Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Public Comment**

4. **Approval of Minutes**
   
   Minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting pp. 3-6
Discussion and Possible Action

5. Proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 2019-0084.2 pp. 7-76

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on August 6, 2019, of a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than $0.1832 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year and limiting annual levy increases by the King County inflation plus population index published by the King County office of economic and financial analysis, or the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater in years two through six for the purpose of maintaining and operating King County's open space system; improving parks, recreation, access and mobility in the King County open space system by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns and cities in King County; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; funding capital construction at the Seattle Aquarium; and funding for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

Sponsors: Ms. Balducci, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Mr. McDermott

Wendy Soo Hoo, Samantha Porter and Jake Tracy, Council Staff

6. Proposed Substitute Motion No. 2019-0142.2 pp. 7-76

A MOTION related to a property tax levy for 2020 through 2025 for the purpose of maintaining and operating King County's open space system; improving parks, recreation, access and mobility in the King County open space system by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns and cities in King County; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; funding capital construction at the Seattle Aquarium; and funding for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

Sponsors: Ms. Balducci

Wendy Soo Hoo, Samantha Porter and Jake Tracy, Council Staff

Adjournment
Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

1. **Call to Order**

   *Chair Balducci called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.*

2. **Roll Call**

   **Present:** 6 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Upthegrove

3. **Public Comment**

   *There was no one present to provide comments.*

4. **Approval of Minutes**

   *Councilmember McDermott moved approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting. Seeing no objections, the minutes were approved.*
Discussion and Possible Action

5. **Proposed Ordinance No. 2019-0117**

AN ORDINANCE approving and adopting the Total Compensation Coalition Bargaining 2019-2020 memorandum of agreement negotiated by and between King County and the King County Coalition of Unions representing employees in the departments of adult and juvenile detention, community and human services, elections, executive services, human resources, judicial administration, information technology, local services, metro transit, natural resources and parks, public defense and public health and the assessor, council, superior court, sheriff's office and office of the prosecuting attorney; and establishing the effective date of the agreement.

*Patrick Hamacher, Brandi Vena and Tillery Williams, Council Staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Megan Pedersen, Director, and Bob Railton, Deputy Director, Office of Labor Relations, King County Executive’s Office, also answered questions from the members.*

*Councilmember Dembowski moved amendment 1. The motion passed.*

A motion was made by Councilmember Dembowski that this Ordinance be Recommended Do Pass Substitute. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 5 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Upthegrove

**No:** 1 - Ms. Lambert

6. **Proposed Ordinance No. 2019-0131**

AN ORDINANCE making a net supplemental appropriation of $2,521,000 various general fund agencies, a net supplemental appropriation of $2,903,000 to various non-general fund agencies and amending the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18835, Sections 21, 31, 32, 33, 35, 52, 53, 57, 75, 76, 77, 88, 95, 97 and 108, as amended.

*Patrick Hamacher, Brandi Vena and Tillery Williams, Council Staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Megan Pedersen, Director, and Bob Railton, Deputy Director, Office of Labor Relations, King County Executive’s Office, also answered questions from the members.*

A motion was made by Councilmember Dembowski that this Ordinance be Recommended Do Pass. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 5 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Mr. McDermott and Mr. Upthegrove

**No:** 1 - Ms. Lambert
Briefing

7. Briefing No. 2019-B0047

2020-2025 Parks Levy Proposed Ordinance and Proposed Motion

Wendy Soo Hoo, Samantha Porter and Jake Tracy, Council Staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Discussion Only

8. Proposed Ordinance No. 2019-0114

AN ORDINANCE making a supplemental appropriation of $283,000 to the general fund transfer to department of local services; and making a supplemental appropriation of $283,000 to general public services; and amending the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18835, Sections 43 and 83.

Erin Auzins, Council Staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. John Taylor, Director, Department of Local Services (DLS) and Jim Chan, Director Permitting Division, DLS, also answered questions from the members.

This matter was Deferred

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee. Chair Balducci announced that the next meeting of this committee will be on Monday April 15, 2019.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Approved this _____________ day of _________________

Clerk's Signature
SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would place a proposition on the August 6, 2019 ballot, authorizing a six-year property tax levy related to parks and open space.

Proposed Motion 2019-0142 would document the council's intent regarding funding and programming allocations for the August 6, 2019 ballot, authorizing a six-year property tax levy related to parks and open space.

SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084.2 would place on the August 6, 2019 ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy to support parks and open space in King County. As amended by the Regional Policy Committee on March 28th, the proposed levy would generate approximately $810 million based on an initial levy rate of 18.32 cents per $1,000 assessed value.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 was previously discussed in the Regional Policy Committee on February 27, March 13, and March 28, 2019. While the staff report for the briefing today provides a summary of the proposed ordinance, the staff reports included in prior briefings (Attachment 9) provide a detailed discussion of the proposed ordinance.

Proposed Motion 2019-0142.2 would document the council’s intent for the use of 2020-2025 parks and open space levy proceeds, and was also amended by the Regional Policy Committee. The motion includes an attached table (Attachment C) providing specificity regarding the allocation of levy proceeds across all programs and projects, as well as guidelines for four grant programs: capital project and open space acquisitions; targeted equity; aquatic centers; and open space for river corridors.
BACKGROUND

2013 Parks Levy. In August 2013, King County voters approved a new, 18.91-cent six-year parks levy with an annual escalator tied to the consumer price index.\(^1\) The levy included 14.89 cents to continue the programs of the expiring levies and an additional 4.02 cents for new and enhanced programs. The levy was estimated to have a total annual cost of $56.73 in 2014 for the owner of a $300,000 home.

In August 2018, the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis estimated that the 2013 levy will have generated a total of $420.2 million over the six-year levy period.\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Actuals</th>
<th>Estimated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$63.6M</td>
<td>(\text{Estimated Total})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$65.8M</td>
<td>(\text{Estimated Total})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$67.9M</td>
<td>(\text{Estimated Total})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$70.6M</td>
<td>(\text{Estimated Total})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$74.3M</td>
<td>(\text{Estimated Total})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$78.0M</td>
<td>(\text{Estimated Total})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The current levy will expire at the end of 2019.

