

# KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – AUGUST 2021



In May 2021, City Council approved the Summer Action Plan – an initiative in response to anticipated summer crowds and a tool to promote economic and community recovery from COVID-19's impacts. Parks and Community Services' summer action plan included strategies to activate park areas away from waterfront and downtown parks through pop-up dog parks and pop-up sprinkler parks. The plan also included providing additional staffing at waterfront and downtown parks (in the form of harbor masters, seasonal park rangers, beach lifeguards, and seasonal laborers) to support increased usage.

## POP-UP SPRINKLER PARK

In addition to the pop-up sprinkler park held on Thursdays at Lee Johnson Field from July 10 to August 14, a new pop-up sprinkler park at the North Kirkland Community Center was added as part of the Summer Action Plan to provide water-related activities at interior parks.



## POP-UP DOG PARKS

Temporary pop-up dog parks were approved to rotate through three parks as part of the Summer Action Plan. Due to overwhelmingly positive feedback, the pop-up park at Juanita Beach Park remained in place for the entire summer. A second temporary pop-up park took place at Heritage Park in July and moved to Snyder's Corner for August. As of September 3, the City has received over 120 comments of positive feedback regarding the pop-up dog parks.

## STAFFING

Having additional staff to support the Summer Action Plan was essential. Additional beach lifeguards supported big crowds at swimming beaches, and staffed the new pop-up sprinkler park at North Kirkland Community Center Park. Additional harbor masters and seasonal park rangers provided enhanced services throughout the park system, primarily focusing on waterfront and downtown core parks. Additional hours for seasonal park laborers allowed for enhanced garbage and restroom service as well.



## COMMUNITY-BUILDING EVENTS

Creating opportunities for the community to come together and have shared experiences through community-building events was a primary component of the Summer Action Plan. Throughout the summer, recreation staff hosted two cornhole tournaments, a grass volleyball tournament, and a series of free yoga in the park classes. The team will also host inaugural events this fall: See Spot Splash on Saturday, September 11, and a fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 16. See Spot Splash is a dog-themed event held at the Peter Kirk Pool, where dogs will be able to swim and visit dog-related vendors. The Harvest Festival is a celebration of the fall season at Juanita Beach Park with food and activities for the whole family.

## HUMAN SERVICES

### CREW KIRKLAND OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Mental Health Professional Homelessness Outreach Pilot Program is a collaboration between the City of Kirkland and Catholic Community Services (CCS) of Western Washington to provide outreach, engagement, and linkages to individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout the City. The **CREW** (Counseling, Recovery and Wellness) program is a state-licensed outpatient mental health and substance use treatment provider within King County that assists individuals with behavioral health or substance use issues to improve their quality of life.

Kristen Schaer (she/her), MA, LMHCA (Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate) was hired by Catholic Community Services in August to begin connecting with the unhoused community living in Kirkland. Kristen has worked as a mental health counselor in King County, serving the needs of the unhoused for the past 4 years.

The full-time street outreach clinician will conduct assertive street and community outreach to build relationships with people experiencing homelessness. This position is also responsible for brief risk intervention treatment to identify strengths and needs of families and individuals, which may include short term counseling support, behavioral interventions, case management, referrals and information, and care coordination across multiple systems including primary care, behavioral health, child welfare, immigration services, and housing systems.

