

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – JUNE 2022



The Kirkland Steppers program launched in the summer of 2003 with seniors ranging from lifelong walkers to those who had never exercised a day in their life. Nineteen years later the program continues to draw community members of all fitness levels to take part in this well-loved activity. For the 2022 season, over 80 steppers have registered which is back to pre-pandemic levels.

An ongoing goal of the Peter Kirk Community Center is to combat the isolation experienced by many older adults. The Kirkland Steppers program not only reduces isolation but keeps older adults active. Physical activity is one of the best ways to prevent disease, and walking is one of the easiest ways to get started and stay healthy.

"Explore your local park" is the theme for the 2022 program. Each week the Steppers visit a local Kirkland park with the bonus of special guests on some of the walks. Over the course of the twelve-week program, Steppers will walk to or meet at several local parks. Walks are generally 45-60 minutes in length, longer for those that want to continue and, shorter for those that choose not to.

The program ends on August 23 and it's not too late to join. Though this program is geared toward older adults, all ages are welcome. We are thankful for longtime sponsor EvergreenHealth, whose continued support has added to the success of this program.

Join us next year for our 20th year of walking. Waste no time lacing up your sneakers for an experience only Kirkland Steppers can provide!



HUMAN SERVICES

WELCOME SUMMER INTERNS

The Parks and Community Services Department hired five high school interns to assist with various summer projects and activities offered by the Department. These interns are assisting with the two "Summer Experiences & Enrichment for Kids" (SEEK) programs, working on administrative projects, gaining job readiness skills, and learning about local government.

RENT ASSISTANCE UPDATE

The City received two referral lists of Kirkland households who signed up for rent assistance from the King County Eviction Prevention and Rent Assistance Program (EPRAP). The first list includes 147 referrals that were not selected from the tenant pool lottery. Of the 147 referrals, staff successfully connected with 65% of applicants and identified 33 households with arrears during the eligible timeline of March 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021, totaling \$363,268. Staff are in the process of referring eligible households to partner agencies to begin the documentation collection process.

The second list includes 260 applicants that were selected via the tenant or large landlord pool but did not receive assistance through the EPRAP program. Staff are reaching out to determine how many households are still in need of assistance and also collecting information to better understand the need for 2022 arrears.

The City has partnered with Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) to administer assistance to low-income residents living at Imagine Housing communities. To date, 57 of the 112 projected households have requested assistance totaling \$125,027 in rent relief. The first payment was applied and exhausted by mid-June. ELAP anticipates administering the relief to the remaining Imagine Housing households in July.

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.

132ND SQUARE PARK

Construction started June 28, 2021. Progress continues and the park is expected to open by fall 2022. *Background of the 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 RENOVATION

Construction was completed in late June and opened to the public. An official ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for July 15, 2022. *Background of the 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 continues collaboration with King County Parks and the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance. *Background of the Project:* The expanding Juanita Heights Park is envisioned to allow trail connections to the surrounding neighborhoods all the way down to Juanita Bay Park.

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

We are in the final stages of updating our Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) and ADA Transition Plan. The draft PROS Plan was reviewed by City Council on June 7, 2022. Staff and BerryDunn are integrating feedback and will return to City Council later this summer for adoption. See the [PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE \(PROS\) PLAN WEBSITE](#) for details about the plan. *Background of the Project:* We are updating the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. GreenPlay, LLC (now known as BerryDunn) was selected as the consultant for this project. It is expected that this project will be complete by the end of summer 2022 with an anticipated adoption by City Council.



PARKS MANAGEMENT

SUMMER SUN = SUMMER FUN

The sun finally came out at the end of June and brought lots of people with it. Parks Management stayed busy keeping the parks trimmed and tidy to ensure everyone could have the best possible time. Here are some highlights from June:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Fixed loose fencing in the bullpen at Everest Park
- Started the irrigation at Peter Kirk Elementary
- Trained new Seasonal employee caring for the volleyball court at Juanita Beach Park
- Hand weeded the warning tracks at Crestwoods Park
- Hundreds of game preps and lots of mowing

HORTICULTURE

- Cleared brush around northwest side of Mark Twain Park
- Pruned trees at OO Denny and Everest parks
- Removed garbage can damaged by fire at Waverly Beach
- Transplanted grasses and ferns at Heritage Park
- Blew goose poop from pathways at Houghton Beach Park
- Repaired broken irrigation at Marsh Park

