



# Quarterly Report: Spring 2025

## PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Spring brought more than sunshine to Kirkland, it brought energy, connection, and creativity to our parks, programs, and public spaces. From community festivals and cultural celebrations to teen-led projects and preschooler-powered programs, this quarter was all about showing up and getting involved. Behind the scenes, many new faces joined the team. This report highlights the stories, services, and standout moments of a vibrant second quarter for 2025.

### EVENTS & SERVICES



### VINTAGE VIBES AND FRIENDLY FINDS AT JUNK IN THE TRUNK

In May staff launched Kirkland's first-ever "Junk in the Trunk" community sale, and it exceeded expectations. Sixty vendors filled the Houghton Park and Play with everything from vintage treasures to quirky collectibles, drawing enthusiastic crowds. Food trucks kept everyone fueled for treasure hunting, and the vendor waitlist proved that this event hit a community sweet spot.

Shoppers and sellers connect over community and curiosities at the first-ever Junk in the Trunk sale



## EVENTS & SERVICES

Families celebrate Eid with joy, music, and community at Marina Park



Hundreds of kids dash for eggs and smiles at Peter Kirk Park



### SPRING CELEBRATIONS IN THE PARK

From festive spring holidays to community marches, Kirkland's parks were alive with energy this quarter.

- The Eid Celebration at Marina Park drew over 400 attendees, and the Peter Kirk Park Egg Hunt brought joy to more than 600 children and their families. The Beltane Festival capped off April with 4,000 attendees enjoying music and merriment by the waterfront.
- In May, local endurance events like the Kirkland Half Marathon and 7 Hills of Kirkland brought fitness and camaraderie to the streets.
- June welcomed the return of the Juanita Friday Market and Kirkland Wednesday Market and community-led events like the No Kings March, Eastside Salsa, and Midsummer Celebration.

Fresh-picked flavors and friendly faces at the Juanita Friday Market





## Listening to Lived Experience

In April, Human Services staff hosted a focus group at Lake Washington United Methodist Church to hear directly from participants in the Safe Parking program. These voices, rooted in lived experience, will help shape Kirkland's Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan.

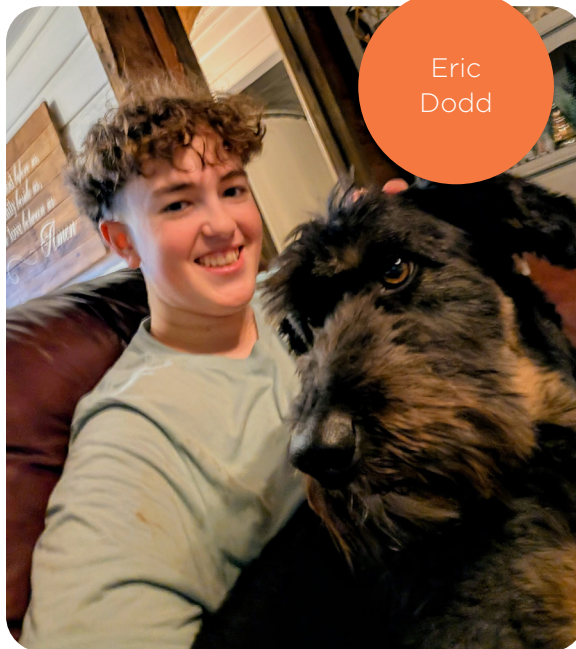
## HUMAN SERVICES

## WELCOMING NEW COMMISSIONERS

In April, the Human Services Commission bid farewell to Gildas Cheung, Melantha Jenkins, and Youth Commissioner Chloe Sow, and warmly welcomed Tasnim Rehamani, Shannon Quinn, and Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd.



Shannon  
Quinn



Eric  
Dodd



Tasnim  
Rehamani



Youth Council  
members  
dig into park  
restoration

## YOUTH COUNCIL IN ACTION

This spring, the Kirkland Youth Council (KYC) awarded mini-grants to seven school-based programs that foster inclusion, creativity, and leadership -- from robotics to cultural celebrations.