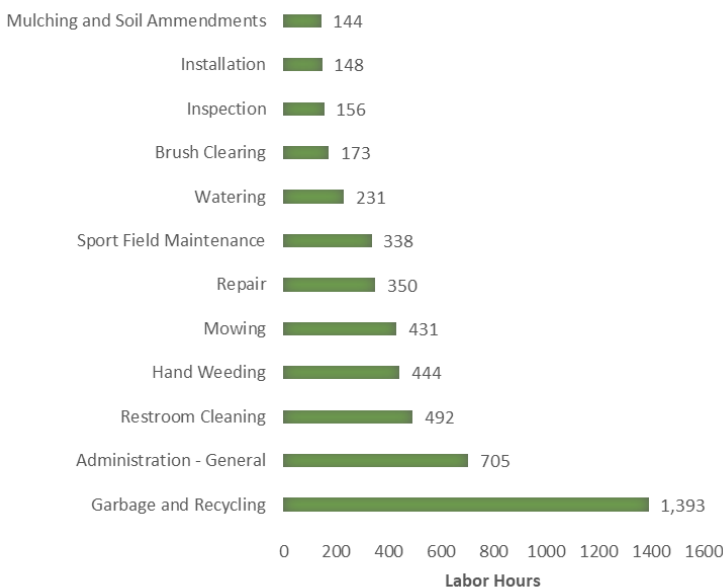


### HOUSING HELP UPDATE

To date, the City has assisted over 90 households inquiring about housing support since June. Staff worked to connect tenants, landlords, property owners, business owners, and homeowners with appropriate resources for their situation including referrals for rent assistance, mortgage assistance, legal aid, landlord mitigation support, and utility 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. Residents can also contact staff via phone (425 587-3326) or email ([HOUSINGHELP@KIRKLANDWA.GOV](mailto:HOUSINGHELP@KIRKLANDWA.GOV)) for referrals, questions, and general assistance.

## PARKS MANAGEMENT

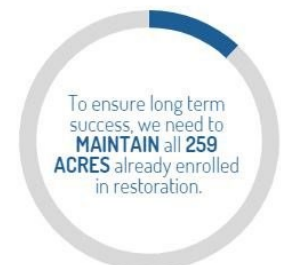
### AUGUST TOP 12 TASKS



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.



15.7 new acres enrolled based on data received from Stewards & crews by 8.26.21



31.7 acres maintained based on data received from Stewards & crews by 8.26.21



7 new Stewards recruited as of 8.26.21



385 volunteers participated as of 8.26.21



## SUMMER TO FALL

In the little break that sometimes magically appears between mowing season and leaf season, we get to implement some of our longer-term projects in addition to our daily maintenance. Here are a few examples of what the four field crews have been up to in August:

### BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY TEAM

- Watered, dragged, mowed, edged, and trimmed fields
- Implemented many cemetery and burial services
- Added woodchips to Crestwood Park's trees and flower beds as part of our integrated pest management plan
- Installed new nets on the basketball hoops at Peter Kirk Park
- Supported community events with power, garbage, and bathroom services
- Cleared storm drains and lines
- Repaired broken irrigation systems
- Pressure washed dugouts, bleachers, and concrete pads

### SUPPORT TEAM

- Replaced the flush valve, push button actuator, and vacuum breaker in the Crestwoods women's restroom
- Repaired fencing at Edith Moulton that was struck by a falling tree
- Inspected and repaired docks at Marina Park and Settler's Landing
- Repaired donation tables including setting plaques and replacing boards
- Proactively inspected all shelter tables and benches for loose boards
- Repaired the spray tank and hose on one of the two watering trucks
- Constructed features for the upcoming Harvest Festival

### HORTICULTURE TEAM

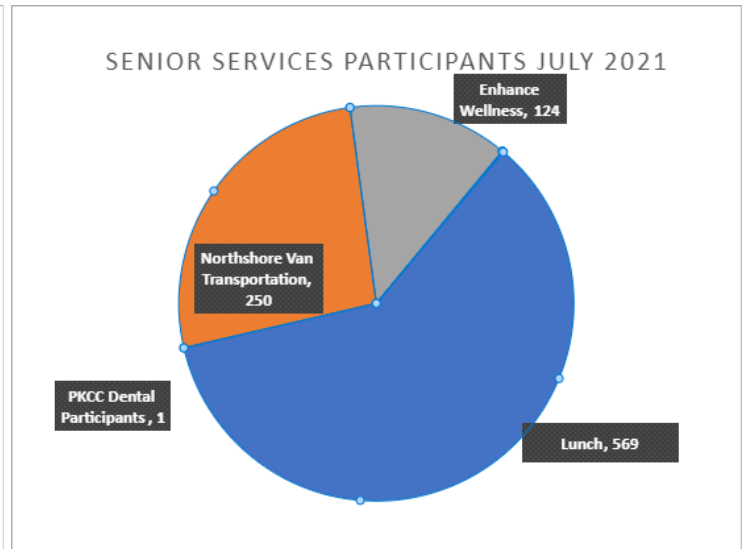
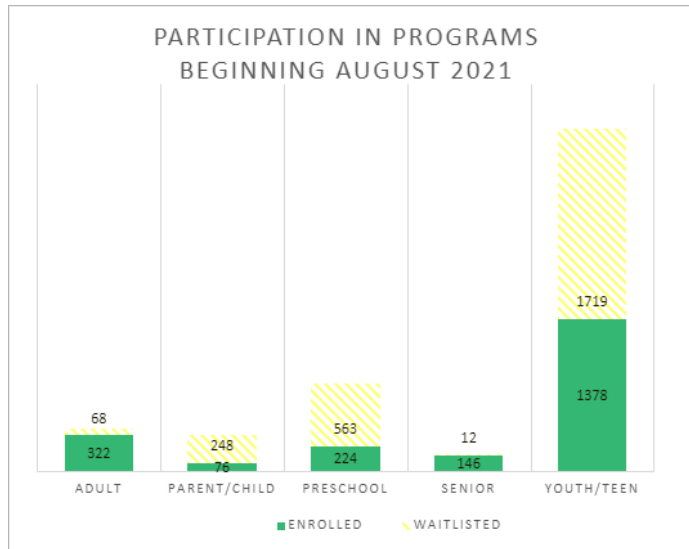
- Teamed up with Natural Areas to remove 25 truckloads of concrete from a historic dump site at Crestwoods Park
- Inspected trees with failure concerns at Watershed, JU3, JU4, Wiviott, South Norway Hill, and OO Denny parks and removed failing limbs as needed.
- Restriped parking lots
- Repaired and reprogrammed irrigation systems
- Weeded flower beds
- Repaired the dog waste bag dispenser at Juanita Beach
- Pressure washed picnic shelters
- Completed essential training including Flagger certification

