

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – MARCH 2023



In many ways, maintaining parks is a daily practice of the principles of sustainability. In 2020, Kirkland's City Council adopted Kirkland's first [Sustainability Master Plan](#). Kirkland's Parks Management team is proud to contribute to progress toward these goals as we go about our work every day.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Since 2005, the Green Kirkland Partnership has enrolled more than 315 acres of natural area and open space parklands into restoration; planted more than 78,000 native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers; freed more than 19,500 trees from ivy; and engaged more than 30,600 volunteers in restoration projects.

PLANTING – RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE

Every year our Horticulture and Natural Areas teams plant dozens of additional trees throughout our parks to contribute to the City's canopy cover goals and provide park visitors with summer shade. Drought tolerant, low maintenance, non-invasive plants are used in parks' landscape beds to reduce the need for supplemental water, fertilizer, frequent pruning, and weeding.



A volunteer at a Green Kirkland Partnership event

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Staff work with Public Works and the King County Noxious Weed Control Program to identify, map, and eradicate noxious weeds in Kirkland as required by state law. Together they utilize available tools including mechanical removal, biological controls, strategic landscaping techniques, and targeted chemical treatments as part of the greater program to establish a healthy urban forest.

MULCH AND GREEN WASTE

Any green waste generated in parks, such as tree branches, weeds, and leaves, is recycled locally in partnership with Waste Management. Whenever possible, tree branches are returned to natural areas and leaves are allowed to compost in place to enhance soil health and provide habitat for amphibians, reptiles, and insects including pollinators. Branches that cannot be returned to nearby natural areas are usually chipped into mulch for use in restoration sites and landscape beds.

LOCAL, HEALTHY FOOD

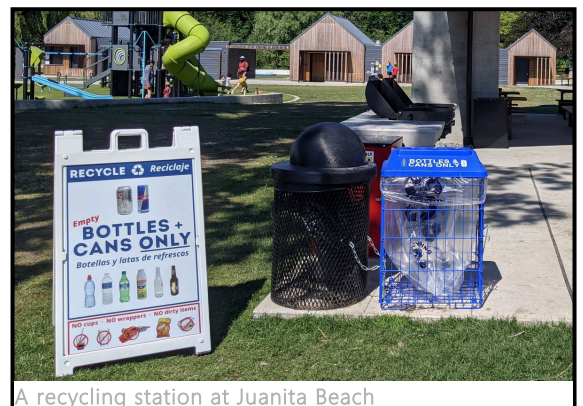
McAuliffe, Windsor Vista, Synders Corner, Rosehill Meadows, and many other parks are home to a variety of fruit trees and shrubs. The fruit is available to the community to harvest and the City has partnered with City Fruit, a local non-profit organization that helps maintain the fruit trees and distribute the harvest to food banks and community kitchens.

RECYCLING

Several park locations offer recycle bins in addition to trash. Recycle bins are located at parks where patrons have demonstrated a sustained commitment to utilizing the recycle bins properly. All recycle bins are located immediately adjacent to trash cans and have accompanying a-frame signs that demonstrate what products can be recycled.

WATER AND ELECTRICITY

Many lawns and landscape beds in the park system are non-irrigated. The waterfront parks are irrigated with lake water under the purview of a water rights agreement with the Washington Department of Ecology. Drawing water off the lake for irrigation requires staff to secure PADI Open Water Dive Certification in order to maintain the irrigation systems. In addition to saving water, Parks has also been diligently swapping out old bulbs with LED lighting in all of the restrooms and buildings we maintain.



A recycling station at Juanita Beach

Every day Parks Management staff work to improve the local environment and make Kirkland a healthy, safe, inclusive place for all to live, work, and play.

ADMINISTRATION

PARKS 2023 BALLOT EXPLORATION

Staff presented the Parks Funding Exploratory Committee (PFEC) Report to City Council on Tuesday, March 21. The Council established PFEC in the fall of 2022 to explore and provide recommendations for potential parks and recreation ballot measures to enhance the health and well-being of the Kirkland community. PFEC recommended that City Council consider a base ballot measure package consisting of at least one aquatics and recreation facility, additional year-round restrooms in parks, development of key segments of Kirkland's Green Loop Trail, new sport courts in parks, teen programs and Kirkland Teen Union Building (KTUB) operations, and increased beach lifeguard hours and water safety programs. Following additional community input, City Council will make a final decision on potential parks and recreation ballot measure(s) this summer. Learn more about the potential parks and recreation ballot measure(s) and PFEC at [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKS2023BALLOT](https://kirklandwa.gov/parks2023ballot).