SUPPORT

- Repaired shower at Juanita Beach Park
- Installed new steel dock ladders at Marina Park
- Applied floor coating the top surface of the gun mount at David E. Brink Park
- Removed remaining fence and platform from Brookhaven Park
- Installed a new park sign at David E. Brink and prepped the park for reopening
- Replaced the clock for the parking lot lights and two pole lights at Heritage Park

NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Hosted thirteen Google Serve volunteer events
- Hand weeded flower beds at McAuliffe Park
- Mulched the stump house at Juanita Beach for fall planting
- Removed fallen tree over trail at Watershed Park
- Transferred excess soil from 132nd to South Norway Hill for the BMX area
- Brushed vegetation along trails at Edith Moulton Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT & WHEN

Forest Stewardship

July 9, 2022, from 10 AM – 12 PM

Forest Stewardship

July 10, 2022, from 10 AM – 12 PM

LOCATION & INFO

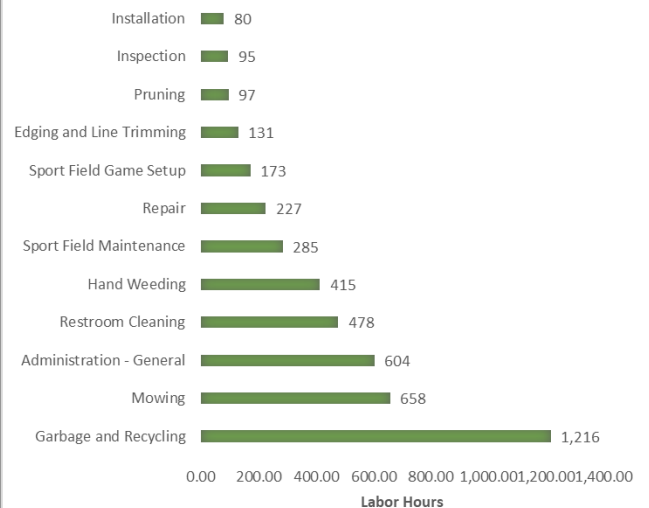
Crestwoods Park

[GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)

South Rose Hill Park

[GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)

JUNE 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.



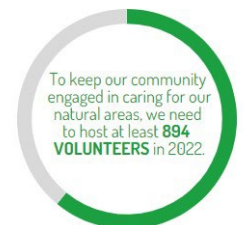
8.9 new acres enrolled based on data received from Stewards & crews by 6.25.22



39 acres maintained based on data received from Stewards & crews by 6.25.22



7 new Stewards enrolled as of 6.25.22

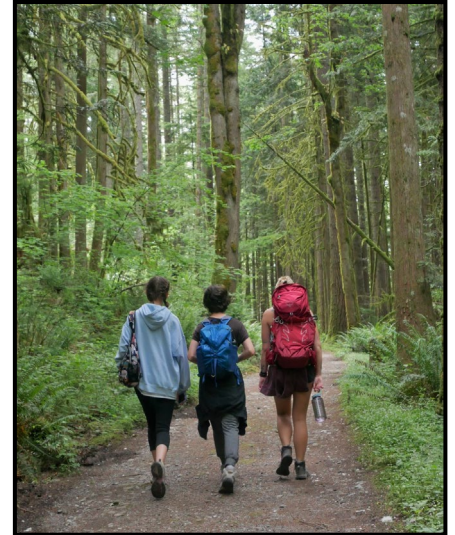


543 volunteers participated as of 6.25.22

RECREATION SERVICES

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR TEENS

The free SEEK Outdoor Adventure program took their first journey to Wallace Falls State Park on June 28 and June 30. Some participants and parents expressed how grateful they were for the trips and the social opportunity they provided. With the help of REI, this program is able to offer free hiking gear to those who need them. The Outdoor Adventure program has a fun-filled summer ahead with activities including river floating trips, kayaking, outdoor yoga, and hikes to Lake Valhalla, Baker Lake, and Mount Rainier!



