

Community of Focus

Parkland

Help share Parkland's story. You are the expert on your community.
What matters to you may make a difference in your community's health.

Community snapshot

About 38,000 people live in Parkland. Parkland is part of the ancestral homelands of the Nisqually, Puyallup, and Steilacoom tribes.

Parkland formed as a trading place for farmers and students at Pacific Lutheran Academy (opened 1894), which became Pacific Lutheran University in 1919. Historic buildings include Old Main and Old Parkland School—now a community center and gathering space.

Local leadership

- Franklin Pierce School District.
- Blue Zones Project.
- Parkland Community Association.
- Save the Historic Parkland School Workgroup.

Community resources

- Franklin Pierce Family Resource Center.
- The Farm at Franklin Pierce.
- Franklin Pierce Center for Strong Families.
- Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry.
- Gardens of Edible Grace.
- Blue Zones Parkland/ Spanaway.

Resident priorities

- Affordable housing.
- Access to healthy food.
- Transportation.
- Activities for young people.
- Places to gather.
- Community safety.



Data insights

Housing

- About 40% of households spend more than 30% of their income on rent and mortgage costs. Average rent is \$1,539 a month.
- 59% of homes are owned.

Economy

- Average yearly family income is about \$78,803.
- 52% of residents connected to living wage employment.
- 30% live below 200% of the federal poverty line.

Education

- About 90% high school graduation rate.

Environment

- 99% of children live near a park.
- Trees cover 21% of the area, which helps cool neighborhoods during hot days.

Health

- A 2021 study found Parkland has some of the highest heart disease rates in Pierce County.
- Only 51% of people can easily get healthy food.
- Residents also report challenges getting healthcare.
- Local data show concerns related to depression and life expectancy.

Together we can make Parkland one of the best place to live!

Email us at bridgingtocommunity@tpchd.org to get involved.



Learn more at
tpchd.org/communitiesoffocus

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Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities