

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – OCTOBER 2022



Kirkland Parks and Community Services hosted a cornucopia of community events in October including park restoration work parties, a health fair, and several community-building events. Here are highlights of three community-building events:

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The 2nd annual Harvest Festival returned to Juanita Beach Park on Saturday, October 1. Under clear blue skies and 70 degree weather, an estimated 6,000 people participated in a variety of offerings including shopping for artisan craft and foods at the marketplace, enjoying lunch from one of nine food trucks, listening to music provided by country band, Highway 9 and music spanning multiple decades and genres from 24 Madison Band. The Kids Korral provided tractor-pulled wagon rides, pony rides, and activities including seasonal crafts, pumpkin bowling and more. There was tremendous community support for this family-friendly event with sponsorships from MorningStar Senior Living of Kirkland, Google, and Neal Smiles Orthodontics and donations from local businesses including: Juanita Kids Dentistry, Shari's Café, Tonnemaker Valley Farm, Firstfruits Feed, Topsy Cow, Cranberry Cottage, Yakima Fruit Market and Nursery, and Studio East.



HALLOWEEN DRIVE-IN BOO BINGO & COSTUME PARADE

The weather was excellent for the Halloween Drive-in Boo Bingo event at Juanita Beach Park on October 28. Two different sessions were held at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Staff greeted vehicles with goodie bags filled with candy, toys, and bingo cards. Participants of all ages from preschool to teens and adults listened to festive Halloween music while bingo numbers were called. Various bingo games were played, and winners selected prizes from a prize table. Midway through the event, community members were invited to show off their costumes in front of the giant LED movie screen as cars flashed their lights. This event was sponsored by Michael Espada from Array Real Estate.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

On Saturday, October 29, the department hosted its first Día de los Muertos event at the Peter Kirk Community Center with approximately 250 people in attendance. The event featured community storytellers sharing personal stories about how they celebrate Día de los Muertos and reading storybooks about how others celebrate. Activities included music and a variety of crafts, including sugar skull mask decorating and paper flower making. The event was planned in partnership with staff from several departments and through a staff-led focus group of the Latino community in Kirkland, who graciously provided input and direction to help shape the event.



ADMINISTRATION

PARKS BALLOT MEASURE(S) INITIATIVE

The Parks Funding Exploratory Committee (PFEC) was established by City Council to lead the community input process and provide recommendations for a potential ballot measure(s) to Kirkland City Council by spring 2023. The Committee met twice in October and explored the 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, learned what it takes to maintain parks in Kirkland, and received an update from consultants on the facilities feasibility study. PFEC will meet once or twice a month through February 2023 and make recommendations to City Council in spring 2023. Learn more about PFEC and follow along on the [PARKS BALLOT INITIATIVE WEBSITE](#).

HUMAN SERVICES

TENANT PROTECTIONS COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

In response to the Tenant Protections that were passed by City Council, which took effect on September 17, 2022, the City partnered with Eastside Legal Assistance Program to provide several free, one hour, Know-Your-Rights workshops. These workshops took place in the community at the downtown library, Kamiakin Middle School, and Thoreau Elementary School, as well as via Zoom, and were also available in Spanish with support from Eastside for All. During the community workshops, Kirkland renters were able to learn details of their rights as renters under the new tenant protections, ask questions, and receive one-on-one consultation with a Kirkland-specific housing attorney.



2022 KIRKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL RECRUITMENT



The 2022 Kirkland Youth Council recruitment process took place in September. All youth ages 12-18 who attend a Kirkland based school or are a resident were encouraged to apply. A record-setting 75 applications were received this year representing grades 6-12 from 12 different schools. Just over half of the students identified as female, about 40% as male, and 9% as LGBTQI+. The applicants' racial identity also reflected a good cross section of our community – just over 40% Asian, 33% White, 17% multi-racial, and 6% Black. The Youth Council Leadership Team reviewed all applications and invited 42 applicants to interview. After the interviews and careful consideration, 18 new members were selected.

