

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – OCTOBER 2023



Kirkland Parks and Community Services hosted a cornucopia of community events in October including park restoration work parties, Harvest Festival, and Día de los Muertos. We also collaborated with the Planning and Building Department on Kirkland Forest Day which was held on October 22 at 132nd Square Park.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Third Annual Harvest Festival returned to Juanita Beach Park on October 7, 2023. Under clear skies, an estimated 5,000 people came out to enjoy live music, shopping, yummy eats, and entertainment. The Kids Korral provided pony rides, seasonal crafts, and pumpkin bowling. A cornhole tournament was added this year along with a visit from our friend Gwendolyn, the blonde jersey cow. Thanks to all the community support and sponsorships from Amazon, Google, Neal Smiles Orthodontics, Sailhouse Apartments, Studio East, Sparrow Restaurant, Hollywood Baked Goods, Dué Cocina, Fena Flowers, Kitanda Espresso & Açai, Nederland Farms, Skipley Farm, Craven Farm, and QFC.



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Over 400 people attended our second annual Día de los Muertos event on Saturday, October 28 at the Peter Kirk Community Center. People of all ages, from young children to seniors, and whole families came together to enjoy the festivities. Entertainment included a story telling by a community member wearing an authentic Catrina outfit and a local flamenco dancer who did a mesmerizing 20-minute performance. The event also included a history wall featuring photos and images from Día de los Muertos celebrations around the world, giving attendees a glimpse into the rich traditions and customs associated with this holiday.



The centerpiece of the event was an ofrenda or altar adorned with marigolds, candles, and food, along with statues and frames displaying photos of loved ones. Attendees also received authentic candy and sugar skull stickers and had the chance to participate in various craft projects, including papermaking, flower arrangements, mini altar boxes, sugar skull scratch art, and coloring projects.

Of course, no celebration is complete without delicious food! Attendees had the opportunity to sample authentic pan de muertos, a sweet or savory bread, and enjoy refreshing mango fresca. Thanks to Cafecito Bakery for providing the food and sponsorship of the event. Overall, our Día de los Muertos event successfully brought the community together, fostered understanding and appreciation for this cultural celebration, and provided a day of joy and remembrance for all who attended.



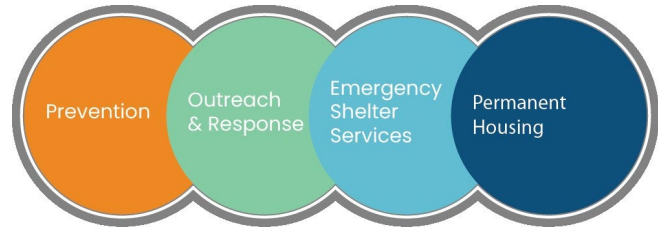
HUMAN SERVICES

YOUTH COUNCIL RECRUITMENT

The Youth Council held its annual new member recruitment process in September. Fifty-seven applications were received from youth representing 13 different schools. During October, the KYC Leadership Team interviewed 28 candidates and selected 15 new members. The current membership of 34 teens is looking forward to a busy and successful 2023-24 year with plans to host a youth summit in the spring, We've Got Issues video production, service projects, Youth Traffic Court, and more!

COORDINATED RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

Staff participated in a Kirkland Homelessness Response Symposium which was intended to educate and engage City staff whose roles intersect with homelessness work. The symposium was the kick-off for the newly formed Homeless Assistance and Response Team, or HART Team, who will work collaboratively to engage and support community members experiencing homelessness. The HART Team is one part of a continuum of care the City has invested in to provide a coordinated response to homelessness. For more information on the continuum of care and to learn more about members of the HART Team, visit WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/HOMELESSNESS.



EASTSIDE HUMAN SERVICES FORUM PRESENTATION

The Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) hosted a virtual panel education event on October 19, 2023 covering *Improving Cashflow & Staff Retention in Eastside Human Services Agencies*. Regi Schubiger represented the City on the virtual panel alongside three other panelists from local agencies. The panel discussion explored how public funders and service providers are working together to ensure sustainable implementation of human services and shared their experiences working together using alternative payment models to make funding more accessible. For more information about EHSF, visit WWW.EASTSIDEFORUM.ORG.

