



CITY OF KIRKLAND  
Planning and Building Department  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission

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Date: May 2, 2023

Subject: K2044 Comprehensive Plan Update Briefing – K2044 Vision Statement;  
Sustainability, Climate, and Environment (SCE) Element; and Parks,  
Recreation, and Open Space (Parks) Element

## Recommendation

Staff recommends that Planning Commission receive a briefing on the 2044 Comprehensive Plan update process as it relates to updates to the SCE and Parks Elements (the term Element refers to the chapters in the Comprehensive Plan). We have grouped these two elements together because the policies therein are interconnected and complementary to each other.

This memo contains a summary of:

- Kirkland 2044 process and status;
- K2044 Vision Statement revision process;
- Information on mandatory State, regional and King County regulatory and consistency requirements related to the SCE and Parks Elements;
- What we have learned from community input on the SCE and Parks Elements thus far;
- List of potential study issues or policy changes being explored for the SCE and Parks Elements; and
- Next steps.

Kirkland 2044 Comprehensive Plan (K2044) Update Process Overview  
The City of Kirkland is in the process of conducting a State-mandated update of the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan with a target completion date of mid-2024 (the State deadline for City Council adoption is December 31, 2024). The Comprehensive Plan is the primary citywide guide for how we, as a community, manage growth over the next

20 years (with a horizon year of 2044) in terms of land use, transportation, and the public facilities and services necessary to support that growth. The Comprehensive Plan also includes goals and policies for how the City addresses housing, sustainability and climate change, economic development, parks and open space, shoreline management, and more.

The two-year Comprehensive Plan Update (referred to hereafter as K2044) process will be an opportunity to reflect on the kind of community we aspire to become, and to create a policy roadmap to achieve that vision. The process involves staff in each City department, City Council, City Boards and Commissions, and an extensive community outreach and engagement process focused specifically on reaching a wide diversity of perspectives as has been discussed with Planning Commission in the previous briefing on the K2044 Community Engagement Plan at its [December 8, 2022](#) meeting. The Transportation Master Plan is being updated in conjunction with the K2044 process, and will be primarily guided by the Public Works Transportation Division and the Transportation Commission.

The last major (periodic) update to the Kirkland Comprehensive Plan was in 2015. The [existing Comprehensive Plan](#) contains the City's 2035 [Vision Statement](#) and [Guiding Principles](#), which form the foundation for the goals and policies contained in the General Elements (chapters of the Comprehensive Plan). These two components establish an overall goal of maintaining Kirkland as a livable, sustainable, and connected city, which is still relevant today.

The K2044 Plan update will need to be consistent with updated State, regional, and King County policies and plans, along with local goals; discussed further in the element subsections below. As part of the process **to certify Kirkland's K2044 Plan**, the State, Puget Sound Regional Council, and King County will review drafts and approve the final Plan, once adopted by City Council.

More general information about the update process can be found in the briefing memos from [Planning Commission's April 28, 2022](#) and [City Council's December 8, 2022](#) meetings. These meeting packets, presentations, other documents, and additional resources, **are available on the City's K2044 Comprehensive Plan update webpage at [Kirklandwa.gov/K2044](http://Kirklandwa.gov/K2044)**.

#### Community Outreach and Engagement Activities

Beginning in early 2023, Staff conducted a substantial number of public outreach and community engagement activities to implement the community engagement plan. Below is a summary of community engagement activities accomplished to date, or in progress as of May 2023:

- [Community Engagement Plan](#), prepared by Broadview Planning consultants
- [Equity Review Report](#) of existing Comprehensive Plan elements, prepared by EcoNorthwest
- Project webpage updates and listserv email announcements
- Surveys (316 responses were received for the SCE and Parks Survey)
- Focus Group recruitment focused on priority populations

- Focus Group meetings for Sustainability, Climate Change & Environment, Parks, Land Use, and Transportation elements
- Publication of informational handouts (included introduction materials translated into the four most common languages in the City besides English)
- Presentations to community groups, Boards and Commissions (City Council, Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, Youth Council, Senior Council, Human Services Commission), neighborhood associations, and Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
- Community events (Town Hall on Bikes, Eastside for All event, Kirkland City Hall for All event)
- Tabling events (seasonal events, Evergreen Health Fair)
- Class projects with Lake Washington and Juanita High Schools and student surveys
- Community-wide visioning event (January 2023)

#### Draft K2044 Vision Statement

Kirkland's existing 2035 Vision Statement was adopted by City Council in 2015, with the last periodic update, and is located in the Vision/Guiding Principles Chapter (Ch. 11) of the Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of a vision statement is to reflect the **community's collective vision, values, and aspirations for how the city should** grow and evolve over the next 20 years. In December 2022 and January 2023, the City conducted a K2044 Community Survey and held a virtual visioning event to better understand how the 2035 statement **aligns with the community's values and vision** today, and how it might need to be revised to best reflect the vision for 2044. Staff is developing a revised Vision Statement based on community feedback received during the visioning process, including the community-wide survey, and sections of the [Comprehensive Plan Equity Review report \(2022\), prepared by EcoNorthwest](#). Staff will present the draft revisions to the Vision Statement at the May 11 PC meeting and request Commission feedback.

#### Sustainability, Climate, and Environment (SCE) Element

##### Background

The adopted 2035 Comprehensive Plan includes the Environment Element. With the K2044 update, staff recommends changing the element name to the Sustainability, Climate and Environment (SCE) Element to better reflect the topics that will comprise the update to the element. **The Sustainability Master Plan's (SMP) creation was identified** as Policy E-1.7: Develop a Citywide Sustainability Master Plan, as part of the 2015 comprehensive plan update. The SMP addressed eight focus areas and many of the actions in the plan drew from policy direction from major components of the Environment Element (Natural Systems Management, Built Environment and Climate Change). The SMP is a functional implementation plan that carries out the policies of the element. The SMP is intended to be consistent with the comprehensive plan, but the comprehensive plan could establish more robust policies to reflect the most current and best practices to ensure the environment is more sustainable and resilient. The current Environment Element contains 6 major goals and 52 related policies. Attachment 1 contains a list of the existing goals and policies without descriptive text. The entire existing Environment Element can be accessed via this [link](#).

The following sustainability, climate, and environment concepts outline the overarching theme under which the goals and policies of the element are crafted:

- Protect and enhance the natural environment such as streams, wetlands, geologically hazardous areas and Lake Washington;
- Ensure that the built environment is more sustainable and greener (using sustainable building practices) which produce new buildings and retrofits old ones to substantially lessen pollution, energy, water and material use; and
- Work diligently in collaboration with cities, county and the state agencies to reduce the existing impact of climate change such as heat and smoke events and equitably increase access to programs and initiatives that help mitigate some of impacts.

#### *What is Sustainability?*

The sustainability concept outlined in the introductory section of the adopted chapter, and summarized as follows, provides the overarching framework under which the goals and policies of the Element are crafted. Sustainability means meeting our present needs while ensuring future generations have the ability to meet theirs. The three key areas of sustainability are:

- **Ecological Sustainability:** Ensure that natural systems and built structures protect habitats, create a healthy environment, and promote energy efficiency.
- **Economic Sustainability:** Ensure a strong economy that is able to support our community while not compromising the environment in which we live.
- **Social Sustainability:** Ensure that we provide a sense of community to our residents and support basic health and human service needs.

Another strategy that is aligned with sustainability is resilience, which can help us adapt to an ever-changing environment in a socially responsible manner. To become a more sustainable and resilient city, we need to consider the long term and wide-ranging impacts of our actions, and evolve, strengthen and expand our policies and programs to adapt to new situations.

Policies in the existing Environment Element (and the forthcoming revised SCE Element) are used by multiple departments to devise code amendments, and programs and initiatives, and the Planning Commission and City Council may utilize adopted policies as criteria for decisions regarding priorities and/or funding of implementation of functional plans such as the [Sustainability Master Plan](#).

#### Statutory and Policy Guidance for SCE Element Update

The SCE Element is an optional element of a comprehensive plan according to the Growth Management Act (GMA). The GMA requires that cities address conservation and solar energy; however the SCE Element encompasses a much larger body of topics, such as those described in the sections above. Attachment 2 to this memo includes a list of state legislation, **Department of Commerce, Puget Sound Regional Council's** multi-county policies, and countywide planning policies that all elements of a comprehensive plan must be consistent with.

### Community Feedback on SCE Element

The SCE and Parks Element staff teams conducted a community survey (March 2023 to present), held two focus group meetings (March 30 and April 6, 2023) and have received comments from the focus group, which are summarized in Attachment 5.

Some key themes we have heard so far from the survey and focus group include:

- Focus on addressing climate change impacts;
- Address heat and smoke events with an equity lens to increase resilience;
- Promote an understanding of major city programs and how the city can best help the community;
- Codes and incentives should be used as solutions;
- Focus on equity in policy and access to programs;
- Promote electrification of the community;
- Provide education on sustainability topics; and
- Report on progress through annual reports, dashboards on climate actions, heat, tree canopy distribution and water quality.

### Key Environment Element Policy Issues/Questions for Discussion

Throughout the K2044 Update process, staff anticipates highlighting specific topics or policy areas of focus for the PC to direct attention to, or to request specific feedback. For the May 11 PC briefing, staff suggests that Commissioners discuss the following questions:

- Banning new natural gas hookups is part of a larger strategy of how to best reduce near-term greenhouse gas emissions. Many cities have begun the process of evaluating this approach as one way to ensure that communities are not making climate change impacts worse than they are today. Does the Planning Commission have an opinion on this issue, and can it provide direction at this stage of the process?

### Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (Parks) Element

#### Background

**Kirkland's parks and open spaces provide an essential outlet for the continued health**

and well-being of those who live, work, and play here. It is essential for the City to update plans for our park system that support the continued provision of accessible and well-maintained facilities for both current and future community members. The existing Parks Element of the Comprehensive Plan contains 3 goals and 21 related policies.

Attachment 3 contains a list of the existing goals and policies without the corresponding narrative text. The entire existing Parks Element can be accessed via this [link](#).

