

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – JANUARY 2023



On January 28, Kirkland Parks and Community Services department organized its first Lunar New Year event to celebrate the Asian New Year. The event exceeded all expectations, with five hundred in attendance!

The initial planning started with a focus group with members from the Asian community to gain insight into the celebration. The event planning team consisted of City staff and volunteers from several departments.

Participants were welcomed with vibrant decorations and red envelopes filled with chocolate coins. There were different stations for making crafts that included a dragon puppet, paper lanterns, and origami. Community members shared with attendees how they celebrate the Lunar New Year with their friends, family and loved ones.

Thanks to the Seattle Chinese Arts Group, we had a 30-minute performance that consisted of waist drum, cheongsam dance, Mongolian dance, Peking opera, and a grand Chinese New Year's Finale.

The event also offered a beautiful selfie station that was the backdrop for so many fantastic memories. Guests enjoyed delicious lumpia, fortune cookies, and a variety of Asian candies.

Overall it was a very successful event that marked a beautiful tradition.



ADMINISTRATION

PARKS BALLOT MEASURE(S) INITIATIVE

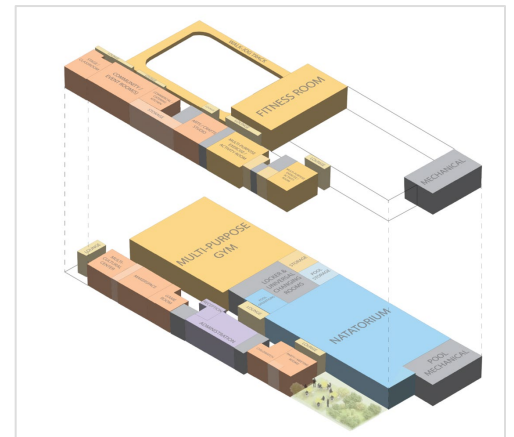
The Parks Funding Exploratory Committee (PFEC) met twice during January. The group reviewed 22 potential parks ballot measure elements and related capital and operating cost information. These potential elements are based on priorities identified in the [2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space \(PROS\) Plan](#), which incorporated community input from over 4,700 community members, analysis of current recreation programming, and analysis of the current park system by consultants and staff. On January 26, PFEC received the results of the recreation facility feasibility study from Opsis Architecture and consultants. The Opsis team shared conceptual designs for community and recreation facilities at Houghton Park and Ride site and at the North Kirkland Community Center location.



PFEC is working towards making recommendations to City Council in March 2023 for potential parks ballot measure(s). Review presentations from past meetings and learn more about PFEC 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 their final feasibility concepts and costing for facilities at the Houghton Park and Ride site and the North Kirkland Community Center location at the January 26, 2023 PFEC meeting. Final concepts will be shared with City Council at their February 21, 2023 study session.



HUMAN SERVICES

SEVERE WEATHER HOTEL VOUCHER PROGRAM KICKS OFF

Cold weather season has kicked off and so has the City's severe weather hotel voucher program. Through dedicated funding and partnership with the Baymont Inn, first responders and programs supporting those experiencing homelessness can provide residents or shelter workers with a temporary hotel voucher to use during severe weather incidents throughout the winter season. Since the season began, 15 vouchers have been distributed, totaling 43 nights of temporary shelter to support 20 residents.

HUMAN SERVICES TEAM EXPANDS TO INCLUDE OUTREACH TO THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

As part of the 2023-24 budget process, the City Manager recommended adding a full-time position to expand the City's role in providing outreach services to residents experiencing homelessness. While the position is new to the City, the Human Services team previously supported Catholic Community Services, to fund a dedicated homelessness outreach position. Staff are eager to build upon the program learnings to develop and implement the City's strategy on building relationships and connecting residents who are unhoused with community resources. The position is posted for hire and slated to start in Spring 2023. For more information, visit the [KIRKLAND JOBS WEBSITE](#).



PARK MANAGEMENT

KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR IN OUR PARKS!

