

# KIRKLAND



## PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to support a healthy and sustainable community by providing high quality parks and recreation services, ensuring a collaborative community response to basic human needs, and protecting our natural areas.

# DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

## ADMINISTRATION



The Administration Division is responsible for Department leadership, financial and personnel management, training and development, risk management, and regional and state coordination for the delivery of parks and community services. The division liaises and collaborates with the Park Board.

## HUMAN SERVICES



The Human Services Division serves as coordinator, facilitator, and funder for services to meet basic human needs in the community and help people through economic and personal crises, and provides low and moderate-income persons with opportunities to succeed. The division collaborates with the Human Services Commission and Kirkland Youth Council.

## PARKS MANAGEMENT



The Parks Management Division ensures the Kirkland park system meets the needs of the community by actively managing park assets to ensure consistent service delivery, aesthetically pleasing and safe parks, well-maintained sports courts and fields, event venue availability, and maximized progress towards green practices and environmental preservation. The Green Kirkland Partnership program is part of the division.

## PARK PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



The Park Planning and Development Division is responsible for park master planning, facility design, land acquisition, capital projects, construction management, grant preparation and long-range strategic policy planning for parks.

## RECREATION



The Recreation Division is responsible for enhancing the community's quality of life by providing programs and services to improve physical, mental, and social wellbeing with a focus on meeting the needs of diverse users. The division is also responsible for community-building events such as Celebrate Kirkland 4th of July parade, Harvest Festival, Día de los Muertos, and Lunar New Year. The division collaborates with the Kirkland Senior Council.

## SPECIAL EVENTS



The Special Events Division provides special event support and permitting designed to support Kirkland's neighborhoods, as well as the City's special event, business, and film production industries. The Special Event Team ensures events are safe, well-organized, and compliant with State, County and City codes and regulations. The division also coordinates and manages the Juanita Friday Market held each summer.

**63**  
Employees



**53** Parks  
**22** Open Spaces



**700**  
Total Acres  
Maintained



**53**  
City & School  
Athletic Fields



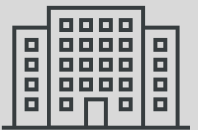
**Peter Kirk Pool &  
3 Swimming Beaches**



**Kirkland  
Cemetery**



**North Kirkland  
and Peter Kirk  
Community Centers**



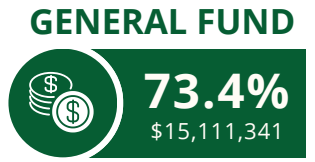
**Heritage Hall**



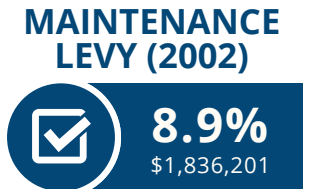
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## 2023 TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET: \$20,598,026

The General Fund is the department's largest funding source. Funding for the General Fund comes from property, sales, and other taxes; charges for goods and services, including recreation programs; and license and permit fees. The General Fund supports a healthy and sustainable community by providing high quality parks and recreation services, ensuring a collaborative community response to basic human needs, and protecting natural areas.



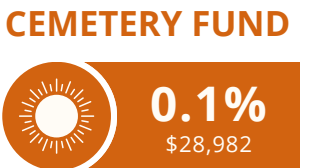
Voters approved the Maintenance Levy in 2002 to support the maintenance and operation of parks including Juanita Beach Park, Carillon Woods, North Rose Hill Woodlands Park, as well as select Lake Washington School District school athletic fields. This funding supports landscape and horticulture services, athletic field maintenance, restroom and park amenity services, trail maintenance, and other repair and construction projects of these properties.