REC-N-ROLL



The Rec-N-Roll mobile recreation program kicked off on June 24 with a stop at Juanita Beach Park. The van visits a new park each week and is packed with games and activities for a variety of youth. This program and the Outdoor Adventure Program are both funded by "Summer Experiences & Enrichment for Kids" (SEEK) grants from the Washington Recreation & Parks Association (WRPA) and Association of Washington Cities (AWC) with funding provided by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

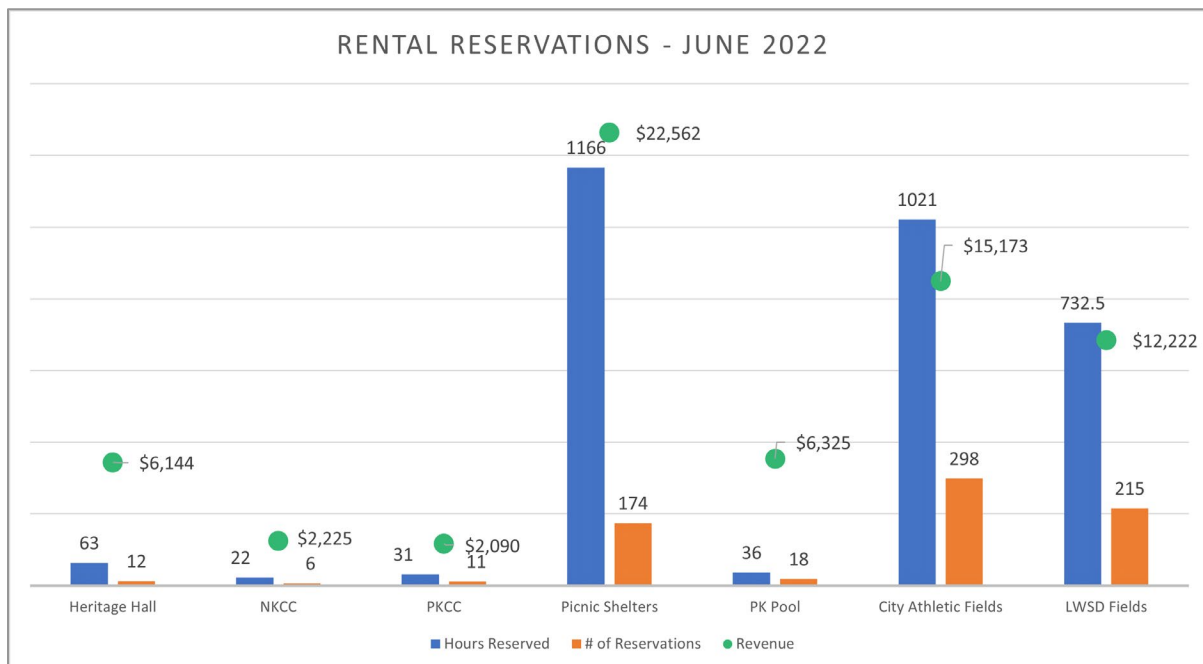
SPORT LEAGUES

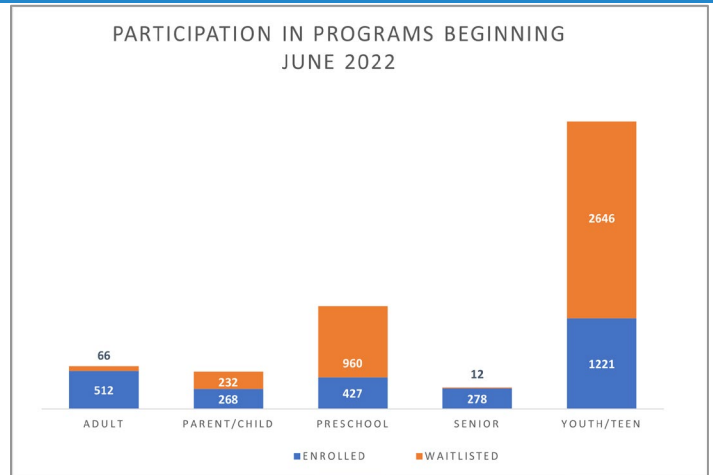
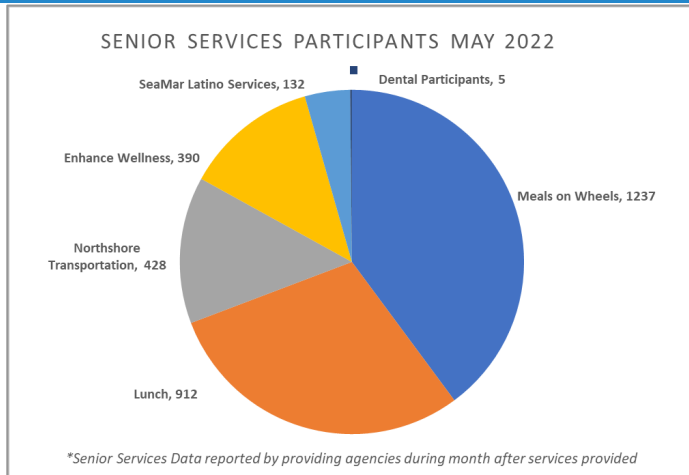
Several adult sports leagues started in June including men's softball at Crestwoods Park, beach volleyball at Juanita Beach Park and pickleball at Everest Park. The department is also offering weekly pickleball clinics taught by pickleball legend Roger BelAir.

