

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2023



Based on the community wants and needs expressed throughout the 2022 PROS Plan community engagement process, the City Council amended the City Work Program to include, “exploring potential comprehensive Park ballot measures for placement on the November 2023 ballot.” This potential ballot measure(s) would be to maintain and expand natural areas, open spaces, aquatic and recreational facilities, and program opportunities that enhance the health and wellbeing of the community to further the goals of abundant parks, open spaces, and recreational services.

City Council established the Parks Funding Exploratory Committee (PFEC)

in August 2022 to lead the community input process and provide recommendations for a potential ballot measure(s) to Kirkland City Council including capital element investments, operating element investments and funding mechanism(s).



PFEC was chaired by Councilmember Kelli Curtis and comprised of 45 dedicated community volunteers with an interest in Kirkland’s parks and recreation services. The Committee met 13 times starting on September 15, 2022, concluding on March 2, 2023.

The group reviewed 22 potential parks ballot measure elements and related capital and operating cost information. These potential elements were based on priorities identified in the **2022 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN**, which incorporated community input from over 4,700 community members. The committee also explored and deliberated ballot measure sizing and funding alternatives as they worked towards their final recommendations. Along the way, there were plenty of spirited discussions and polling activities.

At their final meeting, PFEC members held several votes regarding ballot elements and funding mechanisms. PFEC results will be shared with City Council at their Study Session on March 21, 2023. We are grateful for PFEC members’ dedication, commitment, and input to the potential ballot measure process.

Following additional community surveys and input, City Council will make a final decision on potential parks and recreation ballot measure(s) this summer.

Review presentations from past meetings and learn more about PFEC on the [Parks Ballot Initiative website](#).

45
members

50+
hours

13
meetings

HUMAN SERVICES

COVID-19 RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Staff completed phase 2 of the Rent Assistance Program. The Rent Assistance Program was extended in June 2022 when the City, recognizing the ongoing impacts of the pandemic on housing stability, allocated an additional \$1.15 million in ARPA funding to create phase 2. The City contracted with partner community agencies to administer the program. 4 Tomorrow, Indian American Community Services, and Eastside Legal Assistance Program worked directly with eligible Kirkland residents to determine eligibility, collect documentation, and administer rental arrear payments to landlords. Qualified households included those that were eligible for the first round of assistance, those not served by the King County Eviction Prevention and Rent Assistance Program, or those who had contacted the City to be placed on a waitlist prior to June 30, 2022. Rent assistance was provided for 32 households, with an average of \$16,330 paid in rental arrears per household. The Rental Assistance Program increased housing stability for Kirkland residents experiencing ongoing financial setbacks due to COVID-19.

KIRKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL WINTER 2023 MINI GRANTS SUMMARY

The Kirkland Youth Council received 12 applications for their winter 2023 review cycle totaling almost \$8,000 in requests. The following seven programs were awarded funding:

- **Finn Hill and Environmental & Adventure School Library: Saddle Back Books** – Finn Hill Middle School has seen significant growth in its multilanguage learner population over the last few years. The grant will support the purchase of books of interest to this learning population.
- **Finn Hill and Environmental & Adventure School (EAS): Technology Student Association** – The Finn Hill/EAS Technology Student Association (TSA) provides opportunities for students to participate and compete in a variety of STEM activities at the regional, state, and national levels. The grant will help offset the costs associated with the competition.
- **International Community School Library: Graphic Memories** – Recently there has been increased student interest in reading graphic novels at International Community School. The grant will support the purchase of additional titles.
- **Juanita High School: Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)** – DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management via competition at the local, regional, and national levels. The grant will support scholarships and offset registration costs for the regional competition.
- **Kamiakin Middle School: Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)** – The FCCLA club provides the opportunity to learn about food nutrition, money management, community service, college and career skills, self-care, self-efficacy, and leadership skills. The grant will offset the purchase of t-shirts, cookbooks, and other supplies.
- **Lake Washington High School: Reading Joy Classroom Libraries** – Lake Washington High's Reading Joy Committee was formed to help encourage reading among students. One component of this effort is the students led book buying committee in which students lead the selection of books and promote the new titles in their classes. The grant will support the purchase of titles selected by the student committee.
- **Shine Kinesthetics: Kinesthetic Learning at Lake Washington High** – Shine Kinesthetics mentoring program primarily focuses on African American male students from 10-18 years old. They also partner with ACE Academy in creating positive mentorship opportunities at Lake Washington High School. The grant will be used to purchase t-shirts and supplies.