- Youth Council members also gave back through a pet supply drive for Homeward Pet and restoration work at Juanita Bay Park.
- KYC senior Jasmin Lowe-Valazquez received the Matthew Dahl Scholarship, and six standout high school interns began their summer roles supporting beloved Kirkland programs.



## PARK OPERATIONS & PLANNING

### SPRING WORK IN FULL SWING

Spring saw our parks crews in action:

- Sport courts got refreshed at Heritage Park and the North Kirkland Community Center.
- Beaches received a fresh layer of sand thanks to generous donations from the Kirkland Community Foundation.
- A new musical instrument at Juanita Beach was a hit with kids even before installation was complete.
- The Al Locke Pavilion at Marina Park received new gutters. Small details help preserve big memories.

Sound of play:  
The new musical  
installation at  
Juanita Beach  
Park



### DESIGNING DREAMS: PLANNING PARK DEVELOPMENT

Mariah Murphy, our new Parks Planning and Development Manager, brings over a decade of experience and a deep love for public spaces. Whether she's shaping inclusive park design or teaching outdoor yoga, Mariah's passion for building community through parks is front and center.

Mariah  
Murphy



### RANGERS ON DUTY: HERE TO HELP

With summer heating up, our friendly park rangers are out in force. In June, Seasonal rangers began greeting park visitors, sharing safety info, and keeping parks welcoming and safe. From the waterfront to the woodlands, this team is Kirkland's smile in the park.

Bella, Rory,  
Tanner, and  
Lucas:  
Ambassadors  
of park safety,  
stewardship, and  
connection

### Q2 TOTAL LABOR HOURS: 17217



4219.75  
garbage  
and  
recycling



2100  
mowing



1052  
hand  
weeding



956  
sports field  
maintenance



## RECREATION



### PRESCHOOLERS REV UP THEIR CREATIVITY AT BOX CAR DRIVE-IN

Over 45 preschoolers turned boxes into dream rides at the Box Car Drive-In this May. After crafting, kids climbed into their custom cruisers to watch *Cars* on the big screen. It was imagination in motion, and a big hit with parents and kids alike.

Preschoolers settle in for movie magic in their homemade cars.

Seniors engage with local experts to stay smart and scam-savvy at this sold-out workshop.

### FRAUD PREVENTION WORKSHOP PROVIDES TOOLS TO STAY SAFE

The Kirkland Senior Council hosted a sold-out Fraud Prevention Workshop in June. Eighty residents packed the room to learn how to spot scams, protect personal information, and stay safe online. Humana provided lunch, while attendees left empowered and informed.



Teens take the lead in KTUB's Recording Studio.

### KTUB RECORDING STUDIO HITS HIGH NOTE

The KTUB Recording Studio wrapped its first 8-week program in June, producing an original song collaboratively crafted by local teens. With guidance from alumni and pro instructors, students gained hands-on experience in songwriting, sound engineering, and performance. Summer open studio time is giving teens room to grow.



## RECREATION

### AQUATICS SEASON SPLASHDOWN

The 2025 aquatics season dove in strong, with 95 staff members onboarded, including 26 new hires. Highlights included 46 lifeguard certifications and recertifications, waterfront training for 57 lifeguards, and CPR/First Aid training for 30 staff. Twenty-four teens completed AquaLeader training, so they can volunteer as Junior Lifeguards and Swim Instructor Aides this season. Kirkland's lifeguarded beaches opened early on June 29, following an intensive Beach Training Camp.

Practice makes perfect: Lifeguards rehearse rescues



Training to keep summer safe and fun



### PARK BOARD WELCOMES NEW PERSPECTIVES

This spring Kirkland Park Board said farewell to former chair Mike Holland and Crystal Thimsen and welcomed new members Berenice Bertoni and Denise Lindberg.

Denise Lindberg



Berenice Bertoni



This spring, our parks and programs didn't just serve, they inspired. From teen musicians to park rangers, mini-grants to musical instruments, this quarter was about connection. We're proud to serve a community that shows up, speaks up, and plays hard. Here's to a summer full of shared moments and new memories.

More events, programs, and more ways to connect are coming this summer to make Kirkland a place where everyone belongs, every season. [www.kirklandwa.gov/parks](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/parks)