

# KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – SEPTEMBER 2023



The Aquatics team successfully hired 108 staff for the 2023 season including swim team coaches, swim instructors, lifeguards, aquatics program supervisors, and pool cashiers.

This was the first fully programmed pool season since before the COVID-19 pandemic and included swim lessons, open swim, Orcas swim team, deep water exercise, and the volunteer Aqualeaders program. The pool was programmed for about 16 hours a day, with public open swim sessions scheduled in the middle of the afternoon. Over 550 swim classes were offered this season, ranging from Aquatots, preschool, youth, teen/adult to private lessons. Friday and Saturday morning swim classes for younger swimmers returned this season to provide additional learning opportunities.

The three swimming beaches at Houghton Beach, Waverly Beach, and Juanita Beach parks opened early this year on June 28, 2023, allowing Kirkland beach goers to have lifeguards at these beaches when the weather warmed up at the end of June. The three beaches were staffed daily from noon to 6 PM from June 28 through September 4, 2023. As the season came to a close, Kirkland's annual Lifeguard Olympics was held at Waverly Beach with 50 staff members competing in team challenges including a rescue triathlon.

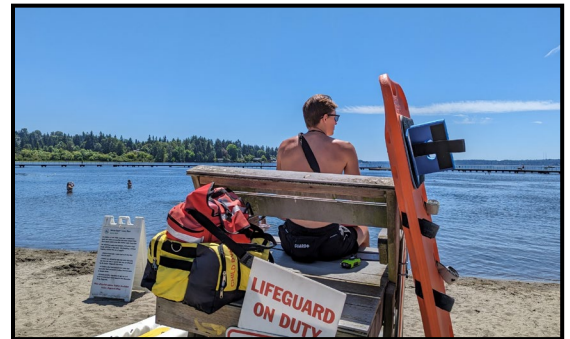
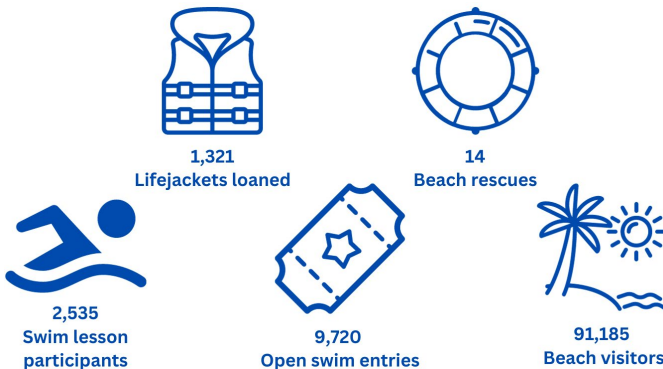
We want to give a HUGE and special thank you to all members of the Aquatics team for making this summer so successful. They did a fantastic job to keep the community safe this season!



Participants in a swim lesson at Peter Kirk Pool



Lifeguard talking to three children in the pool



Lifeguard at Juanita Beach Park



2023 City of Kirkland Aquatics Team

## ADMINISTRATION

### 2023 PROPOSITION 1

An informational fact sheet for Proposition 1 was created in English, Simplified Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish and posted on the city's website at [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKSBALLOT](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/parksballot). Print copies of the fact sheet are available at community centers and City Hall and will be mailed to all Kirkland residents in early October. Staff provided nine information presentations to local groups during September. Three public informational open houses have been scheduled for October 5, 16, and 25. Additional details can be on the website: [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKSBALLOT](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/parksballot).

## HUMAN SERVICES

### ONSITE MONITORING VISITS OF NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

During the 23-24 grant funding cycle, City Council approved over \$2.6 million to fund 76 human service programs at 36 non-profit organizations that provide systems, support, and resources to Kirkland residents. Human Services staff, in collaboration with other North and East King County cities, recently resumed onsite visits of grant recipient organizations. During these visits City staff review agency practices and program operations and have collaborative conversations with program leaders to gain valuable insight into each grant-funded program. These monitoring visits had been on hold since early 2020 due to the pandemic.

