

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – APRIL 2023



A seasonal job as a lifeguard, groundskeeper, or camp counselor might be the start of a career in Parks and Community Services (PCS). Several current department employees began their careers this way including Parks Operations Manager, Jason Filan. For young people, a seasonal job can be a great way to gain skills and confidence. Or on the flip side, a recreation attendant job can be a great way for retired folks to stay active and involved in the community.

Every year Parks and Community Services hires over 100 seasonal employees, primarily in the summer. To help fill seasonal positions this year, the department hosted a job fair on April 1, 2023, at the North Kirkland Community Center (NKCC).



Community members and prospective job applicants were met with smiling faces and fun swag at the job fair. NKCC's multipurpose room was set up with booths where folks could learn about the different jobs and positions in the department. The staff's creativity and enthusiasm were on display as each booth was decorated top to bottom in themed décor relating to the different jobs. Booths included Parks Maintenance, Rentals, Events, Day Camps, Sports, Aquatics, and Teen Programs.

The City's Human Resources department also hosted a booth to answer any pertinent questions about working for the City and to allow applicants the ability to apply on-site. Interested applicants also participated in on-site job interviews.

The job fair was a great success with 80 people in attendance. Many job applications were completed and a few job offers were made pending reference verification. Learn more about jobs with Kirkland Parks and Community Services at WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKSJOB.S.



ADMINISTRATION

PARKS 2023 BALLOT EXPLORATION

City Council and Park Board discussed the potential ballot measure during their joint meeting on April 4, 2023. Park Board recommended that City Council consider the following three elements for the potential ballot measure: enhanced safety and security, synthetic turf multi-purpose sports fields, and permanent off-leash dog parks.

Staff worked with EMC Research to conduct a statistically valid Community Survey from April 20 through April 24, 2023. The City hosted an open-link survey using the same questions as the EMC Research survey from Thursday, April 27 through Thursday, May 11, 2023. The results of both the statistically valid survey and the open-link survey will be shared with Council at the May 16, 2023 Council study session.



City Council will make a final decision on potential parks and recreation ballot measure(s) this summer. Learn more about the process at KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKS2023BALLOT.

FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Opsis Architecture created three additional facility options as requested by the City:

- One 80,000 square foot facility at North Kirkland Community Center with two pools and a two-court gym.
- An option with two complementary facilities with aquatics and recreation elements balanced between locations. The Houghton Park and Ride 67,000 square foot facility would be aquatics focused and the North Kirkland Community Center 45,000 square foot facility would be recreation focused.
- One slightly larger sized replacement for North Kirkland Community Center (approximately 18,000 square feet) that could be combined with one of the existing Houghton Park and Ride facility options.

The facility options will be shared with Council at the May 16, 2023 Council study session. For more information see the [RECREATION AND AQUATICS FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY WEBSITE](#).

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 June 5. City Council and Park Board toured the site on April 1 to see the progress to date. A larger grand-reopening community celebration is being planned for June or July. *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.

HUMAN SERVICES

KIRKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL MINI GRANT PROGRAM – SPRING 2023

The Kirkland Youth Council (KYC) is allocated \$8,500 annually for their mini grant program to provide funding to Kirkland youth and community groups. Mini grant requests are reviewed three times every year in October, January, and April. The Kirkland Youth Council received nine applications totaling almost \$8,000 in requests for their Spring 2023 review cycle. The following five programs were awarded a total of \$2,860.00 in grant funding:



- **Kirkland Parks & Community Foundation: Mural & Community Paint Day** - Kirkland Parks & Community Foundation and Rotary Club of Kirkland Downtown are collaborating with a Juanita High student to host a mural Community Paint Day for Kirkland youth to paint a 144-foot-long by 12-foot-tall "Welcome to Kirkland" themed mural painted in downtown Kirkland, on Lake Street S near the cross-intersection of 2nd Ave. Grant funds will cover mural supplies. Amount awarded: \$800.
- **Lake Washington High School: Multilingual Learner Program** - The multilingual learner program at LWHHS is organizing an end of year family event to celebrate, honor, and recognize the hard work and talents of students. Grant funds will cover the costs of certificates to honor the graduating seniors and refreshments for the event. Amount awarded: \$500.
- **Lake Washington Junior Kang Football: Guardian Caps XT** - LW Junior Kang football is working to provide Guardian Caps XT for players to augment existing helmets to address the impact severity of blows for contact positions. The goal of wearing Guardian Caps XT is to reduce the risk of severe brain and spinal cord injuries. Grant funds will cover the purchase of 13 Guardian Caps XT for the program. Amount awarded: \$760.
- **Rose Hill Middle School: Hip Hop 2 Prevent** - Hip Hop 2 Prevent is a program that aims to encourage student expression through music and poetry. RHMS would like to introduce the program to its multi-language learning population. Grant funds will cover the program facilitator fees. Amount awarded: \$700.
- **Rose Hill/Stella Schola Middle School: Foreign Language Book Collection** - The Rose Hill Middle School library works to ensure their collection remains current with a diverse variety of popular novels, series, and foreign language books for multi-language learners. Grant funds will support the purchase of books based on student requests and the purchase of books in languages reflective of the student population at RHMS and Stella Schola MS. Amount awarded: \$100.

HUMAN SERVICES GRANT FUNDING UPDATE

In December 2022, the Kirkland City Council approved the 2023-2024 City budget including \$ 2,624,351 per year in funding to support local non-profits who provide services to community members. Starting January 1, Human Services staff worked with agencies to complete the two-year contracting process and have completed 29 Kirkland-specific human services funding contracts. Additionally, staff are working in partnership with other Eastside cities to complete more than 40 jointly contracted programs. For more information on Kirkland's human services funding process and 2023-2024 grant fund awards, please visit the [HUMAN SERVICES DASHBOARD](#).

HUMAN SERVICES COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: 4 TOMORROW

4 Tomorrow is a Bellevue-based organization serving Youth and Latinx communities on the Eastside. *4 Tomorrow* received funding for the 2023-24 grant cycle to support three programs. It was the first time the agency applied for funding through Kirkland's human services grant funding program. *4 Tomorrow* previously partnered with the City during the COVID-19 pandemic to administer rent assistance to households experiencing instability and to support digital equity work. Below is a summary of the three programs funded for Kirkland's 2023-2024 human services grant funding:

- **Life Services Program:** This is a comprehensive case management program which provides culturally sensitive support to the Latinx communities in East King County. This unique one-stop-shop utilizes individualized coaching techniques to coordinate services and aid in navigating resources & systems. This program supports individuals in achieving short- and long-term goals related but not limited to: Housing Stability, Health and Mental Health Care, Immigration, Education, and Crisis Prevention and Response.
- **Mental Health and Gap Therapy Program:** The innovative program designed by the Latinx community provides coordination, gap therapy services, education, and community connection.
- **Rental, Mortgage, and Move-in Assistance:** This program seeks to provide emergency rental, move-in, and mortgage assistance to low to moderate income households (60% AMI or below) in East King County who are experiencing financial or housing instability. This program seeks to address housing instability by pairing financial assistance with the Life Services Program's coaching model to build self-sufficiency.

For additional information about *4 Tomorrow*, please visit the agency's website at www.4TOMORROW.TODAY.

PARK MANAGEMENT

APRIL SHOWERS AND APRIL FLOWERS

The April rains are great for our native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. With the sun finally out, our parks are green and healthy, and our community is out and about ready to take it all in! See the [PARKS MANAGEMENT DETAIL REPORTS](#) for breakdown of tasks and locations. Here are monthly highlights from our four crews:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Rebuilt the pitching mound at Peter Kirk Park's Lee Johnson field.
- Initiated the mow program at all park and school sites and aerated the turf at Juanita Beach and Juanita Elementary.
- Prepped for games at all park field sites.
- Cleaned graffiti in the Peter Kirk restrooms.
- Implemented burial and interment services at the cemetery.
- Resurfaced the infields with Turface at park sites as needed.
- Turned over both fields at Kirkland Middle School.

HORTICULTURE

- Treated broadleaf weeds with Finale at Forbes Creek and Spinney Homestead.
- Weeded the flower beds at Van Aalst, Marina, Houghton, David E. Brink, and Marsh.
- Inspected, cleaned, and started irrigation systems at all sites.
- Dragged and overseeded the turf at Marina.
- Pruned trees at Brookhaven, Peter Kirk, and Forbes Creek.
- Fertilized the turf at Marsh and Marina.
- Added wood chips to the trees at OO Denny.