2025-2026 HUMAN SERVICES GRANT FUNDING CYCLE PREPARATIONS

The Human Services Funding Collaborative has started working on 2025-2026 grant cycle. Made up of 16 North, East, and South King County cities, the Collaborative works together to provide a more streamlined process for King County agencies to apply for human services funding through the online application portal, Share1app. The Share1app portal is set to open on March 4, 2024, and close on April 8, 2024. The Collaborative held two information sessions in October to focus on reaching small organizations who may be applying to grant funding for the first time and who were interested in learning more about the process. The first session was held in Renton and the second was hosted by the City of Redmond. Kirkland staff were present to share information on the process and answer any questions. For more information on the Human Services Collaborative and the Share1app process, please visit WWW.REDMOND.GOV/999/SHARE-1-APP.

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT: CHINESE INFORMATION AND SERVICE CENTER

Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) is a nonprofit organization working to support immigrants and their families by creating opportunities for them to succeed, while honoring their heritage. The team of bilingual staff provides linguistically and culturally appropriate information, referral, advocacy, social, and support services to the Chinese immigrant community as well as immigrants from Eastern Europe, Latin America, and other parts of Asia. CISC programming includes early childhood education, youth development, family support, senior services, adults with disabilities services, healthcare access, and civic engagement.

At the Human Services Commission's October meeting, CISC provided a presentation on its Russian Senior Day Program. The weekly day-long programming is held on Tuesdays and Fridays at the North Bellevue Community Center and aims to connect seniors to activities and programs that will promote health, social connections, well-being, and quality of life. Learn more about this program and others at CISC-SEATTLE.ORG.

ADMINISTRATION

2023 PROPOSITION 1

An informational fact sheet for Proposition 1 was mailed to all Kirkland residential addresses on October 6, 2023. Staff provided three informational presentations to local community groups and three public informational open houses during October. Learn more about Proposition 1 on the website: [KIRKLANDWA.GOV/PARKSBALLOT](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/parksballot).

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 remaining slide and play hill turf will be installed by the end of the year.

Background of the Project: 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. The park opened on July 15, 2023.

DORIS COOPER HOUGHTON BEACH PARK & EVEREST PARK RESTROOM REPLACEMENTS

The restroom building at Houghton Park is planned for replacement. During the scoping process, staff identified opportunities to analyze the building's current location and potential for programmatic improvements. Staff is finalizing a scope of work with a consultant to develop preliminary 10% design options and costing for further consideration.

The restroom building at Everest Park is planned for replacement in 2024 due to its age and condition. Staff is finalizing a scope of work for this project and contracting professional services.

Background of the Project: This capital project repairs or replaces park restrooms in the system. Restrooms at Houghton and Everest Restrooms have been identified for replacement due to their age and condition.

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 Spring 2024 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.

JUANITA BEACH PARK

The western portion of the Juanita Beach Park parking lot was resurfaced during October as part of the City's Annual Street Preservation Program. Work is in progress to complete ADA improvements in the bathhouse restrooms.

Background of the Project: Juanita Beach Bathhouse was replaced in December 2020.

TOTEM LAKE PARK

Progress was made on the installation of three shade sails which will provide shade in the playground area during hot summer days.

Background of the Project: In July 2021 the City opened Totem Lake Park as its newest neighborhood park.

PARK MANAGEMENT

IT'S PLANTING SEASON IN PARKS!

It's perfect planting weather with mild temperatures, steady rains, and frequent sun breaks. See the [PARKS MANAGEMENT DETAIL REPORTS](#) for breakdown of tasks and locations. Here are monthly highlights from our four crews:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Removed leaves at all sport field and court locations.
- Implemented burial and internment services at the cemetery.
- Winterized irrigation systems at all sport field locations.
- Repaired the turf at Peter Kirk Park following tree removals.
- Pumped out puddles and put down Turface on sport fields for late season practices.

HORTICULTURE

- Partnered with the Support team to significantly improve access to the lower borrow pit at Watershed.
- Tracked down equipment for annual audit of assets.
- Inspected and removed trees and branches of concern at JU1, Juanita Bay Park, and Peter Kirk Park.
- Treated knotweed, a noxious weed required for control, at multiple locations.
- Pruned trees at Juanita Beach Park and Rose Hill Meadows.
- Planted trees at Edith Moulton, Everest, Forbes Creek, and Van Aalst parks.

NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Secured more than \$92,000 in grant funding from King County to improve habitat along Juanita Creek.
- Provided tools and plants for dozens of Steward-led volunteer events.
- Add wood chips to the Edith Moulton dog park.
- Treated knotweed, a noxious weed required for control, at multiple locations.
- Received thousands of plants for fall installations, organized and delivered them to projects.

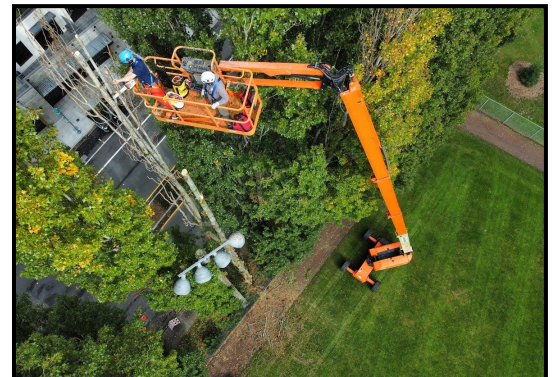
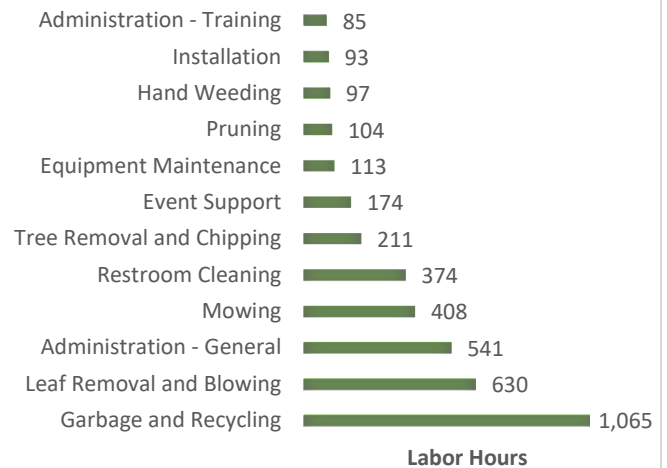
SUPPORT

- Partnered with the Horticulture team to significantly improve access to the lower borrow pit at Watershed.
- Winterized fountains and bathrooms at all locations.
- Replaced damaged swings at OO Denny Park and worn-out bucket swing at Van Aalst Park.
- Removed leaves and cleaned gutters on roofs at Peter Kirk Park.
- Replaced broken window on the guard shack at Peter Kirk Pool.
- Added chips to playgrounds at Josten, North Rose Hill Woodlands, Reservoir, and OO Denny parks.
- Repaired protrusion hazard on blue car at Tot Lot Park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- There are more than five public volunteer restoration events scheduled in November. More information can be found at WWW.GREENKIRKLAND.ORG. We hope to see you there.

OCTOBER TOP 12 TASKS



Poplar removal at Peter Kirk Park



A newly planted tree at Juanita Beach Park

RECREATION SERVICES

KIRKLAND SENIOR COUNCIL

Recruitment for five new members for the Kirkland Senior Council took place during October. City Council established the Senior Council in 2002 to ensure Kirkland is a safe, vibrant community for residents ages 50 and older. The Senior Council meets monthly as a group and members also meet through committees to identify the concerns of Kirkland's adults aged 50 and over, to advocate for their needs and to create programs that advance their well-being.

After a year-long effort, the Kirkland Senior Council has updated and printed the third edition of the East King County Resource Guide for Older Adults. This guide covers a myriad of resources and information for older adults as well as their families. The Senior Council is actively distributing the guide throughout the eastside. Copies of the guide can be requested by emailing resourceguide@kirklandwa.gov or downloaded from the Senior Council website: WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/SENIORCOUNCIL

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Registration for the Kirkland Youth Basketball program is ongoing. This league for grades 3-6, allows youth to learn the importance of good sportsmanship and fair play in competition. Volunteer coaches are a crucial part of the league's success. Coach recruitment is also in full swing. To learn more visit WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/VOLUNTEER. The Kirkland Youth Basketball league provides all players the opportunity to create friendships, learn new skills, understand the rules of the game, and have FUN!



