



CITY OF KIRKLAND
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Jim Lopez, Deputy City Manager
Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager
Daniel Lazo, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator

Date: March 23, 2026

Subject: **2026 Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP) Recommended Projects**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council provides direction on the final Neighborhood Safety Program projects for 2026. Staff will bring the final list to the May 19 Council meeting for approval.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Since 2014, the City has partnered with neighborhood associations on the City's Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP) to implement capital improvement projects focused on transportation safety through a collaborative, equitable evaluation process. Since the program's inception, 88 projects have been completed.
- For the 2026 cycle, staff received 12 project applications from 10 neighborhood associations, reviewed each project's technical safety, and narrowed down the top priorities with Neighborhood Project Coordinators to present recommendations to Council.
- Staff asks Council to consider the recommended nine NSP projects for 2026, presenting three options.
- Option 1 is to fund the seven top priority projects within the allocated budget of \$350,000.
- Option 2 is to fund a total of nine projects, per recommendation by the Neighborhood Panel, at the maximum amount of \$395,261 and direct staff to find additional money. Since 2014, the NSP's annual funding level has been set at \$350,000. To fund the total estimated cost of the nine NSP projects for 2026, an additional \$45,261 will be required.
- Option 3 is to select a different mix of projects and costs based on Council priorities.
- The cost of one priority project in the Norkirk neighborhood exceeds the \$75,000 per project limit.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, the City Council authorized the Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP) to help re-energize Neighborhood Associations by empowering them to work collaboratively to identify, prioritize, and address pedestrian and bicycle safety issues in Kirkland neighborhoods. At that time, neighborhood leaders worked with City staff to develop and implement the Pilot NSP. Since 2014, 88 projects have been completed as shown in Attachment 1.

The goals of NSP are to:

- Provide incentives for neighborhood participation;
- Address safety needs;
- Foster neighborhood self-help and build a sense of community;
- Increase collaboration within a neighborhood, between neighborhoods, and with City government;
- Collaborate with businesses, schools, Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA's), and other organizations; and
- Create an equitable distribution of improvements throughout the City.

Funding for NSP

Since 2014, the NSP's annual funding level has been set at \$350,000. However, in almost every year of the program, the Council has allocated additional dollars beyond \$350,000. To maintain this base funding level of \$350,000, as part of the 2025-2030 Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) Adoption¹, Council approved using \$200,000 per year of ongoing School Zone Safety Camera revenue with the remaining \$150,000 per year from 2012 Street Levy funding.

The nine neighborhood-panel-recommended 2026 projects have an estimated cost of \$395,261. To fund the total estimated cost of the nine NSP projects for 2026, an additional \$45,261 is needed.

The nine neighborhood-panel-recommended projects are:

1. **North Rose Hill Neighborhood (NRH-1):** 3 Speed Cushions along NE 100th Street (between 124th Ave NE and 132nd Ave NE) Cost: \$58,377
2. **Market Neighborhood (WM-1):** Intersection Striping at the Intersection of 16th Ave W and 6th St W Cost: \$10,165
3. **Highlands Neighborhood Priority #1 (HL-1):** Pavement Markings and Warning Signs on the Dogleg S-Curve of 116th Ave NE and NE 96th St Cost: \$12,078
4. **Evergreen Hill Neighborhood (EH-1):** Shoulder Striping and Traverse Pavement Markings on NE 140th St next to Robert Frost Elementary Cost: \$9,461
5. **South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails Neighborhood Priority #2 (SRHBT-2):** Restripe Bike Lanes on 132nd Ave at the Intersection of 132nd Ave and NE 70th Pl/Old Redmond Rd Cost: \$51,810
6. **Norkirk Neighborhood (NK-1):** Marked Crosswalk across 15th Ave at the Intersection of 15th Ave and 4th St and accompanying curb ramp improvements Cost: \$128,125
7. **Finn Hill Neighborhood (FH-1):** Paint & Post Traffic Circle at 77th Ave NE and NE 143rd St Cost: \$20,230

¹ <https://kirkland.municipal.codes/enactments/Res5663>

8. **Moss Bay Neighborhood (MB-1):** Marked Crosswalk at 7th Ave S and State St (East of State St going North to South) Cost: \$71,280
9. **Everest Neighborhood (EV-1):** Stamped Concrete Traffic Island at the Intersection of Kirkland Ave and Cedar St Cost: 33,735

Staff is recommending that the Council select one of three options:

