

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – AUGUST 2023



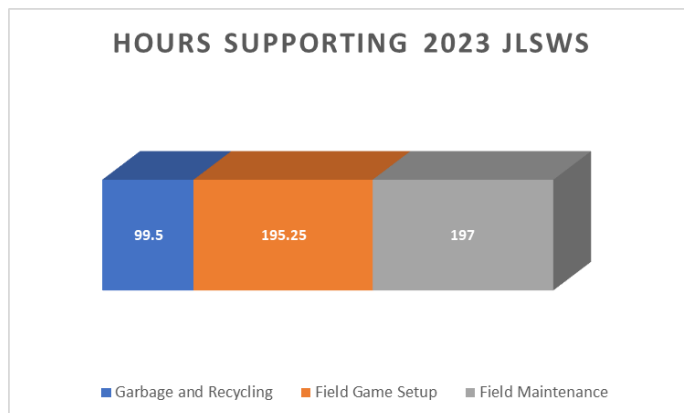
Everest Park has hosted the Junior League Softball World Series (JLSWS) tournament since 1999. The success of this annual event is made possible by the incredible teamwork of many City of Kirkland staff, especially the parks operations team.

Preparations for the tournament began many months in advance with final work taking place the week leading up to opening day. The 2023 tournament opened on Sunday, July 30, 2023 and ran for six days, ending on Saturday, August 5, 2023.

The entire 10-person ballfield crew and many others from across the park operations division pitched in to devote more than 500 hours to the tournament. For comparison, park operations staff spent 360.5 hours at Peter Kirk Park and 356.5 hours at Juanita Beach Park during the entire month of August.

The top three tasks for the 2023 Junior League Softball World Series tournament at Everest Park were:

- Field Maintenance
- Field Game Setup
- Garbage & Recycling



Over the six days of the tournament, staff performed 33 field preparations. It takes three staff about 19 minutes to prep each ballfield between games. And this doesn't include mowing the outfields, which takes about 23 minutes. To make sure that huge dust clouds aren't created during field prep, staff use about 250 gallons of water to wet the infield area during each field prep.

The teamwork of Kirkland Park Operations really does make the dreams of many Junior League Softball players work!

With the addition of a synthetic turf field at 132nd Square Park, the Parks and Community Services Department looks forward to serving many Kirkland youth athletes for years to come. Learn more about athletic fields at [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKRENTALS](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/ParkRentals).



[Photo captions: Junior League Softball World Series (JLSWS) sign post, Ballfield prepared for the JLSWS at Everest Park; Ballfield crewmember preparing the infield; Outfield at Everest Park]

ADMINISTRATION

PARKS 2023 BALLOT EDUCATION

Following City Council's passage of Ordinance O-4857 placing Proposition 1 on the November 7, 2023 ballot, staff began creating educational materials for the ballot measure. An informational fact sheet in English, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish will be available on the website in early September. Three public educational open houses have been scheduled for October 5, 16, and 25. More information can be on the website: [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKSBALLOT](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/parksballot).

HUMAN SERVICES

2023 KIRKLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR – SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

In partnership with the King County Promotores Network, the third annual Kirkland Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 10 am to 2 pm at Juanita High School. This FREE event is open to all and will offer a variety of services including vaccinations, flu shots, health screenings, dental services, information, and resources. In-language support will be available. For more information contact Mercedes Cordova-Hakim at MERCEDES@PROMOTORESNETWORK.ORG

City Council allocated \$40,000 per year for 2023 and 2024 to support the strategic planning and implementation of the Kirkland Health and Wellness Fair. The City is contracting with King County Promotores Network (KCPN) to organize the 2023 event. The vision for these events is to build a culture of health, inclusion, and opportunities for both people and providers in Kirkland. The aim is to keep in touch with the pulse of the community and provide insight as it relates to social determinants of health and wellness. This process can lead to further authentic services and partnerships within the Kirkland community and greater East King County.

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

Staff and the contractor continue to work on minor punch list items. The playground is mostly open with only the log climber being cordoned off. The log will be repositioned this autumn to align with fall zone requirements. The slide for the play hill has been ordered and will be installed later this fall.

Background: The City replaced 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 and the park re-opened on July 15, 2023.