The crews often use January to catch up on training and inventory management when they aren't managing snow and ice and cleaning up after storms. Here are some maintenance crew highlights from the first month of the year:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Mulched tree rings at Everest.
- Edged and trimmed around tables, benches, pathways, and fence lines at Forbes Creek and Peter Kirk.
- Cleared leaves and debris from the parking lot and fencelines at Crestwoods.
- Repaired turf at Peter Kirk and Crestwoods.
- Pressure washed the tennis courts at Heritage Park.
- Implemented multiple burial services and internments.

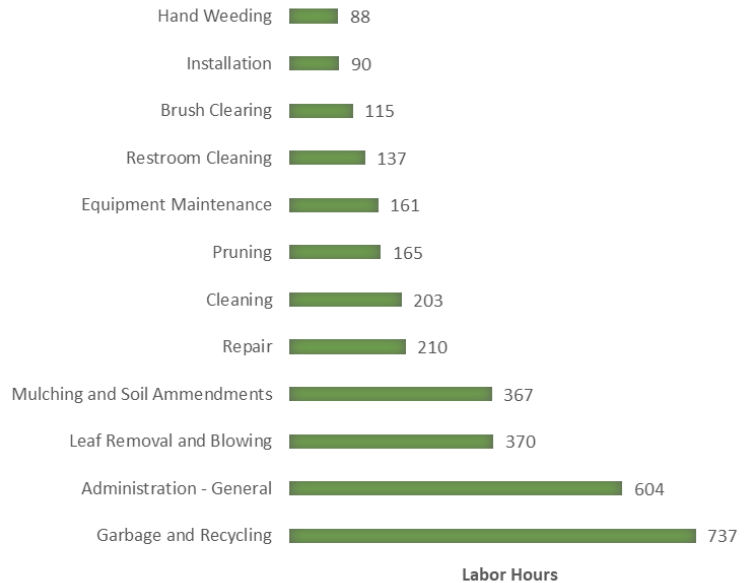
HORTICULTURE

- Installed hose connection at McAuliffe for watering access in the natural areas.
- Mulched tree rings at Reservoir.
- Installed additional garbage can by playground at Mark Twain.
- Pruned and weeded beds at Marsh.
- Weeded and added wood chips to the beds around the Transit Center at Peter Kirk.
- Cleaned waterfowl waste from pathways at Brink and Marina.

SUPPORT

- Installed new cameras at the Peter Kirk restrooms.
- Repaired fence at Edith Moulton that was damaged by fallen trees.
- Installed off-leash dog park at Snyders Corner.
- Repaired drinking fountain in dugout at Peter Kirk.
- Installed concrete bases for the bench to the north of the picnic shelter at Everest.

JANUARY TOP 12 TASKS



NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Installed fencing around large trees at Totem Lake to protect them from beavers.
- Treated invasive trees at McAuliffe, Crestwoods, Watershed, Totem Lake, and the cemetery.
- Cleaned sand from drains and outfalls at Juanita Beach.
- Brushcut blackberry at Kingsgate and JU1 in preparation for manual removal of root balls by volunteers.
- Supported volunteer events at four locations on MLK Jr. Day with tools, plants, and supplies.
- Edged around tables, benches, and pathways at Josten, Hazen Hills, Edith Moulton, NRHW, and Juanita Bay.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Green Kirkland has several public volunteer restoration events in February. Find details and registration information at [GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)

The mission of the Green Kirkland Partnership (GKP) is to **restore and maintain 513 acres** of natural parklands **by building a supportive community** that works together to protect Kirkland's natural resources for current and future generations.

To reach our goal of enrolling all 513 acres of natural areas into restoration by 2035, we need to initiate restoration in **16 NEW ACRES** each year.

1,300 sq ft enrolled based on data received from Stewards & crews by 1.26.23

To ensure long term success, we need to **MAINTAIN** all **315 ACRES** already enrolled in restoration.

