

ORDINANCE No. 3448

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION, AND AMENDING "KIRKLAND'S COMPREHENSIVE PARK, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN" AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 3160.

Whereas, the Kirkland Department of Parks and Recreation, together with the Kirkland Park Board, have conducted an in-depth study and review of Kirkland's program, policies and planning for habitat conservation, which process included opportunity for public input and participation, and

Whereas, the Kirkland Parks and Recreation Department and the Kirkland Park Board have, on the basis of said study and review, recommended to the City Council amendment of the comprehensive parks, open space and recreation plan to include a habitat conservation element, and

Whereas, the Kirkland City Council has reviewed said proposed element, finds it to be consistent with and in aid of Kirkland's park planning, and

Whereas, a habitat conservation plan is required by the Washington State Interagency Committee for outdoor recreation for the City to remain eligible for grant funds assistance, now, therefore

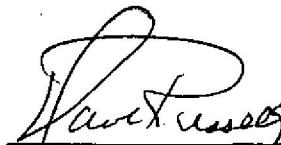
Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The document entitled "Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan" as adopted by Ordinance 3160, is hereby amended by the inclusion of the attached pages which shall be added to Section 2 of said plan and be known as the Habitat Conservation Element.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be in force and effect five days from and after its passage by the Kirkland City Council and publication, as required by law.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in regular, open meeting this 3rd day of January, 1995.


Signed in authentication thereof this 3rd day of January, 1995.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney  
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## Habitat Conservation

### Purpose

The City of Kirkland recognizes that its natural areas and open spaces are a vital component of the health and well being of the community. A key precept of the City of Kirkland is the conservation and enhancement of the ecological resources found within its borders.

A framework of management objectives has been created to ensure that this conservation and enhancement goal is met.

### Management Objectives

1. Protection of existing open space through ongoing management and maintenance.
2. Continuation and expansion of educational and recreational programs intended to support the existing levels of environmental sensitivity shared by City residents.
3. Acquisition of additional parcels of open space or natural areas with the focus placed on the expansion of ecological corridors.

These objectives are presented and discussed within the City of Kirkland's Comprehensive Park, Open Space, and Recreation Plan and are defined as the primary goals of the City's Parks and Recreation Department: *"acquire, develop, and renovate a system of parks, recreational spaces, and open spaces that is attractive, safe, functional, and available to all segments of the population,"* and to *"enhance the quality of life in the community by providing recreation program services that are creative and responsive to the needs of the public."* The successful implementation of these objectives also relies on additional management guidelines and regulations promulgated by County, State, and federal agencies.

### Existing City of Kirkland Natural Resources

The City of Kirkland is 9.2 square miles in size. Within this area are over 400 acres of City administered parks and open spaces and another 550 acres of State and County parks within its planning area.

The following is a list of City-owned natural park areas:

Forbes Lake Park - 5.5 acres  
 Forbes Valley Wetland - 5.5 acres  
 Heron Field Wetland - 18.8 acres  
 Juanita Bay Park - 111 acres  
 North Rose Hill Park - 17.9 acres  
 Watershed Park - 66 acres  
 Yarrow Bay Wetland - 66 acres

Additionally, the City has adjacent to its boundaries the following additional natural park areas:

Bridle Trails Park - 400 acres  
     Washington State Park System  
 Juanita Beach Park - 35 acres  
     King County Park System  
 Totem Lake Park - 24 acres  
     King Conservation District

Through far-sighted management and enhancement programs initiated in the 1960's, and maintained to this day, the City has balanced economic growth and expansion while providing habitat opportunities for a diversity of plant and animal species. These habitat opportunities are also a result of the City's geographic setting and natural landforms. Two productive salmonid-bearing streams are located within the City (Juanita and Forbes Creeks) which, in association with Lake Washington, provide habitat for Coho and Sockeye salmon, and Cutthroat and Steelhead trout. The City contains nearly 4.2 miles of shoreline with a diversity of associated wetland and riparian ecosystems. Over one hundred species of birds have

been documented within the City, primarily in association with wetland and riparian areas. Land mammals such as black-tailed deer, coyote, beaver, and raccoon are still observed within the City's borders. Forty-seven of the species documented or expected to be present within the City are listed as Priority Species by the Washington Department of Wildlife. Included within this Priority List are species such as the Western Pond Turtle, the Spotted Frog and Cascades Frog; and the Bald Eagle, Osprey, and cavity nesting ducks such as Wood Ducks and Buffleheads.

The City is committed to maintaining the vitality and viability of the ecosystems which support the health and diversity of these species.

#### Directions

The City acknowledges that the window of opportunity for acquisition of additional open spaces and parkland is diminishing. Recognized impacts associated with an ever increasing urban population include the loss of privately-owned open spaces, an increase in ornamental and invasive plants which threaten native vegetative communities, and an increase in competitive pressure upon native wildlife by non-native species and domestic pets.