The first 2022-2023 Youth Council meeting was held on October 24. The group is looking forward to assisting with the Kirkland Teen Union Building RFP review process, continuing with Teen Traffic Court, community service projects, meetings with the City Manager and LWSD Superintendent, and potentially a youth summit next spring.

PARK MANAGEMENT

OCTOBER RAINS ARRIVED!

Towards the end of the month, we finally got our long-awaited rain (and wind)! It's a game changer here at Parks Management. We quickly transitioned from watering to leaf removal and tree work. Here are some highlights from October.

SUPPORT

- Removed leaves from Peter Kirk Pool and Rose Hill Meadows.
- Repaired broken fence at Carillon Woods.
- Replaced bollard pockets at Snyder's Corner.
- Install new steel swim ladder at Juanita Beach.
- Filled offsets in concrete at Marina to reduce tripping hazard.
- Install a ceiling mount heater in the mechanical room of the Peter Kirk Pool.



BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Removed leaves from cemetery, school partnership fields, and all ballfields and sports courts.
- Repaired turf at Rose Hill Elementary and Finn Hill Middle School.
- Winterized irrigation systems at Juanita Elementary, Finn Hill Middle School, Ben Franklin Elementary, Mark Twain Elementary, and Rose Hill Elementary.
- Edge and trimmed fields at Juanita Beach Park and the school partnership sites.
- Seeded the field at Peter Kirk Elementary and Everest Park.

HORTICULTURE

- Removed leaves from lawns, paths, sidewalks, and parking lots at Spinney, Peter Kirk, Heritage, NKCC, Waverly, Houghton Beach, Marina, and OO Denny.
- Cleaned and maintained planting beds at Marsh, Brink, and Peter Kirk.
- Removed hanging tree branches over pathways at Edith Moulton and Houghton Neighborhood.
- Hosted volunteer event at Edith Moulton.
- Cleaned picnic shelters, including spider webs and graffiti, at OO Denny.
- Prepped planting areas at NKCC, Terrace, Houghton Neighborhood, Mark Twain, Everest, and Houghton Beach for fall tree planting.



Photo showing tree work at O.O. Denny Park for a leaning tree.

NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Removed leaves from paths, sidewalks, and parking lots at OO Denny, Rose Hill Meadows, Everest, North Rose Hill Woodlands, and Juanita Beach.
- Enrolled and trained three new Stewards for a total of 46 Green Kirkland Stewards!
- Removed tree that came down on Rose Hill Lane and placed debris in natural area.
- Received 5,327 native plants and distributed to restoration sites for installation by volunteers and contracted crews.
- Received thousands of yards of rabbit and deer fencing materials and distributed to restoration sites for installation around new plants.
- Hosted 20 volunteer events and two Steward trainings as part of the Green Kirkland Partnership.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Juanita Bay Park East Habitat Restoration
November 6, 9, 13, 23
- Cotton Hill Park Forest Stewardship
November 9, 16, 23, 30
- Juanita Open Space #4 Forest Stewardship
November 12
- Crestwoods Park Forest Stewardship
November 12
- Watershed Park Forest Stewardship
November 19
- Rose Hill Meadows Forest Stewardship
November 25

Find details and registration information at [GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)



9.2 new acres enrolled based on data received from Stewards & crews by 10.28.22



48 acres maintained based on data received from Stewards & crews by 10.28.22



12 new Stewards enrolled as of 10.28.22



993 volunteers participated as of 10.28.22

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.



Photo of 132nd Square Park tour before synthetic turf installation.

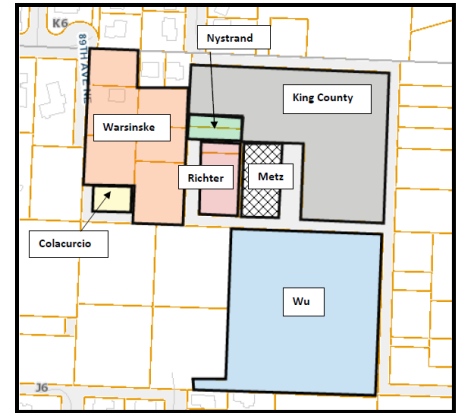
132ND SQUARE PARK

Construction started on June 28, 2021. The stormwater infiltration vault and supporting filtration systems have been fully installed on the eastern side of the park. A tour for City Council and Park Board took place on October 24. Tour participants were able to walk the site and see the progress to date. The contractor anticipates the work will be completed by the end of the year.