38,405 sq ft maintained based on data received from Stewards & crews by 1.26.23

To meet our goal of enrolling all 54 natural area locations into restoration by 2035, we need to enroll **5 NEW STEWARDS** each year.

0 new Stewards enrolled as of 1.26.23

To keep our community engaged in caring for our natural areas, we need to host at least **921 VOLUNTEERS** in 2023.

82 volunteers participated as of 1.26.23

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

The park is almost ready! Substantial completion is scheduled for March 17 with a Grand Re-opening Celebration scheduled for April 1, 2023. In addition to the new synthetic turf field, the park will have expanded parking, sports lighting, a new playground with a zip line, a play hill, a labyrinth and improved walking paths.

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.



JUANITA BEACH BATHHOUSE

In November 2022, Kirkland's Juanita Beach Park Bathhouse was recognized as a 2022 Honor Award Honorable Mention from the American Institute of Architects Seattle Chapter. The Honor Awards for Washington Architecture celebrate excellence in design in Washington. The Juanita Beach Park Bathhouse was chosen by the jury as one of the 15 award winners that "delight, inspire and enrich their communities all while having a positive impact on the environment." Other awards received by the bathhouse project include the 2022 Facilities Spotlight Award from the Washington Recreation and Park Association, the 2022 Civic Design Award from the American Institute of Architects Washington Council and the 2021 Project of the Year Award for Structures Under \$5 Million from the Washington Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

MARINA PARK SHORELINE RENOVATIONS

Staff has begun working with Reid-Middlton, a local engineering firm, to review existing conditions and identify solutions for either repair or replacement of shoreline structures.

Background: In late 2022, a portion of the sidewalk and stairs at Marina Park experienced significant subsidence. Shoreline structures at Marina Park were previously evaluated in the 2019 Kirkland Shoreline Structures Assessment Report.

OO DENNY PARK PICNIC SHELTER

Staff has begun analyzing the site to add an additional picnic shelter. Cost estimating and required permits are being evaluated.

Background: This project will use existing funds remaining from the Finn Hill Park District.

POP-UP DOG PARK PROGRAM

Staff prepared a Legislative Request Memo for the January 17 Council Meeting regarding options for the pop-up dog park at Snyder's Corner. Council approved a phased re-opening of the temporary pop-up dog park at Snyder's Corner. The first phase consisting of a 15,000 square foot facility without parking was installed the week of January 23, 2023.

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

2022-2023 YOUTH BASKETBALL GAMES

January 14, 2023, marked the start of games for the 2022-2023 Kirkland Parks & Community Services 3rd-6th Grade Youth Basketball League. Games held on the first day were considered scrimmages to allow the teams and staff the opportunity to become familiar with the game environment. 40 teams participated in scrimmages and the day was a huge success! This is the first time since early 2020 that four games were played all at the same time across the two gyms at Kamiakin and Kirkland Middle Schools. A huge thank you to the teams for their patience as we all learned and got back into the swing of things again!



PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PUBLIC FORUM

On January 25, the Kirkland Senior Council hosted a sold-out property tax relief public forum. King County Tax Assessor John Wilson spoke at the Peter Kirk Community Center to explain the eligibility requirements for Senior/Disabled Property Tax Relief and to answer related questions. There are an estimated 26,000 qualified seniors in King County that have yet to register for the current senior property tax exemption. If you or someone you know qualifies for this program, please call the Peter Kirk Community Center to get more information.