1. Fund the seven top priority projects (total cost at \$290,246) within the allocated budget of \$350,000.
2. Fund a total of nine projects at \$395,261.
3. Fund a different mix of projects and costs to maximize the investment but remain within the \$350,000 budget. For example,
 - a. Fund 8 of the projects, but not fund the **South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails Neighborhood Priority #2 (SRHBT-2)** costing \$51,810.
 - b. Fund 7 of the projects, but not fund the **Finn Hill Neighborhood (FH-1):** Paint & Post Traffic Circle at 77th Ave NE and NE 143rd St at a cost of \$20,230 or the **Everest Neighborhood (EV-1):** Stamped Concrete Traffic Island at the Intersection of Kirkland Ave and Cedar St at a cost of \$33,735

2026 NSP Timeline

- **NSP Kick-Off Meeting:** October 28, 2025
- **Project Idea Due:** December 1, 2025
- **Project Conferences:** February 11-12, 2026
- **Applications Due:** March 2, 2026
- **Staff Technical Evaluation:** March 5, 2026
- **Neighborhood Panel Team Meeting:** March 12, 2026
- **Neighborhood Panel Evaluation Due:** March 23, 2026
- **Transportation Commission Presentation:** March 25, 2026
- **Final Neighborhood Panel Team Meeting:** March 27, 2026
- **City Council Presentation:** May 5, 2026
- **Projects Planned to be Completed by:** 2028

Project Review and Prioritization

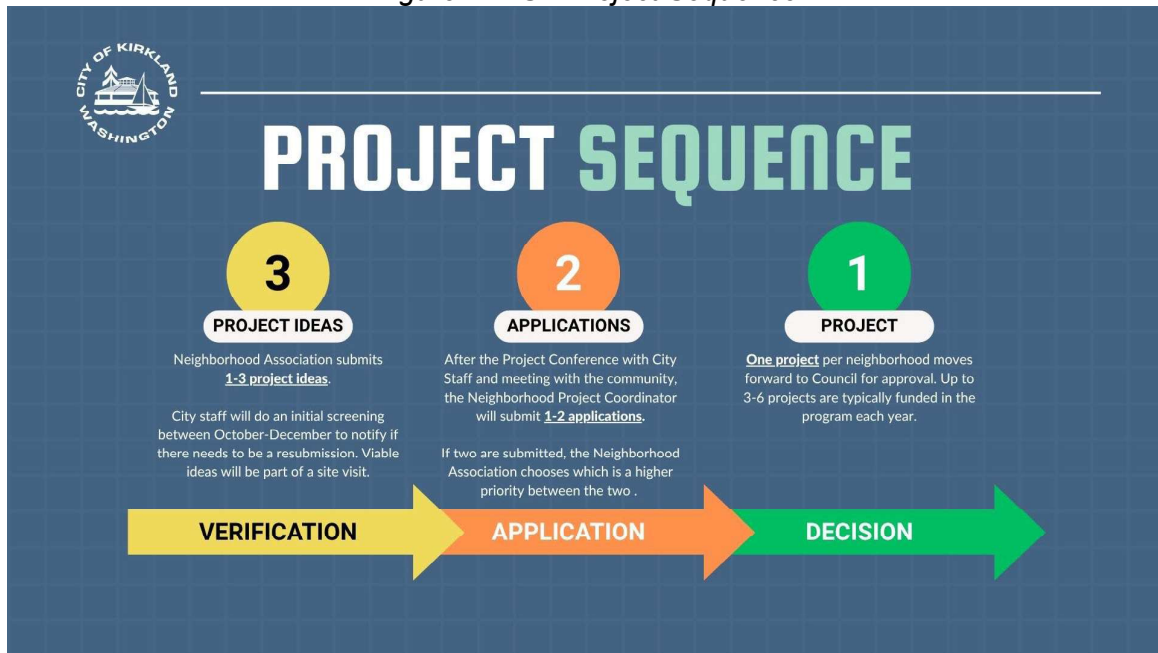
Neighborhood leaders and staff work closely each year to continuously improve the prioritization process that adheres to the Transportation Strategic Plan (TSP), updated in November 2024. The goals, policies, projects, and programs in this Plan support the City's vision for growth outlined in the Kirkland 2044 Comprehensive Plan and define the future of transportation in Kirkland for the next 20 years.