The following Parks concepts outline the overarching theme under which the goals and policies of the element are crafted:

- Support the continued provision of accessible and well-maintained facilities and services for current and future residents; and

- Promote environmental conservation and education for publicly owned natural open space areas.

The Parks Element also establishes the level of service standard **for Kirkland's parks,** recreation, and open space system, and should be consistent with the Capital Facilities Element and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan.

The Parks Element is used by the Parks and Community Services Department and Park Board as a guiding document, since the Parks Element sets overarching goals, policies, and standards for the parks and recreation system. The Park board relied heavily on the Parks Element policies in developing the PROS Plan. There are some overlaps between the Parks Elements and the PROS Plan, however, the PROS Plan has a greater focus on implementation. Policies are also used for coordination with other service providers to ensure efficiencies in utilization of park and recreational facilities and services.

#### *Statutory and Policy Guidance for Update*

The Parks Element is a required element in comprehensive plans pursuant to the GMA. The GMA requires that the Parks Element implements and is consistent with the Capital Facilities Element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. See Attachment 4 for a summary of State, regional, and County policies that the Parks Element must be consistent with. The Comprehensive Plan Update should also incorporate or support recommendations and goals from City plans such as the DEIB 5-Year Roadmap, PROS Plan, and SMP. Attachment 4 includes a summary of recommendations from local plans that pertain to the Parks Element.

#### Community Feedback on Parks Element

Comments from the community and discussion at meetings, public outreach events, and focus groups include the following themes:

- Improve accessibility to parks
- Preserve and enhance the tree canopy
- Plant more trees in parks and rights-of-way
- Incentivize tree planting

#### Key Parks Policy Issues

Throughout the K2044 Update process, staff anticipates highlighting specific topics or policy areas of focus for the PC to direct attention to, or to request specific feedback. For the May 11 PC briefing, staff suggests that Commissioners focus on the following key policy issues:

- **Improve the accessibility of the City's park, recreation, and open space system**
- Equitable distribution of parks and recreation opportunities throughout the City
- Increase the resiliency of **the City's** parks, open spaces, and natural areas to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing climate

General Questions for Discussion

- Does the Commission have any questions about what staff has learned from the community through engagement to date?
- Does the Commission have any questions about any of the State, regional, or County requirements for updating the SCE or Parks Element?

### Next Steps

For the remainder of 2023, staff will continue to conduct the community engagement activities outlined above to gather public input on each Element, attend City Council, Board and Commission meetings for their input, and begin to draft edits to each Element (see Attachment 6). The goal is to have draft elements of the Comprehensive Plan completed in early 2024 for review by the various Boards and Commissions, with a tentative public hearing set for spring 2024 and final adoption by fall 2024.

Other tasks in the K2044 Update scope include conducting a land use capacity analysis to **show compliance with Kirkland's** assigned job and housing growth targets, updating the Community Profile, updating the Transportation Master Plan (basis for the Transportation Element), and conducting an environmental review of proposed changes.

### Attachments:

1. Existing Environment Element goals and policies
2. Environment Element Summary of potential State, Regional, County, and local policy topics for consideration
3. Existing Parks Element goals and policies
4. Parks Element Summary of potential State, Regional, County, and local policy topics for consideration
5. SCE and Parks survey and focus group summary
6. Phasing graphic

cc: File: CAM22-00023

## Environment Element – Existing Goals and Policies

*Existing adopted Goals and Policies without corresponding descriptive text.  
Here is a [link](#) to the full text of the adopted Environment Element in the Comprehensive Plan.*

### *Goal E-1: Protect and **enhance Kirkland’s natural systems and features.***

#### Policy E-1.1:

Use a system-wide approach to effectively manage natural systems in partnership with affected State, regional, and local agencies as well as affected federally recognized tribes.

#### Policy E-1.2:

Manage activities affecting air, vegetation, water, and the land to maintain or improve environmental quality, to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, to prevent degradation or loss of natural features and functions, and to minimize risks to life and property.

#### Policy E-1.3:

Manage the natural and built environments to achieve no net loss of the functions and values of each drainage basin; and proactively enhance and restore functions, values, and features.

#### Policy E-1.4:

Pursue restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and require site restoration if land surface modification violates adopted policy or development does not ensue within a reasonable period of time.

#### Policy E-1.5:

Work toward creating a culture of stewardship by fostering programs that support sound practices, such as low impact development and sustainable building techniques.

#### Policy E-1.6:

Minimize human impacts on habitat areas and pursue the creation of habitat corridors where wildlife can safely migrate.

#### Policy E-1.7:

Develop a Citywide Sustainability Master Plan.

#### Policy E-1.8:

Provide information to all stakeholders concerning natural systems and associated programs and regulations.

#### Policy E-1.9:

Using a watershed-based approach, both locally and regionally, apply best available science in formulating regulations, **incentives, and programs to maintain and improve the quality of Kirkland’s water resources.**



Policy E-1.10:

Prioritize removing fish passage barriers for public projects.

Policy E-1.11:

Support removal of fish passable barriers and daylighting of streams on private property.

Policy E-1.12:

Protect surface water functions by preserving and enhancing natural drainage systems.

Policy E-1.13:

Comprehensively manage activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water quality or quantity.

Policy E-1.14:

Respond to spills and dumping of materials that are impactful to the environment.

Policy E-1.15:

Improve management of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces by employing low impact development practices through City projects, incentive programs, and development standards.

Policy E-1.16:

Retrofit existing impervious surfaces for water quality treatment and look for opportunities to provide regional facilities.

Policy E-1.17:

Preserve the natural flood storage function of 100-year floodplains and emphasize nonstructural methods in planning for flood prevention and damage reduction.

Policy E-1.18:

Make allowances for connections between existing streams and their floodplain to increase floodplain storage.

*Goal E-2: Protect, enhance and restore trees and vegetation in the natural and built environment.*

Policy E-2.1:

Strive to achieve a healthy, resilient urban forest with an overall 40 percent tree canopy coverage.

Policy E-2.2:

Implement the Urban Forestry Strategic Management Plan.

Policy E-2.3:

**Provide a regulatory framework to protect, maintain and enhance Kirkland’s urban forest, including required landscaping standards for the built environment.**

Policy E-2.4:

Balance the regulatory approach with the use of incentives, City practices and programs, and public education and outreach.

Policy E-2.5:

**Collaborate with overlapping jurisdictions to align Kirkland’s tree protection with the needs of utility providers, transportation agencies and others to maximize tree retention and reduce conflicts with major projects.**

*Goal E-3: Improve public safety by avoiding or minimizing impacts to life and property from geologically hazardous areas.*

Policy E-3.1:

Require appropriate geotechnical analysis, sound engineering principles and best management practices for development in or adjacent to geologically hazardous areas.

Policy E-3.2:

Regulate land use and development to protect geologic, vegetation and hydrological functions and minimize impacts to natural features and systems.

Policy E-3.3:

Utilize best available science and data for seismic and landslide area mapping.

Policy E-3.4:

Retain vegetation where needed to stabilize slopes.

Policy E-3.5:

Promote sound soil management practices through standards, regulations and programs to limit erosion and sedimentation.

*Goal E-4: Manage the built environment to reduce waste, prevent pollution, conserve resources and increase energy efficiency.*

Policy E-4.1:

Expand City programs that promote sustainable building certifications and require them when appropriate.

Policy E-4.2:

Design, build and certify public building projects to LEED, Living Building Challenge or equivalent certification standards.

Policy E-4.3:

Implement energy efficiency projects for City facilities, and measure building performance through **Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Energy Star or equivalent program.**

## Policy E-4.4:

Utilize rigorous sustainability standards and green infrastructure in all City projects.

## Policy E-4.5:

Utilize life cycle cost analysis for public projects that benefit the built and natural environment.

## Policy E-4.6:

Work with regional partners such as Regional Code Collaborative (RCC) to build on the Washington State Energy **Code, leading the way to “net-zero carbon” buildings through innovation in local codes, ordinances, and related partnerships.**

## Policy E-4.7:

Work with regional partners to pursue 100 percent use of a combination of reclaimed, harvested, grey and black **water for the community’s needs.**

## Policy E-4.8

Work with regional partners to achieve 70 percent recycling rate by 2020 and net zero waste by 2030.

## Policy E-4.9:

Promote public health and improve the natural and built environments by prohibiting the release of toxins into the air, water and soil.

## Policy E-4.10

Promote preservation and adaptive reuse of existing structures.

## Policy E-4.11:

Promote and recognize green businesses in Kirkland.

## Policy E-4.12:

Promote and encourage Citywide sustainable product stewardship to provide stable financing for end-of-life management of consumer products, increase recycling and resource recovery, and reduce environmental and health impacts.

*Goal E-5: Target carbon neutrality by 2050 to greatly reduce the impacts of climate change.*

Policy E-5.1: **Achieve the City’s greenhouse gas emission reductions as compared to a 2007 baseline**

## Policy E-5.2

**Regularly update the City’s Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP) in** order to respond to changing conditions.

## Policy E-5.3:

**Fund and implement the strategies in Kirkland’s Climate Protection Action Plan (CPAP).**

## Policy E-5.4:

Pursue principles, pathways and policies as described in the current version of the King County Climate Change Collaborative (K4C) Joint County-City Climate Commitments and continue participation in regional collaboration in the K4C and the Regional Code Collaboration (RCC).

## Policy E-5.5:

Advocate for comprehensive federal, state and regional science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Policy E-5.6:

Support the adoption of a statewide low carbon fuel standard that gradually lowers pollution from transportation fuels.

Policy E-5.7:

Pursue 100 percent renewable energy use by 2050 through regional collaboration.

Policy E-5.8:

Engage and lead community outreach efforts in partnership with other local governments, businesses and citizens to educate community about climate change efforts and collaborative actions.

*Goal E-6: Support and encourage a local food economy.*

Policy E-6.1:

Expand the local food production market by supporting urban and community farming, buying locally produced food and by participating in the Farm City Roundtable forum.

Policy E-6.2:

Promote land use regulations that ensure access to healthy food.

Policy E-6.3:

Reduce environmental impacts of food production and transportation by supporting regionally produced food.

Policy E-6.4:

Ensure food availability by planning for shortages during emergencies.

