

KIRKLAND PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – DECEMBER 2023



FUN AND REWARDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – COMING TO A PARK NEAR YOU!

We hear it time and again, “Kirkland LOVES its parks!”. And, yes, Kirkland Parks Management LOVES the community it serves and those who use Kirkland’s parks.

The Green Kirkland Partnership has shown over the past sixteen years that when we bring the community and parks together magic happens! So we’re thrilled to announce we’re making more magic in 2024 with the launch of a new volunteer initiative called the Park Beautification Program.

The Park Beautification Program will provide opportunities for individuals, families, and groups to volunteer in their favorite parks throughout the year weeding flower beds, planting perennial flowers, cleaning educational signage, raking beaches, picking up litter, and finding ways to team up with Parks Management staff to make Kirkland’s parks even more beautiful, welcoming, inclusive and fun.

Volunteer opportunities will be generated by staff identifying needed areas of help in caring for Kirkland’s parks, as well as by groups of volunteers who have a particular place they’d like to serve. Scheduled volunteer events will be listed on the [CITY OF KIRKLAND WEBSITE](#) and [PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FACEBOOK PAGE](#). Community members can subscribe to the [PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CITY VOLUNTEER EMAIL NEWSLETTERS](#) for updates on this new program.

Groups of five or more that don’t find a pre-scheduled event that works for them are encouraged to contact Parks Coordinator Kevin Ball at KBALL@KIRKLANDWA.GOV to create a unique volunteer opportunity that works for their team and Parks staff. If your group has so much fun that they would like to come back regularly, enroll your team in Kirkland’s Adopt-a-Park program.

Scheduled volunteer events will begin on Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2024, because big hearts and beautiful parks go together. Come join us in making Kirkland Parks the best they can be!



ADMINISTRATION



NEW PARK ADDED

In September 2023, Kirkland City Council approved the purchase of property at 212 6th Street South from the Estate of James G. Fisk, adjacent to the Cross Kirkland Corridor Interim Trail. The new park will be named the Fisk Family Park. Parks and Community Services completed a thorough evaluation of the site and began maintenance of the new park in December 2023 with plans for moderate improvements in 2024.

HUMAN SERVICES

ESSENTIALS FIRST HOLIDAY FAIR

Human Services staff participated in a Holiday Fair on Friday, December 8 hosted by Essentials First in Bellevue. Staff shared information on City of Kirkland services while handing out ingredients for a hot drink on a cold, sunny day. More than 20 local organizations participated in the event providing information and connecting with the over 250 participants in attendance. Folks were in line well before the opening. Learn more about Essentials First and their programs on their website at www.essentialsfirst.org.



Staff at Holiday Fair

KIRKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL WRAPS UP THE YEAR

The Kirkland Youth Council (KYC) had a busy December with members participating in two holiday staples in the City of Kirkland. The KYC-hosted Holly-Day Brunch returned on Saturday, December 9 after a three-year pause due to the pandemic. KYC members served a meal they prepared, provided entertainment for, and connected with older community members over age 55 at the Peter Kirk Community Center. KYC youth were back to work the next morning, volunteering at the 12Ks of Kirkland Run on Sunday, December 10 by staffing the hydration station.



Youth Council members at Holly-Day Brunch 2023

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

With the slide and new turf installed, the project is now complete. Staff are working on close-out procedures. *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. Construction started in June 2021 and the park was opened in July 2023.



132nd Square Park

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 in Spring 2024 to design the playground and connect accessible pathways. *Background of the Project:* 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 REPLACEMENT

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 has contracted with a consultant to develop preliminary 10% design options and costing for further consideration. A kick-off meeting is planned for January. The restroom building at Everest Park is also planned for replacement in 2024 due to its age and condition. Staff has contracted with a consultant to develop design and construction drawings. *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.