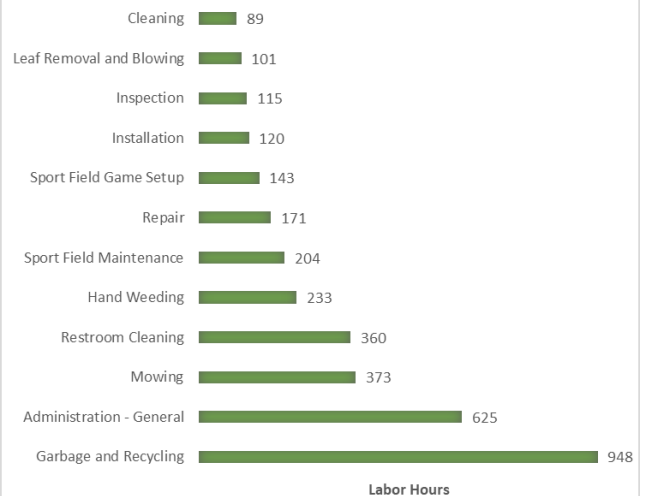
NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Bucked up and spread woody debris at OO Denny.
- Met with new Parks Maintenance volunteers at Carillon Woods to plan spring projects.
- Removed historically dumped construction materials from Open Space JU1.
- Pruned vegetation back from the causeway at Juanita Bay.
- Provided materials and supplies for all Earth Month GKP volunteer events.
- Installed plant protection signage at Juanita Beach, Open Space JU1, and Open Space HL1.
- Removed trees and debris leaning on fence along I-405 at Watershed.
- Find upcoming volunteer events at [GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](https://www.greenkirkland.org)

SUPPORT

- Painted the upper lip of the swim platform at Juanita Beach.
- Repaired split rail fence at Houghton Beach.
- Installed two benches near the playground at Edith Moulton.
- Replaced a leaking faucet in the chase way at Marsh.
- Completed the new storage shed at Edith Moulton.
- Created new, gravel picnic table location at Heritage.
- Installed new 'no parking' signs at Peter Kirk Pool.
- Replaced missing flush valve button in the restroom at Totem Lake.

APRIL TOP 12 TASKS



Common camas and fiddleneck blooms



New picnic table and seating at Heritage Park

RECREATION SERVICES

TASTE OF RETIREMENT

Several area senior housing chefs and marketing representatives were at the Peter Kirk Community Center the morning of April 14, 2023, with tantalizing treats for the taste buds. Approximately 85 community members were given the opportunity to sample the chef's creations and to talk to representatives from local area retirement communities.