### NATURAL AREAS TEAM

- Cleared woody debris and beaver dams flooding neighbors at Juanita Bay
- Cleaned up encampment materials at Forbes Lake
- Cleared brush back from trails at Juanita Bay, OO Denny, Edith Moulton, and North Rose Hill Woodlands
- Removed garden and purple loosestrife from Juanita Bay, Juanita Beach, and Totem Lake
- Installed large woody debris in the riparian buffer at Hazen Hills
- Identified trees undergoing heavy beaver use and proactively fenced as needed at Juanita Bay
- Inspected all open spaces for safety issues and removed litter



## RECREATION SERVICES



## SUMMER 2021 AQUATICS PROGRAMS RECAP



In March 2021, staff began working on the planning and scheduling of the Aquatics programs in a safe and healthy environment that would allow for social distancing and provide barriers for staff and participants from potentially becoming exposed. Aquatics staff reviewed pool capacity limits, Washington State COVID-19 Guidelines, and purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for aquatics staff to use while teaching lessons or guarding during the season.

The Aquatics team hired over 90 Lifeguards, Senior Lifeguards, Aquatics Program Supervisors, and Pool cashiers. To prepare for the season, staff trained and certified 30 new lifeguards, recertified 33 lifeguards, and trained 27 staff to be waterfront certified lifeguards to guard Kirkland's waterfront beaches. Three senior leadership staff also took the additional Lifeguard Instructor (LGI) training in the spring and were able to assist with training and recertifying this summer. Lifeguards and Swim Instructor staff continued their training throughout the summer with an additional 24 hours of in-service training at the pool and an additional 34 hours of in-service training at the beaches.

Once the season was in full swing staff continued reviewing and adjusting the program to match the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs were expanded throughout the summer to increase capacities and allow more community member participation. The Peter Kirk Pool Season Pass was also brought back and offered in early August.

Over the summer 2021 season, 2,951 community members participated in Aquatics programs including Reservation Lap Swim, Swim Lessons, Private Lessons, and Water Exercise programs. At the end of the season, there were still 3,895 people on waitlists for Aquatics programs and classes.

We want to give a HUGE special thank you to all members of the Aquatics team for making this summer so successful. They did a fantastic job to keep the community safe in all weather conditions!





## KIRKLAND STEPPERS

The theme for the 10-week Kirkland Steppers Walking Program this year was Explore Your Local Park, staff eagerly joined the walkers each week at a different neighborhood park. Several weeks the walkers were lucky enough to also have a staff member from the Parks Management division join them to give them fun facts about the park they were visiting (these facts were used at the Finish Line trivia game). The Finish Line celebration for the program took place on August 24, 2021, at the Peter Kirk Community Center with a fun trivia game and a delicious box lunch provided by Fairwinds Redmond. We had over 70 participants in this year's program and are looking forward to another successful season next year.