The playground and hill at 132nd Square Park

MARINA PARK SHORELINE RENOVATIONS

The project has been refined to focus on repairs to the south fingers and pier along with a few upland repairs and improvements. Staff is now working with the consultant to develop the next contract for the next phase of design work.

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

PARK PLAY AREA AND ADA ENHANCEMENTS

Everest Park playground has been identified as the next playground to be replaced for the benefit of the community. Staff plans to release a Request for Proposal for professional services this fall to design the playground and connecting accessible pathways.

Background: This ongoing capital project strives to replace aging playgrounds, improve sports courts, and make ADA improvements in the parks throughout the system.

PARK RESTROOM REPLACEMENTS

Restrooms at Houghton Beach and Everest parks are planned for replacement due to their age and condition. Staff is working to create a scope of work for this project.

Background: This capital project repairs or replaces park restrooms in the system.

TOTEM LAKE PARK

Totem Lake Park has been selected as the opening educational session/walking tour for the Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA) state conference on Thursday, September 14. Totem Lake Park received the 2023 Award of Honor from WASLA earlier this spring.

Background: In July 2021 the City opened Totem Lake Park as its newest neighborhood park with an inclusive playground, restrooms, and a boardwalk connecting the park to the Cross Kirkland Corridor.

PARK MANAGEMENT

August was hot, dry, and busy in our parks. The crews were busy supporting many community events including The Hope Walk, StoryBook in the Park, DennyFest, Obliteride, Waterfront Car Show, and the Junior League Softball World Series at Everest Park. See the [PARKS MANAGEMENT DETAIL REPORTS](#) for breakdown of tasks and locations. Here are monthly highlights from our four crews:

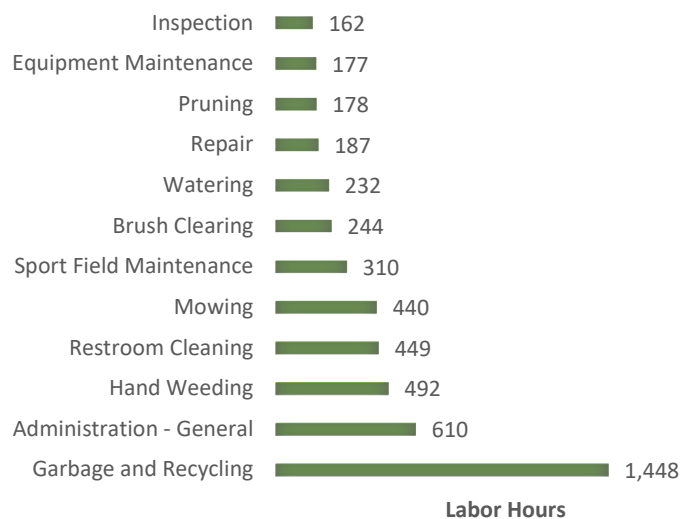
BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Removed blackberry and other brush around Field 4 at Everest Park.
- Planted cedar trees at Lakeview Elementary and watered them in.
- Repaired the turf at Peter Kirk Park and began preparations for See Spot Splash pop-up dog park.
- Repaired a damaged fence and gate at Crestwoods Park.
- Provided multiple burial and interment services at the cemetery.
- Provided extensive, ongoing support for all fields at Everest Park during the JLS World Series.

HORTICULTURE

- Inspected trees at North Rose Hill Woodlands, 132nd Sq, Yarrow Bay Wetlands, Carillon Woods, and Watershed parks.
- Brushcut blackberry in the borrow pit at Watershed Park to create access to the bottom of the pit.
- Edged the pathway between the tennis courts and playground at Peter Kirk Park.
- Hedged the willows and removed weeds from the curb and inside bed at Heritage Park.
- Collected data comparing electric and gas leafblower performance on grass, sand, play chips, and goose feces.
- Removed declining conifer tree at McAuliffe Park and oak tree at Marina Park using the ArborPro.