### HEALTH THROUGH HOUSING OPEN HOUSE TOURS

King County's Health through Housing Initiative establishes partnerships with local jurisdictions across the county with the goal to create 1,600 permanent supporting housing units for people experiencing chronic homelessness. To support this goal,



King County purchases hotels or similar facilities, and converts each site into apartments with onsite services including case management, employment counseling, and medical/behavioral healthcare. In 2022, King County purchased the former Kirkland La Quinta Inn for conversion to permanent supportive housing. Following a Permanent Supporting Housing Agreement between King County and the City, staff are meeting bi-monthly to support project milestones. King County and Kirkland staff hosted two successful open houses in September for operators interested in providing on-site services at the former Kirkland La Quinta site.

### NEW HOMELESSNESS LANDING PAGE

The Human Services team supported the development of a new webpage describing how the City responds to homelessness. The webpage shows users how to submit a notification if they see a resident who is unhoused and may need help and introduces the Homeless Assistance and Response Team (HART). The webpage also discusses the continuum of care, services maps, and offers FAQs. To learn more, visit [WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/HOMELESSNESS](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/homelessness)

## 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 contractor continue to work on minor punch list items. The field lights were tested during the evening of September 11, 2023 and were found to meet all design specifications. The slide for the play hill has been received and will be installed 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.

### EVEREST 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.



## HOUGHTON AND EVEREST 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.

## JUANITA BEACH PARK

The western portion of the Juanita Beach Park parking lot will be resurfaced during October 2023 depending on weather conditions. *Background:* This capital project repairs or replaces parking areas in the system.



## 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.

## TOTEM LAKE PARK

Three cantilever shade structures will be installed in October near the playground to provide relief from sunny days. *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

### SEPTEMBER SUN TO SO MUCH RAIN

September was interesting as Parks Management navigated abrupt changes from drought conditions to absolute downpours. Staff stayed flexible and changed priorities and strategies as needed to keep the parks in great shape. See the [PARKS MANAGEMENT DETAIL REPORTS](#) for breakdown of tasks and locations. Here are monthly highlights from our four crews:

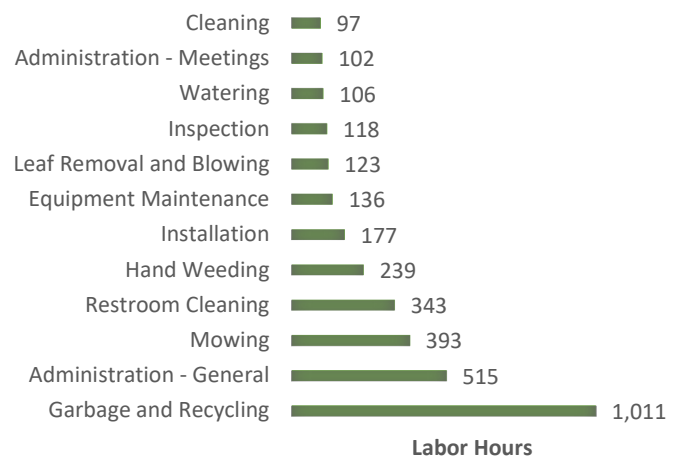
#### BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Installed new bleachers at 132<sup>nd</sup> Square Park.
- Began turf renovation and seeding at 132<sup>nd</sup> Square and Crestwoods parks.
- Shut down irrigation systems at all park and school site locations.
- Installed leaf boxes in flatbed trucks to support leaf removal efforts.
- Hand weeded beds and ballfields at Crestwoods Park.
- Mowed school sites at Rose Hill Elementary, Peter Kirk Elementary, Mark Twain Elementary, Emerson High School, and Ben Franklin Elementary.

#### HORTICULTURE

- Push mowed and hedge trimmed Peter Kirk Park and the Transit Center.
- Planning fall tree installations for Everest, Van Aalst, Forbes Creek and Edith Moulton parks.
- Completed tree inspections and identified future planting sites at multiple parks across the system.
- Removed dead holly trees from the cemetery.
- Cleaned the Marina Park pavilion to be ready for community events.
- Removed compromised hemlock next to the shelter at Edith Moulton Park.
- Created an access road to the borrow pit at Watershed Park for local leaf disposal that will enhance soils at a highly disturbed location.