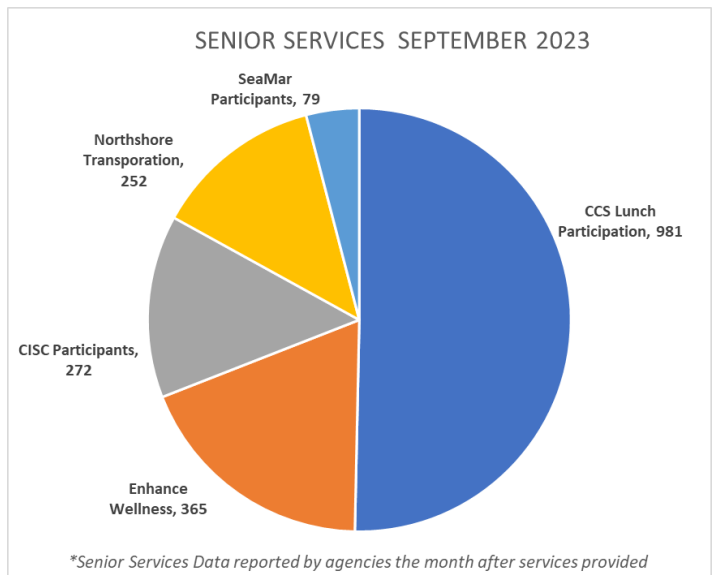
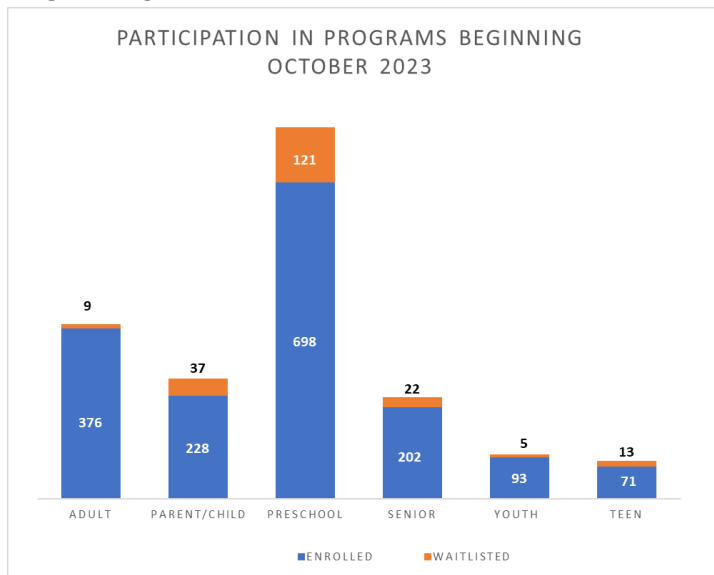
KIRKLAND TEENS

Lunchtime outreach at Juanita and Lake Washington high schools created a plethora of student connections and helped increase participation in teen programs. Staff kicked off the month by transforming PKCC into four different escape rooms and provided a no-cost, safe and inclusive place for 44 teens aged 12-19. Each individual escape room involved 8-10 teens at a time, working together to solve puzzles and escape a minimum of two different rooms in three hours. The month ended with a Murder Mystery Night with 35 eager registrants ready to solve the mystery. See photos and videos of past events at WWW.KIRKLANDWA.GOV/TEENPROGRAMS.

