

# KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – DECEMBER 2021



## LIGHT UP KIRKLAND

On December 12, the Light Up Kirkland event brought festivities and enhanced light displays to Juanita Beach Park. The Department provided a warm bonfire on the beach and 250 goodie bags for families to take home. Rairdon's of Kirkland sponsored the event and hosted a community food drive to benefit local families. Hot cocoa, cider, and cookies were provided thanks to MorningStar Senior Living and Duffy Electric Boats NW. Attendees were able to commemorate the evening by snapping a photo of themselves at one of the three selfie stations put on by MorningStar Senior Living, Studio East, and Duffy Electric Boats NW. There were live performances from Juanita High School's Orchestra, Combined Choirs, and Band Program. The night ended with a joyful noise from the Argosy Cruise Christmas Ship and The Dickens Carolers.



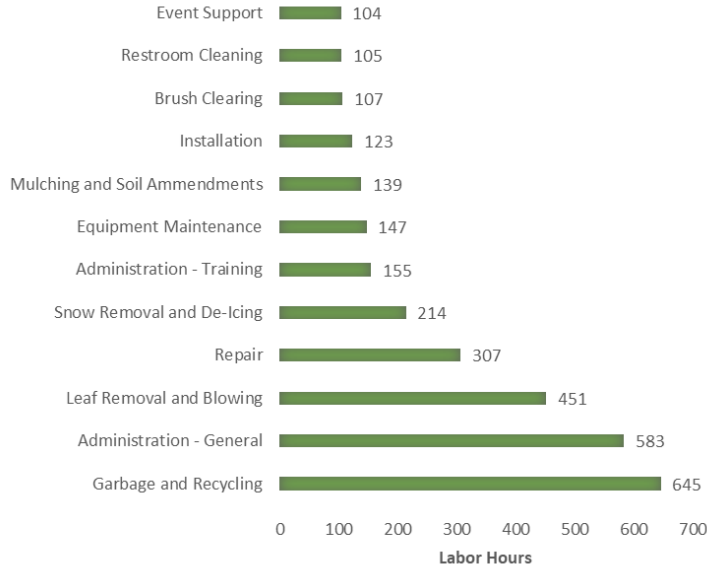
## HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Kirkland community members spread the holiday cheer this year in the 2nd annual Holiday Lights Contest. Contest participants decorated their homes between November 1 and December 9 with seasonal lights, inflatables, music, and décor. On December 14, the judging committee visited and evaluated each home based on the following criteria: unique design, storyline or theme, placement of décor, and overall presentation. Three overall winners were chosen including Kingsgate Kringle House, the Gray House, and the Citron House. Honorable mentions were awarded to the Beauregard-Hoffman House and the Anderson House. The top three winners won a victory yard sign to announce their special status to all who drive by.



## PARKS MANAGEMENT

### DECEMBER TOP 12 TASKS



The mission of the Green Kirkland Partnership (GKP) is to **restore and maintain 510 acres** of natural parklands **by building a supportive community** that works together to protect Kirkland's natural resources for current and future generations.



18.1 new acres enrolled based on data received from Stewards & crews by 12.21.21



37 acres maintained based on data received from Stewards & crews by 12.21.21



7 new Stewards enrolled as of 12.21.21



997 volunteers participated as of 12.21.21

### A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

There has been no shortage of weather-related shenanigans in Kirkland parks during December – from wind, rain, leaves, wind, rain, leaves, sunken pathways, ice, and snow. At the end of the month, staff from all crews pitched in to provide over 200 hours of snowstorm and winter weather support including snow removal and de-icing at City Hall, Kirkland Justice Center, Fire stations, Community Centers as well as the parking lot of Kirkland Place for Families and Women. Here are December highlights from the four teams:

#### BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY TEAM

- Replaced damaged fencing at Ben Franklin Elementary athletic fields
- Repaired damaged turf at Finn Hill Middle School and Peter Kirk Elementary School athletic fields
- Deiced sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas at City Hall and fire stations
- Closed OO Denny Park early on December 18 upon request of KPD
- Placed wreaths at the Kirkland cemetery
- Painted the bathroom interior at Houghton Beach
- Set up and monitored community bonfires hosted by the PCS Recreation team
- Removed nearly a dozen old cement pipes from the natural area at Everest





### NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP TEAM

- Mulched parking lot beds at Juanita Beach and fruit trees at McAuliffe
- Cleared downed trees and limbs at Edith Moulton and Josten parks and several open spaces
- Prepped and seeded additional pollinator plantings at Juanita Bay
- Removed discarded construction materials from open space JU1
- Prepped and decorated Juanita Beach for the Light Up Kirkland event hosted by the PCS Recreation team
- Caged trees to prevent further beaver damage at Juanita Bay and fenced new plantings at open space JU4 to prevent rabbit browse
- Began site planning with a new ongoing volunteer who will be caring for the hops and grape plants at McAuliffe
- Treated invasive trees at South Norway Hill using stem injection techniques