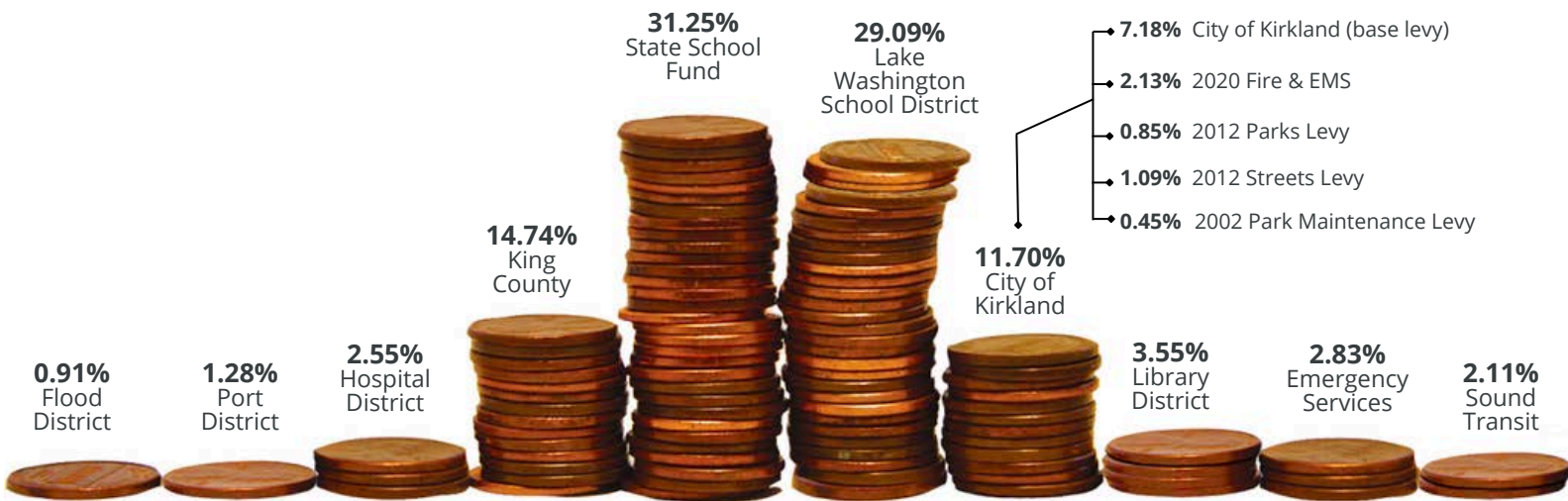
The Parks Levy was approved by voters in 2012. This levy restored beach lifeguards at designated swimming beaches and maintenance at neighborhood parks, including restroom operations and repairs. The levy also provides funding for maintenance of O.O. Denny Park and the Cross Kirkland Corridor, the Green Kirkland Partnership, and annual repair and upkeep of sports courts and playgrounds.



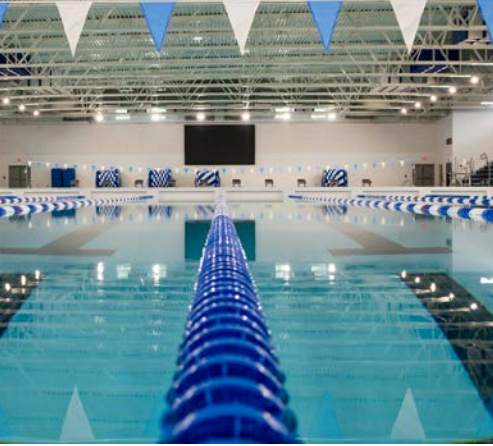
The Cemetery Fund pays for funeral services, internments, installation of markers and general cemetery infrastructure. Landscaping and general upkeep of the space is funded by the General Fund.



## WHERE YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO



# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



## PARKS PROPOSITION 1

The Kirkland community has expressed a need for an indoor pool for many years. Most recently the need for a community pool and other priorities were a major theme after significant community input gathered through the 2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. This led to the formation of the Parks Funding Exploratory Committee (PFEC) to advise the Council, a community survey to further help understand the community's priorities, and numerous emails, conversations, and comments at council meetings.