ANALYSIS

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084.2 Overview. As amended in the Regional Policy Committee on March 28, 2019, version 2 of Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would place on the August 6, 2019 ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately $810 million\(^3\) in total. This is a 1.5 cent increase from the transmitted proposed rate of 16.82 cents per $1,000 of assessed value. Proposed Ordinance 2018-0084.2 would support:

- A capital construction project at the Seattle Aquarium at $8M from total levy proceeds;
- Pool maintenance, capital improvements and construction at $44M from total levy proceeds;
- Integrated floodplain management grant program at $22M from total levy proceeds;
- King County's park system operations and maintenance (40 percent of the levy proceeds remaining after the aquarium, pool, and floodplain allocations, as well as elections costs);
- Acquisition of open space, continued development of regional and other public trails, other capital improvement and major maintenance of the county's open space system, and community partnerships and grants (47 percent of remaining levy proceeds);
- Repair, replacement and improvements to local parks and trails in town and cities in King County (8 percent of remaining levy proceeds);

---

\(^1\) The Council passed Ordinance 17568 placing the measure on the August 2013 ballot.
\(^2\) August 2018 King County Economic and Revenue Forecast, [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~/media/business/Forecasting/documents/August2018_Forecast_pdf](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~/media/business/Forecasting/documents/August2018_Forecast_pdf).
\(^3\) March 2019 King County Economic and Revenue Forecast, [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~/media/business/Forecasting/documents/March2019_Forecast_pdf](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~/media/business/Forecasting/documents/March2019_Forecast_pdf).
• Environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo (5 percent of remaining levy proceeds); and
• Targeted equity grants at no more than $10M as compared to $6M in the Executive’s proposal.

This amended version would also allow for acquisition program grants for towns, cities, and metropolitan park districts to be used for broad range of capital purposes (not limited to acquisitions).

Proposed Motion 2019-0142.2 Overview. As amended in the Regional Policy Committee on April 17, 2019, version 2 of the proposed motion would provide clarity and document the council’s intent for the use of 2020-2025 open space levy proceeds. The proposed motion would:

1. Attach guidelines for four grant programs:
   a. Capital Project Grant and Open Space, Natural Lands and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines (Attachment A), with an expanded list of eligible projects for towns, cities and park districts to include a broad range of capital projects and deleting requirement that 20% be used for passive recreation/open space;
   b. Targeted Equity Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment B), including disability access to parks and recreation in addition to the geographic-based equity areas;
   c. Aquatic Centers Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment D), which describes eligibility and types of projects to be funded; and
   d. Open Space – River Corridors Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment E), which describes eligibility and types of projects to be funded.

2. Attach a levy spending plan (Attachment C).

3. Specify a reporting process for the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to report to council if it anticipates requesting a reallocation of moneys for projects or programs listed in Attachment C.

4. Specify that $8 million of the allocation for public pools be allocated to the Weyerhaeuser King County aquatic center.

5. Specify a reporting process for DNRP to report to council on the community outreach efforts and recommendations resulting from the community outreach efforts.

6. Call for:
   a. Remaining funding of the Lake to Sound Trail to be spent on the Soos Creek Trail project if there is funding left over or unspent during the levy period.
   b. DNRP to conduct a feasibility assessment and cost estimate for the south extension of the Green to Cedar Rivers trail, including connections to a Black Diamond open space area and closing gaps in the Snoqualmie Valley Trail including the Mill site in Snoqualmie.
c. Remaining/unspent Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) funding to be prioritized for new ERC connections in the city of Renton;
d. Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to undertake community outreach processes with the Redmond Ridge Residential Owners Association, in the Hobart and Fairwood communities, and around Duvall Park;
e. DNRP to include in contracts with towns and cities a requirement to report to county councilmembers on upcoming major milestones (such as groundbreaking and opening dates) for Parks capital projects;
f. DNRP to consult with Department of Local Services on use of levy proceeds in unincorporated King County;
g. DNRP to develop a plan to implement a youth conservation corps beginning in 2020; and
h. Creation of one or more advisory committees that will include city representatives to review grant applications and make recommendations for the programs described in Attachments A, B, D and E to the motion.

SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

The following are key full Council meeting deadlines⁴ to place this measure on the August ballot:

- Last regular Council meeting assuming minimum processing time is April 24th
- Last special Council meeting as a non-emergency is April 30th
- Last regular Council meeting to pass the ordinance as an emergency is May 8th
- Last special Council meeting to pass the ordinance as an emergency is May 10th

If action on Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084.2 and Proposed Motion 2019-0142.2 occurs at today's meeting the legislation could be expedited for consideration at the full Council meeting on April 17th.

If any changes are made by the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee or the full Council resulting in a version of the legislation not previously considered by the Regional Policy Committee, the new version would need to be re-referred to the Regional Policy Committee for subsequent consideration. The next scheduled Regional Policy Committee meeting is a special meeting on April 17th at 1:30 p.m.

INVITED

- Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
- Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Doug Hodson, Finance Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Katherine Taylor, Government Relations Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Katy Terry, Acting Division Director, Parks Division

---

⁴ Council Clerk's memorandum on Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2019 (Attachment 6)
ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084.2
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Fiscal Note
4. Parks and Recreation Operating Fund Financial Plan
5. Allocation of Levy Proceeds to the Parks Capital Portfolio
6. Council Clerk's memorandum on Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2019
7. Proposed Motion 2019-0142.2 (and its attachments)
AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on August 6, 2019, of a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than $0.1832 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year and limiting annual levy increases by the King County inflation plus population index published by the King County office of economic and financial analysis, or the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater in years two through six for the purpose of maintaining and operating King County's open space system; improving parks, recreation, access and mobility in the King County open space system by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns and cities in King County; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland...
Park Zoo; funding capital construction at the Seattle
Aquarium; and funding for capital improvements at
publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. King County owns and operates a system of regional and local parks
and trails that consists of twenty-eight thousand acres of parklands and
more than one hundred seventy-five miles of regional trails. The county
provides regional trails, regional recreational facilities, regional natural
areas, regional parks and local parks in unincorporated areas. Examples of
regional county parks and trails include Marymoor park, Cougar Mountain
Regional Wildland park, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center
and the Sammamish River trail.

2. Parks, natural areas and trails contribute to a high quality of life. A
robust system of parks and trails provides physical, social and mental
health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation
and tourism; economic growth for private businesses that must attract and
retain skilled workers; and environmental benefits and cultural resource
protection through open space conservation. King County's open space
system provides all these benefits to King County residents and
businesses.

3. The 2002 Parks Business Transition Plan, adopted by the King County
council and enacted by Ordinance 14509, became the blueprint for
establishing the regional open space system we have today. Building on
that blueprint, the county has adopted open space plans, which have
provided the framework guiding King County in the acquisition, planning,
development, stewardship, maintenance and management of its complex
system of parks, regional trails and acres of open space. The latest open
space plan was updated in 2016 and adopted by Ordinance 18309.
4. In implementing the open space plan, the parks and recreation division
of the department of natural resources and parks has successfully focused
its lines of business on regional parks and trails, backcountry trails, natural
lands and local parks in unincorporated King County and has implemented
business practices that generate revenue from park system assets by
implementing or increasing user fees and establishing corporate and
community partnerships that enhance park amenities and leverage public
and private dollars to improve parks and increase access to parks.
5. Consistent with the recommendations of past parks-related task forces,
the county has sought voter-approved levies on three prior occasions: in
2003, enacted by Ordinance 14586, to provide maintenance and operating
funding for the parks and recreation division for 2004 through 2007; in
2007, enacted by Ordinance 15759, to provide funding for maintenance
and operations as well as funding for open space acquisition, regional trail
development, the Woodland Park Zoo and for King County towns and
cities for use in their open space acquisition and trail projects for 2008
through 2013; and in 2013, enacted by Ordinance 17568, to provide
funding for maintenance and operations as well as for open space
acquisition, asset maintenance and improvement, parks and trails projects, 
the Woodland Park Zoo and for King County towns and cities to use for 
their parks and recreation for 2014 through 2019. Voters approved the 
funding measures on all three occasions that they were on the ballot. The 
voter-approved levies have helped keep the open space system clean, safe 
and open.

6. The 2014 through 2019 voter-approved parks, trails and open space 
replacement levy provides approximately eighty percent of the operating 
budget of the parks and recreation division, with approximately thirteen 
percent generated through business activities and entrepreneurial efforts. 
King County general fund support to the parks and recreation division was 
eliminated as of 2011.

7. The community partnerships and grants program enacted by Ordinance 
14509 enhances parks amenities by partnering with parks and recreation 
organizations. Since the inception of the community partnership and grant 
program in 2003, more than sixty projects representing more than sixty 
million dollars’ worth of new, enhanced, or preserved public recreation 
facilities have been completed, with only eighteen million dollars of King 
County capital investment.

8. The Woodland Park Zoo received distributions from the past two voter-
approved levies to supplement zoo operating revenue for education and 
conservation programs, horticulture and maintenance and capital 
improvements. Levy proceeds distributed to the zoo provided
environmental education, programming and transportation focusing on accessibility for underserved areas, supported thousands of students annually and benefitted residents throughout King County. Levy proceeds also provided conservation and animal care for threatened Pacific Northwest species.

9. King County towns and cities received funding from the past two voter-approved levies. In 2008 through 2013, towns and cities could use levy proceeds for open space and natural lands acquisition and development of town or city trail projects that supported connections to the regional trail system with distributions being contingent upon an equal or greater contribution of matching moneys from the recipient town or city for the same project. In the 2014 through 2019 levy, types of uses for the distribution to King County towns and cities were broadened to provide flexibility and better meet the parks and recreation needs of cities.

10. Parks levy oversight committees were established to monitor the expenditures of the proceeds from the 2004 through 2007, 2008 through 2013 and 2014 through 2019 levies. Annual committee review has concluded that the county has complied with all levy requirements.

11. King County is growing rapidly as a region. In 2017, King County's population increased by close to fifty thousand people; and over the next ten years, the region is expected to grow by another one hundred eighty thousand people. Recent surveys have indicated that since 2008, the number of people who hike in natural area parks has doubled. More and
more people are using the King County parks and trails, which puts
greater pressure on an aging system. As development increases to
accommodate population growth, the risk of losing natural lands and green
spaces throughout the county grows. Those valuable lands contribute to
King County residents' high quality of life. The cost of land to
accommodate this growth and preserve open spaces is also increasing.
Today is the opportune time to address future needs of residents by
investing in our parks and trails and accelerating conservation of open
space.

12. In King County, many communities have experienced a history of
inequitable and limited regional investments in parks, recreation and open
space, limiting the ability of residents to lead healthy lives. Five hundred
thousand King County residents live without ready access to, parks,
recreation and open spaces. There is a need to address disparities in
access to parks, recreation and open space for underserved areas and
communities, including people with disabilities. This proposal provides
an opportunity to address parks and recreation needs of these underserved
areas and communities.

13. Recognizing growth in population, increased use of parks and trails
and the need to address disparities in preparation for the 2020 through
2025 levy, the parks and recreation division conducted outreach to obtain
feedback on the current park system and future parks and recreation needs
for all King County residents. From August through November 2018,
parks and recreation division staff conducted fifty-four in-person

engagement meetings with groups representing all geographic areas of the

county including towns and cities, business, recreation, community and

environmental interests. An online survey was also conducted from

November to December 2018, and received one thousand nine hundred

thirty-four responses from the public, representing all geographic areas of

the county.

14. The feedback from the engagement meetings and online survey

showed support for the King County open space system. Engagement

findings showed support for maintenance and operations of the open space

system, as well as critical infrastructure repair and replacement, and the

acquisition, conservation and stewardship of open space, as such lands can

provide for passive or active recreation opportunities and protection of

habitat and water quality, and the development of and improvements on

regional trail corridors. Feedback supported funding for King County

towns' and cities' parks and recreation programs; the Woodland Park

Zoological Society education and conservation programs and horticulture,

maintenance and capital improvements; and recognized the Seattle

Aquarium as a regional asset.