**K2044 Comprehensive Plan Update Briefing**  
**for the Sustainability, Climate and Environment (SCE) Element**

Summary of new or revised policies and/or regulatory changes for consistency with State, Regional, King County Planning Policies, and local goals for SCE Element

- Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) – [goals and amendments since the last update](#);  
Environment. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.
- Washington State Department of Commerce (DOC) – [periodic review checklists](#) will address requirements of state law, and identify policy and regulatory updates required under new state laws;  
None noted.
- Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) – periodic review checklist for cities and regional centers, the Regional Growth Strategy and multi-county planning policies provided for in [PSRC's Vision 2050 Growth Strategy Plan](#); [2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#);
  - Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience
  - Significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- [King County Countywide Planning Policies \(CPPs\)](#) adopted by King County which address growth management issues in King County and allocates employment and housing growth targets to each city
  - Weaving equity into all policies
  - Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience

Local plans, goals and requirements

- [EcoNorthwest Equity Review Report recommendations \(for the element\)](#)  
Specific guidance for the SCE element was not provided. However, there are many examples that staff will utilize for this update such as:
  - Use active rather than passive policy language
  - Use of asset-based language (instead of using term homeless, instead use unhoused)
  - Use of inclusive language and assumptions by using specific descriptors to convey meaning that is easily understood
  - Incorporate emissions reduction policies and actions that contribute meaningfully toward regional greenhouse gas emission goals, along with equitable climate resiliency measures
  - Climate resilience actions focused on equitable outcomes, particularly for historically marginalized communities, at greater risk and with fewer resources.

- [Kirkland Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging \(DEIB\) 5 Year Roadmap](#)  
The City will identify and utilize an equity-centered third-party review process for the **City's Comprehensive Plan and other long-range** planning processes. This will ensure that the perspectives, insights, and voices of underrepresented groups and communities are included in the creation and review of such plans helps them be reflective of **Kirkland's diverse community**.
- [City Council Goals 2023-2024](#)  
Prioritize and continue to fund Sustainability Master Plan actions to further equity, energy efficiency, public health, and a clean energy economy that promotes a sustainable and resilient environment.
- Sustainability Master Plan (SMP)  
The last comprehensive plan update was done in 2015 and it described the need to create a SMP which completed and adopted in 2020. The SMP and its goals and actions incorporated sustainability measures throughout its eight focus areas and in many ways were slightly ahead of the existing Sustainability, Climate and Environment (formerly Environment) Element that inspired it. Therefore, staff will thoroughly compare the element with the SMP to create new future-facing policies to update the SMP with implementation actions that keep pace with what is needed to realize a sustainable Kirkland.

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element – Existing Goals and Policies

*Existing adopted Goals and Policies without corresponding descriptive text.  
Here is a [link](#) to the full text of the adopted Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element in the Comprehensive Plan.*

*Goal PR-1: Acquire, develop, and renovate a system of parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces that is attractive, safe, functional, and accessible to all segments of the population.*

Policy PR-1.1: Community Involvement. Encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreation.

Policy PR-2.1: **Park Acquisition. Acquire additional parklands necessary to adequately serve the City's current and future population based on level of service goals.**

Policy PR-2.2: Park Improvement. Improve park sites to meet the active and passive recreational needs of Kirkland residents.

Policy PR-3.1: **Waterfront Parks. Maintain and enhance Kirkland's waterfront parks to connect residents with the water, provide unique recreational experiences, and support tourism.**

Policy PR-4.1: Trail System. Develop a network of shared-use pedestrian and bicycle trails to enable connections within parks and between parks, nearby neighborhoods, public amenities, and major pedestrian and bicycle routes identified in the Active Transportation Plan.

Policy PR-4.2: Signature Trails and Connections. Develop, enhance and maintain signature greenways and trails that **stretch across the community and that connect residents to the City's many parks, natural areas, recreation facilities and other amenities.**

Policy PR-8.1: Support Economic Development. Utilize strategic capital investments in parks, trails, open spaces, recreation and art to encourage and support economic development and revitalization.

*Goal PR-2: Enhance the quality of life in the community by providing services and programs that offer positive opportunities for building healthy, productive lives.*

Policy PR-5.1: Recreation Services. Provide a variety of recreational services and programs that promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages and abilities.

Policy PR-5.2: **Community Centers. Maintain and enhance Kirkland's community centers to provide recreational opportunities, community services and opportunities for residents to connect, learn and play.**

Policy PR-5.3: Aquatic Facilities and Programs. Provide opportunities **for aquatic recreation through the City's pools and lakefront facilities.**

Policy PR-5.5: Universal Access and Inclusion. Strive to reduce barriers to participation and provide universal access to

facilities and programs.

Policy PR-5.6: Specialized Recreation Facilities. Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities (e.g., action sports facilities, off-leash areas, skateparks, community gardens) to respond to identified public needs, as appropriate.

Policy PR-6.1: Field Sports. Provide a Citywide system of sports fields and programs to serve field sport needs of the community, in partnership with the Lake Washington School District, local sports organizations, and other regional providers.

Policy PR-6.2: Indoor and Outdoor Sports Courts. Provide and enable access to a Citywide system of indoor and outdoor sports courts, gymnasiums and programs for Kirkland residents.

*Goal PR-3: Protect, preserve, and restore publicly owned natural resource areas.*

Policy PR-7.1: Natural Area Preservation. Preserve significant natural areas to meet outdoor recreation needs, provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature, and meet habitat protection needs.

Policy PR-7.2: Natural Area Restoration and Management. Restore and manage City-owned or managed natural areas to protect and enhance their ecological health, sensitive habitats and native species.

Policy PR-7.3: **Shoreline Restoration. Restore Kirkland's public shorelines** on Lake Washington in accordance with the Shoreline Restoration Plan to improve habitat, hydrology and recreational opportunities.

Policy PR-7.4: **Ecosystem Services. Protect and improve the City's natural systems or features for their value in** providing ecosystem and infrastructure services.

Policy PR-7.5: Environmental Education. Promote environmental stewardship and education through informational signage, materials, programs and partnerships.

Policy PR-7.6: Conservation Partnerships. Work cooperatively with resource management agencies and citizens to care for streams, enhance and protect urban forests and wetlands, improve wildlife habitat, and provide limited public access.



## K2044 Comprehensive Plan Update Briefing for Parks Element

Summary of new or revised policies and/or regulatory changes for consistency with State, Regional, King County Planning Policies, and local goals for Parks Element:

- Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) – [goals and amendments since the last update](#):
  - Consistency with the capital facilities element as it relates to park and recreation facilities
  - Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period
  - An evaluation of facilities and service needs
  - An evaluation of intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand
  
- Washington State Department of Commerce (DOC) – [periodic review checklists](#) will address requirements of state law, and identify policy and regulatory updates required under new state laws:
  - Park, recreation, and open space planning are GMA goals, and it is important to plan for and fund these facilities
  
- Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) – periodic review checklist for cities and regional centers, the Regional Growth Strategy and multi-county planning policies provided for in [PSRC's Vision 2050 Growth Strategy Plan](#); [2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#):
  - Enhance urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity.
  - Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands to protect and enhance habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services, including protection of watersheds and wellhead areas that are sources of the **region's drinking water supplies**.
  - Designate, protect, and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas through mechanisms, such as the review and comment of countywide planning policies and local plans and provisions.
  - Identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries through implementation and update of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan.
  - Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function.
  - Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.
  - Maintain and restore natural hydrological functions and water quality within the **region's ecosystems and watersheds to recover the health of Puget Sound**.
  - Restore – where appropriate and possible – **the region's freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.**

- [King County Countywide Planning Policies \(CPPs\)](#) adopted by King County which address growth management issues in King County and allocates employment and housing growth targets to each city
  - Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function.
  - Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments
  - Identify and preserve regionally significant open space networks in both Urban and Rural Areas through implementation of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan. Develop strategies and funding to protect lands that provide the following valuable functions:
    - Ecosystem linkages and migratory corridors crossing jurisdictional boundaries
    - Physical or visual separation delineating growth boundaries or providing buffers between incompatible uses
    - Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities
    - Wildlife habitat and migration corridors that preserve and enhance ecosystem resiliency in the face of urbanization and climate change
    - Preservation of ecologically sensitive, scenic, or cultural resources
    - Urban green space, habitats, and ecosystems
    - Forest resources
    - Food production potential

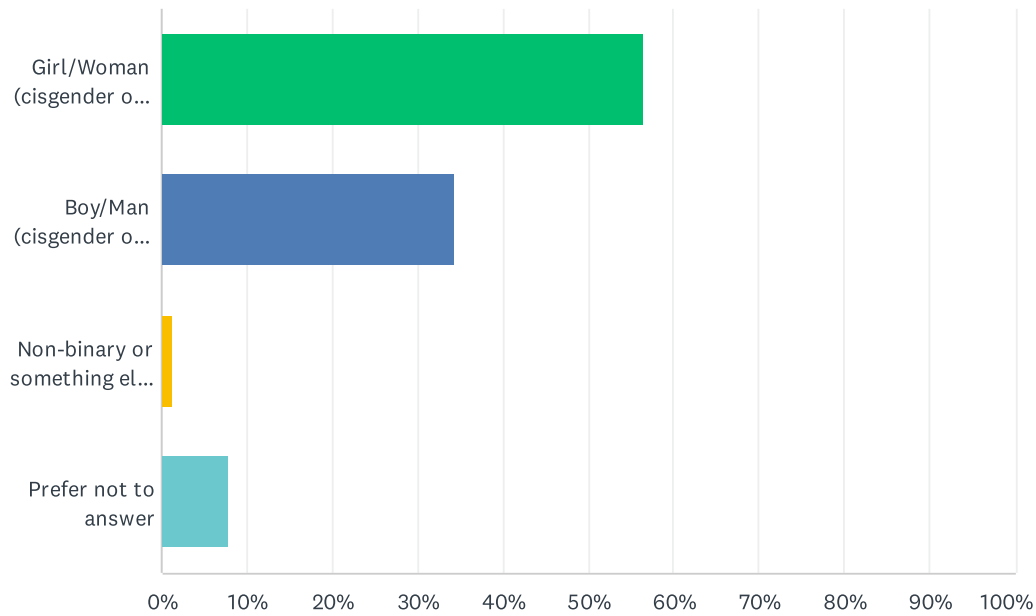
#### Local goals and recommendations

- [EcoNorthwest Equity Review Report recommendations \(for the element\)](#)
  - Note the importance of equitably preserving and enhancing the green spaces within historically underserved communities – especially given that the historic practice of inequitably distributing green spaces, vegetation, and tree canopies within predominantly white and wealthier communities has caused disproportionate heat surface exposures faced by marginalized communities.
- [Kirkland Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging \(DEIB\) 5-Year Roadmap](#)
  - **Equity analysis in the City's planning documents and processes**
- [City Council Goals 2023-2024](#)
  - Abundant parks, open spaces, and recreation service
  - Sustainable environment
- [PROS Plan](#) Goals
  - Expand the Provision of High-Quality Park Experiences to Meet the Active and Passive Recreational Needs of Kirkland Community Members
  - Continue to Provide a Variety of Recreation Services, Facilities, and Programs that Promote the Health and Well-Being of Community Members of All Ages and Abilities

- Continue to Prioritize Access to Parks and Programs for all Kirkland Community Members
  - Enhance and Improve Access to Athletics and Sports Opportunities
  - Aspire to be a Connected, Walkable, and Bicycle-Friendly Community
  - Protect and Conserve the Natural Environment for Future Generations
- 
- [Kirkland Sustainability Master Plan](#). Recommendations pertaining to the Parks Element
    - **With the community's help, restore at least 500 acres of City-owned** natural areas and open space park lands by 2035
    - Make sure that all residents can walk to a park or open space
    - Meet the goal of Citywide 40% tree canopy cover goal by 2026
    - **Manage Kirkland's urban forest resource for optimal health, climate resiliency, and social equity**
    - Double the number of P-Patches or other community gardens by 2025, and again by 2030

## Q1 To which gender identity do you mostly identify?

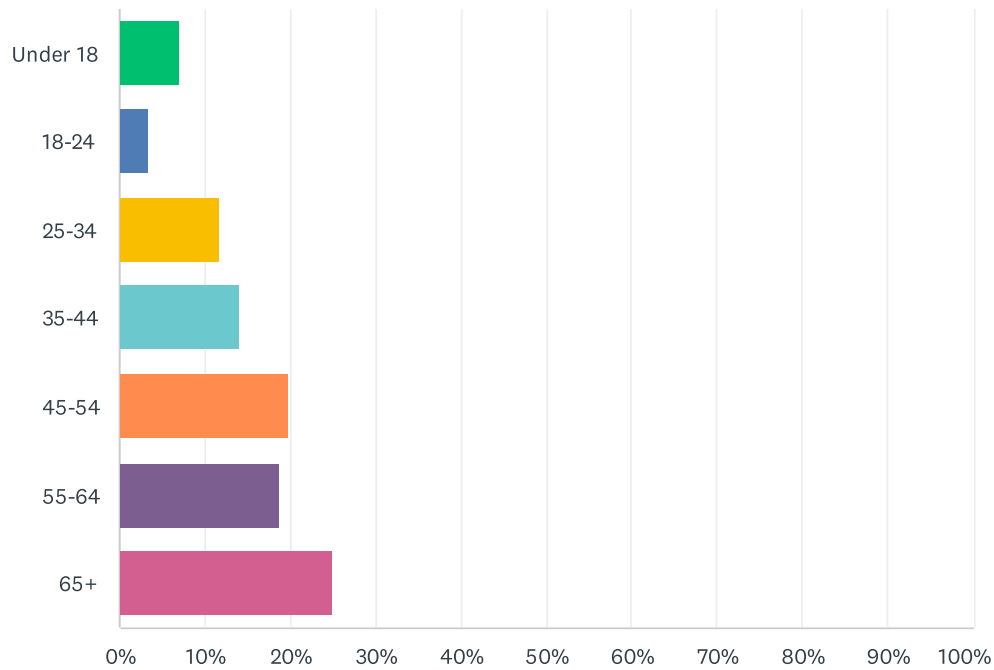
Answered: 315 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Girl/Woman (cisgender or transgender)	56.51%	178
Boy/Man (cisgender or transgender)	34.29%	108
Non-binary or something else fits better	1.27%	4
Prefer not to answer	7.94%	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>315</b>

## Q2 What is your age?

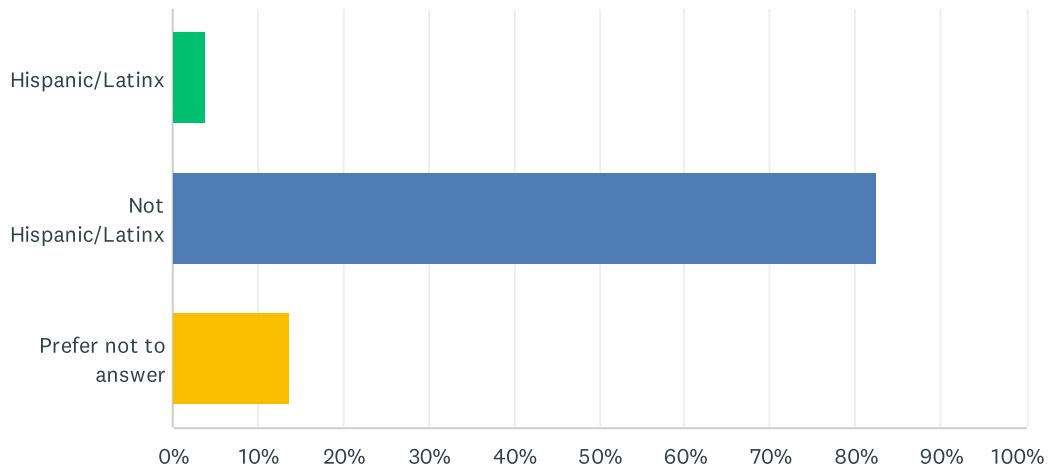
Answered: 313 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	7.03%	22
18-24	3.51%	11
25-34	11.82%	37
35-44	14.06%	44
45-54	19.81%	62
55-64	18.85%	59
65+	24.92%	78
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>313</b>

### Q3 What is your ethnicity?

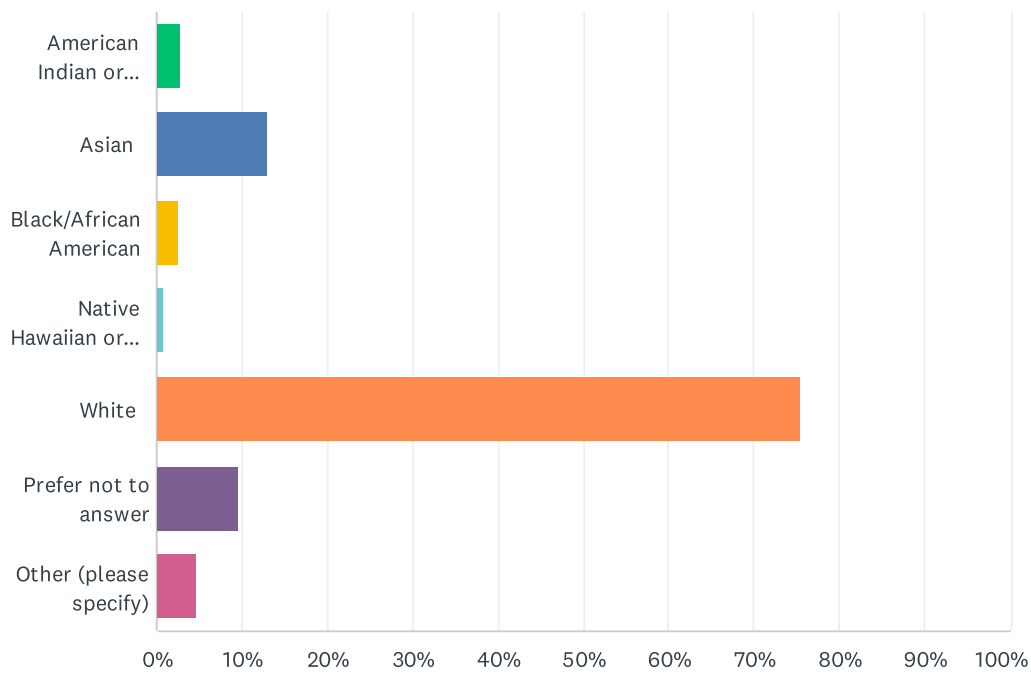
Answered: 314 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Hispanic/Latinx	3.82% 12
Not Hispanic/Latinx	82.48% 259
Prefer not to answer	13.69% 43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314</b>

### Q4 Do you consider yourself...(Please select all that apply.)

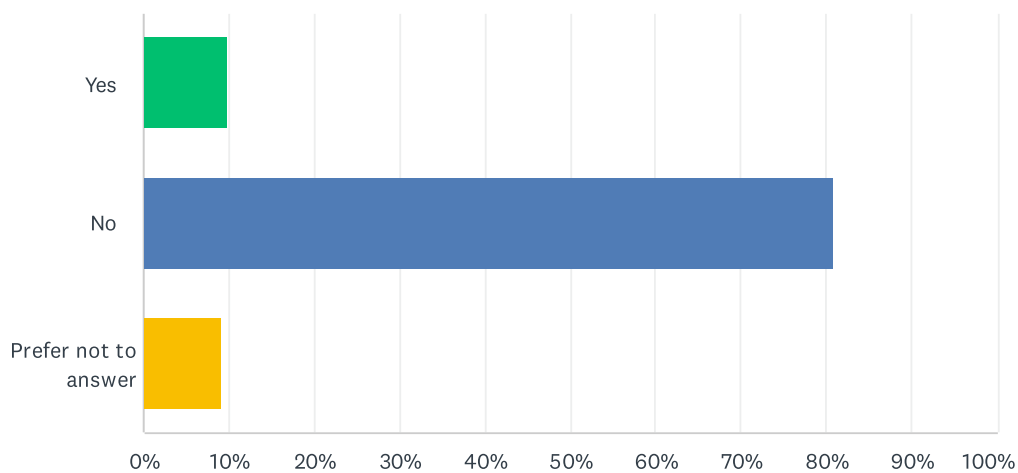
Answered: 315 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2.86%	9
Asian	13.02%	41
Black/African American	2.54%	8
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.95%	3
White	75.56%	238
Prefer not to answer	9.52%	30
Other (please specify)	4.76%	15
Total Respondents: 315		