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 of the Project:* 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 MANAGEMENT

DECEMBER IN THE PARKS

This December has been relatively warm and wet, bringing late leaf fall and VERY early weed growth so we've spent a lot of time trying to keep up with the plants. Staff began maintenance of the new Fisk Family Park this month and removed a large dying maple tree for the safety of the community. See the [PARKS MANAGEMENT DETAIL REPORTS](#) for a breakdown of tasks and locations. Here are monthly highlights from our four crews:

BALLFIELDS/CEMETERY

- Cleared blackberry bushes around the basketball court at Terrace Park
- Weeded the parking lot beds and tree rings at Everest and Crestwoods parks
- Implemented several burial services at the cemetery
- Prepped Marina Park and Juanita Beach for bonfires

HORTICULTURE

- Inspected fire damage to trees at Kiwanis Park
- Searched for property line markers on the east end of Juanita Bay Park
- Weeded the flower beds by the archway and sign at Heritage Park
- Removed blackberry along the beach and from the northeast corner of Marsh Park
- Removed large hanging branch from sweet gum tree on the south side of Houghton Neighborhood Park
- Planted six trees at Everest and five trees at Forbes Creek parks

DECEMBER TOP 12 TASKS



Tree work at Fisk Family Park

NATURAL AREAS/GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

- Spread wood chips at Edith Moulton Park
- Removed overgrown *Rosa rugosa* from parking lot beds at Juanita Beach and seeded with native wildflowers
- Repaired fence at Juanita Beach dog park
- Cleared multiple downed trees from Watershed Park
- Planted 100 native shrubs and groundcovers and treated invasive trees along the creek at Everest Park
- Pruned the boardwalk along the causeway and trails at Juanita Bay Park



Dying tree at Fisk Family Park

SUPPORT

- Added drainage hole to underside of race car bouncer at Houghton Neighborhood Park
- Inspected playgrounds at Juanita Beach, OO Denny, Waverly Beach, Rose Hill Meadows, Houghton Beach, Carillon Woods, McAuliffe, Peter Kirk, Heritage, Terrace, and Totem Lake parks
- Repaired the restroom door lock and tandem swing at Juanita Beach Park
- Removed benches at Peter Kirk Pool and stored them in locker rooms for the winter
- Repaired table at Marina Park
- Removed old partitions at Peter Kirk Pool and prepped new partitions for installation

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Green Kirkland Partnership is hosting two volunteer events on January 15, 2024 in honor of MLK Jr. Day of Service
- More information can be found at WWW.GREENKIRKLAND.ORG. We hope to see you there.

RECREATION SERVICES

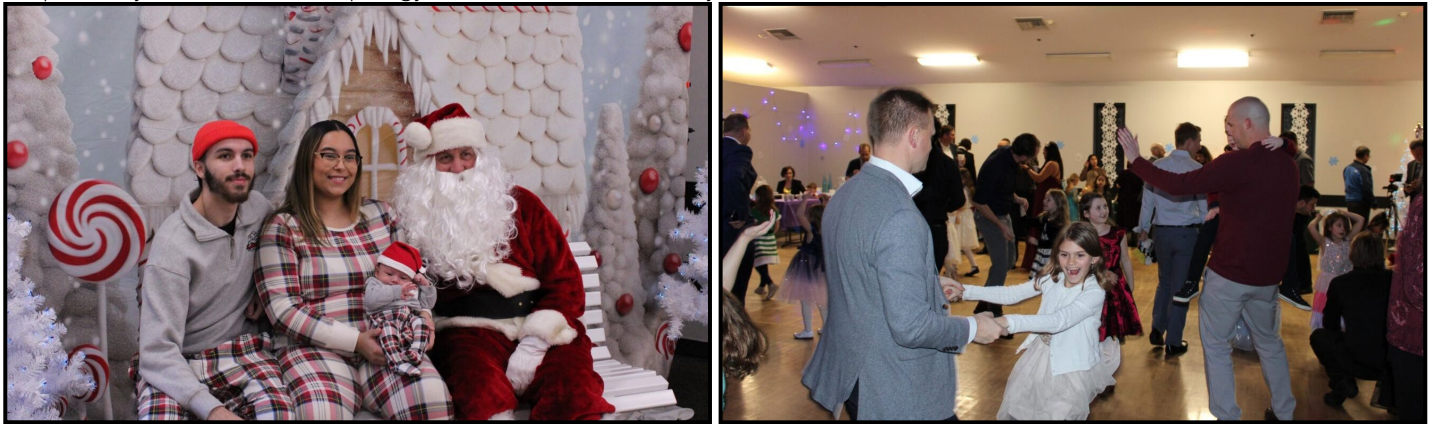
HAPPY HOLIDAYS AT PKCC

The holiday celebrations at PKCC continued in December. There were four holiday-themed events for seniors, starting with a fabulous brunch prepared by the Kirkland Youth Council on December 9. Next up on December 12 was Holiday with the Hawks, where over 70 seniors were able to meet some of the Seahawk Legends, hear stories, and ask questions about the past, present, and future of the Seahawks. Next, the Community Dining Program served a traditional ham holiday meal complete with apple pie and ice cream. The grand finale for the month was the annual Holiday D'Lights on December 21 attended by close to 100 seniors who enjoyed musical entertainment from "Elvis" and "Ann- Margaret" followed by a delicious lunch provided by the Kirkland Aegis properties. Over 300 seniors from our community were able to attend at least one of these events.