AUGUST TOP 12 TASKS



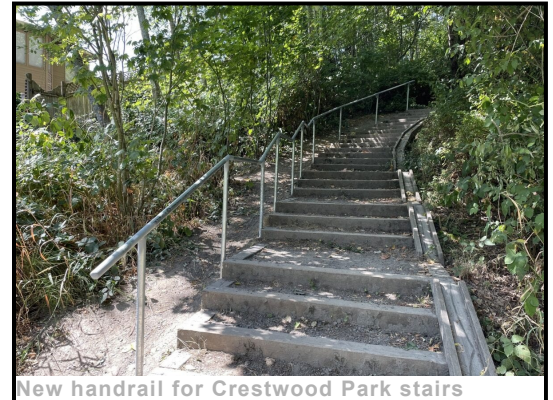
A tree removal at Marina Park

NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Removed dumped trash, including barrels and cement, from open space JU1.
- Hand removed hundreds of loosestrife plants from Juanita Bay, Juanita Beach, and Totem Lake parks.
- Hand removed 3,200 square feet of 100% cover nightshade from a wetland area at Cotton Hill Park.
- Built impact sprinklers for installation in enhanced buffer areas at Everest Park.
- Provided materials and tools for ten volunteer restoration events.
- Weeded the pea patch at McAuliffe Park.

SUPPORT

- Installed door closers on the main restroom doors at 132nd Sq Park.
- Cleared the blocked urinal drain at Waverly Beach Park.
- Installed poles on bird decoys for waterfront parks to deter geese and other waterfowl.
- Installed two bouncers at Phillis A. Needy Park.
- Adjusted the water chemistry, backwashed the filter, and prepared for See Spot Splash at Peter Kirk Pool.
- Installed a handrail on the stairs connecting Crestwoods Park to the Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC).



UPCOMING EVENTS

- There are seven public volunteer restoration events scheduled for September and more are being scheduled.
- More information can be found at WWW.GREENKIRKLAND.ORG. We hope to see you there!

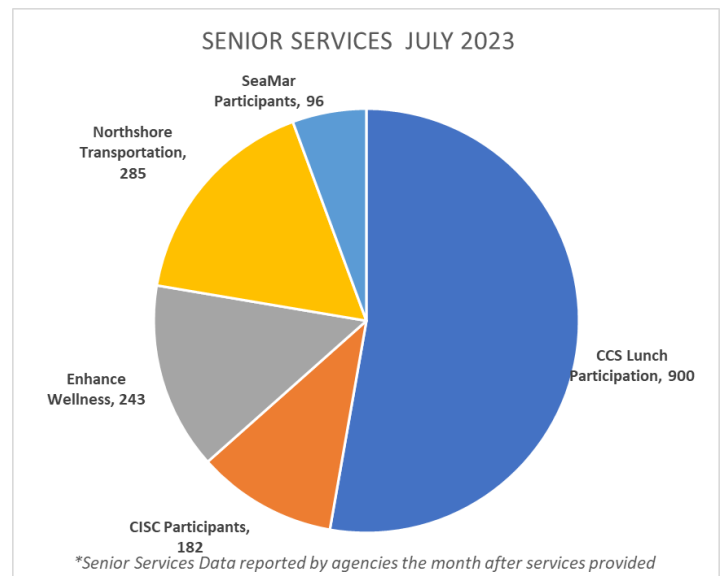
RECREATION SERVICES

KIRKLAND STEPPERS

The Kirkland Steppers wrapped up their 20th season at the “Finish Line” Celebration on August 22, 2023, at the Peter Kirk Community Center. We had 99 participants in this year’s program, a 16% increase from last year’s participants, and are looking forward to another successful season next year.

2023 KIRKLAND STEPPERS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- 57% of participants were between the ages of 65 to 75; 39% were between the ages of 75-85. This year several older seniors participated with 4% of participants over 85.
- 25% of participants walked in at least 8 of the 11 walk events scheduled.
- 92% of participants reported the Stepper’s program motivated them to increase their weekly activity level.
- 90% of participants reported walking on their own at least one additional day besides the scheduled Steppers’ walks.
- 80% of participants reported seeing increased health benefits while participating in the 12-week walking program.
- Staff also heard from several steppers that socialization and improved mental health were some of the biggest benefits.



SUMMER OUTDOOR MOVIES

The Outdoor Summer Movie Series wrapped up in August with two dates, showing back-to-back feature films at Heritage Park. Thanks to our generous sponsor Zipl Fiber, we were able to bring this movie series to our community completely free. The Outdoor Movie Series was a success with great turn for all five dates and we look forward to offering it again next summer.

