

December 20, 1993
93-806.ORD (DE:clt)

Introduced by: Ron Sims

Proposed No.: 93 - 806

ORDINANCE NO. **11193**

AN ORDINANCE creating the King County
Urban Restoration and Habitat Restoration
Fund.

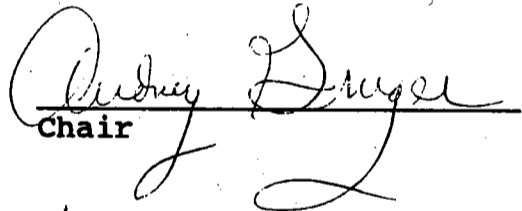
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created the King County Urban
Restoration and Habitat Restoration Fund. This fund shall be a
first tier fund as described in Chapter 4.10.020 of the King
County code. The County Finance Director shall be the fund
manager. Moneys deposited in the Urban Restoration and Habitat
Restoration Fund can be expended only for urban restoration and
habitat restoration projects in King County. No moneys can be
expended from this fund until 1997.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 1st day
of November, 1993.

PASSED this 20th day of December, 1993.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 30th day of DECEMBER, 1993


King County Executive

Attachments:

1. Urban Restoration and Habitat Restoration Fund
2. Community Grant Criteria

URBAN REFORESTATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION FUND Community Grant Criteria

PURPOSE

The Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration (URHR) Fund is intended to provide funds to volunteer organizations, community groups and government agencies for reforestation and habitat restoration projects within the Urban Growth Area of King County. The funds are for restoration projects and are not available for acquisition.

ELIGIBILITY AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Volunteer organizations, community groups and government agencies may all apply for grants under the URHR Fund. Staff time and funds from King County agencies working in partnership with an eligible organization may be used towards the match requirement. Other jurisdictions within King County such as cities and tribes are eligible, but grant funds are not intended to replace regular budgeted activities of those agencies.

For projects located in incorporated areas, the city must either be a partner in the application or the city will be requested to review the application as part of the review process. It is in the public interest that the local jurisdiction be aware of and support urban reforestation and habitat restoration projects within its boundaries.

A minimum 50 percent match is required. Matching funds may come from a wide variety of sources and may be in-kind contributions. Volunteer labor, donated professional services, materials or cash, funds from other agencies or sources including other King County agencies may all be counted towards the match requirement. In-kind contributions will be valued at a rate to be determined by the Executive.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Urban reforestation projects are aimed at reforesting cleared urban areas, or adding either species or structural diversity to urban forest stands, or removing invasive non-native species such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry that are detrimental to tree and shrub survival. Urban reforestation projects might result in educational, recreational, aesthetic, fish and wildlife habitat, ground water infiltration, water and air quality and flood control benefits. First priority would go to tree reforestation with emphasis on evergreens.

Habitat restoration projects might combine with the above with an emphasis on providing wildlife habitat. Plantings that provide for the needs of wildlife for food and cover are encouraged. Special habitat features such as snags, wetlands and natural ground litter, such as leaves and twigs, should be enhanced when possible. There are a number of other funding sources for stream and wetland restoration projects in upland habitat.

A strong emphasis will be placed on applications that involve unique partnerships. A partnership might consist of a community group contributing

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labor, expertise and enthusiasm to a project, and a private business or landowner contributing land, materials, and expertise. Examples of unique partnerships might include: 1) a timber company donating excess tree seedlings to a community group for an urban reforestation project; or 2) a neighborhood community group working in partnership with a private land developer to restore and enhance urban wildlife habitats in and adjacent to a development.

Public access should be provided to project sites, with appropriate restrictions on type and season of use to protect sensitive features and breeding wildlife species. Funded projects may be on private lands, if the landowner grants a permanent conservation easement to the County and allows at least limited public access to the reforestation or habitat conservation restoration site consistent with the resource sensitivity of the site.

There is no minimum size requirement, other than that the project site must be large enough to meet the stated goals of the project. For example, restoring a quarter of an acre of habitat for a species that requires at least half an acre would not be eligible for funding.

Applicants must indicate how long term maintenance of a site will be achieved. Preparation of a site management plan may be a condition of funding. Management plans must include future management needs of the site and detail how the goals and objectives of the project will be met beyond the funding time frame.

Other elements of a project that will be considered in ranking of applications include the significance of the public benefits to be provided by the project, linkages of the project site to other open space areas, regional or community needs, environmental enhancement, and ongoing stewardship.

Examples of projects might include:

Addition of coniferous tree species to a natural park or open space area for forest cover and wildlife habitat.

Reforestation of arbor greenbelts.

Wetland restoration and native plantings for wildlife habitat enhancement.

Planting of a buffer between a development and a sensitive area with native plants for wildlife habitat, public education and recreation, and protection of the sensitive area through a partnership with the private developer, community group and local park district.

Removal of English ivy in an urban greenbelt and restoration of the shrub and ground cover layers for wildlife.

APPLICATION CONDITIONS

Application Deadlines:

Applications will be accepted at any time but are reviewed and approved once a year. May or June to allow planning time before fall salvage and planting season.

Review Process:

All applications will be reviewed by representatives from Parks with input from other agencies as needed. Recommendations for grants will be made to the King County Council for approval.

Grant Contract:

Each approved project is conducted under the terms of a contract issued by the County which identifies the amount of the grant, the party from the volunteer organization, community group or government responsible for the project, the term of project agreement and the scope of service expected.

Project Duration:

Projects may operate for up to three years before they must go back through the application/approval process again. However, the bulk of the work must be done within one year of receiving grant funding, with additional time allowed for monitoring of success, maintenance required to ensure establishment of plantings, and replacement of failing plant materials.

Allowable Expenditures:

Funds may be used to purchase plant materials and goods directly related to reforestation and rehabilitation.

No administration costs will be allowed.

Claims for payment must be accompanied by vendor's invoices and receipts for all claimed expenses.

Reporting Requirements:

Successful applicants must prepare quarterly reports to be submitted to the County to report on progress. Letter reports are acceptable.

ADMINISTRATION

Distribution of Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration Funds may begin in 1997. Only interest income may be expended. Interest income may be carried over from year to year, not needing to be completely expended in any one year. Contributions to the capital portion of the Fund may be made at any time. The program will be administered through the King County Parks Volunteer Coordinator program.

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