15. The King County executive took into consideration information

obtained from this outreach, the region's growing population, increased

use of parks and trails across King County, and the lack of parks,

recreation and open space in some communities, and has put forth this
proposal which acknowledges the changing landscape and the need to
grow the open space system to keep up with demand from the region.
This proposal is also consistent with the goals and priorities of past levy
task forces.

16. This proposal would exempt low-income senior citizens, disabled
veterans and other people with disabilities from the regular property tax
increase on their residences resulting from a levy authorized by this
ordinance, if they have been approved for an exemption under RCW
84.36.381.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this
ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

A. "Community partnerships and grants program" means the program through
which King County provides moneys to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations
and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing,
operating or maintaining a recreation facility or public park in unincorporated King
County and King County towns and cities for public benefit.

B. "Integrated floodplain management" means habitat restoration, open space
acquisition or recreational opportunities that are integrated with preventive and corrective
measures to reduce the risk of flooding.

C. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes, for the specific purposes and
term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
law.
D. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy, any interest earnings on the moneys and the proceeds of any interim financing following authorization of the levy.

E. "Limit factor" means the most recent published King County office of economic and financial analysis King County inflation plus population index, or the limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, whichever is greater.

F. "Open space system" means the system that includes parks, trails, natural areas, resource lands and structures or buildings owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department of natural resources and parks. For the purposes of this ordinance, with reference to King County, the term "open space lands" shall collectively refer to natural areas and resource lands.

G. "Targeted equity grant program" means the program through which King County provides moneys in order to achieve equitable opportunities and access to parks and recreation for underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County and King County towns and cities.

H. "Town or city parks system" means any building or other structure related to parks or recreation, parks, trails, open space such as natural areas and resource or ecological lands and other parks or recreation property owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of a town or city within King County.

SECTION 2. **Levy submittal to voters.** To provide necessary moneys for the purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, the King County council shall submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive
years, with collection commencing in 2020, at a rate not to exceed $0.1832 per one thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar amount of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the levy amounts in year two through six shall be calculated. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050, this levy shall be a regular property tax levy subject to the limit factor.

SECTION 3. **Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited into a dedicated subfund of the parks and recreation fund, or its successor.

SECTION 4. **Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the county, levy proceeds shall be used for the following purposes:

A. Costs incurred by the county that are attributable to the special election called for in section 5 of this ordinance.

B. Up to eight million dollars to the Seattle Aquarium from the first four years of the levy. Levy proceeds for the Seattle Aquarium shall solely be for capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project, except as provided in subsection E.5. of this section.

C. Up to forty-four million dollars to publicly owned pools for: capital improvement projects, including planning, feasibility studies, preconstruction and design, construction; and major maintenance repair or replacement projects.

D. Up to twenty-two million dollars to habitat restoration, open space acquisition or recreational opportunities, or any combination thereof, associated with integrated floodplain management capital improvement projects and to outreach and education related to the benefits of integrated floodplain management projects.

E. The remainder of levy proceeds shall be used for the following purposes:

1. Forty percent of levy proceeds for maintenance and operations of King
County's open space system and the targeted equity grant program, but no more than ten million dollars may be used for the targeted equity grant program;

2. Forty-seven percent of levy proceeds for:
   a. acquisition, conservation and stewardship of additional open space lands, natural areas, resource or ecological lands, rights of way for regional trails and urban green spaces;
   b. acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other public trails;
   c. capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement of open space system infrastructure;
   d. community partnerships and grants program; and
   e. capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement of parks or recreation infrastructure in metropolitan park districts, towns or cities;

3. Eight percent of levy proceeds for distribution to towns and cities in King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital improvement projects, of which amount:
   a. twenty-five thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each town and city;
   b. an additional seventy-five thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to cities with a population greater than four thousand;
   c. of the remainder, fifty percent shall be distributed in proportion to each town or city's population and fifty percent shall be distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city;
4. Five percent of levy proceeds for distribution to the Woodland Park Zoological Society shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved populations throughout the county; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of threatened species; and development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change; and

5. Of the levy proceeds in subsections B., C., D., E.2.e., E.3. and E.4. of this section, a portion shall be retained by the county to be used for expenditures related to administration of the distribution of levy proceeds. Eligible administrative expenditures shall include all costs and charges to the parks and recreation division or the county associated with or attributable to the purposes listed in subsections B., C., D., E.2.e., E.3. and E.4. of this section as well as sections 6 and 7 of this ordinance. Consistent with RCW 84.55.050, as it may be amended, levy proceeds may not supplant existing funding.

SECTION 5. Call for special election. In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, the King County council hereby calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with the primary election on August 6, 2019, to consider a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The King County director of elections shall cause notice to be given of this ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the qualified electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to the King County director of elections in substantially the following form, with such additions, deletions or modifications as may be required for the proposition listed below by the prosecuting attorney:
The King County council passed Ordinance ____ concerning replacement
of an expiring parks levy. If approved, this proposition would provide
funding for county, town, city and park district parks, and for open space,
trails, recreation, public pools, zoo operations and an aquarium capital
project. It would authorize an additional six-year property tax beginning
in 2020 at $0.1832 per $1,000 of assessed valuation with the 2020 levy
amount being the base for calculating annual increases in 2021 - 2025 by
the King County inflation plus population index or the 84.55 RCW
limitation, whichever is greater. Should this proposition be:

Approved? __
Rejected? __

SECTION 6. Distributions. Each distribution of levy proceeds to a King County
town or city, the Woodland Park Zoological Society or its successor, or the Seattle
Aquarium or its successor, for the eligible purposes identified in section 4 of this
ordinance shall be subject to the execution of a contract between the county and each
entity for the same purposes. Distribution of levy proceeds shall be subject to the
execution of a contract for: the targeted equity grant program; publicly owned pool
capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement projects;
integrated floodplain management capital improvement projects and outreach and
education; capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement
projects to parks or recreation infrastructure in metropolitan park districts, towns or
cities; and acquisition, conservation and stewardship of additional natural areas, resource
or ecological lands, rights of way for regional trails and urban green spaces.
SECTION 7. Parks levy oversight board established.