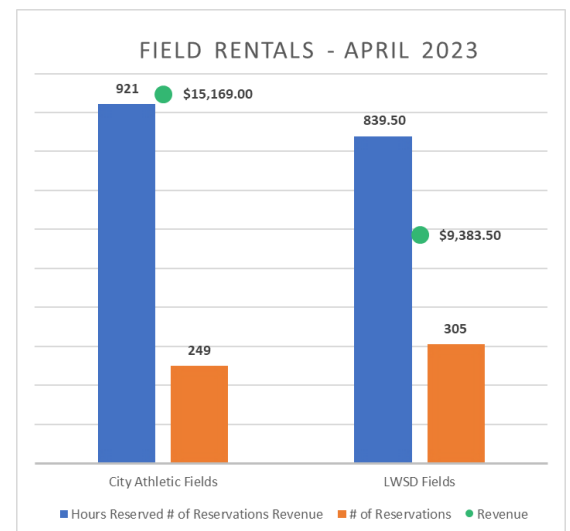
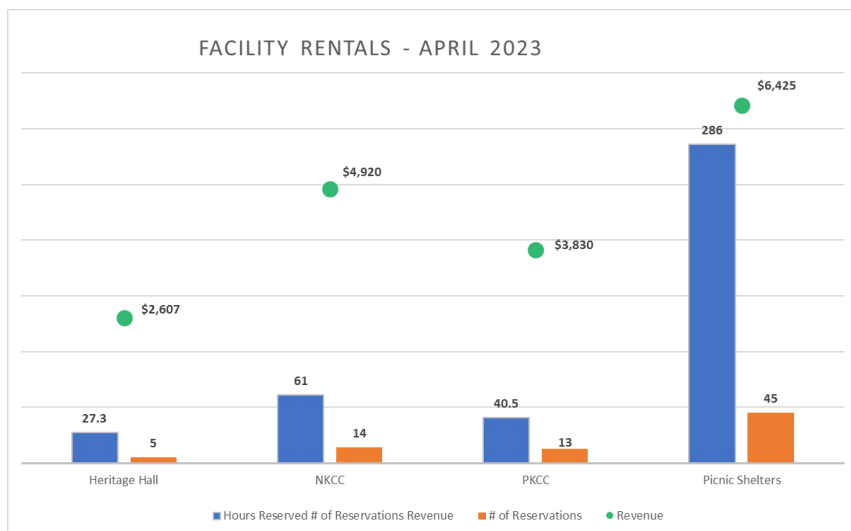
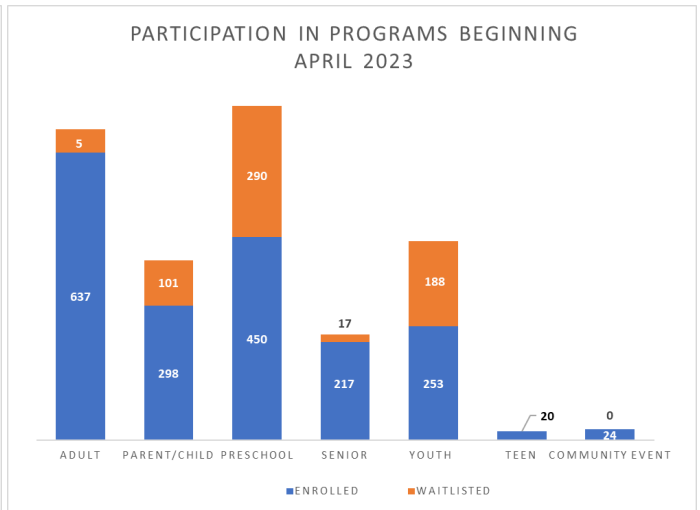
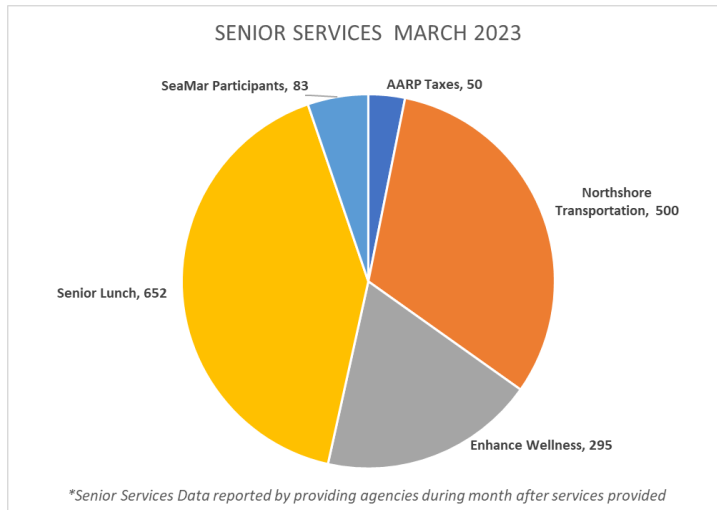
AARP TAX HELP

A team of trained AARP Tax Aide volunteers wrapped up helping community members prepare and file their taxes on Friday, April 14, 2023, at the Peter Kirk Community Center. A total of 232 community members were helped by this popular, free service from February 2023 through April 14, 2023. AARP will be back on-site next February to help with 2023 tax preparation and filings.



Taste of Retirement at Peter Kirk Community Center

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](https://kirklandwa.gov/specialevents).



ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE & WALK

St. John's Episcopal Church hosted the Greater Kirkland Ecumenical Parish's annual Good Friday Service & Walk on April 7. More than 50 people participated in the prayer walk which started in the church's courtyard on State Street and ended at Marina Park. A cross-bearer led the group to nine stations along the way where a pastor from each church shared scripture from the Bible in remembrance of Jesus Christ. For more information about services, go to: [STJOHNSKIRKLAND.ORG](https://stjohnskirkland.org).

