



- 1. Totem Lake
- 2. Playground
- 3. Community Table
- 4. Comfort Station
- 5. Rain Garden
- 6. Parking
- 7. Overlook
- 8. Existing Boardwalk
- 9. Multimodal Trail
- 10. Location of Boardwalk

The master plan laid the groundwork for the City of Kirkland to acquire land for a neighborhood park adjacent to a high-functioning wetland complex. Totem Lake, one of Kirkland's largest population centers, lacked public parks and accessible open space.





A common phrase during early planning efforts from residents was, “There’s a lake at Totem Lake Park?” Our first meeting held on site offered tours to help people understand the incredible asset they had hiding in plain sight.





The boardwalk connects people to nature and is a primary connector between a vibrant new community and a regional multimodal trail. Widened during design to accommodate a range of users, the boardwalk's angular geometry slows cyclists and minimizes wetland impacts.





“Trace,” an interactive public art installation, brings into focus the outline of wildlife found on the site. The overlook is a spectacular place to observe one of the Audubon Society’s best places to find birds in the area.





To minimize impacting the wetlands, work platforms and construction methods avoided digging or major ground disturbance. The structure is engineered to maximize spans between beams and rises above vegetation. Vegetation that was cut quickly re-established after construction was complete.





With the wetland inaccessible for survey or soils investigation, drone photography provided high quality imagery for the boardwalk design. Vegetation types were identified, and major trees mapped to avoid during construction. Invasive species were targeted for mitigation and restoration.





The design team worked with the city to find ways to mitigate offsite stormwater runoff to slow and treat polluted water before it enters the lake and wetland complex. The resulting stormwater facilities buffered the wetland from the new park.





The custom-designed community table located between the wetland and playground was developed based on community input. It is universally accessible, bringing strangers, friends, and neighbors together for birthday parties, family gatherings, and quiet respite.





Brightly colored accessible safety surfacing enlivens the playground where berms integrate with the playground equipment to provide additional challenges and spaces for all abilities to play. Ample seating areas surround the playground, creating a vibrant place for neighbors to connect.





Adjacent to the rain garden and restored native plant palette, a comfort station offers a welcoming glow, free water bottle refills and a waypoint for those heading to the local trail system and beyond.