BUS TICKET PROGRAM UPDATE

In August of 2022, the City received approval from King County's Human Services Bus Ticket Program to broaden the criteria for folks eligible to receive free Metro bus tickets. Staff reached out to various non-profit organizations as well as Peter Kirk Community Center to distribute the bus tickets to the community. Following this change, we have been able to get 100 tickets out to eligible community members and will continue until all tickets have been distributed to eligible community members.

For more information about the Metro Bus Ticket Program, please reach out to Antoinette Smith, Human Services Coordinator, at AMSMITH@KIRKLANDWA.GOV.

PARK MANAGEMENT

February may be the shortest month, but it is a busy one as the crews prepare for Spring. We also welcomed Jenny Brent as the new Green Kirkland Partnership Program Assistant. After 30 years of service to the City, Tracy Fish, Natural Teams Lead, is retiring in March. We wish him all the best in his new chapter of life.

Here are monthly highlights from our four crews:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Finished power-washing all sport courts across the system.
- Substantial edging and weeding around sports fields.
- Inspected and repaired all fences and backstops in preparation for the spring season.
- Implemented a special service at the Cemetery for Gloria Martin, long-time City of Kirkland employee.

HORTICULTURE

- Cleaned landscape beds in preparation for Spring.
- Significant mulching at Heritage Hall and at OO Denny.
- Edged sidewalks at all waterfront parks.
- Lots of structural pruning of newer trees as they move out of dormancy.
- Special thanks to staff Arborist, Doug Hunter, for hosting a great class on chainsaw safety for staff from Parks and Public Works.

SUPPORT

- Prepared all restrooms for re-opening in March.
- Installed a new drinking fountain at Rose Hill Meadows.
- Replaced old bollards at Carillion Woods.
- Installed new heaters in the McAuliffe solarium building for user comfort.

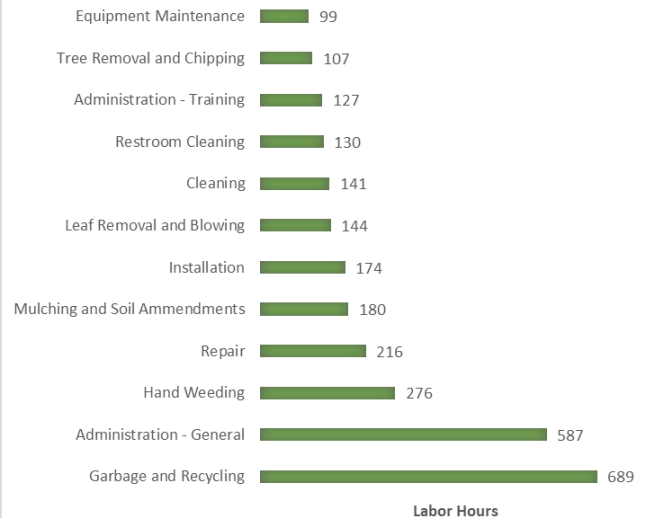
NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Concentrated focus on blackberry removal at N Rose Hill Woodlands and Edith Moulton.
- On-going support for GKP volunteer steward events
- Preparation and planning for new steward orientation and training on March 14, 18 and 21.
- Lots of planting at Windsor Vista Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

Green Kirkland has several public volunteer restoration events in March as well as new steward orientation classes. Find details and registration information at [GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)

FEBRUARY TOP 12 TASKS



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

Park construction is in the final stages with an anticipated substantial completion date in April 2023. A larger grand-reopening community celebration is being planned for May.