All of this led the Council to place Proposition 1 on the November 2023 ballot. The annual levy revenue would have been used to fund the following:

- 86,000 square foot indoor aquatic & recreation center operations
- Add 9 year-round restrooms to parks across Kirkland
- Additional park rangers & enhanced park safety
- New sport courts including sand volleyball and pickleball
- Increased beach lifeguarding & new water safety program
- Expand teen services & Kirkland Teen Union Building operations
- Acquisition, easements, and development of Green loop trail segments
- Park operations, maintenance, and improvements

Ultimately, Kirkland voters did not support the ballot measure and Proposition 1 failed, 41% to 59%.



## CELEBRATE KIRKLAND

In 2023, the Recreation division took over the organization and production of the Celebrate Kirkland 4th of July Parade from the Kirkland Downtown Association. The 24th annual Celebrate Kirkland parade was a remarkable display of community unity attended by 30,000 spectators. The day was made even more special with the Kids Parade, featuring approximately 2,000 kids and families. With sponsorship by Kenworth Truck Company and the Lee Johnson Auto Family, it was a truly fantastic day for everyone involved, highlighting the rich tapestry of Kirkland's diverse community.



## HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE TEAM

The City is committed to helping ensure Kirkland is safe and welcoming to all, including those experiencing homelessness. In early 2023, Meli Paulo joined the department as Kirkland's Homeless Outreach Coordinator. She works in collaboration with City staff to build relationships to foster trust, provide basic need items, and connect residents with available services. The City realized that a coordinated response to homelessness was needed and established a Homelessness Assistance and Response Team (HART) that includes Crisis Responders, Neighborhood Resource Officers, the Mobile Integrated Health Unit, Community Court Coordinator, Park Rangers, and Meli, as the Homeless Outreach Coordinator.



# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**January**  
Inaugural Lunar New Year Event



**February**  
Snyder's Corner Dog Park Re-Opening



**July**  
132nd Square Park Grand Re-opening



**September**  
3rd Annual See Spot Splash at the Peter Kirk Pool



**October**  
3rd Annual Kirkland Harvest Festival

## 2022 PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN PROGRESS

- 206 goals and objectives in the PROS Plan
- Six objectives were completed in 2023; 17 are in progress
- Priority goals centered around an aquatics and recreation facility, park safety, trail networks, and the Kirkland Teen Union Building were included in a November 2023 ballot measure which did not pass.
- City Council directed funding to open Kirkland Teen Union Building as a drop-in teen center in 2024.
- Other high priority goals are being pursued through the capital improvement program and future funding requests.

# RECREATION

## INCLUSIVE RECREATION

The department offers residents of all ages and abilities the opportunity to participate in diverse and high-quality recreation programs that are accessible and affordable. To reduce financial barriers to participation, scholarships are available to Kirkland residents who meet income eligibility requirements based on their household size. The scholarship program fosters a sense of belonging within the community and increases equitable access to the programs and services offered in Kirkland.

**\$22,195**  
**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS USED**

**\$5,372**  
**SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS RECEIVED**

In 2023, 70 families consisting of 213 individuals benefited from the recreation scholarship program. Top program registrations using scholarship funds were

1. Youth camps
2. Swim lessons
3. TIE: Youth programs & Preschool programs

**2,019**  
**RECREATION PROGRAMS**

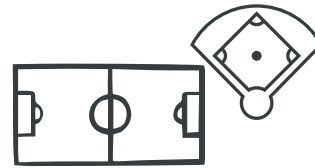


**17,046**  
**RECREATION PARTICIPANTS**



**RECREATION PROGRAM HOURS**

**16,072**



**12,595**  
**ATHLETIC FIELD RESERVATION HOURS**



**5,579**  
**PICNIC SHELTER RESERVATION HOURS**

## Senior Services at PKCC

In partnership with local agencies, the Peter Kirk Community Center provides opportunities in health and wellness all year long. In 2023, congregate meals were served four days per week. Meals were also delivered to the homebound through Meals on Wheels. The Enhance Wellness program offers support to seniors in the community by developing a personalized health plan tailored to each individual. There is a nurse, social worker, and community resource specialist on-site three days a week providing individual appointments as well as support groups and classes.