ADULT SPORTS

Beach Volleyball wrapped another season under the sun at Juanita Beach. Softball Session II has started under the lights at Lee Johnson Field at Peter Kirk Park.

SUMMER CAMP WRAP-UP

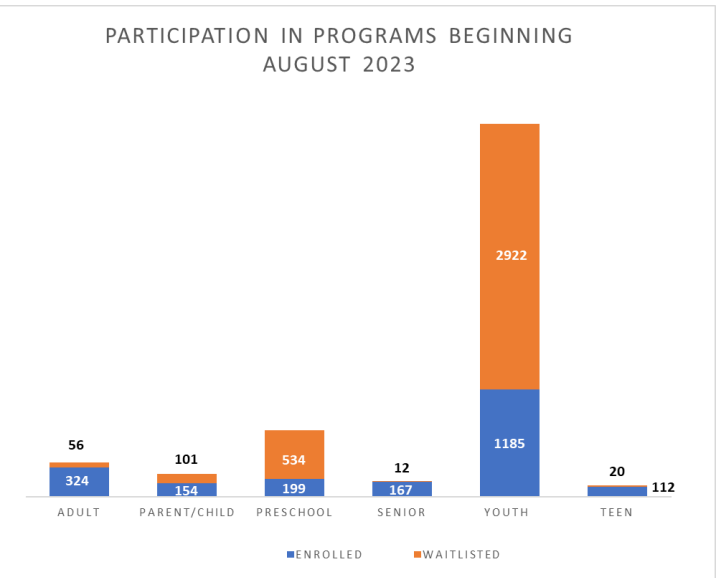
This summer Kirkland Parks and Community Services successfully planned and hosted over 70 unique camp programs! Camps covered an incredible variety of topics including art, basketball, jump rope, cheerleading, dance, soccer, filmmaking, pickleball, rugby, stand up paddleboard, fencing, tennis, cooking, first aid and medicine for youth, science, musical theater, yoga, computer technology, cross country, softball, volleyball, beach volleyball, nature adventures, ice skating, dodgeball, engineering with Legos, golf, and flag football. As well our flagship Peter Kirk Day Camp and Junior Summer Day Camps hosted over 2,700 campers with nine weeks of unique themes and activities.



Participants on a Teen Outdoor Adventure Hike

2023 LIFEGUARD OLYMPICS AT WAVERLY BEACH

Kirkland's annual Lifeguard Olympics was held Sunday, August 6 at Waverly Beach. Lifeguards formed four-person teams and competed in different events including rescue relays and the lifeguard triathlon (swim, run & paddleboard). The Lifeguard Olympics has been a part of Kirkland's aquatics program for over two decades. This tradition helps to build a strong and committed lifeguard culture and is eagerly anticipated by new and returning aquatic staff every season.



