

Access to Recreation Initiative



Playing by the numbers

Each year, over 9,000 youth participate in Kent Parks classes, camps and recreational activities.

In 2011, 2,354 youth participated in over 1,700 classes; 5,798 played in roughly 22 sport leagues, and 900 took part in 185 adaptive recreation or Youth & Teen courses.

The cost to the department for youth programs averages \$69.40 per participant. Fees subsidize about 69%, averaging \$47.75 per person.

In 2011, the department awarded 690 scholarships. This represents a **64% increase** since 2008. Scholarships cover up to half of the fee.

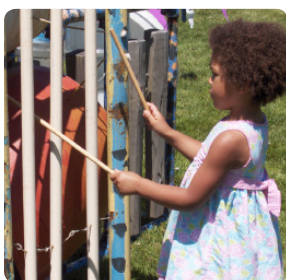
Scholarships are open to Kent residents. Eligibility is based on either current DSHS medical or food stamp identification card and letter, social security letter of benefits or Kent School District free/reduced lunch program benefit letter. Thus far, no eligible youth has been denied a scholarship.

Over 51% of Kent School District families qualify for free or reduced lunches. How many of them would play ball, go to camp or take a class if they could?

The city of Kent and the Kent Parks Foundation have partnered to increase the number of sliding-scale scholarships we can offer for qualifying Kent families and youth seeking to participate in city recreation programs. We have created the Access to Recreation Initiative in response to the economic hardships that continue to take a toll on our community. Over the next five years, our goal is to raise \$200,000, which will allow us to distribute up to \$40,000 a year in scholarships.

We're asking the businesses, service clubs and other organizations that have always been Kent's life line to take the lead once again. Pledge \$1,000, \$2,500 or \$5,000 and we will challenge the community to match it. If you prefer, you can stretch your pledge over five years, making it easier to be one of the \$5,000 sponsors. All donations are fully tax-deductible; Kent Parks Foundation's EIN is 80-0064905.

If everyone who enjoys participating in a Kent Parks recreation program "pays it forward" by covering the fee of one person who would otherwise miss out, we will make our goal.



Contact the Kent Parks Foundation

(EIN: 80-0064905):

253-856-5099

www.KentParksFoundation.org,

or call Kent Parks at

253-856-5110.



Here's who has already committed to the Access to Recreation Initiative:

- AAA Pest Control: \$5,000
- Curran Law Firm: \$5,000
- Hanis Irvine Prothero, PLLC: \$5,000
- John and Kandace Hodgson: \$5,000
- Marti Reeder, John L. Scott Real Estate: \$5,000
- Thunderbird Community Sports Foundation: \$5,000
- Jeff and Renee Watling: \$2,500
- Kiwanis Club of Kent: \$2,500
- Catalyst Travel, Inc.: \$1,000
- Rotary Club of Kent Sunrise: \$1,000
- Soroptimist International of Kent: \$1,000
- Judy Woods: \$1,000

Total pledged to date:

\$39,000

Join us!

Donor Levels are \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000

Every donor will be recognized annually in the Kent Parks, Recreation and Community Services Program Guide and...

- On the Kent Parks Foundation's website
- On the Parks pages of the city's website
- On the city's Facebook page
- At a televised Parks Committee meeting
- **\$1,000** pledges will also receive reception desk tent cards indicating you or your business supports the initiative
- **\$2,500** pledges will receive the above plus a banner at one of Kent's sports fields
- **\$5,000** pledges will receive the above plus recognition on public service announcements for Access to Recreation on TV-21 – 5 times a week for 5 years!