**12,430**  
**SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM MEALS SERVED**

**4,119**  
**SENIOR SERVICES & TRANSPORTATION APPOINTMENTS**



# RECREATION

**91,185**  
**BEACH VISITORS**  
 (JUNE 28– SEPT. 4)



**1,321**  
**LIFEJACKETS LOANED**



## 2023 AQUATICS

The Recreation division manages all aquatic activities at the Peter Kirk Pool and three swimming beaches. The team grew by 108 staff for the summer season. This was the first fully-programmed season at the Peter Kirk Pool since 2019. The pool was full of classes, lessons, and activities for about 16 hours a day. The three swimming beaches at Houghton Beach, Waverly Beach, and Juanita Beach parks opened early on June 28, 2023, allowing community members additional days of lifeguarded lake swimming.

**9,720**  
**OPEN SWIM ENTRIES**



**14**  
**BEACH RESCUES BY LIFEGUARDS**



## TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen programming that began in 2022 continued in 2023 with year-round activities, including free monthly teen nights, low cost outdoor hikes and trips, cooking classes, free life skills classes, and new art programs. Teen programs served nearly 500 youth in 2023.

**491**  
**TEEN PARTICIPANTS**

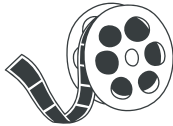


**252**  
**HOURS OF TEEN PROGRAMS**

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Recreation division produces cultural and inclusive community-building events in Kirkland including Harvest Festival, See Spot Splash, a series of drive-in movies and movies in the park, Light Up Kirkland, Día de los Muertos, and Lunar New Year. Over 40,000 participants enjoyed the events throughout 2023. These events encourage economic development and provide inclusive and culturally relevant activities for the community to come together.

**11**  
**MOVIES IN THE PARK**



**+40,000**  
**COMMUNITY EVENT PARTICIPANTS**



**103**  
**COMMUNITY GARDENERS**



## GIVING PROGRAM



In 2023, 1 bench, 1 drinking fountain, and 1 tree were donated through the giving program

**\$11,485**

## SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

**241**



**FOLLOWERS 3,582**

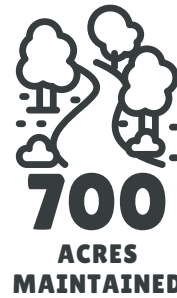


# PARKS MANAGEMENT

The Parks Management Division is the largest division of the department but often goes unnoticed by the public. Crews begin their work early in the morning, and often work late into the night, to ensure our parks always look their best. The Parks Management Division not only cares for our parks, but also provides support for special events, park construction, and other city initiatives.

## Snyder's Corner

The pop-up dog park at Snyder's Corner re-opened in late January. Over the course of 2023, staff made many small but impactful improvements to the dog park including moving the dog park, installing double gates, adding seating, and adding on-site parking. These changes are just some of the examples of how this division serves the community.



**TOTAL LABOR HOURS  
WORKED BY PARKS  
MAINTENANCE STAFF**



**PER ACRE**  
budget per acre of  
space maintained



Water from Lake Washington used to irrigate waterfront parks saved the city over \$98,600

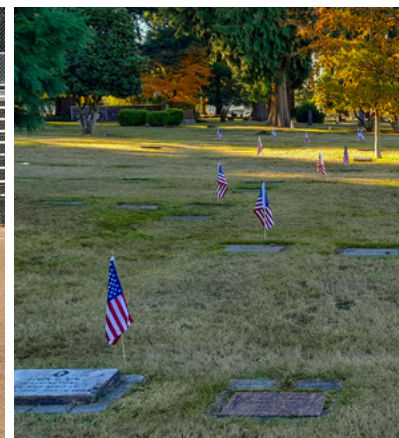


## GREEN KIRKLAND PARTNERSHIP

The Green Kirkland Partnership continues Kirkland's commitment to restoring natural areas in parks



\*Primarily saplings and tree-like shrubs including English laurel and Portuguese laurel





# HUMAN SERVICES


## HEALTH FAIR

The Human Services Division contracted with King County Promotores Network to host the third Kirkland Health and Wellness Fair on September 16, 2023, at Juanita High School. This year saw over 1200 attendees from all over the region.

