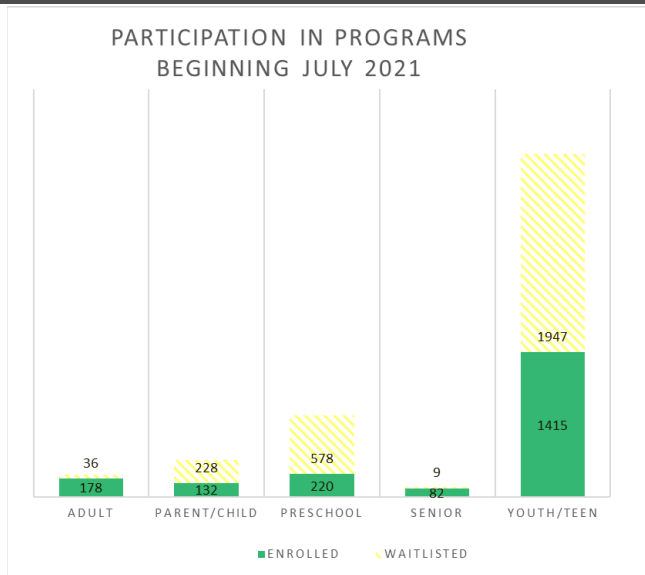


RECREATION SERVICES

SUMMER CAMPS ARE "OUT OF BOUNDS" THIS YEAR!



Summer camps normally held indoors at the North Kirkland Community Center have moved outside this year. Our "Learnin' the Ropes" Jump Rope Camp has been conducted at the shelter of Juanita Elementary, with 40 children enrolled, and over 75 on waiting lists. Dodgeball Campers have had a ball at Peter Kirk Elementary. Cheer Camp also raised the roof at Juanita Elementary with 18 enthusiastic participants chanting and cheering. Edith Moulton Nature camp hosts 12 campers per week for four weeks at Edith Moulton Park. Participants are engaged in arts and crafts, games, and wilderness exploration around this beautiful park property. Finally, Boogie and Books led by veteran teacher, Karen Renfro-Gielgens, has moved to the shelter at North Rosehill Woodlands park for the summer.



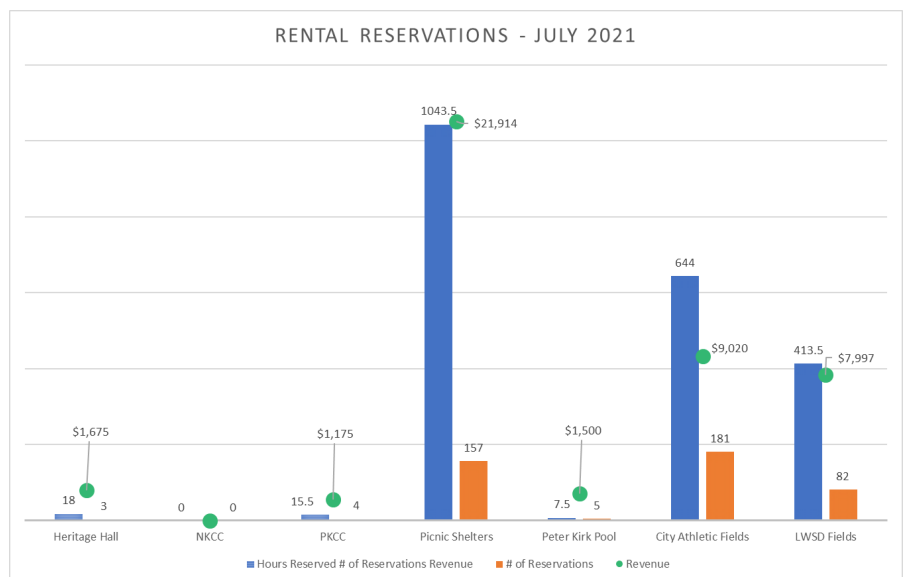
POP-UP SPRINKLER PARKS



This year has been about change and adaptability through the uncertainty of Covid-19. In that mindset the Kirkland Aquatics team started their Sprinkler Park season, hoping to not only bring a fun aquatic event back to Kirkland but also help relieve the waterfront beaches on these warm summer days. This year, we not only offer one Sprinkler Park, but we now offer TWO! Sprinkler Park runs on Thursdays at Lee Johnson Field 11am-3pm and on Saturdays at North Kirkland Community Center 11am-4pm throughout July and ending on Saturday, August 14. This free event is for kids of all ages, offering fun inflatables, water tables, and sprinklers galore. Keeping cool in the summer is not only fun but it is safe as well as our Sprinkler Parks is staffed by our certified lifeguard team.