DIVE IN NOW
Create the future of
Kirkland's aquatics,
recreation & open space

FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Alongside the PFEC process, the City contracted with Opsis Architecture to develop a robust recreation facility feasibility study grounded on the community needs identified in the 2022 PROS Plan. An indoor aquatic center and an indoor recreation center were ranked as the first and third most important future needs for improvements in the PROS Plan community survey. Opsis Architecture's final draft report was shared with City Council on March 21, 2023.

HUMAN SERVICES

MEET THE CITY'S NEW HOMELESS OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Meli Paulo (she/her) has been hired as City's first Homeless Outreach Coordinator. Meli is excited to join the City of Kirkland and ready to take on this great opportunity to serve those in the Kirkland community. Her passion for this work started back when she was a child serving meals at her parents' church back on the island of Samoa, where she was born and raised. Meli brings a collaborative and joyful attitude to this work. Her time working with REACH fostered her passion and advocacy for client-centered and trauma-informed care. She comes to the City of Kirkland with nearly seven years of nonprofit social service experience, three years specifically working as an outreach care coordinator supporting the unhoused community. She is eager to learn how she can best support folks in her new role as Homeless Outreach Coordinator. Meli's first day is April 5, 2023.



Meli Paulo

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 is in the final stages with an anticipated substantial completion date of May 28. Most recent progress includes the installation of the playground, field netting, and electrical connections. City Council and Park Board will have an opportunity to tour on April 1 to see the progress to date. A larger grand-reopening community celebration is being planned for June.



New synthetic turf field at 132nd Square Park

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.

MARINA PARK SHORELINE RENOVATIONS

Designers provided preliminary concepts and options for repairs or replacement of dock and shoreline structures. Concepts and cost estimates are in preliminary review.

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

New tables, benches, and seating were ordered and installed at Snyder's Corner. Dog park rule signage was created so that rules were consistent across all off-leash areas in Kirkland, both permanent and pop-up locations. The pop-up dog park program was created to serve the community and help evaluate how to incorporate dog off-leash areas into our system.

PARK MANAGEMENT

MARCH FLOWERS, FUN, AND SUN

The first days of spring sun have brought out flowers and fun in our parks. Staff have been busy keeping up with the increased activity. Here are monthly highlights from our four crews:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Prepped and maintained sports fields at all sites including the school partnership locations.
- Started mowing at Everest, Finn Hill Middle School, Juanita Beach, and Peter Kirk.
- Pressure-washed the bleachers and dugouts at Crestwoods.
- Implemented burial services at the Cemetery.
- Installed an additional pea patch plot at McAuliffe.
- De-winterized the irrigation systems at all sites.
- Built the mound on Field 1 at Everest.
- Fertilized the turf at all sites.

HORTICULTURE

- Placed 'do not feed the birds' signs at Houghton Beach.
- De-winterized, cleaned, and opened restrooms at all sites.
- Cleaned waterfowl waste from pathways at Marina, Brink, and Houghton Beach.
- Removed St. John's Wort and invasive blackberry from Marsh.
- Refreshed mulch tree rings at Marsh.
- Pruned trees, for structural support, at OO Denny.
- Repaired irrigation pump, that pulls water from the lake, at Houghton Beach.

NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Installed habitat logs at North Rose Hill Woodlands.
- Weeded shrub beds and edged pathways at Totem Lake.
- Installed fencing around trees at Juanita Beach to prevent damage from beavers.



Poison hemlock after treatment

- Installed wood chips at several locations at McAuliffe to prepare for fruit tree planting with City Fruit.
- Treated poison hemlock at several locations with herbicide.
- Removed suckers from maple stump at McAuliffe.
- Removed trash from historic dumping at JU1 and Forbes Lake.

SUPPORT

- Removed and disposed of an old bench located at McAuliffe Park.
- Repaired a leak around one of the roof restroom plumbing vents at OO Denny.
- Reset the toilet at McAuliffe Park.
- Replaced bollard pockets with broken lids at North Rose Hill Woodlands.
- Repaired broken faucet at Peter Kirk.
- Cleared the urinal drains at Everest and Crestwoods.
- Constructed a new storage shed at Edith Moulton and Arborist storage cage at the Parks Maintenance Center.



New shed in progress at Edith Moulton Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

April is Earth Month and Green Kirkland has at least a dozen volunteer events planned. Find details and registration information at [GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)

RECREATION SERVICES

2022-2023 YOUTH BASKETBALL WRAP UP

Our Youth Basketball League players and coaches participated in their final games on Saturday, March 18 at Kamiakin and Kirkland Middle Schools. It was a great season, and we want to thank all the players, coaches, and staff for their hard work in making a positive environment for everyone to learn and have fun!