A. If the proposition in section 5 of this ordinance is approved by the qualified electors of King County, a parks levy oversight board shall be appointed by the executive. The board shall consist of nine members. Each councilmember shall nominate a candidate for the board who resides in the councilmember's district no later than March 31, 2020. If the executive does not appoint by May 31, 2020, the person nominated by a councilmember, the executive must request that the councilmember should by June 30, 2020, nominate another candidate for appointment. Members shall be confirmed by the council. Members may not be elected or appointed officials of any unit of government, except that individuals serving in a civic capacity on a local board or commission would be eligible to serve on the parks levy oversight board.

B. The board shall review the allocation of levy proceeds and progress on achieving the purposes of this proposition. On or before December 31, 2021, the board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the regional policy committee on the expenditure of levy proceeds for 2020. Thereafter, the board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the regional policy committee annually. Any report to the King County council under this section shall be made in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers. The board expires December 31, 2026.

SECTION 8. Exemption. The additional regular property taxes authorized by this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW 84.36.381.
SECTION 9. Ratification. Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the King County council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the election on August 6, 2019, and any other acts consistent with the authority and before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.
SECTION 10. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
February 21, 2019

The Honorable Rod Dembowski  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Dembowski:

This letter transmits an ordinance for a measure to be placed on the August 6, 2019, primary election ballot. The measure replaces the current parks levy which expires at the end of 2019, and enables King County’s parks and trails system to remain clean, safe and open and makes strategic investments as our region grows.

The legislation brings this ballot measure to King County voters, authorizing a property tax levy lid lift for the purposes of maintaining and operating King County’s parks system, acquiring open space, developing regional trails and increasing access to parks and recreation for all King County residents. It also provides funding to King County cities for local parks and trail development and operations, to the Woodland Park Zoo for environmental and education programs and to the Seattle Aquarium for its new Ocean Pavilion.

Specifically, the ordinance will accomplish the following through the replacement levy measure:

- Take care of King County’s extensive system of 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails and 28,000 acres of open space;
- Grow, connect and steward regional open space natural lands and urban green spaces, linking habitat and providing recreation opportunities;
- Continue to develop the Regional Trails System (RTS) and improve mobility by completing essential trail connections and maintaining existing trails; and
- Make parks and recreation opportunities more accessible for all King County residents to enjoy.

The legislation also furthers the goals of key County plans and initiatives as follows:

- The legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan goals of Healthy Environment, Mobility and Health and Human Services by acquiring and connecting open space for
preservation, increasing mobility options with the RTS development and improving the health of our communities by providing better access to parks and recreation.

- The legislation furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative goals of investing upstream and where needs are greatest and in community partnerships by investing capital, operating and programming dollars in parks that serve communities of opportunity and creating a targeted Equity Grant Program to organize, build capacity and/or apply for grants to increase access to and use of green space and public recreation facilities for underserved communities.

- The legislation furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal to manage and restore parks and other natural lands in ways that maximize biological carbon storage and increase resilience to changing climate conditions by acquiring and stewarding healthy forests and open space.

In developing the legislation, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) engaged numerous stakeholder groups including parks user groups, King County cities and community groups. An online customer satisfaction survey was also completed by close to 2,000 residents. DNRP incorporated this stakeholder input into the legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance. This important legislation will help King County preserve and protect our existing parks and trails system which King County residents have already invested in, and make strategic investments to meet our region’s future needs. Attached are the King County Parks Capital Program and Parks Operating Financial Plan for reference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathryn Terry, Acting Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4526.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
    Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
    Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
    Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
    Kathryn Terry, Acting Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP
Description of request:

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of King County at a special election to be held in King County on August 6, 2019, a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than $.1682 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the first year and limiting annual levy increases to local inflation and population growth in the five succeeding years.

Revenue to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks Levy Collection Sub-Fund/ Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>1454</td>
<td>Property Tax Levy Lid Lift (Net)(^1,2)</td>
<td>$108,000,000</td>
<td>$232,000,000</td>
<td>$252,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$108,000,000</td>
<td>$232,000,000</td>
<td>$252,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditures from\(^3\):  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement of Election Costs(^3)</td>
<td>1454</td>
<td>DNRP</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Aquarium(^4)</td>
<td>1454</td>
<td>DNRP</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Parks Operations(^5)</td>
<td>1451</td>
<td>DNRP</td>
<td>$41,000,000</td>
<td>$89,000,000</td>
<td>$99,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Parks Capital Program(^6)</td>
<td>3581</td>
<td>DNRP</td>
<td>$48,000,000</td>
<td>$108,000,000</td>
<td>$118,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Cities(^7)</td>
<td>1454</td>
<td>DNRP</td>
<td>$9,000,000</td>
<td>$19,000,000</td>
<td>$21,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Park Zoo(^8)</td>
<td>1454</td>
<td>DNRP</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$108,000,000</td>
<td>$232,000,000</td>
<td>$252,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditures by Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019/2020</th>
<th>2021/2022</th>
<th>2023/2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement of Election Costs</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages/Benefits(^9)</td>
<td>$25,000,000</td>
<td>$53,000,000</td>
<td>$59,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies/Services(^9)</td>
<td>$16,000,000</td>
<td>$36,000,000</td>
<td>$40,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>$48,000,000</td>
<td>$108,000,000</td>
<td>$118,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Transfers</td>
<td>$16,000,000</td>
<td>$35,000,000</td>
<td>$35,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$108,000,000</td>
<td>$232,000,000</td>
<td>$252,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does this legislation require a budget supplemental? Yes, if the proposed ballot measure is approved by voters.