ATHLETIC FIELD RENTALS

Our first season of 2021 athletic field use ended on July 31. Athletic fields were used by 22 different organizations from January through July. The season was especially challenging March through June due to the shift in sports seasons for the 2020-2021 school year by the Washington Interscholastic Activities and Association, the closure of two fields at Juanita High School, and the closure of three fields at 132nd Square Park. The City was pleased to host the Juanita High School Ravens and Lake Washington High School Kangs softball teams for a night of games at Lee Johnson Field during the first season. It was quite a night!



VENDORS IN THE PARK UPDATE

Stand-up paddleboard and kayak rentals by Northwest Paddle Surfers and Perfect Wave have hit historic levels this summer. Duffy Electric Boats Northwest and Chillz Mobile Ice Cream Services are also doing very well. Concessions at Everest have supported various games and tournaments during the first season and continue during Kirkland American's summer ball program.

SHARING PROGRAM (DONATIONS PROGRAM) UPDATE

Cindy Engstrom donated a park bench in honor of her husband, Eric Engstrom, to OO Denny Park.

"We saw the bench yesterday. IT IS BEAUTIFUL! You all have been wonderful. Thank you so much." – Ms. Engstrom



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.



KIRKLAND WEDNESDAY MARKET

The Wednesday Market continued to add additional vendors this month. Shoppers can now enjoy a hot meal and other ready-to-eat items when they visit the weekly farmers market. We extend a special thank you to market manager, Tessa Hansen, and her crew for sharing their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) knowledge and expertise with staff from the Juanita Friday Market at a mini one-on-one training session. To learn more about market offerings, go to WWW.KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG.

PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS

Surrounded by family, friends, supporters, and members of Kirkland's elected body, third-generation Kirkland resident, decorated Vietnam war hero, and tireless community advocate Wesley "Wes" Robert Carpenter was formally inducted into the Kirkland Plaza of Champions on July 24, 2021. Only 23 individuals/groups have been inducted since 1988, making Wes the 24th honoree. Learn more about the [PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS](#).

EASTSIDE SALSA MARINA

A few hundred salsa lovers danced the night away at the annual Eastside Salsa Marina. Kirkland-based LaVida Studios hosted their 7th annual summer social dance in July at Marina Park's Al Locke Pavilion. The event featured introductory lessons and professional performances of Salsa, Bachata, Cha-cha-chá and Merengue.



CULTURAL FOLKTALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Studio East's Young Actors Professional Intensive (YAPI) Showcase provided free community performances at Peter Kirk Park for youth ages 3 – 9. YAPI teens presented two tales: *An Anansi Tale* from Africa and *The Frog King* from Northern Europe. Audiences enjoyed 30-minute shows filled with silliness and laughter. More outdoor theater is planned for later this summer. Information can be found at: WWW.STUDIO-EAST.ORG



KIRKLAND SUMMERFEST

More than 10,000 people attended the three-day event from July 30-August 1, which included a KidZone, night market, musical performances, outdoor entertainment, food, local beers and wines, and interactive activities for all ages. Summerfest supports many local non-profits, including the Kirkland Downtown Association and event producer Chump Change Foundation.

JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET

The 2021 Season of the Juanita Friday Market is almost halfway completed. The month of July brought fewer restrictions from Covid-19. We no longer have a capacity limit and have added vendors, as we no longer have distancing and spacing requirements for vendor stalls. Several produce vendors have added additional stalls for their products. The array of produce has increased throughout the month as a greater variety of fruits and vegetables ripen. Our Kid's Booth opened in July along with the return of live entertainment. We have received the approval for the SNAP food access program and are working on the logistics to put it in place. We hope to have it fully in place in August. To learn more about the market, go to WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
August 3, 10, 17 10am – 11am	Kids Summer Concerts	Juanita Beach Park	KIRKLANDSUMMERCONCERTS.WEEBLY.COM
Wednesdays 3pm - 7pm	Kirkland Wednesday Market	Marina Park	KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG
August 5, 12, 19 7pm – 8:30pm	Evening Summer Concerts	Marina Park	KIRKLANDSUMMERCONCERTS.WEEBLY.COM
Fridays 3pm - 7pm	Juanita Friday Market	Juanita Beach Park	KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET
August 7 10am - 4pm	Kirkland Waterfront Car Show	Central Business District	KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG/EVENTS
August 14 4pm – 6pm	Mexican Serenata	Marina Park	CENTROCULTURALMEXICANO.ORG
August 14 & 15 Shows: 11am & 1pm daily	StoryBook Theatre: The Boy Who Cried Wolf	Juanita Beach Park	STORYBOOKTHEATER.ORG
August 27-29 Hours vary	Kirkland Uncorked	Marina Park	KIRKLANDUNCORKED.COM