Residents can suggest a project idea via OurKirkland² all year round. These ideas are directly shared with Neighborhood Associations when the program begins in the fall. After staff and the neighborhood project coordinators initially screen the project ideas from OurKirkland, the coordinators submit the project idea for staff to further review at a site visit. After the site visits,

² <https://kirklandwa.qscend.com/ourkirkland/>

staff set up a project conference to answer questions, report findings from the site visits, refine the project scope, develop cost estimates, and suggest alternative project ideas. The official application is then made available at the project conference. See Figure 1 below for the NSP Project Sequence shared at the NSP Kick-Off Meeting.

Figure 1: NSP Project Sequence



There are two evaluation steps to select projects for the recommendation to the City Council (amassing a score of 0-200 points). The evaluation criteria used by City staff and the neighborhood panel are listed below:

1. **Technical Safety Criteria³ (0-100 points):** The City Staff Panel is made up of an interdepartmental team that evaluates the safety problem and viability of the project's solution. Staff will also assess whether the project completes a missing segment of an important transportation network, addresses a recognized safety need, is consistent with adopted plans, and meets City standards.
2. **Community Criteria⁴ (0-100 points):** The Neighborhood Association Panel is made up of elected representatives, identified as Neighborhood Project Coordinators, from active Neighborhood Associations. These panelists evaluate the neighborhood and community benefits and support of the project. They also assess if the project expands and/or strengthens the community, addresses a recognized safety need especially among vulnerable populations, and results in a lasting, positive impact for the community.

For the completion of the Community Criteria, each Neighborhood Project Coordinator presents their projects to the Neighborhood Association Panel. The presentations are posted online.⁵

³ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/neighborhood-services/nsp/nsp-technical-scoring-criteria-updated-022125.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/nsp-neighborhood-and-community-criteria.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/City-Managers-Office/NSP>

Each panelist scores every project presentation, and the average of the panelists' scores determines the overall Community Criteria score for each project.

The Technical Safety Criteria and the Community Criteria scores then are added up for each project, resulting in a final combined score. All projects then are ordered from highest to lowest by combined score, with priority placed on the highest scores. This final score is presented to the Neighborhood Association Panel to determine what will move forward to the City Council for approval.

A total of 26 project ideas were submitted for site visits and staff review. After the project conferences, neighborhood project coordinators submitted 12 applications across 10 neighborhoods. On the following page, the projects are listed in Table 1 and with a cost range in Table 2.

Three neighborhoods, Totem Lake, Juanita, and Lakeview, did not apply for funding. Totem Lake does not have an active neighborhood association. Juanita Neighborhood Association had three project ideas, but they all exceeded the NSP project limits. Note that one of the projects from Juanita Neighborhood Association was at the Pines Apartments on 116th Ave at the boundary of Totem Lake. Lakeview Neighborhood Association decided not to pursue due to time constraints, and one out of their two project ideas was outside their boundaries, located at Kirkland Middle School in the Norkirk neighborhood. For these reasons, these Neighborhood Associations decided not to move forward with their project ideas after the project conferences in early February.

Status of Prior NSP Projects

The six 2021/2023 NSP projects are complete as of September 2025.⁶ The 2024 NSP is currently in 90% design with bids going out in June 2026. The 2025 NSP is at 30% design with bids going out in Fall 2026 or Spring 2026. Attachment 1 provides a map of completed NSP projects. Attachment 2 provides a map of the upcoming 2025 NSP projects along with the locations of the recommended 2026 NSP projects.

⁶ <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/Construction-Projects/Neighborhood-Safety-Program-projects>

Table 1: NSP 2026 Project Applications ⁷

Total Points	Project Name	Estimated Cost
Top Priority Tier		
120	NRH-1: 3 Speed Cushions along NE 100th Street (between 124th Ave NE and 132nd Ave NE)	\$ 58,377
109	WM-1: Intersection Striping at the Intersection of 16th Ave W and 6th St W	\$ 10,165
108	HL-1: Pavement Markings and Warning Signs on the Dogleg S-Curve of 116th Ave NE and NE 96th St	\$ 12,078
107	EH-1: Shoulder Striping and Traverse Pavement Markings on NE 140th St next to Robert Frost Elementary	\$ 9,461
106	SRHBT-2: Restripe Bike Lanes on 132nd Ave at the Intersection of 132nd Ave and NE 70th Pl/Old Redmond Rd	\$ 51,810
102	NK-1: Marked Crosswalk across 15th Ave at the Intersection of 15th Ave and 4th St and accompanying curb ramp improvements	\$ 128,125
98	FH-1: Paint & Post Traffic Circle at 77th Ave NE and NE 143rd St	\$ 20,230
Total Cumulative Cost Estimates		\$ 290,246
Moderate Priority Tier		
95	MB-1: Marked Crosswalk at 7th Ave S and State St (East of State St going North to South)	\$ 71,280
88	EV-1: Stamped Concrete Traffic Island at the Intersection of Kirkland Ave and Cedar St	\$ 33,735
Total Cumulative Cost Estimates		\$ 395,261
Low Priority Tier		
79	CH-1: Marked Crosswalk Across 106th Ave NE East to West at the Intersection of NE 55th and 106th NE in front of Carillon Woods Park	\$ 43,734
Total Cumulative Cost Estimates		\$ 438,995

Table 2: NSP Cost Range Reference

Low Cost	Medium Cost	High Cost
\$35,000≥	\$36,000 – 70,000	\$70,000≤

⁷ Highland's Priority #2 project (install grip strip at two wooden stairways at 111th Ave NE) was at 95 points, and South Rose Hill/Bridle Trail's Priority #1 project (Marked Crosswalk across 124th Ave NE at the Intersection of NE 73rd St and 124th Ave NE) was at 90 points. These two are not listed in the table because only one project per neighborhood has been approved in the past.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Council Project Recommendations

As illustrated in Table 1, there are three priority tiers for NSP projects, with the top priority being likely to be funded. Funding for projects in the moderate priority tier is determined after more specific engineering estimates are completed and project bids are submitted. Similar to previous years, the cost estimates are before any engineering/bid documents are produced and may change as it moves through the capital process. As noted earlier, a map of the recommended projects is included as Attachment 2.

The average cost of projects has increased significantly over the years due to several factors, including inflation, and the cost of equipment and materials continues to increase substantially due to supply chain delays. Table 3, below, shows an overview of the cost breakdown of average cost, number of funded projects, and total cost of projects.

Table 3: Overview of Funded NSP Projects Through the Years

Year	Average Cost Per Project	Number of Funded Projects	Total Cost of All Projects
2014	\$49,697	8	\$397,572
2015	\$47,928	12	\$575,134
2016	\$35,780	14	\$458,920
2017	\$48,559	8	\$388,473
2018	\$39,642	10	\$396,418
2019	\$78,777	7	\$551,439
2020	\$111,744	4	\$446,977
2021	\$223,440	4	\$446,881
2022	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	\$153,356	4	\$613,424
2024	\$37,556	6	\$552,449 ⁸
2025	\$68,583	6	\$411,500 ⁹
2026	\$49,289	9	\$395,261 ¹⁰

For the last several years, approximately three projects (out of an average of 10 projects per year) have exceeded the past target NSP project limit of \$50,000. The NSP project submission limit was raised to \$100,000 for the 2023 cycle to accommodate the lack of the 2022 cycle. As of the 2025 cycle, the per-project limit has been adjusted to \$75,000. Continuing with past precedent, neighborhoods were allowed to submit projects that exceeded the target NSP project limit because they addressed important safety and accessibility projects. In 2026, three out of 12 projects cost estimates exceed the target NSP project limit, with only one from the priority list.

⁸ High-level cost estimates (based on 90% engineer's estimate, including in-house and consultant costs)

⁹ Preliminary high-level cost estimates for the top priority projects (based on recent bids for similar projects).

During the March 25 Transportation Commission Meeting, the Commission advised on the community engagement process, such as communication beyond just the neighborhood associations, noting the gap that Totem Lake does not have one.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff seeks the City Council's direction on the prioritized NSP project list; and recommends that the City Council select one of three options:

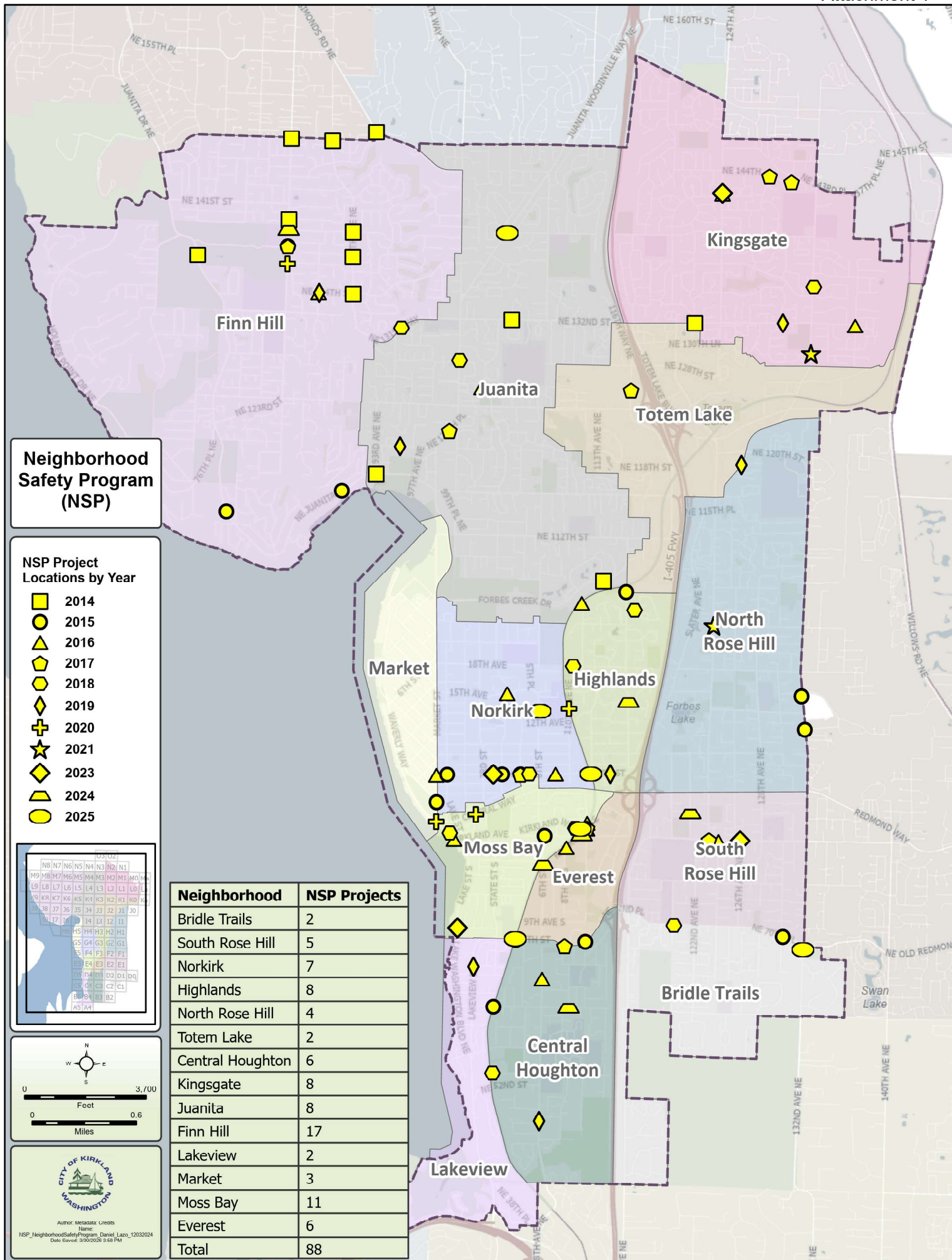
1. Fund the seven top priority projects within the allocated budget of \$350,000.
2. Fund a total of nine projects at the maximum amount of \$395,261 and direct staff to find additional money.
3. Fund a different mix of projects and costs but remain within the allocated \$350,000.

Staff will return to the May 19 Council for approval of the final NSP project list, based on Council feedback, and with any necessary fiscal note.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Map of the Completed 2014-2025 NSP Projects

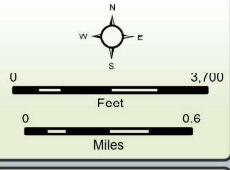
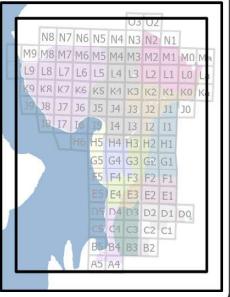
Attachment 2 – Map of Recommended 2026 and Upcoming 2025 NSP Projects



Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP)