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.



FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

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 City Council Study Session on February 21, 2023. The draft final report will be presented to Council in March and a final report will be presented later this spring.

MARINA PARK SHORELINE RENOVATIONS

Designers continue to develop concepts and options for repairs or replacement of dock and 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 continues to develop cost-effective options for the installation of a second picnic shelter at the park. This project will use existing funds remaining from the Finn Hill Park District.



POP-UP DOG PARK PROGRAM

A re-opening celebration was held at Snyder's Corner Pop-Up Dog Park on Saturday, February 11. Staff are working with the Fire Department to accommodate the annual state mandated training for trench excavation, confined space training and machinery rescue at Snyder's Corner while maintaining the pop-up dog park. The pop-up dog park may move back to the west following this training.

Background: These 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

Drive-In movies returned to Juanita Beach Park on February 10 with a showing of the hit film *Top Gun: Maverick*. Forty vehicles registered for the showing. MorningStar Senior Living of Kirkland sponsored the Winter 2023 Drive-In series and donated goodie bags filled with treats for all. Multiple park visitors also stopped to chat with staff and find out more information about the movie series. It was a great turnout and fun was had by all! The next drive-in date will take place Saturday, March 4 and feature the film *Enchanted*.





SWEETHEART DANCE AT NKCC

Friendship Adventures, a non-profit organization that provides recreational activities for adults with disabilities, in partnership with Kirkland Parks and Community Services welcomed over 100 participants to a Sweetheart Dance on February 11 at the North Kirkland Community Center. DJ Gaylen Sauve was on hand to provide the beats and dinner was provided with the help of 18 volunteers. A joyous time was had by all.