## Q5 Are you part of the LGBTQIA+ community?

Answered: 314 Skipped: 2

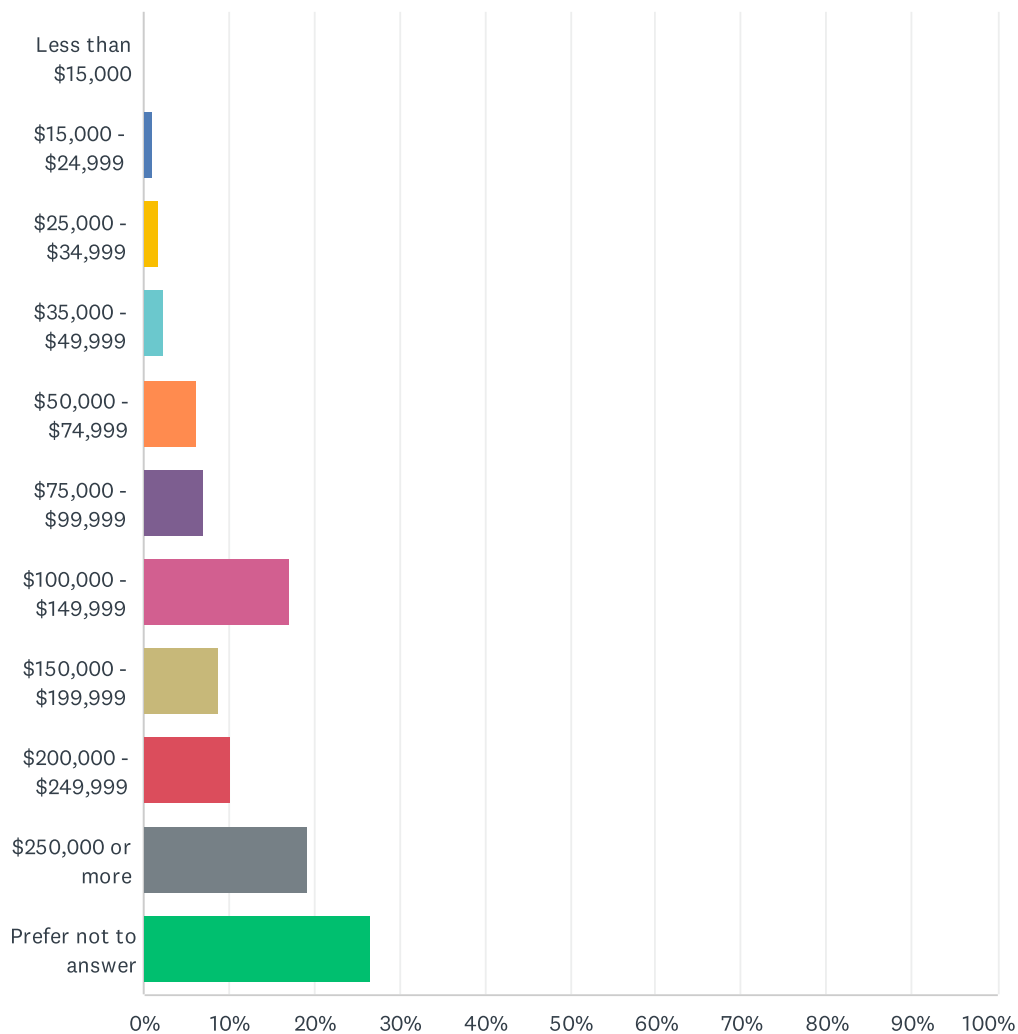


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	9.87% 31
No	80.89% 254
Prefer not to answer	9.24% 29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314</b>



## Q6 What is your household income?

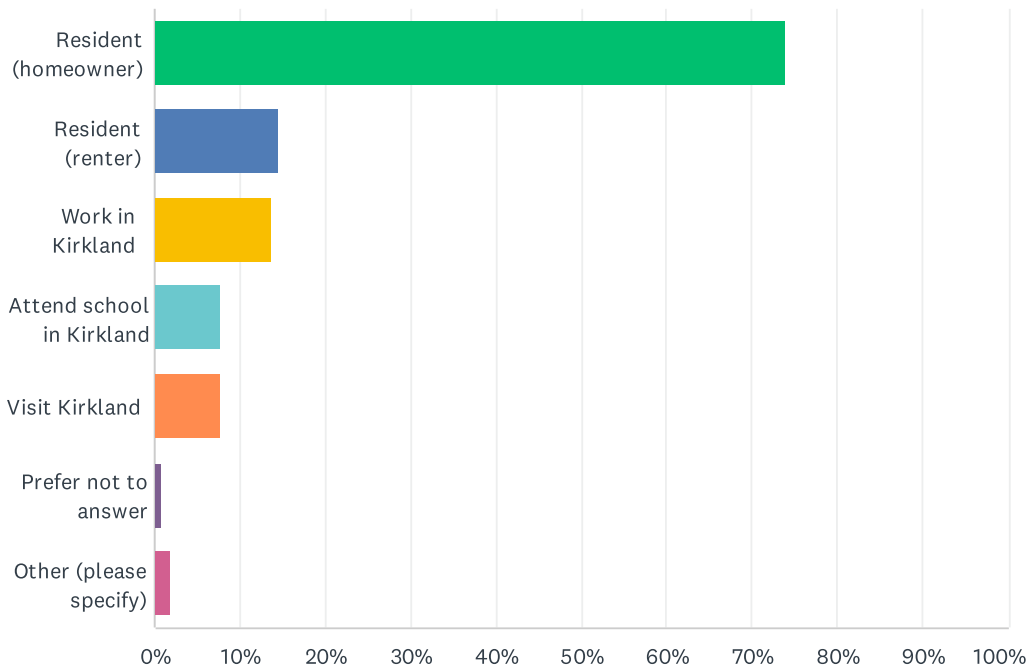
Answered: 311 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$15,000	0.00%	0
\$15,000 - \$24,999	0.96%	3
\$25,000 - \$34,999	1.61%	5
\$35,000 - \$49,999	2.25%	7
\$50,000 - \$74,999	6.11%	19
\$75,000 - \$99,999	7.07%	22
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17.04%	53
\$150,000 - \$199,999	8.68%	27
\$200,000 - \$249,999	10.29%	32
\$250,000 or more	19.29%	60
Prefer not to answer	26.69%	83
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>311</b>

## Q7 Relationship to Kirkland (Select all that apply)

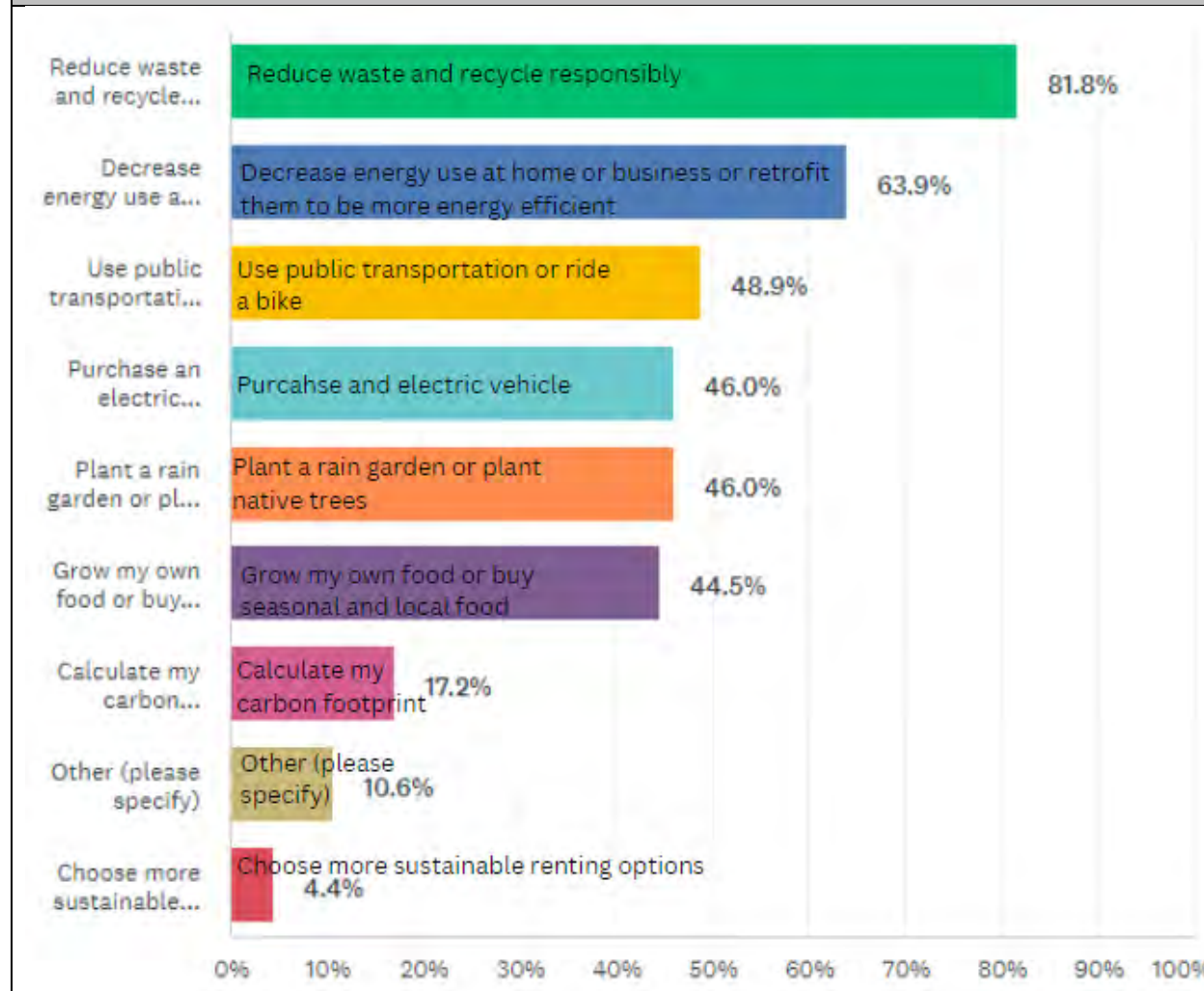
Answered: 315 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Resident (homeowner)	73.97%	233
Resident (renter)	14.60%	46
Work in Kirkland	13.65%	43
Attend school in Kirkland	7.62%	24
Visit Kirkland	7.62%	24
Prefer not to answer	0.95%	3
Other (please specify)	1.90%	6
Total Respondents: 315		