 **111**  
basic health screenings

 **115**  
flu shots administered

 **49**  
volunteers

 **31**  
community exhibitors

**19**  
dental services provided

 **19**  
dental services provided

## HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH

Meli Paulo joined the City in April 2023. In 9 months, Meli made great strides in connecting with unhoused community members.


 **124**  
households served

 **58**  
households working on stability plan

 **9**  
Households moved into housing

## SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE

During inclement weather when temperatures drop within freezing range, the City activates the severe weather hotel voucher program to ensure the safety of unhoused residents. Activation of the program during Winter 2023 brought 8 adults and 2 children inside from the cold.

 **29**  
Hotel night stays

Human Services administered  
**\$2,371,116**  
in grants, which supported  
over 12,000 individuals in the  
following areas:



**Housing Stability and Food Security**  
\$1,331,377



**Physical and Mental Health Care Services**  
\$395,531



**Community-Building & Supportive Relationships**  
\$361,238



**Safe Haven and Violence & Abuse Prevention**  
\$165,366



**Employment and Education**  
\$117,604

## KIRKLAND YOUTH COUNCIL

### KYC MINI-GRANTS

Kirkland Youth Council awarded **\$8,500** in mini-grants to **17** programs serving Kirkland youth development and enrichment. Programs supported include:

- Athletic, academic, and art-focused school clubs
- Multilingual and multicultural library materials
- Cultural events for youth and families



### TEEN TRAFFIC COURT

In cooperation with the Kirkland Municipal Court, the Kirkland Youth Council offers a monthly Student Traffic Court (STC) program to their driving peers.

In 2023, **25** cases were heard. Most common infractions for 2023 were:

- Speeding 11-15 mph Over Limit (21%)
- Improper Lane Usage (14%)
- Speeding 21mph-25mph Over Limit (7%)



# SPECIAL EVENTS

Kirkland enjoyed a spectacular year of special events in 2023. Parks were filled day and night with everything from farm fresh produce and free public concerts to festive beer gardens and gnarled witches' brooms. The cycling community was thrilled to welcome back the beloved 7 Hills of Kirkland Bike Ride which was rescued by the Kirkland Kiwanis Club. The long-running annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt at Peter Kirk Park officially joined the ranks of special events. The PNW Witches' Market brought the new Beltane Festival, Mabon Festival and Samhain Celebration to Juanita Beach Park. Feriton Spur Park came to life in 2023 with a new Summer Event Series in July and the StoryBook Theater in August.



**30**  
Special  
Event  
permits

**3**  
Commercial  
film permits

**12**  
Neighborhood  
Block Party  
permits

**7**  
National  
Night Out  
permits

**29**  
Banner  
permits

## JUANITA FRIDAY MARKET

The City-operated farmers market wrapped up its 17th season which took place over 18 weeks at Juanita Beach Park. Staff strived to provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community gathering space for all people. The market hosted 47 vendors, of which 15 were owned and operated by women, three were BIPOC owned and operated, and 28 were family owned. In all, more than 14 countries were represented through food, drink, artisan crafts, and more.