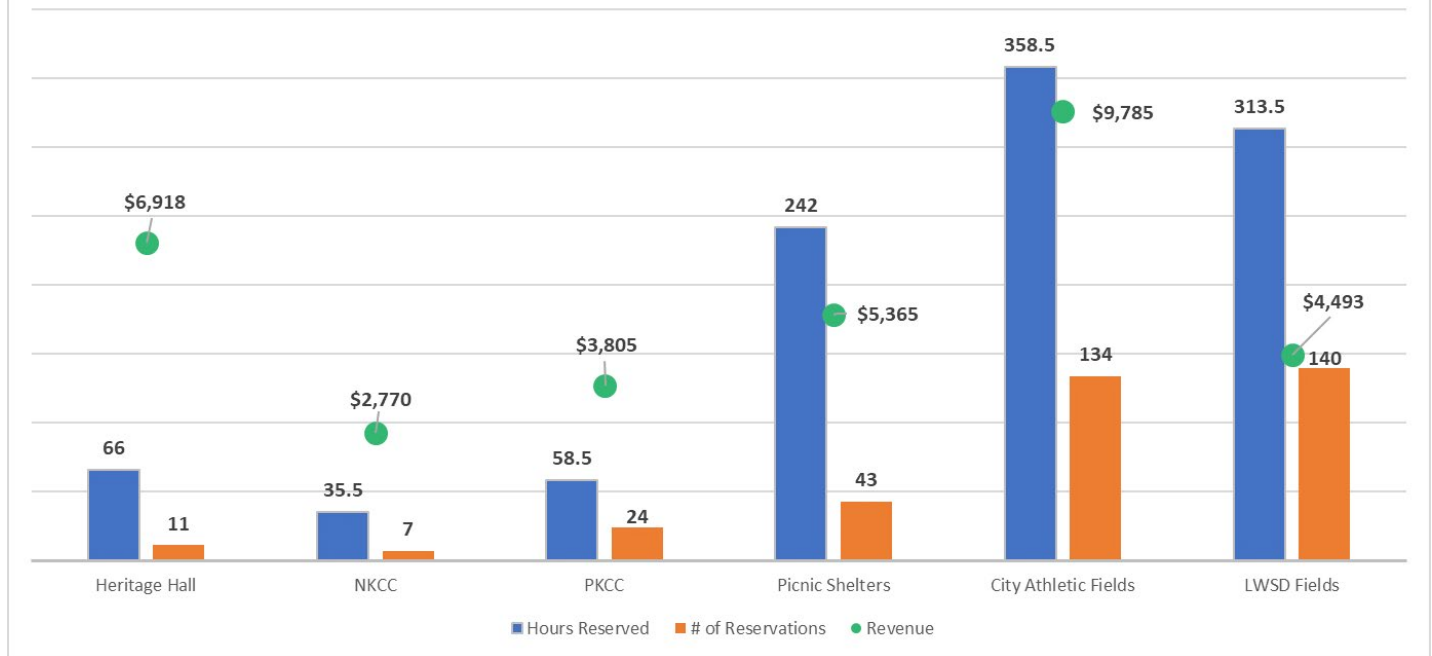
PEE WEE HOOPS

Pee Wee Basketball returned for another season at Finn Hill Middle School. Over 160 youth are registered and ready to dribble, shoot and score. The league is focused on fun, participation, and socialization with two divisions for ages 3-4 and ages 5-6.

RECREATION DATA



ALL RENTALS - OCTOBER 2023



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.



EXPRESSIVE EVENT

An expressive event permit was issued to The Borgen Project in October. The non-profit's free speech display, which included chalk drawings containing messages about global poverty, was installed on public sidewalks in the Market and Moss Bay neighborhoods.

LAKE WASHINGTON HALF MARATHON

Orca Running hosted their second running event at Juanita Beach Park this year. More than 800 runners registered for the Lake Washington Half Marathon which took place on October 21. The 13.1-mile course took runners south along the waterfront then back north on the Cross Kirkland Corridor winding them through eight beautiful Kirkland neighborhoods.



Lake Washington Half Marathon finish line



2023 Pumpkins in the Park event

PUMPKINS IN THE PARK

Families with kids of all ages enjoyed the KDA's annual harvest festival style event at Marina Park on October 28. Little ones dressed up for an afternoon of games, trick-or-treating, pony rides, live music, pumpkin carving competitions and more.

SAMHAIN CELEBRATION

The PNW Witches' Market welcomed more than 3,000 people to their last event of the year at Juanita Beach Park. Samhain took place on October 29 and was a celebration of the changing seasons and transition between worlds. More than 90 merchants, vendors, and spiritual counselors participated in the event which concluded with a bonfire on the beach.

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

The City of Kirkland encourages residents to organize block parties where they can meet their neighbors, celebrate special days together, and build community connections. Two block parties celebrating Halloween were held in October, hosted by families residing in the Finn Hill neighborhood. Learn more about block party permits at: www.kirklandwa.gov/specialevents.



2023 PNW Witches' Market on October 29, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	MORE INFO
December 1	Google Lights	Feriton Spur Park	KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG
December 2	Kirkland Winterfest	Marina Park	KIRKLANDDOWNTOWN.ORG
December 7	Grand Menorah Lighting	Marina Park	WWW.JEWISHKIRKLAND.COM
December 10	12K's of Christmas	Marina Park	SRC12KSOFCHRISTMAS.COM