KIRKLAND STEPPER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

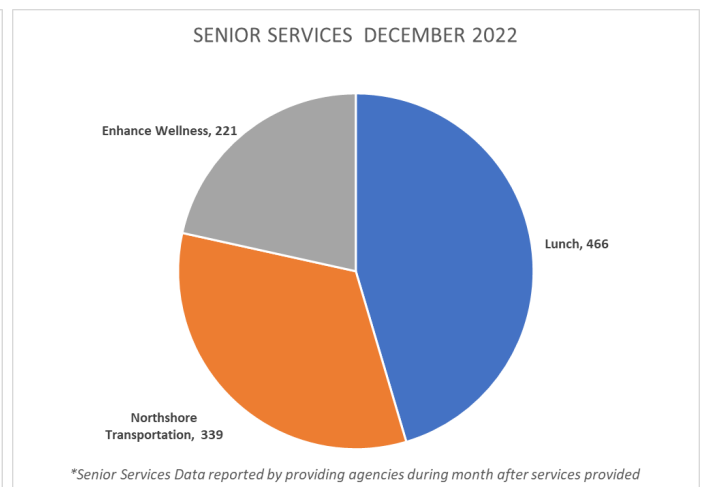
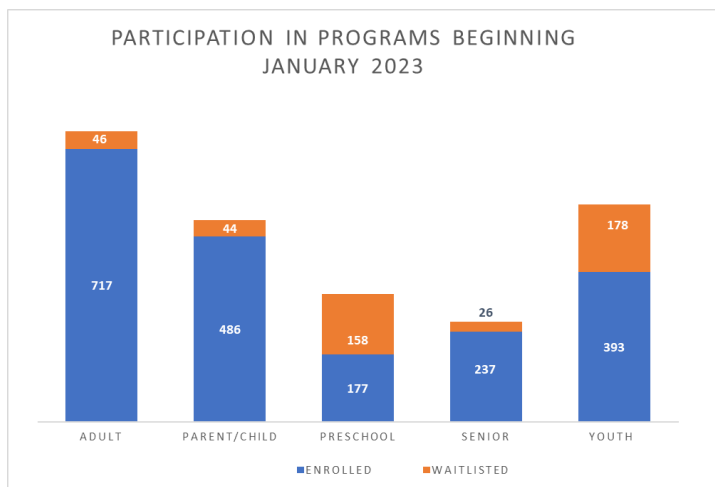
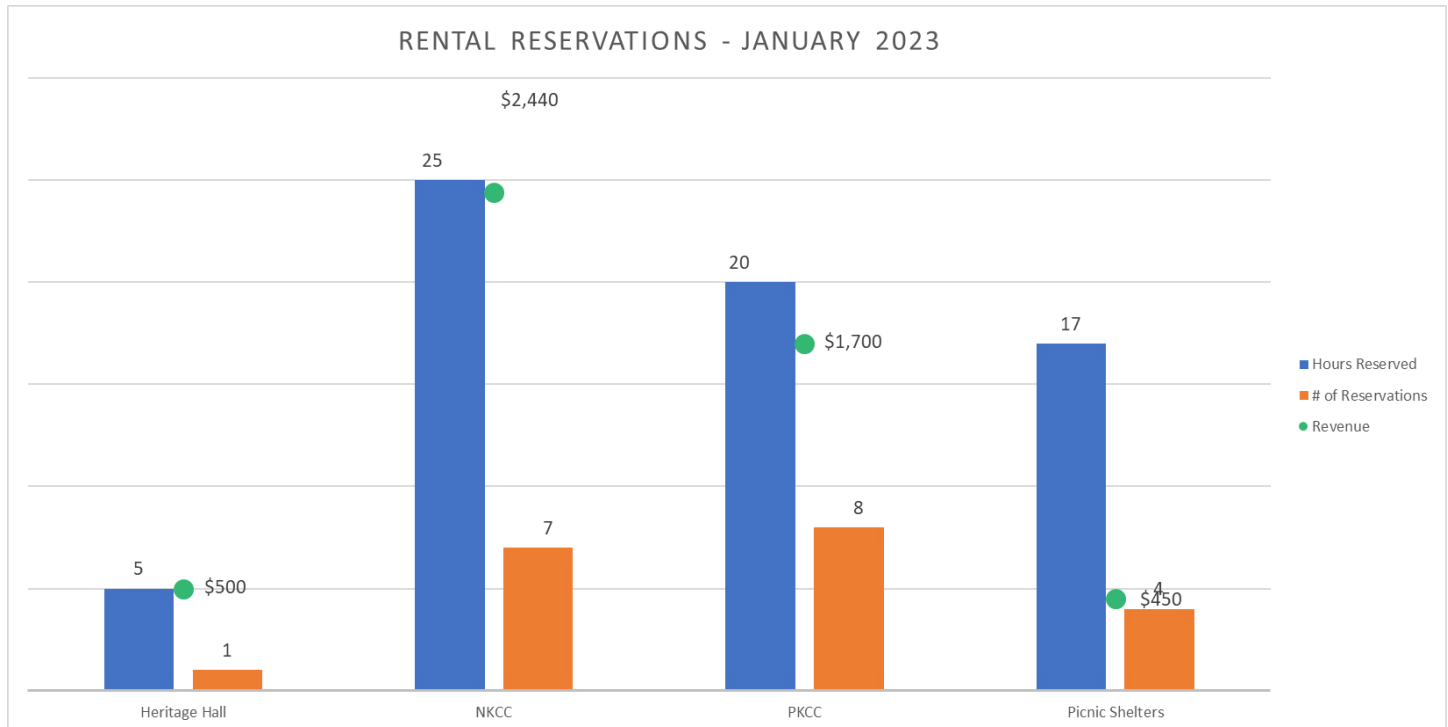
The Kirkland Stepper's Program is celebrating its 20th year in 2023 and EvergreenHealth continues to be a huge supporter. The program was selected to receive a \$3,000 grant from the EvergreenHealth levy Program. This fun, social and motivating fitness program, while geared toward older adults, is available to everyone in the community. Registration for the 2023 program opens March 22, 2023.

