

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – DECEMBER 2022



Special Events came roaring back to life in 2022! Following two years of mostly virtual happenings and only a handful of in-person events, Kirkland's event calendar was once again filled with exceptional year-round activities. We were excited to welcome the new Kirklandia Festival, Eastside Honors Juneteenth event, and Cloud Food Court Festival to the lineup this year. Sadly, we also said goodbye to a couple of long-time community favorites. Organizers of the Kirkland Shamrock Run and Hopelink's Turkey Trot have re-envisioned their events and don't have plans to return.

Across all event permit types, fifty-five permits were issued resulting in one hundred and twenty-seven days filled with cultural and holiday events, festivals, walks, runs, concerts, live theater, neighborhood block parties, and more. Altogether, these events drew more than 130,000 attendees.

- 103 applications received across all permit types.
- 85 permits issued across all permit types.
- 18 applications were cancelled by the applicant or not accepted for various reasons.

Kirkland is fortunate to host events that are imagined, created, and produced by such talented, dedicated, and hardworking teams. We were reminded of this several times over this month as thousands of local and neighboring community members enjoyed the holiday offerings provided by Google's Holiday Lights, Kirkland's Winterfest Tree Lighting, the 12K's of Christmas run/walk, and the Grand Menorah Lighting.

Events draw people of different cultures, backgrounds, generations, and interests together for a moment in time which allows for shared experiences and new connections. The memories we create with family and friends, both old and new, are what makes events so "special". We look forward to celebrating new moments and creating cherished memories with you in 2023!



Celebrate Kirkland 4th of July parade



27
Special
Event
permits

8
Commercial
film permits



13
Neighborhood
Block Party
permits

7
National
Night Out
permits



30
Banner permits



Grand Menorah lighting



12ks of Christmas participants

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. PFEC wrapped up 2022 with a lively meeting on December 8 exploring property taxes in Washington, ballot funding mechanism options, and the City's budget. Over the past 3 months the committee has learned all about maintaining and operating parks, dove into aquatics and recreation programs in Kirkland, and reviewed the recommendations of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan. PFEC will resume in 2023 and work towards making recommendations to City Council in the spring for potential parks ballot measure(s). Learn more about PFEC and follow along on the [PARKS BALLOT INITIATIVE WEBSITE](#).

FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Alongside the PFEC process, the City has contracted with Opsis Architecture to develop a robust recreation facility feasibility study grounded on the community needs identified in the 2022 PROS Plan. Opsis Architecture shared an update with and received feedback from PFEC in October and is developing facility feasibility concepts and costing for two locations. Final concepts will be shared with PFEC, City Council, and the Kirkland community in early 2023.

HUMAN SERVICES

2023-2024 HUMAN SERVICES GRANT FUNDING

The 2023-2024 grant cycle began in April 2022 with applications from community agencies requesting support for 109 programs for critical services that help meet the basic and emergency needs of Kirkland residents. Both the number of applications and the total amount requested significantly increased from the previous biennium, due to increased costs, staff retention needs, and higher demand for services. The average increase in requests from 2021-2022 funded programs was 94%. Of the 109 programs seeking funding, 45 were new programs and represented 27% of the total amount requested for 2023-2024. 64 programs returned for funding, representing 73% of the total ask for 2023-2024.

The City works regionally with North and East King County funders to coordinate, collaborate, facilitate, and fund support systems that help residents access basic needs, such as housing, food, healthcare, transportation, and a sense of community belonging. A regional approach to funding creates benefits that are three-fold: 1) nonprofit organizations experience easier access when seeking funding; 2) residents' ability to access services, improving their quality of life in Kirkland and the broader Eastside; and 3) leveraging the City's investment in human services grant funding leading to a greater impact in meeting the needs on the Eastside.

Staff developed draft recommendations based upon city legislation and direction, community goal areas, regional collaboration, priority areas determined by the Human Services Commission, needs exacerbated by COVID-19, and the disparate social outcomes on BIPOC communities stemming from systemic racism, with a focus on the needs of Black/African American, Indigenous, Latinx, immigrant, and refugee populations. Such consideration, combined with the feedback of the Human Services Commission during the grant review process, provided guidance to staff for this extremely difficult recommendation process.