Background: 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.

JUANITA HEIGHTS PARK

In June, City Council approved the acquisition of the 0.5-acre Metz Property (hatched) to expand Juanita Heights Park and closed on the property in July. A combination of King County CFT grant funds and capital acquisition funds funded the \$169,000 purchase. Acquisitions are still being pursued to expand and connect the Billy Goat Trail to the park.



POP-UP DOG PARK PROGRAM

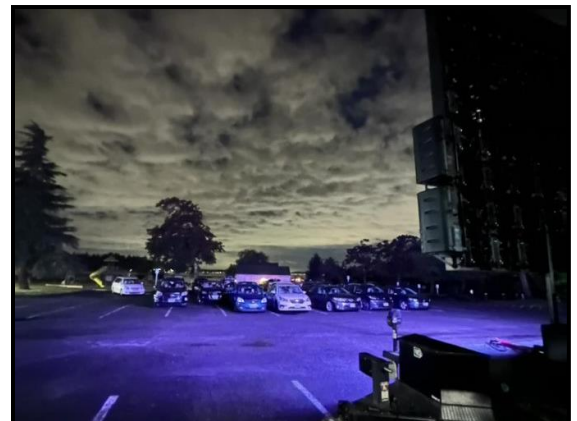
The pop-up dog park program continued this summer with locations at Juanita Beach Park and Snyder's Corner. A third temporary pop-up park was added at Heritage Park after Labor Day. Due to the dry fall weather, the pop-up locations were extended through October but will close when the fall rains return. Due to their popularity, these pop-up opportunities will make another appearance next year.

Background: These temporary pop-up dog parks are intended to test and evaluate how to incorporate dog off-leash areas into our system.

RECREATION SERVICES

DRIVE-IN MOVIES RETURN TO JUANITA BEACH PARK!

Drive-In movies on the big screen returned to Juanita Beach Park this month with a showing of the 1995 hit film *Casper* to celebrate the spooky season. 35 vehicles registered to participate in the movie night. Multiple park users stopped to chat with staff and find out more about the movie series. The rain even stopped an hour or so before the movie started allowing for a nice dry evening at the park. A great turnout and fun had by all! Additional details about upcoming movies planned for 2023 and ways to join the fun are available at KIRKLANDPARKS.NET.



PEE WEE PROGRAMS

Pee Wee Soccer was a success with over 220 kids registered who learned how to dribble, shoot, and score! Some dates were cancelled due to poor air quality, so the season was extended until October 22. Pee Wee Basketball bounced onto the court on Saturday, October 29 with 160 kids signed up to play. And last but certainly not least, the Pee Wee Monster Bash returned on Friday, October 27 after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Over 125 kids and their families explored games, crafts, and seasonal activities at this seasonal celebration.



DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!

The long-awaited Youth Hip Hop classes have returned! Thias Lopez brings the Youth Hip Hop classes alive at the North Kirkland Community Center. With his extensive experience and love of the dance, he makes learning easy and fun. His classes are packed with 30 youth participants. And thanks to a new ballet instructor, we were able to add Saturday ballet classes at North Kirkland Community Center. These classes were filled in just a few days and started on Saturday, October 29.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Staff hosted a Teen Murder Mystery Night on October 7. Teens came dressed for a masquerade as they gathered clues and background stories to solve the mystery. Twenty-seven teens joined us for the night of mystery, fun, and sleuthing. The next Teen Night will take place on November 4 with a Trivia theme.