SPRING & SUMMER 2023 REGISTRATION RECAP

This year, registration was split into two days, with general registration on March 22 and aquatics registration on March 29. There were 13,881 registration transactions over the two dates which represented a 32% increase over last year's spring and summer registration. Here are the Spring/Summer 2023 recreation program numbers to date:

- 7,954 participants registered
- 523 programs are full, the vast majority of which are youth summer camps, swim lessons, and preschool programs
- 9,139 people on waitlists



Youth basketball game at Kirkland Middle School

FUN AT THE MERMAID BALL

On March 24, 2023, the North Kirkland Community Center transformed into an undersea wonderland. One hundred and thirteen children from ages 3-10, accompanied by their parent or guardian, enjoyed dancing, refreshments, a jellyfish craft, and having their picture taken. Two mermaids were on-site to engage children in dancing and activities.

AARP TAX HELP

A team of trained AARP Tax Aide volunteers is onsite at the Peter Kirk Community Center every Friday starting in February until Tax Day to help community members prepare and file their taxes free of charge. In February and March, 182 community members were helped with this service.



Participants enjoying the 2023 Mermaid Ball

2023-2024 PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES SPONSORSHIP GUIDE

The department offers a wide variety of events and programs which are made possible thanks to sponsors and partnerships such as Celebrate Kirkland, See Spot Splash, Lunar New Year, and the Outdoor Summer Movie Series. Sponsorship offers several marketing benefits and support levels range from as low as \$150 up to \$20,000. City Council approved the 2023-2024 PCS Sponsorship Guide on March 7, 2023. See the approved guide at www.kirklandwa.gov/sponsorparksEvents.

LUCKY LEPRECHAUN LUNCHEON

The Peter Kirk Community Center staff donned their green attire and welcomed 80 seniors to this festive special event on Friday, March 17. The fun started with toe-tapping entertainment provided by Fiddle in the Forrest. A traditional Irish feast provided by Concierge Care Advisors was enjoyed by all.

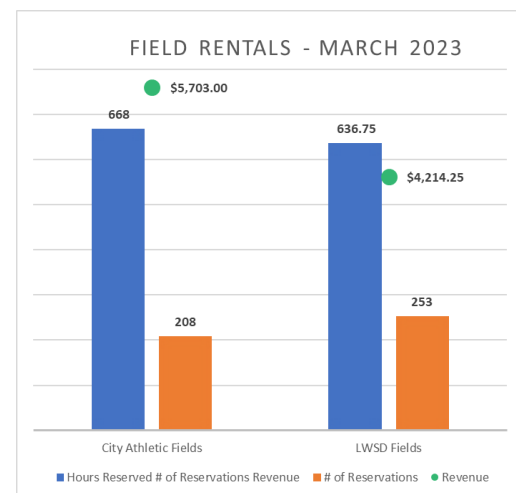
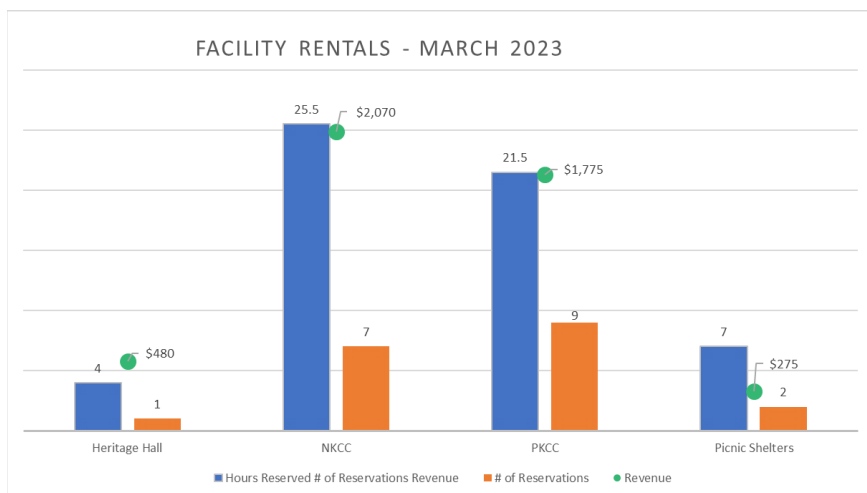
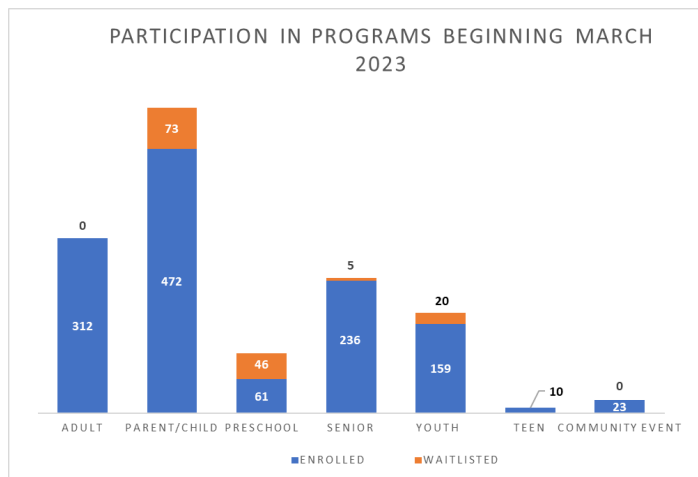
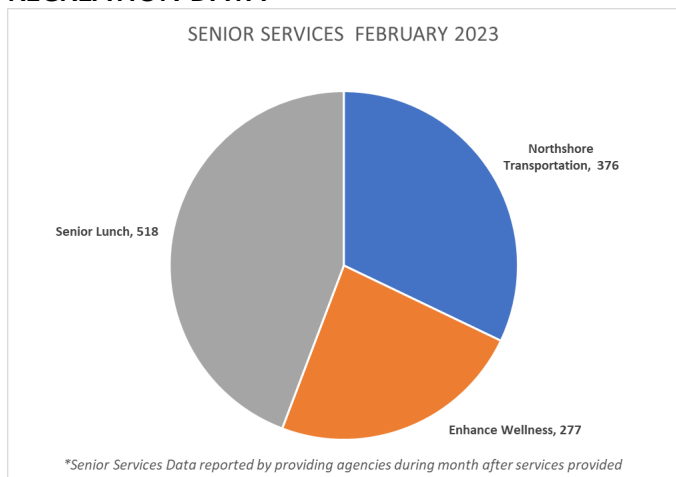