### SEPTEMBER TOP 12 TASKS



## NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Mowed, aerated, and seeded native wildflowers at Juanita Bay Park.
- Hosted volunteer event at Juanita 1 open space.
- Removed a large tree limb across the trail at Carillon Woods Park.
- Added twenty additional yards of arborist chips to the old dump site at Crestwoods Park.
- Hosted new Green Kirkland Steward training at Juanita Beach Park.
- Filled cisterns and watered plants at dozens of Green Kirkland Steward and contractor restoration sites.

## SUPPORT

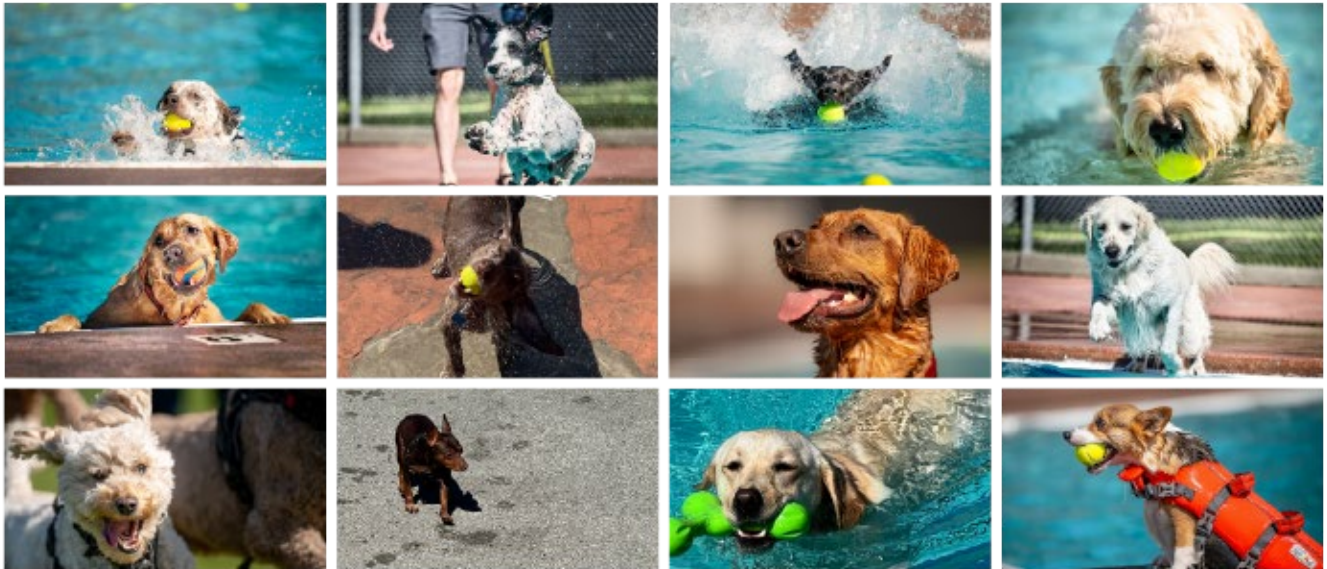
- Replaced a faulty sensor on the pathway lights at Heritage Park.
- Removed rebar stake pin from a speed bump in the overflow lot at OO Denny Park.
- Repaired lumber on the second dock finger at Marsh Park.
- Repaired the ramp on an equipment trailer.
- Scraped, cleaned, and repainted red no parking area at Phyllis Needy Houghton Neighborhood Park.
- Repaired a pothole in the parking lot at Juanita Beach Park.
- Removed old drinking fountain from the building at Marsh Park.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- There are ten public volunteer restoration events scheduled for October, including the kick-off to planting season and Kirkland Forest Day on October 22, 2023!
- More information can be found at [WWW.GREENKIRKLAND.ORG](http://WWW.GREENKIRKLAND.ORG). We hope to see you there.