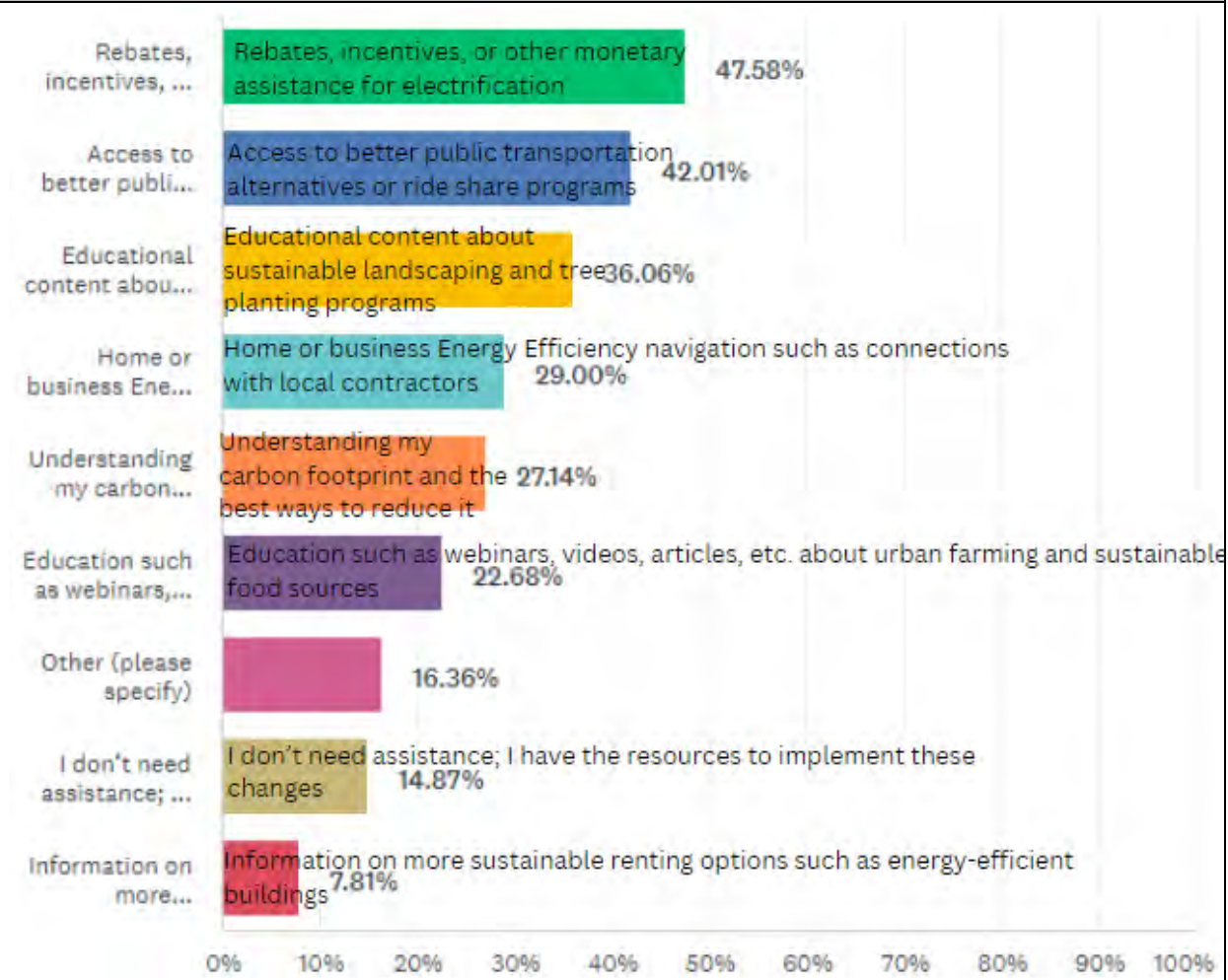
## Common Themes – Community Survey

**Q8: What are the top three (or more) actions that you are willing to take or try to reduce your impact on the environment?**