WINTER WONDERLAND AT NKCC

The NKCC building was turned into a winter wonderland during the month of December. There were two holiday-themed events for youth and their families. On December 8, over 90 children and their guardians were dancing the night away at the Snowflake Ball. On December 16, the North Pole came to NKCC! Santa brought his favorite cereals and milks so that over 120 youth and their families could enjoy breakfast with Santa and his pals. The fun continued when school let out and youth enjoyed winter break camps run by Mad Science, Snapology, and Northwest University.

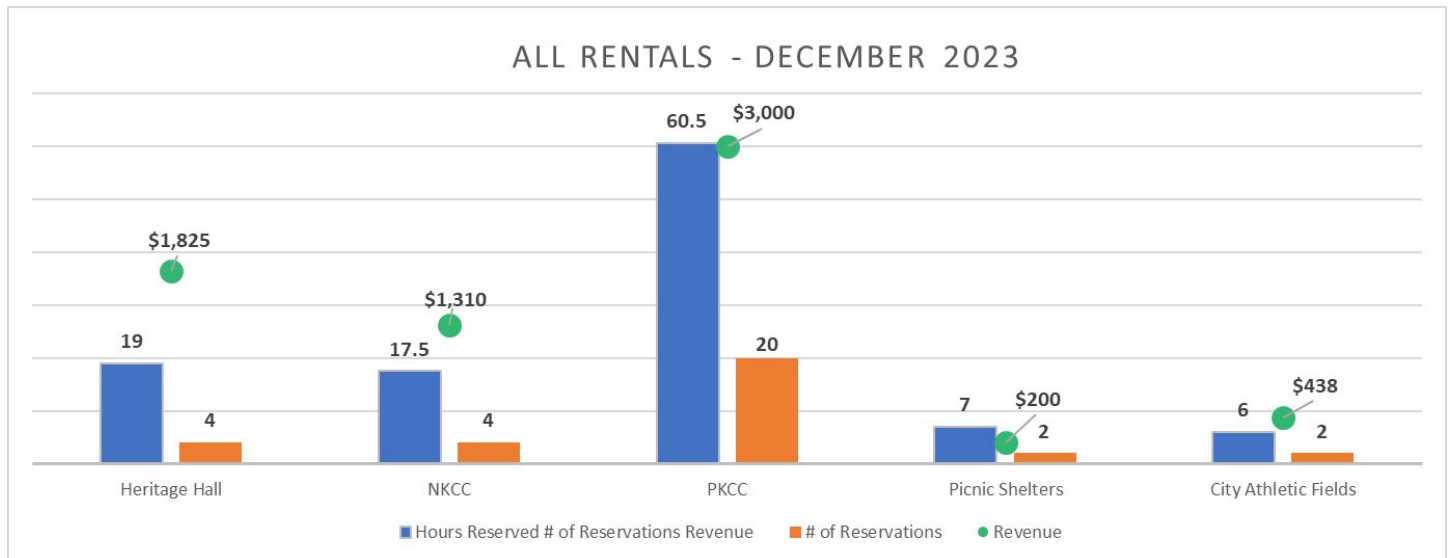
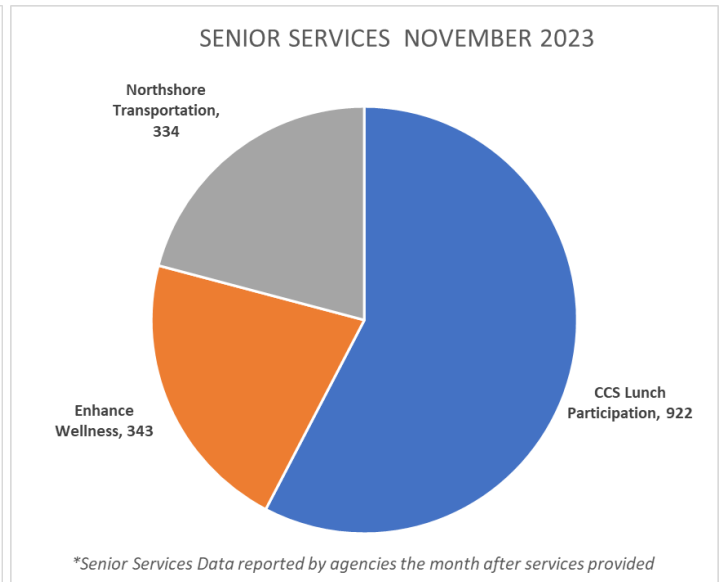
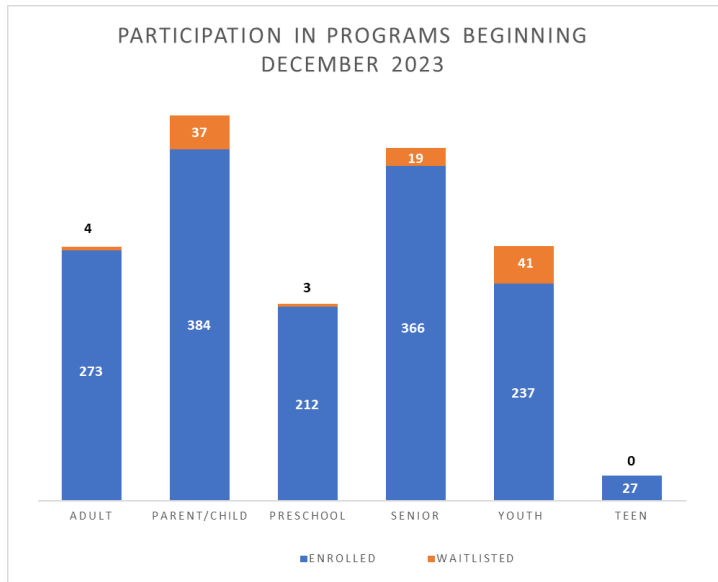