**47**  
REGISTERED  
VENDORS

**1,475**  
AVERAGE WEEKLY  
ATTENDANCE

**\$20,890**  
AVERAGE WEEKLY SALES

# CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

## 132ND SQUARE PARK

The redeveloped 132nd Square Park re-opened on July 15, 2023. The redevelopment project included the first synthetic turf field in a City of Kirkland park, a new accessible playground, new year-round family-style restrooms, and a stormwater management facility tucked under the turf field that treats and slows the flow of rainwater from over 48 acres surrounding the park resulting in cleaner water entering Totem Lake and Juanita Creek. The park also included a new public artwork from Cobalt Designwork titled 'Individually We Transform, Together We Soar.' The redeveloped 132nd Square Park was inspired by the diversity of Kirkland and includes something for everyone.



## TOTEM LAKE PARK ENHANCEMENT

Since the Totem Lake Park playground opened in 2021, the City has received numerous requests for shading to protect playground visitors from the intense sun during Pacific Northwest summers. Three cantilever shade sails were installed at the beginning of November 2023.

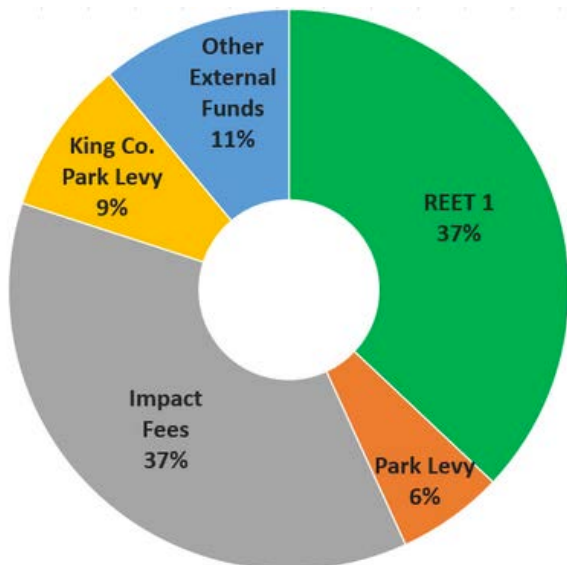


## PARK LAND ACQUISITION

In September 2023, 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 began maintenance of the new park in December 2023 and will make moderate improvements to the park in the upcoming year.



## Capital Improvement Program Funding Sources 2023-2028



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS

Multiple capital projects started in 2023 and will continue over the next year including

- Marina Park Pier Repairs and Renovations
- Everest Park Restroom Replacement
- Everest Park Playground Expansion and ADA Pathways
- O.O. Denny Park Picnic Shelter





# 2023 Kirkland City Council

Pictured from left to right: Toby Nixon, Jon Pascal, Kelli Curtis, Mayor Penny Sweet, Amy Falcone, Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Neal Black

## Park Board

**Chair:** Mike Holland | **Vice Chair:** Tessa Hansen  
Amy Ambrosini | Tammy Cohen  
Katherine Kearny | Roshan Parikh  
Crystal Thimsen | Tara Bobbarjung (Youth)

## Human Services Commission

**Chair:** Jory Hamilton | **Vice Chair:** Gabriela Lopez  
Vazquez | Gildas Cheung | Melantha Jenkins  
Cristian Liu | Sriram Rajagopalan | Jonathan Stutz  
Chloe Sow (Youth)

[kirklandwa.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions](http://kirklandwa.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions)

## Kirkland Senior Council

[kirklandwa.gov/seniorcouncil](http://kirklandwa.gov/seniorcouncil)

## Kirkland Youth Council

[kirklandwa.gov/youthcouncil](http://kirklandwa.gov/youthcouncil)

## City Leadership

**City Manager:** Kurt Triplett  
**Deputy City Manager:** Jim Lopez  
**Deputy City Manager:** Beth Goldberg  
**Deputy City Manager:** Julie Underwood

## Parks and Community Services

**Director:** Lynn Zwaagstra  
**Deputy Director:** John Lloyd  
**Parks Operations Manager:** Jason Filan  
**Park Planning and Development Manager:** Mary Gardocki  
**Recreation Manager:** Sara Shellenbarger  
**Human Services Manager:** Jen Boone

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