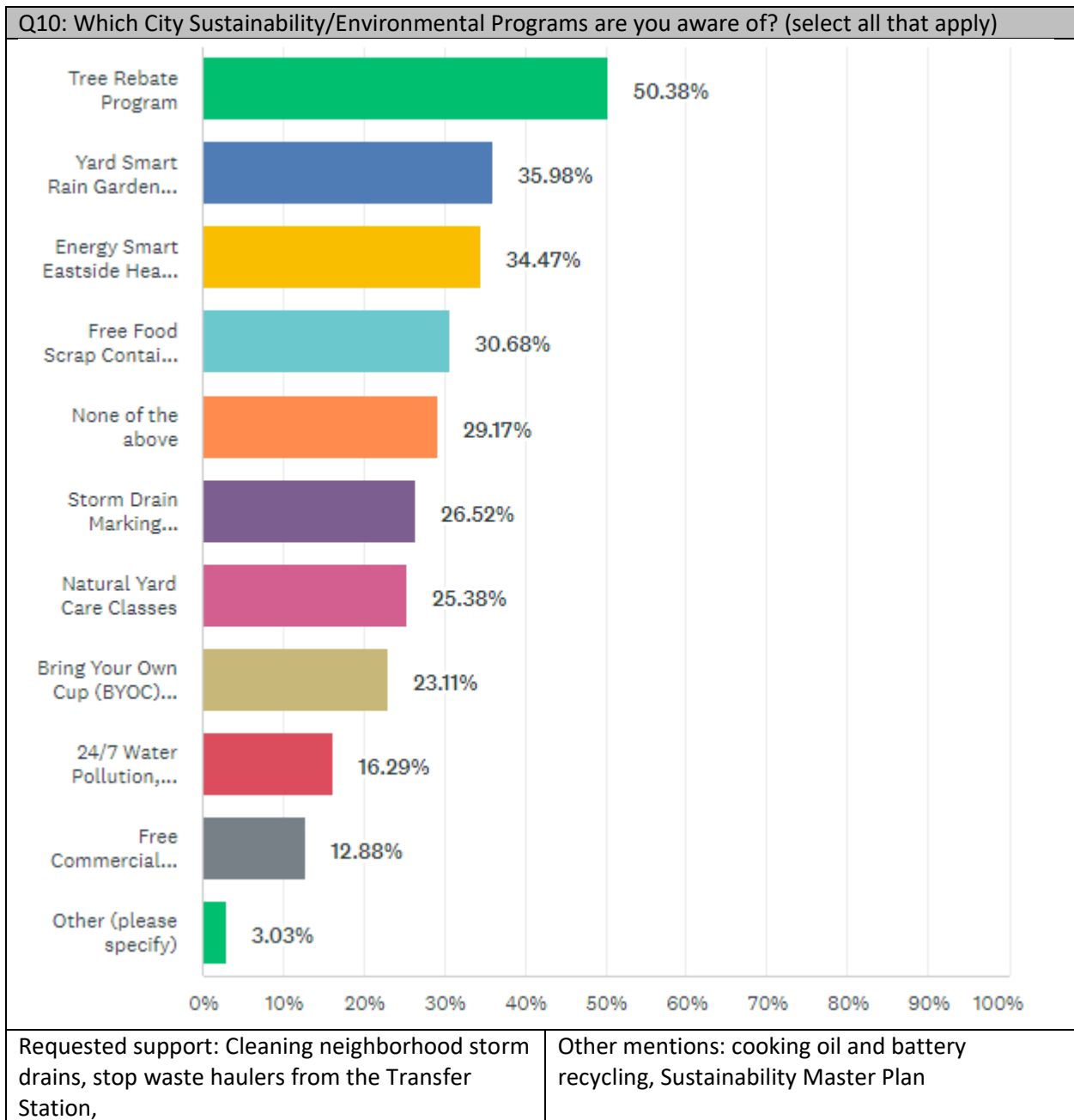


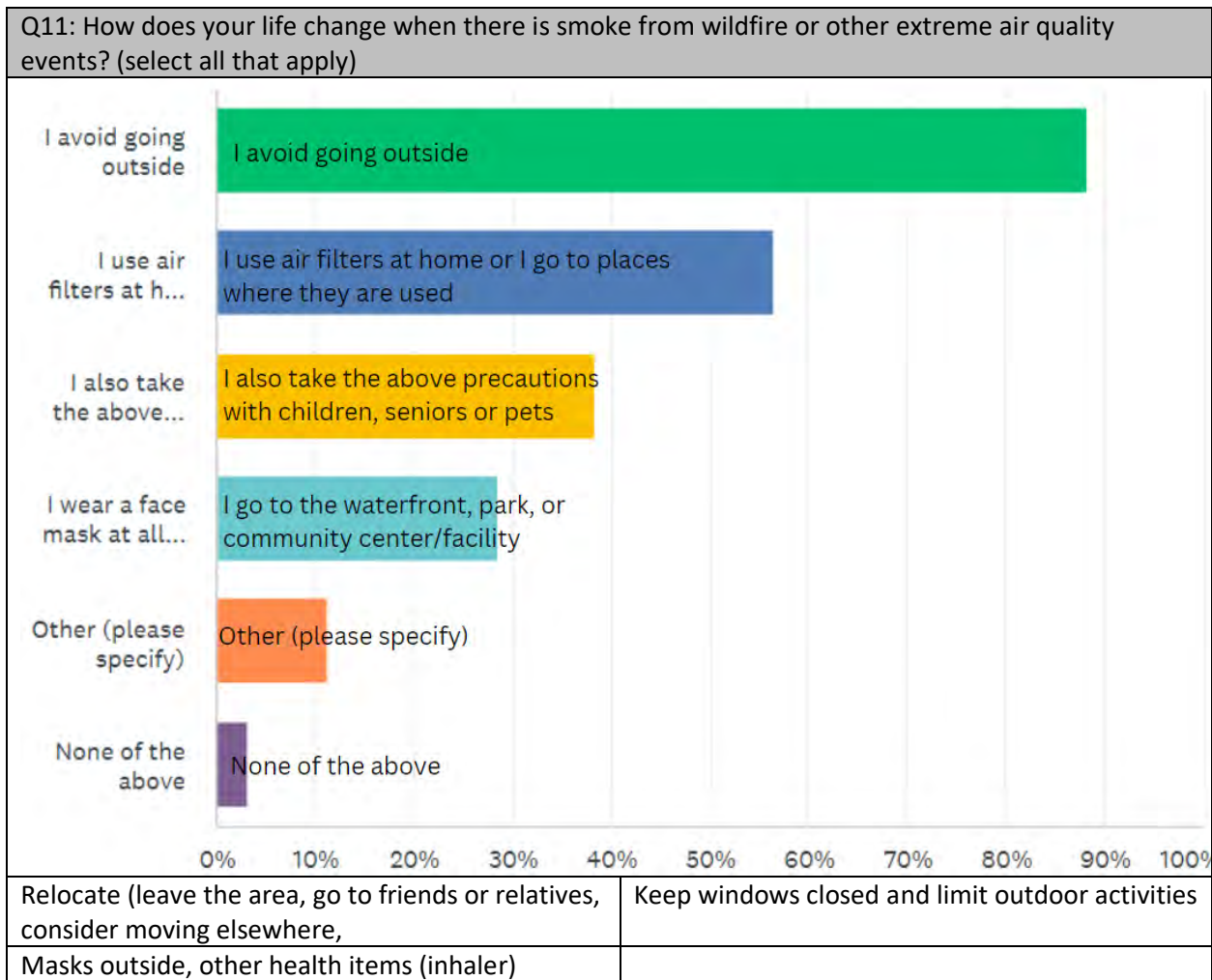
Other mentions: Move somewhere walkable, alternative transportation methods (bike, e-scooter, etc.), Advocate for large corporations and “ultra-wealthy” to be held accountable, City to reduce minimum parking, solar, educate next generation, change in lifestyle (food, travel, etc.), Electric/hybrid vehicle purchases,

Q9: What assistance, if any, would you need from the City to help you implement these actions?  
(select all that apply)

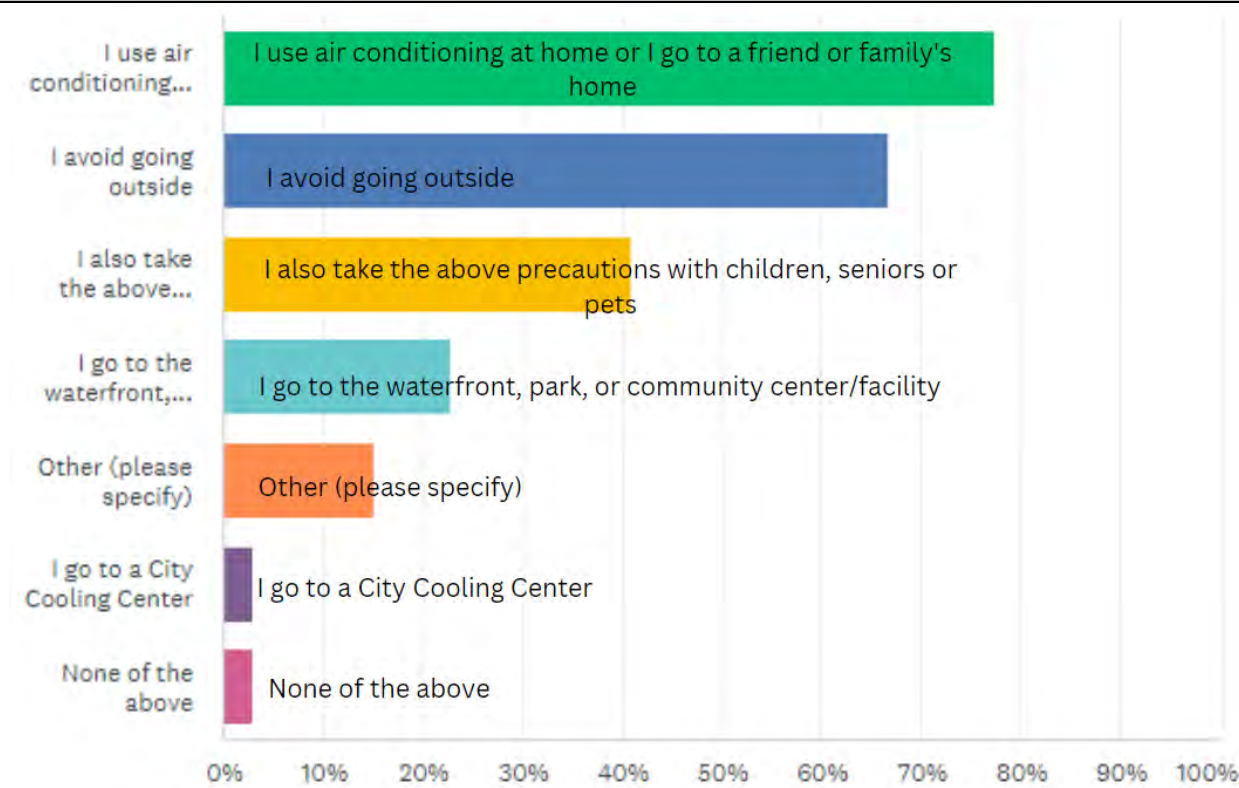


Requested support: retrofit options for all, more frequent convenient recycling options, zoning changes to include mixed-use, community garden, reduce minimum parking and increase alternative transportation, encourage reduced packaging for businesses, sliding scale for energy use, smaller and more affordable housing, community discussion forums





Q12: How does your life change during extreme heat events (i.e., high temperatures)? (select all that apply)

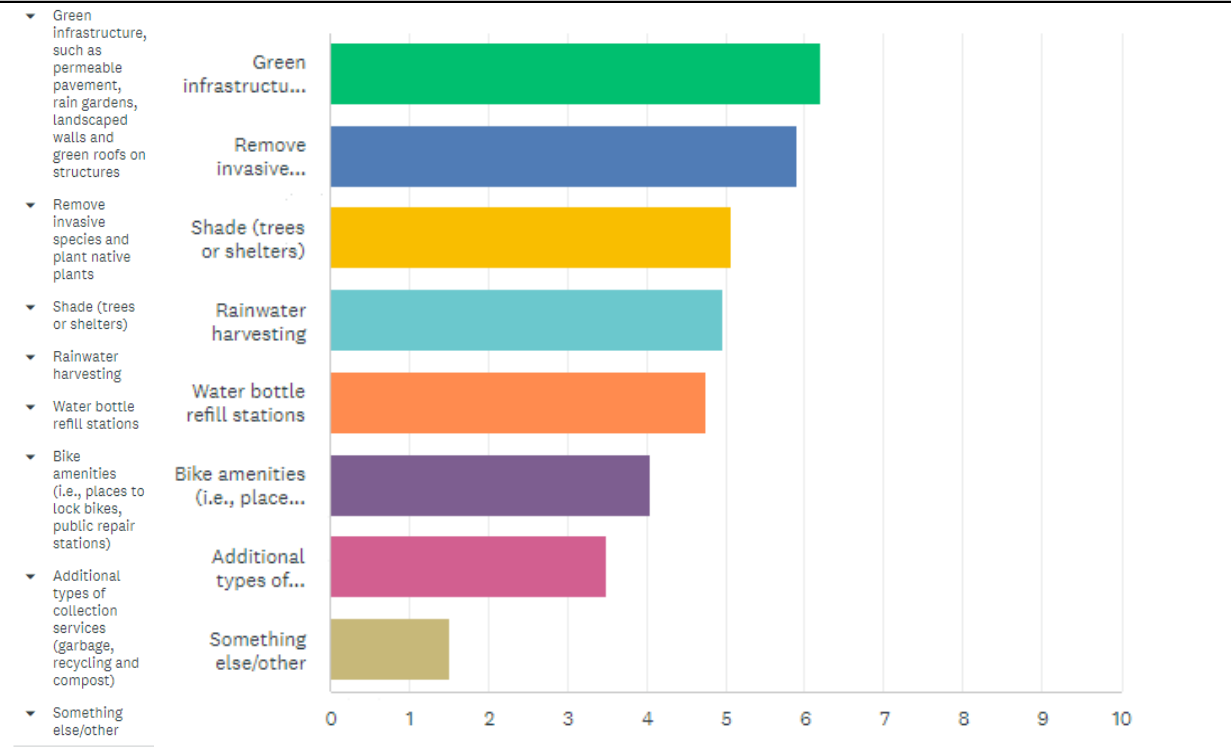


Alternative methods: fans (ceiling, electric, etc.), cold showers, avoid using heat generating appliances, "portable" AC unit, go outside in the mornings and evening only, car AC, hydration,