### SUPPORT TEAM

- Remediated drainage issues in one of the play structures at Peter Kirk
- Repaired fencing damaged by a fallen tree in open space JU1
- Installed holiday lights at Juanita Beach, prepped a bonfire at Juanita Beach as part of Light Up Kirkland
- Cleaned roof, gutters, and grounds of one of the rental homes at McAuliffe, the pool buildings at Peter Kirk, and the restrooms at Edith Moulton
- Completed required inspections of all play structures
- Repaired the dock light timer and cleared blocked photocells at Marina and repaired an electrical box lid at Peter Kirk
- Removed the wall-mounted bench in the women's restroom at Houghton Beach to prepare for interior painting



### HORTICULTURE TEAM

- Addressed damaged trees and limbs at Waverly, Rose Hill Meadows, Mark Twain, Watershed, McAuliffe, Everest, Crestwoods, Heritage, and Tot Lot parks as well as several open spaces
  - Deiced sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas at Peter Kirk Park, NKCC, and fire stations
  - Added mulch to tree rings at OO Denny
  - Enhanced the plant nursery at McAuliffe park to allow for safe interim storage of large container stock
  - Trained staff in proper trailering and use of the new portable large LED television
- Repaired a washed-out path around the bridge to Jasper's Dog Park



Before at Jasper's Dog Park



After at Jasper's Dog Park

## HUMAN SERVICES

### RESIDENTIAL RENT, MORTGAGE, AND UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM

The City's **RESIDENTIAL RENT, MORTGAGE AND UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM** served 42 households through the end of December 2021 with a total of \$177,650.42 in assistance support paid. Staff anticipate the residential relief program to continue into 2022, serving households with arrears from the eligible timeline of March 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021.

Partner feedback indicates low- and moderate-income households continue to face financial challenges related to COVID-19. The beginning of December saw an uptick in application submittals, with 81 active referrals. Fourteen of those households are waiting on landlord documentation, which continues to be the sticking point for many applicants. Partner agencies are continuing outreach to collect the required documentation. Several landlords attempted to charge late fees, despite the fee moratorium in effect through 12/31/21. Staff worked with landlords to remove the late fees in order to receive payment.



Since adjusting the City's program to allow households eligible for King County Eviction Prevention and Rent Assistance Program (EPRAP) to apply, 27 households have opted out of EPRAP to seek quick relief through the City. Sixteen EPRAP-eligible households received a total of \$61,149.61 in assistance from Kirkland and the remaining households are still collecting documentation. Staff continue to triage households based on their unique circumstances and advise if they are better off waiting to receive assistance through EPRAP, or opt-in to the City's program. For questions or additional information about the program, email [HOUSINGHELP@KIRKLANDWA.GOV](mailto:HOUSINGHELP@KIRKLANDWA.GOV) or call (425) 587-3326.

### YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Services and the Youth Council continue to partner with Recreation staff to plan for additional teen programming in 2022. The Youth Council is seeking teen feedback on recreation programming offerings and services with a survey.

### SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION

The month ended with a dramatic shift in weather. With temperatures dipping into the 20s and as low as the teens, the City of Kirkland responded by providing vouchers for hotels to unhoused individuals. For questions about this program, please contact Leslie Miller, Human Services Supervisor, at 425-587-3322.

## 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 started June 28, 2021. Progress continues the surface water vault construction as well as further work on the park site. The western side of the park with the playground and walking area is now closed to the community during the construction. The project is expected to be completed and fully open by October 2022.

*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 E. BRINK PARK SHORELINE RENOVATION

Construction continues and remains on schedule. Construction began the last week of August 2021 and is expected to be finished by 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

The City of Kirkland in collaboration with King County Parks applied for a King County Parks Levy grant to acquire the Kosalos property. These parcels are adjacent to the WinSki parcel which was purchased earlier this year.

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

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

Details about the plan and ways to get involved can be found at

[KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PLAYITFORWARD](http://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 May 2022 with an anticipated adoption by City Council.