Notes and Assumptions:

1. The levy period covers 2020 through 2025. The final biennium of the levy period (2023-2025) is not shown here, but is included in the legislation's accompanying financial plan. Levy rate of 16.82¢ per $1000 assessed value (AV) in the first year, 2020. Subsequent revenue is calculated as prior year collections multiplied by the limit factor, plus revenue from new construction built during the year. Forecast assumptions for assessed value, new construction, local inflation (CPI-W), and population growth are from the August 2018 Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) and PSB projections.
2. Total revenues are net levy proceeds. Gross levy proceeds are total revenues estimated to be generated with a 16.82¢ levy rate, before undercollection and exemption assumptions are applied. Assumed exemptions/undercollection are the exemption of qualifying households per RCW 84.36.381, and a one percent undercollection rate assumed countywide for property taxes.
3. Election costs will be paid by the General Fund in 2019 and reimbursed from levy proceeds in 2020 if the ballot is approved.
4. Distribution to the Seattle Aquarium shall be no more than $8 million over the six years.
5. 47% of the remaining revenue funds countywide and regional trail development; open space acquisition and stewardship; community partnerships and grants; and recreation repair and renovation, including play areas, ballfields, and backcountry trails.
6. 8% of the remaining revenue is distributed to the cities in King County (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
7. 5% of the remaining revenue is distributed to the Woodland Park Zoo (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
8. Figures shown are rounded to the nearest million dollars, as a result percentages may not be precise in each year as presented in this plan.
### Financial Plan

**Parks and Recreation Operating Fund/000001451**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>14,789,916</td>
<td>14,677,756</td>
<td>17,583,691</td>
<td>17,761,988</td>
<td>17,761,988</td>
<td>19,556,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Parks Levy Proceeds</td>
<td>69,828,346</td>
<td>37,555,644</td>
<td>78,555,644</td>
<td>89,000,000</td>
<td>99,000,000</td>
<td>54,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Revenue</td>
<td>11,847,218</td>
<td>5,882,421</td>
<td>11,385,000</td>
<td>11,165,550</td>
<td>11,389,978</td>
<td>5,780,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Planning and Administration</td>
<td>2,605,417</td>
<td>1,695,000</td>
<td>3,435,000</td>
<td>3,632,843</td>
<td>3,867,325</td>
<td>2,032,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>951,624</td>
<td>515,000</td>
<td>1,043,390</td>
<td>1,097,809</td>
<td>1,159,055</td>
<td>601,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>85,232,606</td>
<td>45,648,065</td>
<td>94,416,455</td>
<td>104,896,203</td>
<td>115,412,397</td>
<td>62,415,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Planning and Administration</td>
<td>(2,605,417)</td>
<td>(1,695,000)</td>
<td>(3,435,000)</td>
<td>(3,632,843)</td>
<td>(3,867,325)</td>
<td>(2,032,829)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partnerships &amp; Grants</td>
<td>(1,765,096)</td>
<td>(1,004,234)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Equity Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,000,000)</td>
<td>(2,000,000)</td>
<td>(2,000,000)</td>
<td>(1,000,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSU Cooperative / 4-H</td>
<td>(200,000)</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
<td>(200,000)</td>
<td>(207,765)</td>
<td>(218,606)</td>
<td>(113,915)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Seach and Rescue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
<td>(207,765)</td>
<td>(218,606)</td>
<td>(113,915)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacancy Contra</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>339,234</td>
<td>678,468</td>
<td>698,144</td>
<td>718,390</td>
<td>369,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>(82,438,831)</td>
<td>(48,493,770)</td>
<td>(99,198,062)</td>
<td>(108,528,431)</td>
<td>(119,177,806)</td>
<td>(64,065,155)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated Underexpenditures</strong></td>
<td>2,424,689</td>
<td>4,959,903</td>
<td>5,426,422</td>
<td>5,958,890</td>
<td>3,203,258</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Fund Transactions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Fund Transactions</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>17,583,691</td>
<td>14,256,739</td>
<td>17,761,988</td>
<td>19,556,181</td>
<td>19,955,468</td>
<td>21,109,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Flow Reserve</td>
<td>(10,304,854)</td>
<td>(12,123,443)</td>
<td>(12,399,758)</td>
<td>(13,566,054)</td>
<td>(14,897,226)</td>
<td>(16,016,289)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure Contingency Reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(3,967,922)</td>
<td>(4,341,137)</td>
<td>(4,767,112)</td>
<td>(2,562,606)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levy Stabilization Reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,394,307)</td>
<td>(1,648,990)</td>
<td>(291,130)</td>
<td>(2,530,689)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Revenue Shortfall Reserve</td>
<td>(1,000,000)</td>
<td>(1,000,000)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Reserves</strong></td>
<td>(11,304,854)</td>
<td>(12,404,343)</td>
<td>(13,566,054)</td>
<td>(14,897,226)</td>
<td>(16,016,289)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Shortfall</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Undesignated Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>6,278,837</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial Plan Notes**

- The 2014-2019 King County Parks Levy expires at the end of 2019. Revenue estimates beyond 2019 are based on a 16.82 cent levy renewal option.
- Business revenue includes user fees and entrepreneurial efforts to support the park system and reduce the burden on taxpayers. Starting in 2020, the target will reset to $5.5 million and grow one percent annually.
- Capital planning and administration is reimbursement from capital project 1126266 in Parks Capital Fund 3581 for staff and resources that support the capital program in general but are not charged to a specific project. This amount has changed over time as more staff begin to charge their time directly to capital projects to better capture the full cost of the capital program in real time.
- Miscellaneous revenue includes interest earnings, delinquent levy proceeds from the previous levy term, and a levy administration fee. A levy administration fee for 2020-2025 has not yet been determined.

**Expenditure Notes:**

- Starting in 2020, Community Partnerships and Grants will be funded through the Parks Capital Fund 3581 because the grants mostly fund capital improvements. Targeted Equity Grants will be funded through the operating fund starting in 2020. This is a program through which King County provides monies in order to achieve equitable opportunities and access to public parks and recreation for underserved communities.
- Parks will continue to contribute $100,000 starting in 2020, on a reimbursement basis, to the Washington State University Cooperative Extension in order to operate the 4-H program in King County. The amount in subsequent years will be inflation-adjusted, based on Seattle CPI-U, as reported by PSB and/or OEFA.
- Starting in 2020, Parks will contribute $100,000, on a reimbursement basis, to King County Search and Rescue Association. The amount in subsequent years will be inflation-adjusted, based on Seattle CPI-U, as reported by PSB and/or OEFA.
- Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget adds a vacancy contra to agency budgets to approximate the amount of budget unspent each biennium due to position vacancies.
- The estimated underexpenditure in 2019 is 5% of the total budget based on historical spending patterns and expenditure targets.