## RECREATION SERVICES

### SEE SPOT SPLASH



The third annual See Spot Splash was a day of wet and wild fun at the Peter Kirk Pool. Nearly 400 dogs (chaperoned by about 1000 of their humans) got the chance to make a splash, followed by off-leash dog shenanigans at the Lee Johnson baseball field. Staff provided over 300 recycled tennis balls ensuring that the dogs had a ball in the pool and the ballpark where Golden Retrievers reigned supreme, outnumbering all other breeds by about two to one! The event also included vendors selling dog-related items and providing pet education. Event sponsor, Juanita Hills Animal Hospital, provided a photo booth and heaps of swag for all attendees, while Pup Shoot captured amazing photos of the event. Local animal rescues, Homeward Pet Adoption Center and Seattle Humane Society, were given a pre-event opportunity to allow a few of their shelter dogs time in the pool, granting them a well-deserved outing tailored just for them.

### 3RD ANNUAL SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

This fun, annual community event took place September 21 at Peter Kirk Community Center. The fair provided adults aged 50+ and their families an opportunity to gather information and get answers to questions. Over 30 agencies were on-site to provide information on services ranging from health and wellness, legal services, transportation, senior living options and more. The event was a huge success with over 200 community members attending.



2023 Senior Resource Fair



### TEEN PROGRAMS

Staff hosted an outreach table at Lake Washington School District's Back-to-School Block Party at the end of August, reaching over 300 teens and tweens to let them know about upcoming teen programs. Our Teen Team has been working out the logistics of transforming PKCC into an Escape Room for October 6, 2023 and a Murder Mystery night on October 27, 2023. For pictures, videos, and information about Kirkland Teen Programs visit [WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/TEENPROGRAMS](http://WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/TEENPROGRAMS).

### UPCOMING TEEN PROGRAMS

Date/Time	Event	Location
October 6, 6 PM – 9 PM	Teen Night Extravaganza: Escape Room	Peter Kirk Community Center (PKCC)
October 14, 12 PM – 5 PM	Teens Takeover: Maris' Maize Maze	Meet @ PKCC
October 16, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Teens Creating Crafty Conundrums: Art with Bobby	PKCC
October 21, 12 PM – 2 PM	Teen Simple Eats with Karen	McAuliffe Park Atrium Building
October 27, 6 PM – 9 PM	Teen Night Extravaganzas: Murder Mystery Edition	PKCC