WELCOME JAZMINE QUINTERO

Jazmine joined the City on January 17 as our new Program Coordinator focused on community events including the July 4th Celebrate Kirkland event. Jazmine comes to us from the City of Lakewood, where she worked as their Camp Manager. Before that, she worked for the City of Seaside, California where she coordinated several events, including Seaside's July 4th Festival, which had approximately 40,000 people in attendance. Jazmine is fluent in Spanish, and we are thrilled to have her on our team.



RECREATION DATA



SPECIAL EVENT SERVICES

Staff will support 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 such as parks, parking lots and streets, 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.



The following events are tentatively scheduled to take place in 2023. Please note that all dates are subject to change.

2023 EVENT CALENDAR		
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	11: Valentine's Day Dash	19: Nowruz Celebration
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
9: Easter Egg Hunt	14: Mother's Day Half & 5K	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Juanita Friday Market
29: Oral Cancer Walk	29: 7 Hills of Kirkland	3: NAMI Walks Washington
30: Beltane Festival		7, 14, 21, 28 – Wednesday Market
		9, 10, 11: Shakespeare in the Park
		10: Eastside Salsa Marina
		17: Eastside Honoring Juneteenth
		23, 24, 25: Kirklandia
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
5, 12, 19, 26: Wednesday Market	1, 8, 15: Kids Summer Concerts	1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Juanita Friday Market
7, 14, 21, 28: Juanita Friday Market	2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Wednesday Market	6, 13, 20, 27: Wednesday Market
11, 18, 25: Kids Summer Concerts	3, 10, 17: Evening Concert Series	22, 23, 24: Kirkland Oktoberfest
13, 20, 27: Evening Concert Series	4, 11, 18, 25: Juanita Friday Market	
14, 15, 16: Kirkland Uncorked	12: Obliterate	
28, 29, 30: Summerfest	13: Waterfront Car Show	
	19, 20: StoryBook in the Park	
	26: DennyFest	
	27: The Hope Walk	
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
21: Lake Washington Half		3: Kirkland Winterfest
28: Pumpkins in the Park		10: 12Ks of Christmas

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
Saturday, February 11 7:30am – Noon	Valentine's Day Dash	Marina Park	WWW.ALEXANDERSHOPE.ORG
Sunday, March 19 11:30am - 5pm	Nowruz Celebration	Marina Park	WWW.ISOWS.ORG