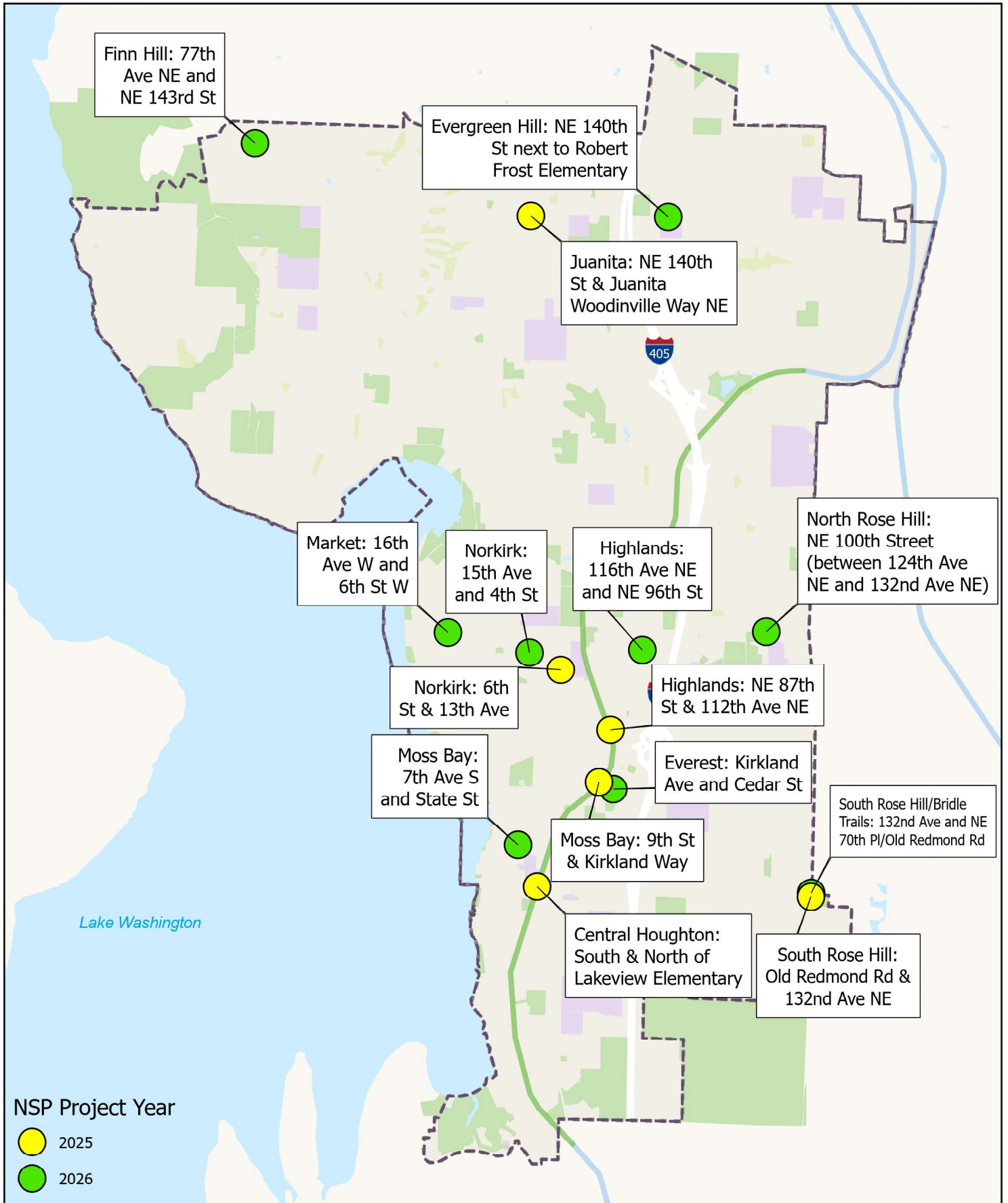
NSP Project Locations by Year

- 2014
- 2015
- ▲ 2016
- ◆ 2017
- ⬠ 2018
- ◇ 2019
- ⊕ 2020
- ★ 2021
- ◊ 2023
- ▴ 2024
- 2025



Author: Meshaara Ureets
 Name: NSP_NeighborhoodSafetyProgram_Daniel_Lazo_12032024
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Neighborhood	NSP Projects
Bridle Trails	2
South Rose Hill	5
Norkirk	7
Highlands	8
North Rose Hill	4
Totem Lake	2
Central Houghton	6
Kingsgate	8
Juanita	8
Finn Hill	17
Lakeview	2
Market	3
Moss Bay	11
Everest	6
Total	88



Vicinity and Area Map
Map of Recommended 2026 and Upcoming 2025 NSP Projects