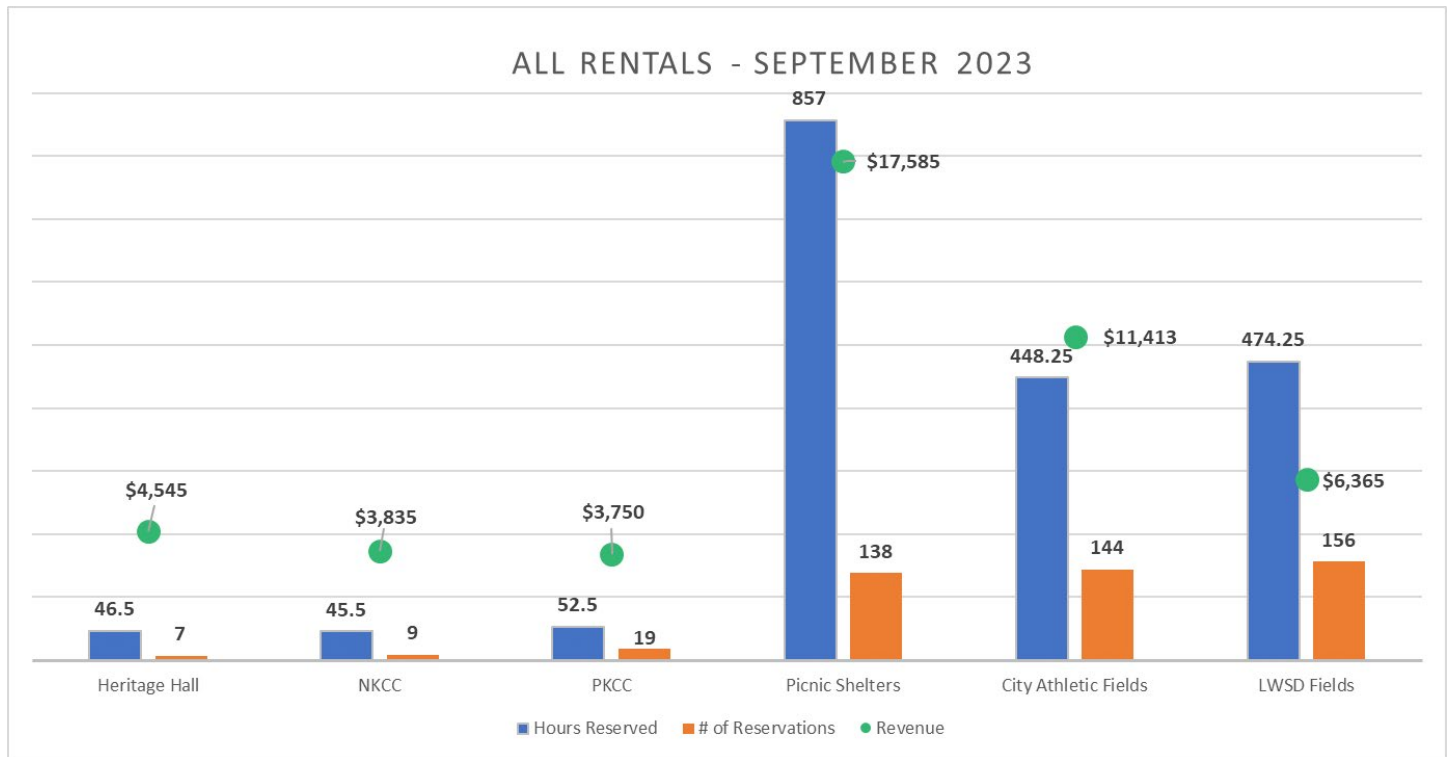
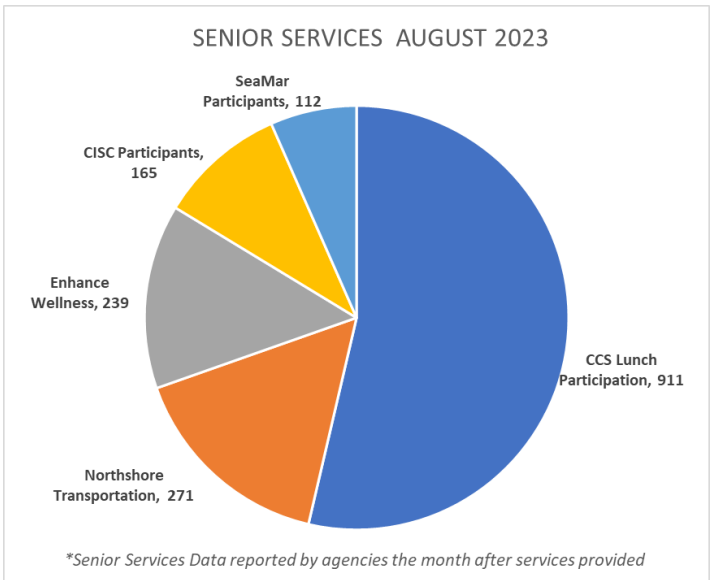
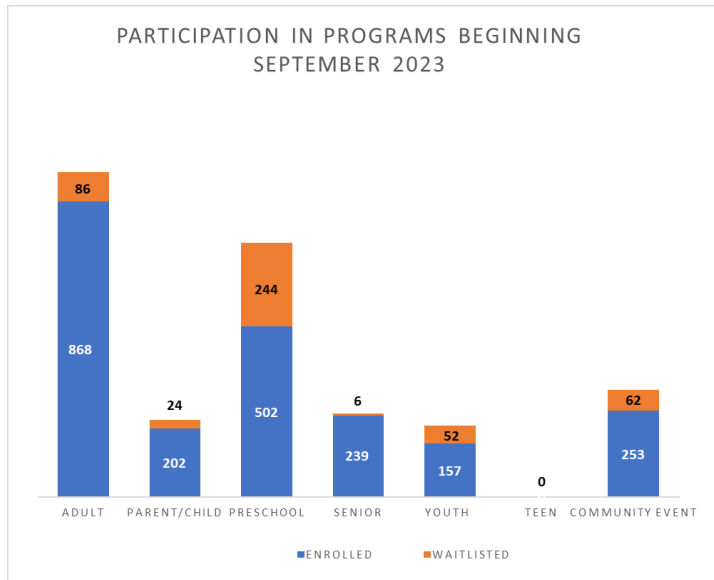
### BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMMING RETURNS