AQUATICS

The Peter Kirk pool officially opened on June 6 with swim lessons, open lap swim, and 3rd grade swim offerings. Open swim sessions increased to 7-days a week after school ended June 17. Deep water exercise classes began at the end of June.

RECREATION DATA





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; 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 2022 Kirkland Wednesday Market is back and under new management! We welcome new Market Manager Celestina Hendrickson who is bringing a fantastic group of vendors, volunteers, and sponsors to Marina Park each week. Shoppers will enjoy special event days that highlight pet and youth vendors and live music. Learn more about market offerings at WWW.KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG.



SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

Studio East's outdoor production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* was scheduled to take place at Juanita Beach Park June 3-5. Unfortunately, several performances had to be moved indoors due to poor weather. The free community shows included 14 actors ranging in age from 13-19. Studio East creates and supports an environment that embraces individuals from all backgrounds, cultures, identities, orientations, and abilities. More outdoor theater is planned for later this summer. Information can be found at: WWW.STUDIO-EAST.ORG.

NAMIWALKS WASHINGTON

The annual NAMIWalk returned to Marina Park in hybrid form on June 4. Event goers had the option of attending the fundraiser walk in person or virtually at a location of their choosing. Approximately 1,000 people attended the event which required the support of twenty course monitors, four off-duty police officers, along with 125 event staff and community booth operators. Learn more about the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and efforts to build better lives for those affected by mental illness at: WWW.NAMI.ORG.



KIRKLANDIA

Chump Change Foundation's inaugural three-day Kirklandia festival was held at Marina Park from June 10-12. The event featured wine, cider, tacos, live music, and dancing. The weather didn't cooperate for much of the weekend but more than 4,000 people braved the rain to enjoy tasty food, funny games, Salsa dance lessons, and professional performances. Find more Chump Change events at: [CHUMPCHANGEFOUNDATION.ORG](https://chumpchange.org).



EASTSIDE HONORS JUNETEENTH

Eastside For All welcomed the community to Juanita Beach Park on June 18 in celebration of Juneteenth. The event featured guest speakers, information booths, performers and more. To learn more the organization's efforts, go to: [EASTSIDEFORALL.ORG](https://eastsideforall.org)

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

Holy Family Parish, located in the South Rose Hill Neighborhood, hosted their annual Corpus Christi Procession on June 19. The procession is a centuries-old tradition of the Catholic faith to process the Eucharist in public. More than one hundred congregation members participate in the procession each year which starts at Holy Family Parish and travels through the neighborhood before returning to the church. To learn more about Holy Family Parish, go to [HFKPARISH.COM](https://hfkparish.com).

JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET



The Juanita Friday Market team kicked off the 2022 season on June 3. We're excited to welcome volunteer Arwen Gutierrez who is coordinating the weekly Kid's Booth activity. The booth has been full of smiling parents and kids as they learn farm facts while creating something fun to take home. We also welcome summer intern Allison (Allie) Pae. Allie has a passion for sustainable farming and will be a great asset to the team. Allie is also heading up our new Recipe of the Week initiative which highlights seasonal ingredients. Recipes are available at the Information Booth. For more information go to: [WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/juanitafridaymarket).



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
Tuesdays, July 12 – August 16, 10 AM	Kids Summer Concert Series	Juanita Beach Park	KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG
Wednesdays thru September 28 3 - 7 PM	Kirkland Wednesday Market	Marina Park	KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG
Thursdays, July 7 – August 18, 7 PM	Evening Summer Concert Series	Marina Park	KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG
Fridays thru September 30 3 - 7 PM	Juanita Friday Market	Juanita Beach Park	KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET
July 4 10:30 AM – 2 PM	Celebrate Kirkland! 4 th of July Parade	Marina Park	KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG
July 8 -10	Kirkland Uncorked	Marina Park	KIRKLANDUNCORKED.COM
July 29 - 31	Kirkland Summerfest	Marina Park	KIRKLANDSUMMERFEST.COM
July 31 – August 6	Junior Softball World Series	Everest Park	LITTLELEAGUE.ORG