---

**Reserve Notes (see next page):**
• The Cash Flow Reserve is set to three-months of budgeted expenditures, in compliance with Motion 13764, because the main revenue for this fund is a property tax which is collected in the second quarter of each year. This reserve stabilizes the fund's cash balance from dipping below zero before the property tax payments are made in April and October.

• The Expenditure Contingency Reserve reserves funding for operational costs that may grow faster than the provided outyear growth rates provided by PSB. For example between 2014-2019, Parks’ share of central county services has grown faster than average due to the agency taking on a larger scope of work. Central county services includes office space, computer workstations, legal support, and the coordinating financial transactions. This is anticipated to continue in 2020-2025.

• The Levy Stabilization Reserve reserves fund balance for the six-year levy term. A typical levy fund builds fund balance in the first half of the levy, allowing the fund to draw down reserves in the second half.

• The Business Revenue Shortfall Reserve sets aside additional fund balance in the event business revenues do not meet the annual target. This reserve will be discontinued starting in 2020 due to revised assumptions for the business revenue target.

This plan was updated by J Lehman on February 21, 2019.
### 2020-2025 Parks Levy - Allocation of Levy Proceeds to the Parks Capital Portfolio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King County Levy Proceeds</td>
<td>48,000,000</td>
<td>53,000,000</td>
<td>55,000,000</td>
<td>57,000,000</td>
<td>61,000,000</td>
<td>64,000,000</td>
<td>338,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funding</td>
<td>$48,000,000</td>
<td>$53,000,000</td>
<td>$55,000,000</td>
<td>$57,000,000</td>
<td>$61,000,000</td>
<td>$64,000,000</td>
<td>$338,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Trails System</td>
<td>21,500,000</td>
<td>24,500,000</td>
<td>25,500,000</td>
<td>25,500,000</td>
<td>27,500,000</td>
<td>29,500,000</td>
<td>154,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation</td>
<td>19,000,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>21,000,000</td>
<td>22,000,000</td>
<td>24,000,000</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
<td>131,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Recreation Repair and Renovation</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td>44,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partnerships and Grants</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>9,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Allocations</td>
<td>$48,000,000</td>
<td>$53,000,000</td>
<td>$55,000,000</td>
<td>$57,000,000</td>
<td>$61,000,000</td>
<td>$64,000,000</td>
<td>$338,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

1. **Section 4.C.2 of the proposed ordinance allocates 47% of remaining levy proceeds for a series of eligible uses.** This attachment illustrates the allocation of the eligible uses and describes the planned projects within the subcategories. The allocation of funding for these projects is subject to change based on factors such as project readiness, additional funding opportunities from future grants or work with partner agencies, changing conditions, emergent needs, and strategic goals.

2. **Regional Trails System refers to the "acquisition and development of rights of ways for regional trails". Proposed projects and estimated funding include:** Eastside Rail Corridor ($50 million), East Lake Sammamish Trail ($32 million), Lake to Sound Trail ($16 million), Foothills Trail ($5 million), Green to Cedar Rivers Trail ($9 million), Interurban Trail South ($5.5 million), Green River Trail Extension North ($6 million), Wayne Connector Trail ($2 million), as well as investments in the existing trail network including pavement resurfacing and other safety improvements ($18 million).

3. **Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation refers to the distribution of levy proceeds to King County and King County cities for the "acquisition, conservation and stewardship of additional open space lands, natural areas, resource or ecological lands and urban green spaces", in accordance with the open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisition guidelines in Attachment A of the ordinance.**

4. **Active Recreation Repair and Renovation refers to "major maintenance repair, replacement and improvement of parks system infrastructure". Proposed program areas and estimated funding include:** play area rehab ($2.5 million), ballfield turf replacement ($12.5 million), sport court and grass ballfield rehab ($5 million), trailhead improvements ($3.5 million), backcountry trail rehab ($5.5 million), and infrastructure repairs at Marymoor Park, King County Aquatic Center, Dockton Park, Five Mile Lake Park, and Skyway Park ($15 million total for 5 sites).

5. **Community Partnerships and Grants refers to "the program through which King County provides monies to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit".**
MEMORANDUM

January 23, 2019

TO:    All Councilmembers
       All Council Staff

FM:    Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

RE:    Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2019 – SECOND REVISED to reflect Wednesday meeting day

The deadlines for adoption of ballot measures for 2019 elections are as follows:

2019 Election Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4/23¹</th>
<th>8/6²</th>
<th>11/5³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last regular council meeting with maximum processing time (25 days)</td>
<td>1/28/19</td>
<td>4/10/19</td>
<td>7/10/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last regular council meeting with minimum processing time (10 days)</td>
<td>2/6/19</td>
<td>4/24/19</td>
<td>7/24/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last regular council meeting to pass as emergency</td>
<td>2/20/19</td>
<td>5/8/19</td>
<td>7/31/19*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last special council meeting to pass as emergency</td>
<td>2/22/19</td>
<td>5/10/19</td>
<td>8/6/19*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Division deadline for receiving effective ordinance</td>
<td>2/22/19</td>
<td>5/10/19</td>
<td>8/6/19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Council meetings can be scheduled with a minimum of 25 hours advance notice.

*Council summer recess is from August 1 through 16.

¹ Based on effective ordinance filed with Elections 60 days before the election. RCW 29A.04.321
² Based on effective ordinance filed with Elections no later than the Friday (May 10) immediately before the first day of regular candidate filing, which in 2019 is May 13, the Monday two weeks before Memorial Day. RCW 29A.24.050; RCW 29A.04.321
³ Based on effective ordinance filed with Elections no later than the primary. RCW 29A.04.321.
Note: This schedule does not apply to Charter amendments. Because Charter § 800 provides that ordinances proposing amendments to the Charter are not subject to executive veto, such ordinances have an effective date (10 days after enactment by the Council) that differs from the effective date of an ordinance that is subject to executive veto.
A MOTION related to a property tax levy for 2020 through 2025 for the purpose of maintaining and operating King County's open space system; improving parks, recreation, access and mobility in the King County open space system by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns and cities in King County; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; funding capital construction at the Seattle Aquarium; and funding for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

WHEREAS, the county owns and operates regional trails, regional recreational facilities, regional natural areas, regional parks and local parks in unincorporated areas, which are parts of the county's "open space system," and