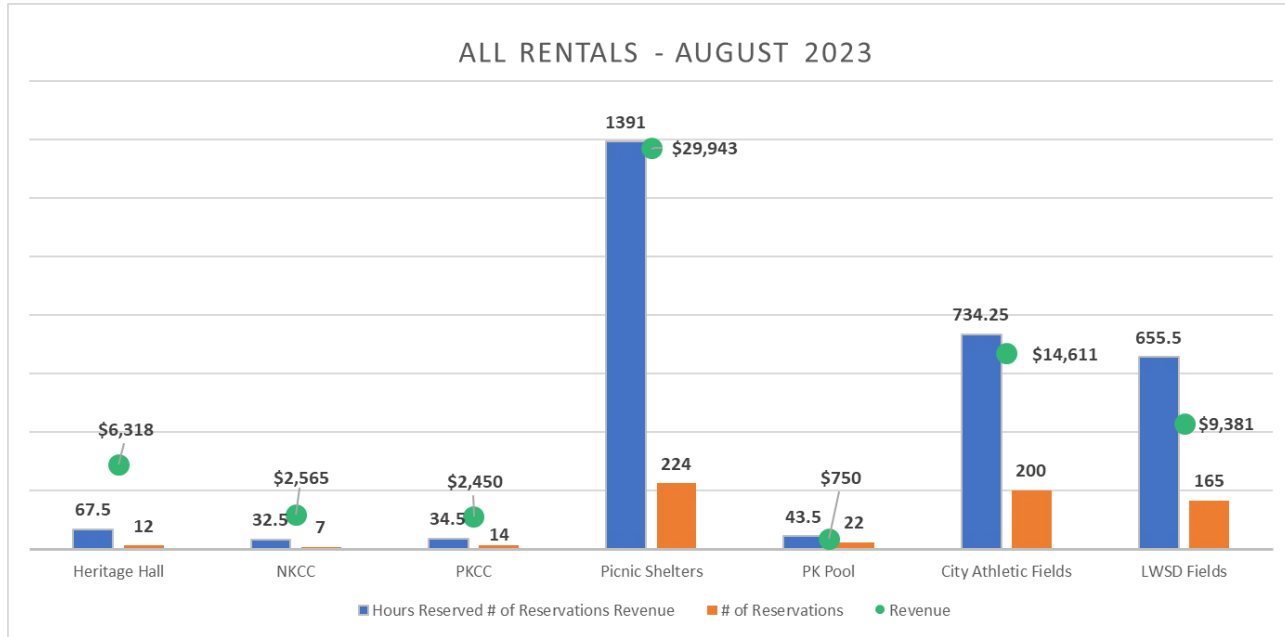
TEEN OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Staff hosted 11 teen outdoor adventures in August, reaching 122 area teens by visiting Heather Lake, Deception Pass, Mt. Rainier, Wallace Falls and more. Three adventures were free Open Access Hikes. Participants for the free hikes were strategically chosen by school staff as financially disadvantaged. [Click here to see video compilations of our adventures.](#) For more about Kirkland Teen Programs, visit WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/TEENPROGRAMS.



2023 Lifeguard Olympics group photo

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



JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET



We celebrated National Farmers Market Week with the community on August 11 with guest chef recipe demos, featuring farm fresh produce available at the market and the Time Traveling Ukuleles and Hula Halau O Makanaokalani entertained from the Main Stage. Kids had fun doing their best farmer impressions on the big green tractor courtesy of Parks Management, while free crafts, games, and face painting kept families busy at the Busy Lil' Bees Kids Booth. Several lucky market shoppers received a free Juanita Friday Market tote or magnet. The market is held every Friday afternoon through September 29. Learn more at: WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET.



KIRKLAND WEDNESDAY MARKET

The Kirkland Wednesday Market continued to offer high quality vendors selling farm fresh produce, brightly colored flowers, hand crafted treasures, plant starts and more. Held at Marina Park, the market draws hundreds of shoppers each week. The market operates through September. Learn more about the market's offerings at WWW.KIRKLANDMARKET.ORG.

EVENING SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

All summer long music loving crowds descended on Marina Park to soak up the sun and enjoy the free outdoor concerts. The Kirkland Downtown Association produced the eight-week series which wrapped up on August 24. Plans are now in the works to extend the 2024 season. Thank you to the event organizers who worked to bring great entertainment to the Kirkland community every year. Learn more about the series [KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.kirklanddowntown.org/events).

KIDS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Kids of all ages loved getting outside this summer to enjoy the waterfront while singing and dancing. The Kirkland Downtown Association's free six-week outdoor concert series at Juanita Beach Park wrapped up on August 15 with a close out concert by national award-winning children's singer/songwriter Eric Ode! Also featured in August were Highlight Quartet, a women's Barbershop Quartet, and The Not-its who rocked the audience.



2023 Kids Summer Concert at Juanita Beach

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This year's August 1 NNO event promoting police and community partnerships was a big hit! Seven permits were issued for block parties with street closures. In total, Kirkland Police officers, firefighters and City Councilmembers visited 16 neighborhoods across Kirkland and met community members who hosted block parties, BBQ's, potlucks, ice cream socials and more.