#### Public Attitudes

Formal surveys completed in 1988 and 1994, and informal surveys held during public meetings and neighborhood workshops, confirm the importance placed by City residents upon the preservation of open spaces and parks. The most recent survey completed in 1994 interviewed 400 households within the City to discern patterns of park usage and concerns among the residents. The survey revealed that nearly nine out of ten of the participants have had at least one member of their household visit a City park within the previous year. This figure is projectable to the entire Kirkland population with 95% statistical validity and

represents an increase from the 1988 survey. The 1994 survey showed that 78% of the Kirkland households consider the presence of "natural areas" to be very important in future park planning. The survey also revealed that 89% of City residents feel that Kirkland Parks are presently well-maintained and managed.

#### Ongoing and Future Habitat Protection Plan

The City of Kirkland's Parks and Recreation Department has a multi-parameter management approach to habitat protection. The City utilizes the following elements:

##### Ongoing Management

Renovation and maintenance of existing natural areas, parks and facilities. The City uses a system of best management practices and best available technologies in the preservation, maintenance, and restoration of environmentally sensitive areas.

##### Public Involvement

Over 135,000 visits are recorded each year at City-sponsored activities and events. The City plays two roles in the public involvement process. In some instances the City provides facilities and coordination, such as the scheduling of sporting events; in other cases the City assumes a more direct role. An example of the second case are activities such as the Juanita Bay Park Volunteer Rangers project which provides information and education regarding environmental issues.

##### Acquisition of New Parcels

The City routinely and regularly reviews parcels of land as they become available for inclusion into the existing network of parks and open spaces. The parcels which are considered most heavily for acquisition are:

- areas which are intrinsically biologically critical by virtue of their continuity with other, existing natural areas within the City.

- areas which provide benefits to the greater community. These benefits include such items as water quality, hydrologic management, and erosion control
- areas of unique scenic quality.
- areas which are culturally significant.
- those located in neighborhoods with identified deficiencies in open spaces and parks.

#### Future Opportunities for Open Space Expansion

Expansion of this existing system of parks and open spaces is limited by the City's physical setting. Kirkland is bordered by Lake Washington to the west, the City of Bothell to the north, the City of Redmond to the east, and the City of Bellevue to the south. Future growth can only occur through private land donation, dedication, natural greenbelt

protection mechanisms, or the acquisition of existing land made available for purchase.

Several areas within the City have been identified as crucial natural areas which would be beneficial for inclusion into existing open space complexes. Two of these areas are the Forbes Creek Valley, which is a key component of Juanita Bay Park, and the Juanita Bay partnership parcel, which is adjacent to Juanita Bay and which serves as an important buffer area between the park and the surrounding commercial areas. One additional area is located adjacent to Everest Park in the central portion of the City. Inclusion of this parcel into public ownership would protect a portion of the Everest Creek riparian corridor and associated wetland areas.

The City of Kirkland's adopted six-year capital improvements project list is included as Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT "A"

City of Kirkland  
1995-2000 Capital Improvement Program

Parks Projects

FUNDED PROJECTS

Project Number	Project Title	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Six Year Total	Funding Source			External Sources
									Current Revenue	Reserve	Debt	
PK 0006	Waterfront Parks Shoreline Restoration		65,100					65,100	65,100			
PK 0017*	Peter Kirk Pool Bathhouse	499,800		157,500				657,300	538,100	119,200		
PK 0018*	Kiwans Park Trail/Drainage Development			81,750				81,750	81,750			
PK 0043*	Forbes Valley Trail Master Plan					100,000		100,000	100,000			
PK 0049*	Open Space/Pk Land Acq. Grant Match Program	100,000						100,000		100,000		
PK 0050*	Mark Twain Park Improvements	62,600						62,600	52,600			10,000
PK 0052	Senior Center Van Replacement				55,500			55,500		55,500		
PK 0054*	Everest Park Land Acquisition			100,000				100,000	100,000			
PK 0055*	South Rose Hill Park Development	267,500						267,500	267,500			
PK 0060*	Computerized Irrigation System	85,000						85,000	85,000			
PK 0081*	Pavilion Replacement	216,000						216,000		216,000		
PK 0083*	Marina Park Restroom Replacement		151,500					151,500	151,500			
PK 0065	David E. Brink Park Expansion Site Development	85,000				93,000	375,000	553,000	468,000	85,000		
PK 0066	Park Play Area Enhancements			60,750	120,000	100,000	25,000	305,750	305,750			
PK 0067	Neighborhood Park Acquisition Program				220,000	100,000		320,000	320,000			
<b>Total Funded Park Projects</b>		<b>1,315,900</b>	<b>216,600</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>395,500</b>	<b>393,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>3,121,000</b>	<b>2,535,300</b>	<b>575,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>

UNFUNDED PROJECTS

Project Number	Project Title	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Six Year Total
PK 0043	Forbes Valley Trail Development						1,000,000	1,000,000
PK 0056*	Forbes Lake Park Development						900,000	900,000
PK 0057*	North Rose Hill Pk Land Acquisition						750,000	750,000
PK 0058*	Waverly Site Development						3,500,000	3,500,000
PK 0059*	Community Center Addition						1,166,000	1,166,000
PK 0068	Kirkland Performance Center	2,815,000						2,815,000
<b>Total Unfunded Park Projects</b>		<b>2,815,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,316,000</b>	<b>10,131,000</b>

Notes to Project Numbers:

\* = Modification in timing and/or cost (see Project Modification Chart for greater detail)

Shaded year(s) = previous timing

New projects in bold italics

IMP - PROJECTS 9/99