Following the Commission's review of applications between May - July 2022 using the equity tool framework, the Commission directed staff to draft 23-24 grant recommendations. The final recommendations used the following framework:

- Invest a minimum of 15% of total funding recommendations to community-based organizations serving BIPOC communities
- Reallocate previous year's investment of mainstream organizations with greater capacity to Option B
- Include a cost-of-living adjustment of 7% for agencies who received 21-22 funding

City Council approved \$2,615,032 per year for the 2023-2024 Human Services budget, allowing 79 programs to receive funding, including \$491,416, or 19% of total grant investment, supporting BIPOC organizations and programs. Also included was funding for the continuation of an annual Health Fair and set-aside funding specifically earmarked to support Black and Indigenous community members.

23-24 programs funded: **79**
\$2,615,032 per year

PARK MANAGEMENT

SNOW AND ICE!

It was a December to remember in our parks with all the snow, ice, and wind. Staff spent much of their time clearing snow and applying ice-melt at City Hall, the Justice Center, and the fire stations as well as addressing damaged and fallen trees throughout the park system. In the moments between, staff did some seasonal maintenance and special projects. Here are some highlights from the teams for December.

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Supported volunteers in placing hundreds of wreaths at the cemetery.
- Cleared leaves and brush from soft trails at Everest and Crestwoods.
- Winterized the irrigation system at the cemetery.
- Implemented seasonal maintenance on sports field equipment.
- Pruned trees and shrubs at the cemetery.
- Supported an Eagle Scout project cleaning headstones at the cemetery.
- Implemented multiple burial services and internments.

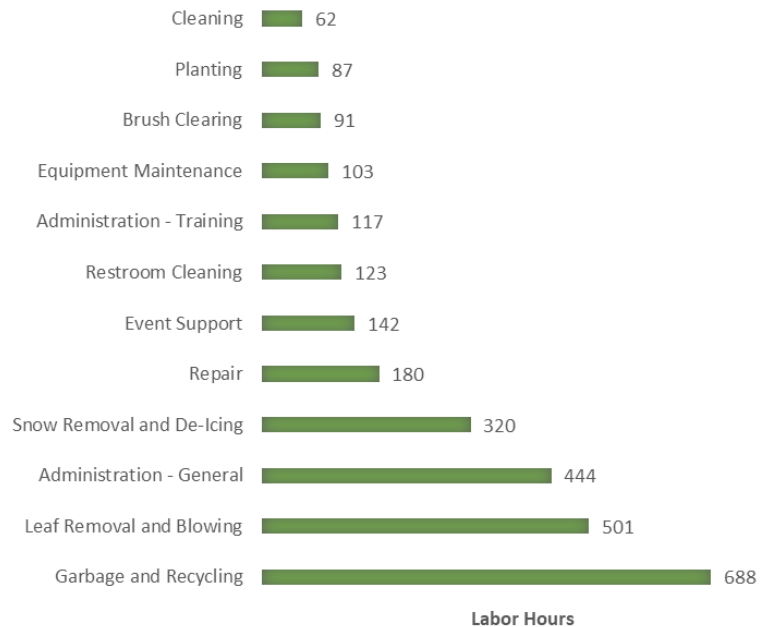
HORTICULTURE

- Planted trees at O.O. Denny.
- Pruned and cleaned flower beds at Brink.
- Removed broken trees and limbs at O.O. Denny, Edith Moulton, Forbes Creek, NKCC, Bud Homan, and Carillon Woods.
- Implemented seasonal maintenance on mowing and trimming equipment, mini-excavator, and backhoe.
- Added leaves to tree rings at Peter Kirk.
- Cleaned goose waste from pathways at Brink.

SUPPORT

- Removed outlets on the outside of the Totem Lake restroom and covered the boxes with blank covers.
- Reset the breaker for the middle power pedestal on the first finger of the dock at Marina.
- Installed strainer lid and pool filter and pump at Peter Kirk.
- Replaced broken fence at OO Denny and McAuliffe.
- Installed new two rail fence on the south and west sides of Cedar View.
- Installed lights at Juanita Beach for Light Up Kirkland.
- Refurbished benches and tables at Mark Twain and Heritage.