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Kiwanis Club of Kirkland hosted the long-running annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 9 at Peter Kirk Park. A handful of volunteers scattered thousands of foil-wrapped chocolate eggs for several hundred children, decked out in colorful slickers and wellies, who braved the rain for a tasty treat. The free community event has been running for more than 45 years. The Kiwanis mission is to help kids around the world. Local clubs support local communities, and the international organization takes on large-scale challenges, such as fighting disease and poverty. Learn more about the non-profit organization at [K03048.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG](https://k03048.site.kiwanis.org).



Kiwanis Club of Kirkland's Easter Egg Hunt at Peter Kirk Park

ORAL CANCER WALK FOR AWARENESS

Survivors, families, and friends gathered at Juanita Beach on Saturday April 29 to participate in the Oral Cancer Foundation's annual walk for awareness. The pre-walk program included free cancer screenings, speakers, and survivor stories. The waterfront walk wrapped around the park's boardwalk and then looped through Juanita Bay Park. The event raises awareness and funds that allow for the organization to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support oral cancer survivors. To learn more, go to ORALCANCERFOUNDATION.ORG.

TOWN HALL ON BIKES

Sustainable Seattle representatives hosted a bike ride on Saturday, April 22 with approximately 100 student leaders from Kirkland middle and high schools, city transportation staff, elected officials, and other community organizations focused on sustainable transportation choices. Attendees learned about issues by touring seven sites and participating in the campaign launch for more students to ride their bikes to school. Learn more about the non-profit's efforts at WWW.SUSTAINABILITYAMBASSADORS.ORG.



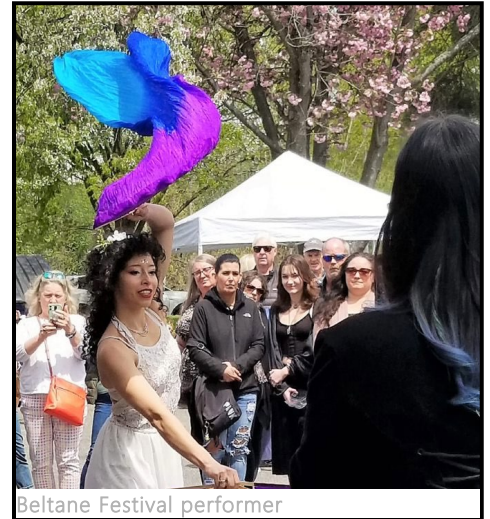
Town Hall on Bikes Participants in Kirkland

BELTANE FESTIVAL

Kirkland-based PNW Witches' Market hosted the Beltane Festival at Juanita Beach Park on April 30. More than one thousand people attended the free one-of-a-kind community event that celebrated spring at its peak, and the coming summer. The event featured 80+ mystical merchants and artisans, performances, food trucks, and more. Attendees were invited to participate in psychic readings, mini-lectures, and community chat space activities. Learn more about the host organization at WWW.PNWWITCHESMARKET.COM.

SPECIAL EVENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Following the recent amendment of Kirkland Municipal Code 19.24, staff have been hard at work this month updating webpages, program documents, and other support materials. Special Event Program Q & A sessions will be held in May to provide event organizers an overview of the changes and answers to their questions.



Beltane Festival performer

JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET



April continued to be a month of laying the groundwork for the 2023 Juanita Friday Market season. We continued to receive vendor applications from both returning and new vendors. We now have 36 vendor and 10 community booth applications. We finished interviews for the Market Intern role and made an offer which was accepted by Andrea Hernandez. Several of our wonderful volunteers are returning, including Arwen Gutierrez and Scott Emmons who were honored for their volunteer work last year at the recent Community Appreciation Night. Learn more about the market at: KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Sunday, May 14 at 7:30am	Mother's Day Half & 5K	Juanita Beach Park	ORCARUNNING.COM/MOTHERS-DAY-HALF
Monday, May 29 at 7:30am	7 Hills of Kirkland	Marina Park	K03048.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG/7-HILLS