FEBRUARY TEEN GAME NIGHT

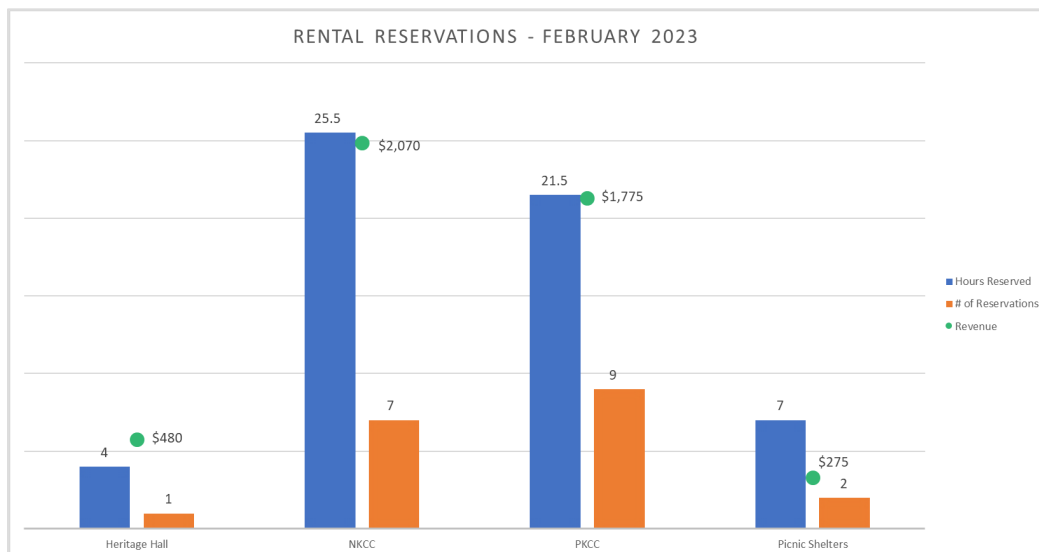
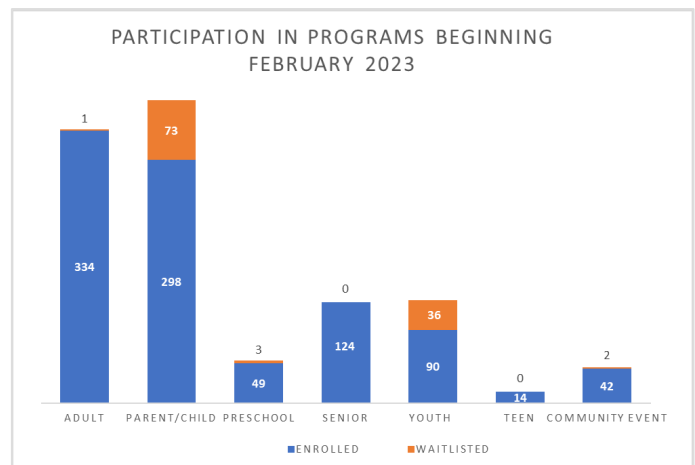
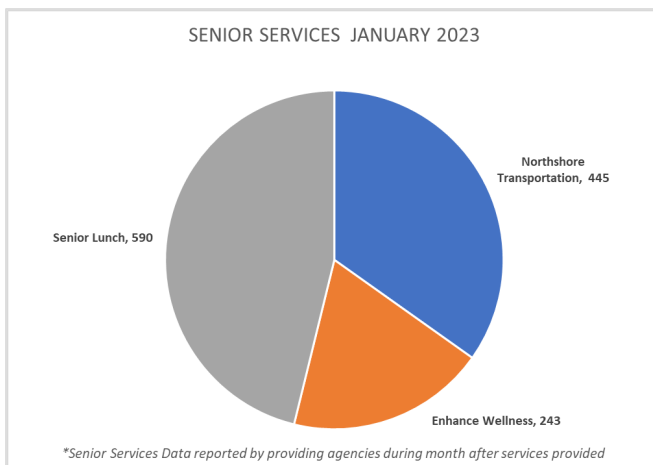
On February 24th, we hosted our Bi-Annual Nintendo Switch™ Super Smash Brothers tournament for teens aged 13-19. We provided the games along with pizza and snacks while teens were able to flex their gaming skills or root on their friends. We hosted 12 teens of all ages and playing ability. Winners of the tournament rounds received championship medals. Save the date for teen movie night at the Peter Kirk Community Center on Friday March 31, 2023.



SPRING PEE WEE SOCCER SCORES!

Registration for the Spring Pee Wee Soccer league for children ages 3-6 opened on February 8 and all 220 spots were quickly filled. The Pee Wee Soccer League is focused on fun, participation, and socialization and is supported by many volunteer coaches. The Spring season will take place on Saturdays from April 15 through May 20 at Crestwoods Park.

RECREATION DATA



SPECIAL EVENT SERVICES

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 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.



VALENTINE'S DAY DASH

The annual Valentine's Day Dash, hosted by the Kirkland based non-profit Alexander's Hope, was held at Marina Park on Saturday, February 11. Nearly 300 supporters attended the event which included a 5K race/walk, Kids Dash, and festival area. Proceeds support the organization's efforts to spread awareness of organ donation.



SPECIAL EVENT PROGRAM

On February 7, staff presented and received feedback regarding proposed changes to the Special Event Program which included event limits, priority scheduling, a new fee structure, and related updates to the Kirkland Municipal Code 19.24. Staff will return to City Council with a final ordinance for adoption on March 21, 2023. The staff memo and recorded meeting are available at WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/GOVERNMENT/CITY-COUNCIL.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	OTHER INFO
Sunday, March 19 11:30am - 5pm	Nowruz Celebration	Marina Park	WWW.ISOWS.ORG
Sunday, April 9 1:30 pm	Easter Egg Hunt	Peter Kirk Park	K03048.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG
Saturday, April 29 9am - Noon	Oral Cancer Walk for Awareness	Juanita Beach Park	WWW.ORALCANCERFOUNDATION.ORG
Sunday, April 30 Noon - 5pm	Beltane Festival	Juanita Beach Park	WWW.PNWWITCHESMARKET.COM