DECEMBER TOP 12 TASKS



Downed tree at Carillon Woods



Carillon Woods after tree cleanup

NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Replanted Goat Hill mitigation area at Juanita Beach.
- Cleared downed trees and branches at Edith Moulton, North Rose Hill Woodlands, Watershed, and Carillon Woods.
- Installed beaver fencing around trees at Windsor Vista.
- Treated invasive evergreen trees at Highlands, Forbes Lake, and Finn Hill Open Space 4.
- Installed pollinator plants in the Juanita Bay meadow.
- Supported Scout project decommissioning a steep social trail at Crestwoods.
- Delivered thousands of plants to Stewards for installation at volunteer events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Green Kirkland has several volunteer events in January, including three events on Monday, January 16 in honor of MLK Jr Day. Find details and registration information at [GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)

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](https://www.greenkirkland.org) to learn more about these projects.

132ND SQUARE PARK

Progress continued in December despite weather challenges. Installation of the synthetic turf color field lines uses a heat fusion process, so we are actively working with the contractor to install the color lines and infill when good weather windows are available. Additionally, the encapsulated crumb rubber infill needs to be raked-in during dry weather to avoid ununiform clumps in the synthetic turf. The western park area is taking shape. The labyrinth is nearly complete, and the reflexology pad has been installed. The project is expected to be completed this spring.

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. Construction started on June 28, 2021.

POP-UP DOG PARK PROGRAM

City Council has requested a Legislative Request Memo regarding the pop-up dog park program. Staff's response will be presented at the January 17, 2023 City Council meeting.



RECREATION SERVICES

HOLIDAYS WITH THE HAWKS

The Peter Kirk Community Center was once again honored to be chosen by Answers for Elders to participate in the 12 Days of Goodness. Kirkland seniors had a great time at the Seahawk-themed luncheon celebration on December 9 with Seahawk legends Paul Moyer, Dave Wyman, and Blitz. This fun event was designed to celebrate the seniors in our community and remind them they are loved. The Kirkland Sea Hawkers Booster Club played an important role in making this event fun and festive with decorations and helping MC the event. 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, Aegis Living, CarePartners Senior Living and Concierge Care Advisors for making this event such a success.



OUTDOOR SPEAKER SERIES

The popular Outdoor Speaker Series sponsored by Umpqua Bank concluded on December 8 with a talk by author Craig Romano on his book, *Eastside Urban Trails*. Attendees were delighted to see a glimpse of the local neighborhood trails, within Kirkland, Redmond, Kenmore, Bothell, and Issaquah that provide a quiet, peaceful, and beautiful getaway close to home. Trails discussed included OO Denny, Cross Kirkland Corridor, Juanita Bay, and many others.

LIGHT UP KIRKLAND

Despite rainy weather, our second annual Light Up Kirkland was a success! During the afternoon and early evening of Saturday, December 10 community members joined us at Juanita Beach for live music, a bonfire, hot cocoa and cider and the Argosy Cruise Ships. Nearly 1,000 community members enjoyed a hot drink while strolling through the lit-up Juanita Beach. Community members were also able to take home an activity bag filled with arts and crafts and information about the Kirkland recreation programs.



RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP

For 2022, 56 scholarship applications were approved. These applications covered 177 individuals. Of the approved applications: 12 were approved for 50% scholarship funds, 16 were approved for 75% scholarship funds and 28 were approved for 95% scholarship funds. A total of \$19,670.57 in scholarship funds were utilized in 2022. The recreation scholarship program received \$7,862.00 in scholarship donations through CivicRec, our registration program.

2022-2023 3RD-6TH GRADE YOUTH BASKETBALL SEASON BEGINS!

The 2022-2023 3rd – 6th grade Youth Basketball season began November 28 with practices held at local elementary schools throughout Kirkland. This season's program is serving 387 youth that are split up into 40 teams. Each team has at least 1 volunteer coach, but many teams have multiple coaches helping to serve our local athletes. Games will begin in Mid-January with the season running through mid-March.

UPCOMING RECREATION EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
January 28 2-4 p.m.	Lunar New Year	Peter Kirk Community Center	KIRKLANDWA.GOV/COMMUNITY- EVENTS

RECREATION DATA