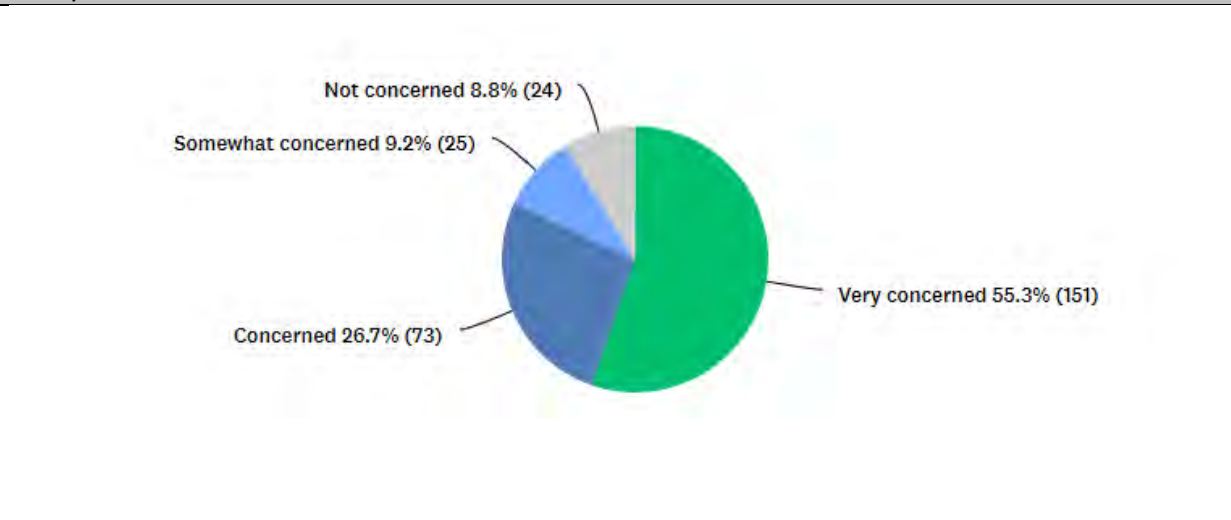
Relocate (hotel, consider moving elsewhere, basement, frequent locations with AC,



**Q13: What kind of sustainability efforts would you like to see more of at Kirkland parks? (1 as highest priority; 8 as lowest priority of these options)**

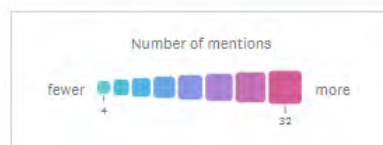


**Q14: Overall, how concerned are you about the impacts that climate change will have on your life and family?**



Q15: What other environmental issues need attention in Kirkland?	
Tree conservation (public and private), Invasive plant removal	Education and Awareness (expand Energy Smart Eastside programs, wetland and stream protection- water quality, Annual reports, etc.)
Convenience and Affordability (housing, programs, access, transportation, recycling events,)	More “pocket parks” and subsequent services (shade, public space, tree canopy, etc.)
Walkability, neighborhood connectivity, reduce traffic	Water quality/sewage issues in Juanita Creek
City buildings to lead by example	Stormwater runoff maintenance
ADA resources and services	

Word Cloud associated with key words in answers to Question #15



NOTE:  
 Some responses called to limit City resources and spending on climate-related topics. Others stated weather impacts are a natural process and Kirkland should “stop subscribing to Global Agendas i.e., Agenda 21 / 2030 Sustainable Development Goals / ICLEI.

## Common Themes from Focus Group Participants

Themes:	
- Equity	- Reduce vehicle dependency and improved alternative methods of transportation (link connections)
- Safety/protections	- Heavier regs and restrictions on new development
- City aid with education and incentive guidelines (language inclusivity noted)	- Measurable goals, provide human services, etc. "How else can Kirkland step up?"

Community:	Transportation:
- Walkability to resources (stores, shops, etc.)	- Safer and more efficient alternative methods of travel (bus, bike, etc.), comfortable/safe bike paths, dedicated bus lanes, access to Link from all points in Kirkland
- Electrification (improved power grid in response to power outages), No more gas hookups in new construction	- Relies on personal vehicles (family safety), bus/bike services could improve
- Improved transit and bike transportation	- Less dependence on personal vehicles
- City guidance and explanations on incentives in addition to regulations	- Pedestrian and bike-dedicated roads/areas (downtown, CKC, etc.)
- Community solar ("on every public building" "use as many rooftops as possible)	- Increased connectivity
- City to prioritize existing budget	
- Equity in access, burden conscious	
- Switch funding away from road improvements, willing to pay more in taxes and spend more	
- Access to expansive, thriving park and open green space network (despite income, location-connectivity, etc.)	
Trees:	Electrification:
- Increased tree canopy (parks, ROW, etc.)	- More (lots of support for this in chat and notes)
- Incentivize tree planting	- Renters should have access to EV charging stations via landlords
- Park space and Tree canopy conservation	- "Full EV charging network. Including rental buildings." (Sarah R +7 endorsements)

Housing:	Equity:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smaller housing, more middle housing, Diverse housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher taxes on biggest users (“I’m all for a climate protection tax. But we need to make sure it’s equitable and doesn’t burden folks with less means.”- Sri)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affordability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caution against increased parking fees that may unintentionally impact those with less means.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
Honorable mentions:	Resources:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Historic preservation, retrofit what we have, update existing buildings, recycle demo material</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate dashboard (Tree canopy distribution, heat maps, water quality)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to change zoning regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public art installment to track sustainability (one idea)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stronger policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educational material for homeowners and renters</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual report cards, newsletters, scorecards</li> </ul>

Implementation Strategies	
EAST method (G. Gunther, FG s#2 worksheet)	Incentives
Taxing biggest “users” (caution against unintended burdens on those with fewer means)	New sustainability-focused positions at the City
Make it convenient (see EAST method)	Sequencing development regulations (e.g., banning gas in new constructions in conjunction with increased access to affordable renewable energy, deadlines for old building retrofits, etc.) (S. Rajagopalan, FG s#2 worksheet)

# Updates to Comprehensive Plan Chapters

## Examples of issues we will be studying include:

- Where should the City plan for growth?
- How can we reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles?
- How can we increase housing affordability?
- How can we reduce waste and reliance on finite resources?



Environment | Parks | Transportation | Land Use | Housing | Human Services | City Services | Economic Development | Community Character

## In the future, how do you imagine getting around Kirkland?

We are updating the City’s Transportation Master Plan to set policy and prioritize future transportation projects in Kirkland! Tell us what you think!

For more information visit [kirklandwa.gov/TMP](http://kirklandwa.gov/TMP)

如需此文件中信息的简体中文 版本，请发送电子邮件至 [titleviordinator@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:titleviordinator@kirklandwa.gov) 或拨打 425-587-3831 联络 Title VI 协调员。

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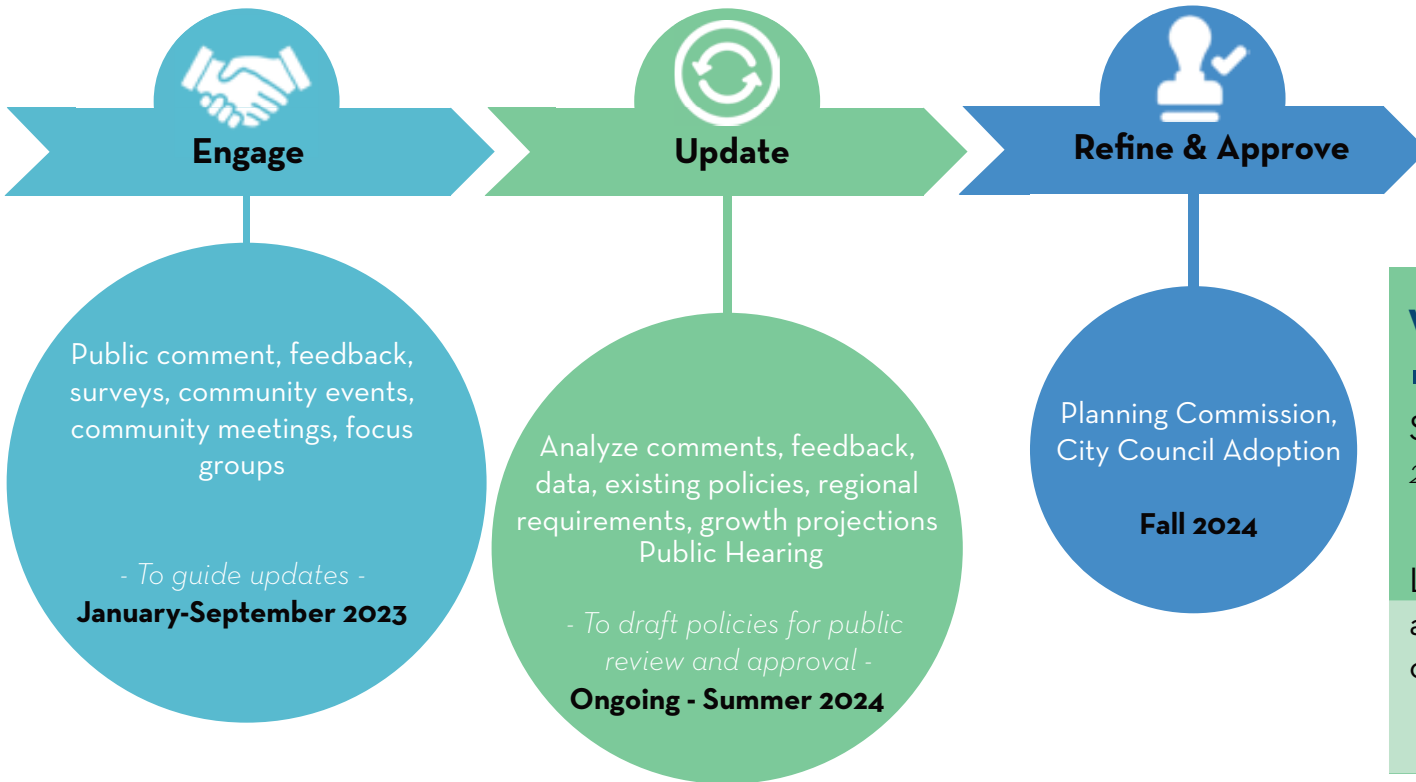
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# WHAT DO YOU WANT KIRKLAND TO LOOK LIKE?



Every eight years, our community comes together to create a vision and roadmap for Kirkland’s future.

We know growth is coming - more neighbors, more jobs, more transportation options - and Kirkland 2044 will help us successfully guide that growth over the next 20 years.



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Send us your thoughts by emailing [2044ComprehensivePlan@Kirklandwa.gov](mailto:2044ComprehensivePlan@Kirklandwa.gov)

Learn more about K2044 at [kirklandwa.gov/K2044](http://kirklandwa.gov/K2044) or scan this QR code.