### 2021 KIRKLAND STEPPERS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- 48% of the participants were between the ages of 65 to 75; 39% were between the ages of 75-85. This year several younger seniors participated also, 9% were between the ages of 45-55.
- 48% of the participants walked in at least 7 of the 10 walk events scheduled.
- 97% of the participants reported the Steppers program motivated them to increase their weekly activity level.
- 94% of the participants reported walking on their own at least one additional day besides the scheduled Steppers walks.
- 67% of the participants reported seeing increased health benefits while participating in the 10-week walking program (i.e. endurance, balance, lower blood pressure, weight loss, etc.). Staff also heard from several walkers that the biggest benefit they saw was socialization and improved mental health.

## SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

The Peter Kirk Community Center partnered with Merrill Gardens, MorningStar Senior Living, and Evergreen Court to host a free resource fair with a wide variety of community resources for older adults including housing, healthcare, legal, computer, technical support, and more. With over thirty organizations onsite to answer questions there was something for everyone that attended.



## KIRKLAND CORNHOLE CLASSIC

Back by popular demand, staff organized another Kirkland Cornhole Classic.

Twenty-four teams participated in the festivities on Friday, August 6, 2021, at Lee Johnson Field. A BBQ food truck was also on-site to put food in the bellies of cornhole participants and spectators. There were many walk-up community members interested and entertained by the competition and the yard games. The event received great feedback including a request for a teen game night in the future.

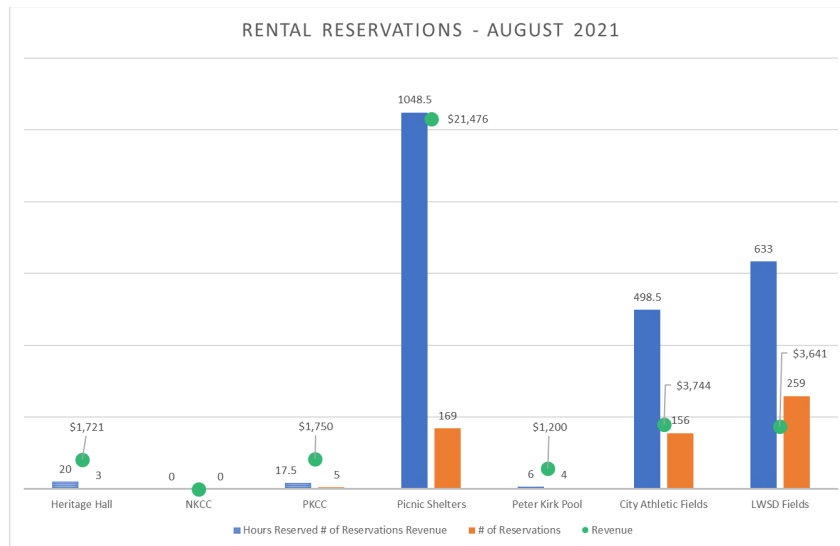
## SUN, SET, SPIKE GRASS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The Recreation team organized the first-ever Sun, Set, Spike Grass Volleyball Tournament under the lights at Lee Johnson Field on Wednesday, August 25. Six teams participated in this coed tournament and provided good feedback on how to improve the next time around. This was the first time using the grass volleyball equipment that was purchase with the King County Get Active Stay Active Grant.



## FACILITY RENTALS AND FIELDS

Picnic shelter rentals soared in August with over 1,000 hours reserved. Athletic field rentals increased slightly to over 1,100 hours reserved as early practices for fall sports began in August. Eleven new boat launch cards were sold during the month.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DATE/TIME

Saturday, September 11,  
2021 at 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

### EVENT

See Spot Splash

### LOCATION

Peter Kirk Pool

### OTHER INFO

[WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/WHATS-HAPPENING/COMMUNITY-EVENTS/PARKS-AND-COMMUNITY-SERVICES-EVENTS/SEE-SPOT-SPLASH](http://WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/WHATS-HAPPENING/COMMUNITY-EVENTS/PARKS-AND-COMMUNITY-SERVICES-EVENTS/SEE-SPOT-SPLASH)

## 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](http://WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS).



## KIRKLAND WEDNESDAY MARKET

Shoppers continue to enjoy the weekly farmers market held in Marina Park. Multiple vendors offer fresh produce, sweet treats and confections, beautiful flowers, plant starts for your garden, and more. The market is an authorized participant in the Farmers Market Nutrition and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs which support senior and low-income customers. Market staff are ready to assist and answer questions, find them at the Market Information Booth near the Pavilion. To learn more about market offerings, go to [WWW.KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG](http://WWW.KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG).