STORYBOOK THEATER IN THE PARK

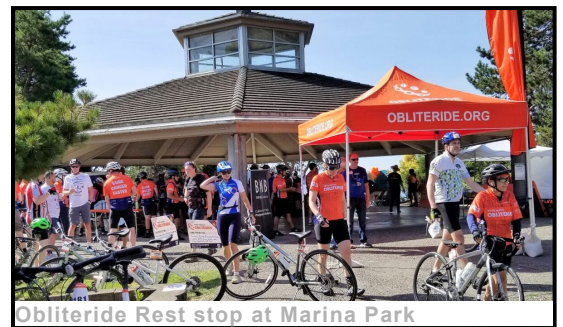
Studio-East's StoryBook Theater in the Park offered multiple performances of *Rapunzel* at Feriton Spur and Juanita Beach parks during August. Unfortunately, the August 20 performances were cancelled due to poor air quality. Park amphitheaters provided audiences with a friendly closeup theater experience where guests of all ages were encouraged to participate in the theatrics.



Storybook Theater In the Park

OBLITERIDE

The Obliteride, which starts and ends in Seattle, has passed through Kirkland for many years. This year, Marina Park was the last rest stop along multiple bike routes before crossing Lake Washington for the finish. More than 1,000 riders participated in the event on August 12 which raised money for Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.



Obliteride Rest stop at Marina Park

THE HOPE WALK

The Huntington's Disease Society of America – Washington State Chapter, hosted its' annual Hope Walk at Juanita Beach Park on Sunday, August 27. Hundreds of people came together to walk and raise funds in support of the HDSA's mission to provide services that include individual and family support groups, education, clinical trials, and research. The event also offered a Kids Corner with crafts and games, snacks, music, speakers and more.

KIRKLAND WATERFRONT CAR SHOW

The 19th annual Kirkland Waterfront Car Show, hosted by the Kirkland Downtown Association on August 13, was a huge success. Thousands of car lovers descended upon the downtown business district and Marina Park to view hundreds of spectacular show vehicles including antique, classic, street rod, muscle, exotic vehicles, motorcycles, and more. Attendees enjoyed live music, hot food vendors, and plenty of warm sunshine.



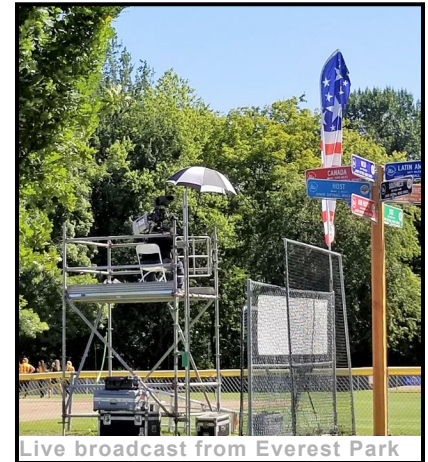
Kirkland Waterfront Car Show

DENNYFEST

The Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance hosted its' annual DennyFest on Saturday, August 26 at O.O. Denny Park. The one-day festival welcomed hundreds of community members with live music, food trucks, touch a fire truck activity, lawn games, and community organizations. The Alliance hosts the event to build a sense of community and bring awareness to their mission of protecting the natural environment.

FILM PRODUCTION

Two film production permits were issued for August. LTN Global, a Missouri based company, spent one week at Everest Park producing a live broadcast of the Little League Junior Softball World Series which aired on ESPN. Whisper Films LTD, based in the United Kingdom, spent one day on the Kirkland waterfront to film a one-on-one interview for a documentary about a well-known high-profile Swedish football manager.



NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTIES

The City of Kirkland encourages residents to organize block parties where they can meet their neighbors, celebrate special days together, and build community connections. Five block parties were held in August, hosted by families located in the Norkirk, Finn Hill, Kingsgate, and South Rose Hill neighborhoods. Learn more about block party permits at:

WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS.

EXPRESSIVE EVENT

One free speech permit was issued during the month of August. The Union of American Physicians and Dentists obtained a permit for a two-hour informational picket which took place on August 17 along Totem Lake Boulevard.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Wednesdays, thru September 3 pm – 7 pm	Kirkland Wednesday Market	Marina Park	KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG
Fridays, thru September 3 pm – 7 pm	Juanita Friday Market	Juanita Beach Park	KIRKLANDWA.GOV/ JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET
Sunday, September 17 Noon – 5pm	Mabon Festival	Juanita Beach Park	WWW.PNWWITCHESMARKET.COM
September 22-24 Hours vary	Oktoberfest	Marina Park	KIRKLANDOKTOBERFEST.COM