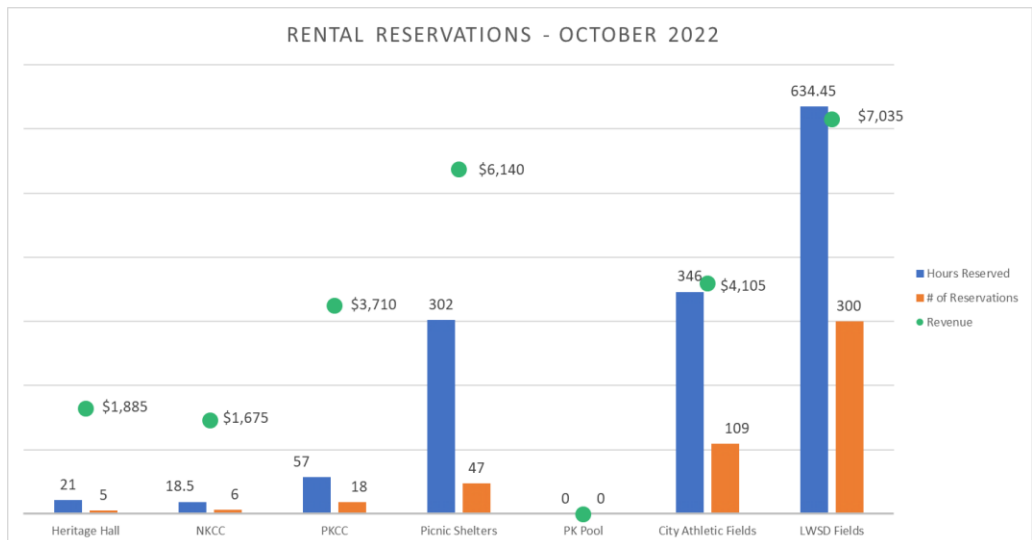


Together with Junior Achievement, we offered a free basic finance class for teens during October. The class helped teens learn how to set boundaries with their personal finances, create a budget, understand savings, learn the importance of credit and debt, and more. Participants were provided workbooks and handouts for this class.

UPCOMING RECREATION EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
November 4, 2022 / 6:00pm	Teen Night – Trivia Night	Peter Kirk Community Center	kirklandparks.net
November 17, 2022 / 11:00am	Turkey, Tunes & Holiday Wishes	Peter Kirk Community Center	kirklandparks.net

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.

PUMPKINS IN THE PARK

The Kirkland Downtown Association hosted its 3rd annual Pumpkins in the Park fall festival at Marina Park on October 28. Hundreds of little goblins and ghouls had fun visiting the petting zoo, playing fun Halloween themed games, enjoying sweet treats, listening to the bluegrass tunes of the band Well Strung, and voting on their favorite carved creation during the Pumpkin Wars carving competition. Family pets also got to strut their stuff in the pet costume contest and then everyone went home happy with their very own gourd from the pumpkin patch.



FILM PRODUCTION PERMITS

Loaded Pictures, a Seattle based production company, set up shop on October 13 at the corner of NE 48th Street and 109th Avenue NE to film scenes for Gates Notes. The project will highlight the worldwide Little Free Library program and feature Bill Gates. The one-day production required minimal traffic and pedestrian disruptions and included twenty-five cast and crew members, cameras, special lighting, seven production vehicles, catering, and restricted parking.

Gravy Productions, a production company based in southern California, obtained permits to use several streets in the Norkirk neighborhood on October 16 to film an Infinity motorcar commercial. The project included still photography in a private driveway and car to car video filming throughout the neighborhood. The one-day project required thirty-five cast and crew, five traffic control posts staffed by off-duty officers and certified flaggers, multiple cameras, special lighting, six production vehicles, catering services, restricted parking, intermittent traffic, and pedestrian disruptions.

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

The City of Kirkland encourages residents to organize block parties where they can meet their neighbors, celebrate special days together, and build community connections. During October, two block parties were hosted by families located in the Finn Hill neighborhood. Information about block party permits can be found at: KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
November 5, 8:00am	Lake Washington Half Marathon	Juanita Beach Park	ORCARUNNING.COM