## KIDS SUMMER CONCERTS

The summer concert season was significantly shorter this year, but just as loved! The Kirkland Downtown Association hosted three concerts at the Juanita Beach Park Amphitheater in August. Young families and children enjoyed singing and dancing to the tunes of The Brian Waite Band, Cowboy Buck and Elizabeth, and The Not Its.







## EVENING SUMMER CONCERTS

The shorter summer concert season at Marina Park did not disappoint! Hundreds of music enthusiasts braved the sweltering heat along the shores of Moss Bay to enjoy the strumming and musings of West Coast Feed, Brian James, and Roemen and the Whereabouts.

## MEXICAN SERENATA

Centro Cultural Mexicano hosted an evening of beautiful music featuring Trio Los Latinos and Grupo Indomable Efrain Lucas. Organizers celebrated a great turnout from all over the region. Based in Redmond, Centro Cultural Mexicano strives to inspire inclusive participation by the community in all aspects of education, culture, and society by providing opportunities to create a positive future. To learn more, go to: [CENTROCULTURALMEXICANO.ORG](https://centroculturalmexicano.org).

## KIRKLAND WATERFRONT CAR SHOW

After canceling the annual event in 2020, event organizers were excited to welcome back hundreds of show vehicles and thousands of spectators this year! The car show presented by the Kirkland Downtown Association featured antique, classic, street rod, muscle, exotic vehicles, and motorcycles. Attendees were also treated to an appearance by special guest Steve Saleen, CEO of Saleen Automotive.



## STORYBOOK THEATRE: THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF

Studio East's StoryBook Theater in the Park provided a weekend of free community performances at Juanita Beach Park for youth ages 3-10. Audiences enjoyed the story of shepherd boy Sam who was tired of watching sheep all day and wanted some excitement. Based on a familiar fairy tale, the story focused on a life lesson with a happy ending. Studio East looks forward to returning to Kirkland parks next summer with more fun and exciting tales!

## KITSAP CREDIT UNION COMMERCIAL

Kirkland-based Vossler Media Group highlighted the natural surroundings of OO Denny Park in a recent commercial shoot for Kitsap Credit Union. The one-day project required closure of the eastern parking lot, restricted parking along Holmes Point Drive, and nearly 5 hours of filming with a cast and crew of 25 people.

## KIRKLAND UNCORKED

The annual three-day wine festival held in Marina Park was a celebration of world-class Washington wineries. The weekend-long event featured a 21+ tasting garden, street fair, live music, and food truck feast. On Sunday afternoon, the 13th annual CityDog Cover Dog Modeling Contest invited dogs of all shapes and sizes to strut their stuff with proceeds benefitting Homeward Pet Adoption.



## JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET



The month of August has begun the second half of the 2021 Season of the Juanita Friday Market. The weather has had an impact on attendance. The first and third Fridays were damp and cool, and the second week was extremely hot with air quality warnings. We have had 37 different vendors through the season, although we have not had a week where all of them were in attendance. Sales per

week are averaging over \$17,000. We have had an increasing usage of the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupons at the market, with over \$400 being redeemed one week in August. A volunteer program with Symetra has increased our volunteer participation. August will have over sixty volunteer hours. To learn more about the market, go to [WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET](http://WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
Wednesdays thru September 3pm - 7pm	Kirkland Wednesday Market	Marina Park	<a href="http://KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG">KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG</a>
Fridays thru September 3pm - 7pm	Juanita Friday Market	Juanita Beach Park	<a href="http://KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET">KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET</a>
September 24-26 hours vary	Kirkland Oktoberfest	Marina Park	<a href="http://OKTOBERFESTKIRKLAND.COM">OKTOBERFESTKIRKLAND.COM</a>

## 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

Construction began June 28, 2021. Progress was made on the excavation for the surface water vault construction. The western side of the park with the playground and the 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.

*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) for this project. Construction began the last week of August 2021 and is expected to be finished by late spring 2022.

*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. The City has received significant positive feedback regarding the pop-up dog parks. The pop-up dog park at Juanita Beach is being extended through the next phase of the PROS Plan update. A focus group will be held on September 29, 2021, to gather feedback from the pop-up program.

*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. August was spent conducting internal stakeholder meetings, a DEI focus group, and an athletic field demand study. A statistically valid survey will be mailed to 5,000 randomly selected households in September. Details about the plan and ways to get involved can be found at [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PLAYITFORWARD](https://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.