North Kirkland Community Center (NKCC) kicked off a full slate of recreation programs and activities for preschoolers and youth this month including pee wee soccer, art classes, Boogie and Books, ballet, cooking for preschoolers, tumbling, ukulele, Kids in Motion, hip hop dance, musical theater, tickle toes, run club, after school sports, and our outdoor Periwinkle Preschool. Preparations are underway for the Pee Wee Monster Bash event on Friday, October 27 featuring fun seasonal activities for Kirkland preschoolers.



NKCC also has a full roster of adult programs and classes including softball, small goal soccer, volleyball, cardio exercise, jam out dance, kendo, tap happy, pound fit, barre, walking soccer and rock steady boxing. During the first week of September select fitness classes and programs were offered for free to let community members try out new classes.

## 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 permits can be found at [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS](http://KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SPECIALEVENTS).



### KIRKLAND WEDNESDAY MARKET

The Kirkland Downtown Association wrapped up its annual farmers market after a seventeen-week run at Marina Park. The summer market hosted fifty-three vendors and featured live music, non-profit community booths, and special themed days that highlighted youth business operators and pet vendors.



Kirkland Wednesday Market

### MABON FESTIVAL

The Pacific Northwest Witches' Market returned to Juanita Beach Park on Sunday, September 17, to celebrate the Mabon Festival. Mabon is one of the eight holidays observed in the Wheel of the Year. An estimated 3,000 attendees enjoyed engaging with witches, mystics, merchants, artists, body workers, healers, spiritual counselors, Tarot card readings, Astrology, Reiki and much more.

### OKTOBERFEST

The Chump Change Foundation hosted its annual three-day festival celebrating German heritage at Marina Park, September 22-24. The event featured Bavarian food and games, Oom-pah music, the 10th annual Great Kirkland Oktoberfest Wiener Dog Races, and lots of fun and laughs. More than 6,000 people attended the event which supports the Chump Change Foundation and other Eastside nonprofits.



Kirkland Oktoberfest 2023

### JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET



The city-operated farmers market wrapped up this month after a successful 18-week run at Juanita Beach Park. Staff strived to provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming community gathering space for all people. The market hosted 47 vendors, of which 15 businesses were owned and operated by women, one was LGBTQ+ owned and operated, three were BIPOC owned and operated, and 28 were family-owned. In all, more than 14 countries were represented through food, drink, artisan crafts, and more. Learn more at:

[WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET](http://WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/JUANITAFRIDAYMARKET).



2023 Juanita Friday Market Team

### UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	MORE INFO
October 21 7:00 AM - Noon	Lake Washington Half	Juanita Beach Park	<a href="http://ORCARUNNING.COM/LAKE-WASHINGTON-HALF/">ORCARUNNING.COM/LAKE-WASHINGTON-HALF/</a>
October 28 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Pumpkins in the Park	Marina Park	<a href="http://KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG">KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG</a>
October 29 Noon - 8:30 PM	Samhain Celebration	Juanita Beach Park	<a href="http://WWW.PNWWITCHESMARKET.COM">WWW.PNWWITCHESMARKET.COM</a>