## RECREATION SERVICES

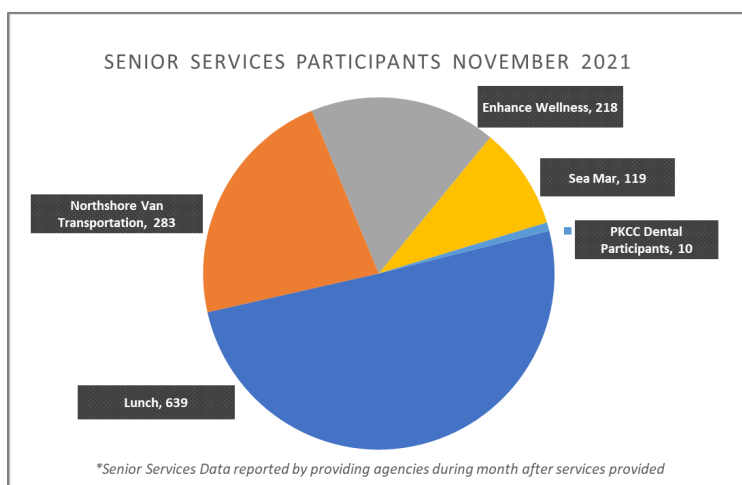
### HOLIDAYS WITH THE HAWKS

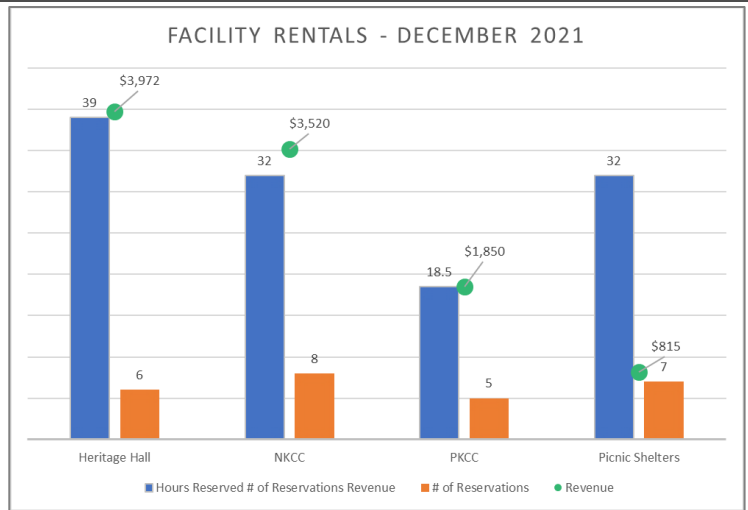
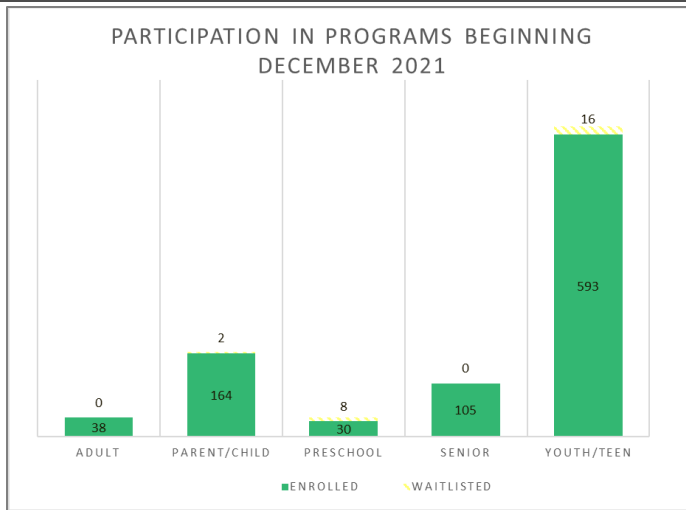
The Peter Kirk Community Center was honored to be chosen by Answers for Elders to participate in the 12 Days of Goodness. This fun event is designed to celebrate the seniors in our community and remind them they are loved. The Kirkland Sea Hawks Booster Club played an important role in making this event fun and festive with decorations and helping MC the event. Kirkland seniors had a great time at the Seahawk-themed luncheon celebration with Seahawk legends Alonzo Mitz, Edwin Bailey, and Blitz. The Seahawks presented staff with a 12th man flag which we plan to hang up in the Community Center. Special thanks to all our sponsors Answers for Elders, Koelsch Communities, Humana, and CarePartners Senior Living.



### MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals to the homebound in Kirkland on a weekly basis. This program relies on community volunteers to call participants each week to take their weekly order, packers to meet at PKCC on Thursdays to bag the meals up and drivers to deliver the meals to homebound seniors. In November 641 meals were delivered to Kirkland community members.





## UPCOMING RECREATION EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
January 22, 2022, 1 – 2PM	Polar Bear Plunge	Houghton Beach Park	<a href="http://KIRKLANDPARKS.NET">KIRKLANDPARKS.NET</a>

## 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).

### 12K'S OF CHRISTMAS

Snohomish Running Company welcomed 1,335 joyful athletes to the annual 12K's of Christmas fun run at Marina Park on December 12. Runners and walkers, dressed in their holiday finest, enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning in Kirkland along their preferred 5K or 12K course. More than 200 students and 270 Kirkland community members participated in the event which raised \$3,000 in support of the Seattle Humane Society's efforts to rescue pets and connect them with families who love them. Race day route support included 35 course monitors and 28 off-duty Kirkland police officers.



### HOLIDAY DISPLAYS

A big thank you to the Kirkland Downtown Association for lighting up downtown with thousands of twinkle lights, to the Chabad of Kirkland for sharing the grand menorah at Marina Park, and to all the city staff who had a part in bringing the delightful holiday tree to life. We appreciate our community partners and all that they do to make Kirkland such a wonderful place to be. Happy New Year, Kirkland!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 9:00AM	Valentine's Day Dash	Marina Park	<a href="http://ALEXANDERSHOPE.ORG/VALENTINES-DAY-DASH-2022/">ALEXANDERSHOPE.ORG/VALENTINES-DAY-DASH-2022/</a>
Sunday, March 27, 2022 at Noon	Nowruz Celebration	Marina Park	<a href="http://ISOWS.ORG/">ISOWS.ORG/</a>