TEENS CREATING CORE MEMORIES

December began with a free Holiday Movie Night for 27 teens and tweens including a hot cocoa bar and apple dipping station. Teens also enjoyed an art workshop where they added patches, screen prints, and other designs to upcycle and repurpose their old clothes. On the second day of LWSD's winter break, we loaded up the van and drove five teens to Leavenworth. This was their first "teen program," with four schools represented. Watch videos of past adventures [ON THE TEEN PROGRAMS WEB 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, 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](https://kirklandwa.gov/specialevents).



GOOGLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Feriton Spur Park twinkled to life on December 1 as Kirkland City Councilmembers flipped the ceremonial switch at the kick-off for SRM Development's annual holiday light display. Hundreds of community members enjoyed an evening of free hot cocoa and cookies, meeting their first Wallaby and other animals in the petting zoo, listening to holiday tunes provided by the Google Carolers, and of course the amazing, synchronized custom-programmed holiday music and light show. The light show runs nightly from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. through January 7.

KIRKLAND WINTERFEST

The Kirkland Downtown Association welcomed around three hundred community members to the annual holiday tree lighting at Marina Park on December 2. The chilly night air filled with the scent of tasty holiday treats, delicious hot cocoa, and joyful tunes provided by local students. Against the background of a clear sky and calm glistening waters, the pretty twinkle lights and tree lighting brought oohs and ahhs from the crowd.



Winterfest tree lighting



Grand Menorah lighting

GRAND MENORAH LIGHTING

Chabad of Kirkland hosted the annual Grand Menorah Lighting on December 7 at Marina Park. The small gathering of around one hundred community members enjoyed a festive juggler on stilts, songs of faith and remembrance, and speeches by Rabbi Rivkin and Mayor Penny Sweet before the lighting of the menorah. The menorah will remain on display at Marina Park until January 2.

12KS OF CHRISTMAS

Sixteen hundred people jingled all the way through Kirkland during the annual 12Ks of Christmas run/walk. Snohomish Running Company hosted the annual event on December 10 at Marina Park. Festivities included 12K, 5K, and Kids Dash courses. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful dry winter morning, vendor stalls, festive costumes, and lots of fun photo ops at the selfie station.



12ks of Christmas participants

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	MORE INFO
Sunday, March 17	Sham Rock Run	Juanita Beach Park	SNOHOMISHRUNNING.COM
Sunday, March 24	Nowruz Celebration	Marina Park	WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ISOWS/
Sunday, March 31	Easter Egg Hunt	Peter Kirk Park	K03048.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG/EASTER-EGG-HUNT/