Lucky Leprechaun Luncheon

MARCH TEEN NIGHT FUN

Kirkland teens thoroughly enjoyed making Ice cream sundaes, loaded hot chocolate, and watching *Black Panther 2: Wakanda Forever* on Friday, March 31. Participants represented many cultures, languages, and identities. We even had a couple of new teens enjoy the experience. Learn about upcoming events on our [TEEN PROGRAMS PAGE](#).

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; 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 permits can be found at KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS.



NOWRUZ CELEBRATION

The Iranian Society of Washington State welcomed more than 500 people to the annual springtime celebration at Marina Park on March 19. Nowruz, which means 'new day', rings in the Persian new year. Festivities included music, dancing, traditional foods, face painting, and Haft-seen – a traditional display of 7 symbolic items whose name starts with S. Learn more about the non-profit organization at ISOWS.ORG.



Haft-seen at 2023 Nowruz Celebration

WOMEN LIFE FREEDOM RALLY

Voice of Iran WA representatives hosted a two-hour rally on March 26 at Marina Park. The free speech event was attended by 100 people who support the non-profit's efforts to raise awareness of the economic and political struggles in Iran. Information about the organization's efforts can be found at WWW.VOICEOFIRAN.ORG.

SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAM UPDATES

At the March 21 City Council meeting, staff presented an overview of the ordinance amending chapter 19.24 of the Kirkland Municipal Code related to special events, including a new fee structure and related program updates. Council unanimously approved Ordinance O-4842. City Council meeting materials can be found at KIRKLANDWA.GOV/GOVERNMENT/CITY-COUNCIL.

JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET

Seasonal staff began planning in March for the 2023 season. This is Robert Hezlep's third season as the market's Program Assistant. He is looking forward to educating the community about the programs and benefits of our weekly market. The priority application window for returning vendors opened on March 15. Twenty returning vendor applications have been received to date. The application window for new vendors opens on April 1.



We're excited to welcome back Parkshore Juanita Bay as the "Legen-Dairy" Main Stage sponsor and look forward to working with John Frost again to recruit and schedule weekly entertainment. John's passion for music and community makes him a natural fit for the market. We're also pleased to welcome back Kirkland Kids Dentistry as a Busy Lil' Bees Kids Booth sponsor. The Kids Booth is always a hit with kids and families at the market. Learn more about the market at: KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Friday, April 7 Noon – 2:30 pm	Ecumenical Good Friday Service & Walk	Marina Park	WWW.STJOHNSKIRKLAND.ORG
Sunday, April 9 1:30 pm	Easter Egg Hunt	Peter Kirk Park	K03048.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG
Saturday, April 22 10 am – 2 pm	Town Hall on Bikes	Mobile	WWW.SUSTAINABILITYAMBASSADORS.ORG
Saturday, April 29 9 am - Noon	Oral Cancer Walk for Awareness	Juanita Beach Park	WWW.ORALCANCERFOUNDATION.ORG
Sunday, April 30 Noon – 5 pm	Beltane Festival	Juanita Beach Park	WWW.PNWWITCHESMARKET.COM