WHEREAS, the county's open space system consists of approximately twenty-eight thousand acres of parks, natural areas and resource lands and more than one hundred seventy-five miles of regional trails, and

WHEREAS, a robust open space system contributes to a high quality of life, and
WHEREAS, such an open space system provides physical, social and mental health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation and tourism; economic growth for private businesses that must attract and retain skilled workers; and environmental benefits and cultural resource protection through open space conservation, and

WHEREAS, the open space system provides all these benefits to King County residents and businesses, and

WHEREAS, for the benefit of all King County residents, in February 2019, the executive transmitted to the council Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084, which would submit to the qualified electors of King County a property tax levy on an August 2019 special election ballot for the purpose of maintaining and operating King County's open space system, including parks; acquiring lands; continuing to develop regional trails; repairing, replacing and improving parks and trails in King County's towns and cities; funding environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; and funding capital construction at the Seattle Aquarium;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. It is the intent of the council that levy proceeds be used for:

1. Metropolitan park district, town and city capital improvements and major maintenance repair or replacement, as provided for in Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084), Section 4.E.2.e, and for open space acquisition and conservation purposes, as provided for in Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084), Section 4.E.2.a, and that such uses be consistent with the capital project grant and open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisition guidelines, which are included as
Attachment A to this motion;

2. A targeted equity grant program, consistent with the targeted equity grant program guidelines, which are included as Attachment B to this motion;

3.a. Operations, projects and programs, and in such allocations, as provided in Attachment C to this motion.

b. The moneys allocated to operations, projects and programs listed in Attachment C to this motion may be modified where deemed advisable or necessary in the judgment of the council; and implementation or completion of any project or program listed in Attachment C to this motion will not be required if the council determines that it has become inadvisable or impractical. The council will make such a determination through action on an appropriations ordinance. Of the allocation for the Eastside Rail Corridor, if any funding remains after completion of the projects planned as of the date of adoption of this motion, or if any of this funding cannot be spent on those projects during the levy period, remaining funding will be allocated to trail connections to the Eastside Rail Corridor within the city of Renton. Of the allocation for the Lake to Sound Trail, if any funding remains after completion of the projects planned as of the date of adoption of this motion, or if any of this funding cannot be spent on those projects during the levy period, remaining funding will be allocated to the Soos Creek Trail project.

c. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks report to the council annually by September 30 of each year, beginning in 2020, if it anticipates requesting a reallocation of moneys for projects or programs listed in Attachment C to this motion in the following year. The report should be filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who will retain
the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of
staff and the lead staff to the mobility and environment committee or its successor, and
the lead staff to the budget and fiscal management committee or its successor. The last
report should be filed by September 30, 2025;

4. Development and improvement of public pools, with eight million dollars
allocated to the Weyerhaeuser King County aquatic center. Use of the remaining levy
proceeds for development and improvement of public pools will be consistent with the
aquatic centers grant program guidelines, which are included as Attachment D to this
motion; and

5. Integrated floodplain management projects, consistent with the open space -
river corridor grant program guidelines, which are included as Attachment E to this
motion.

B.1. The department of natural resources and parks is requested to conduct
community outreach with the following communities:

a. The Redmond Ridge Residential Owners Association ("ROA") to develop a
strategy to mitigate impacts to ROA-owned trails from users of regional trails;

b. The Hobart and Fairwood communities to increase active recreation
opportunities; and

c. Communities surrounding Duvall park to identify potential partnerships and
other strategies to activate the space.

2. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks
transmit to the council by December 31, 2020, a report on the community outreach efforts
and recommendations resulting from the community outreach efforts. The report should
be filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff to the mobility and environment committee or its successor, and the lead staff to the budget and fiscal management committee or its successor.

C. Contracts between King County and towns and cities, as provided for in Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084), Section 6, should include a requirement that towns and cities report to the department of natural resources and parks and county councilmember offices when major milestones for parks capital projects, such as groundbreaking and opening dates, are scheduled. Towns and cities should report at least thirty days in advance of such major milestones.

D. All expenditures from Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084) made in unincorporated areas of King County should only be made after consultation with the department of local services, in accordance with K.C.C. 2.16.055.

E. The department of natural resources and parks is requested to develop a plan to implement a youth conservation corps beginning in 2020. Funding for the youth conservation corps should be included in an appropriations ordinance, and the appropriations ordinance should be transmitted no later than December 31, 2019.

F.1. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks transmit to the council by January 31, 2020, a proposed ordinance to implement one or more advisory committees to review and make recommendations on grant awards for the grant programs described in Attachments A, B, D and E to this motion. The proposed ordinance should also propose grant processes and protocols.
2. The committee or committees should include representatives from a variety of stakeholders, such as cities, towns and metropolitan park districts and community members and organizations.

3. The department of natural resources and parks should consult appropriately with tribes in King County on parks levy expenditures, which may include review of grant proposals or invitations to participate on advisory committees, or both.

4. The proposed ordinance should describe the responsibilities of the advisory committee or committees, which may include consultation with the conservation futures citizens oversight committee and the King County flood control district.

5. It is the intent of the council that grant awards as provided for in Attachments A, B, D and E will begin in 2020. Final grant funding recommendations shall be made by appropriation.

G.1. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks conduct an assessment of the feasibility and cost for the following projects:

a. the south extension of the Green to Cedar Rivers trail, including connections to a Black Diamond open space area; and

b. closing the gaps in the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, including, but not limited to the former Mill site in the city of Snoqualmie, and between the Issaquah Preston Trail and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

2. The department of natural resources and parks is requested to transmit the assessment to the council by December 31, 2021. The assessment should be filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who will
retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff to the mobility and environment committee or its successor.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

________________________________________
Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

________________________________________
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of ________________, ______.

________________________________________
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Capital Project Grant and Open Space, Natural Lands and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines

Purpose
This document provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for capital project grants and open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisitions. Parks levy funding for open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisition is intended to be used by King County, King County cities, towns and metropolitan park districts solely for land acquisition. This includes lands located in opportunity or equity areas as defined in King County Code 26.12.003.

Eligible Entities
Entities eligible to receive funding include the following:
1. King County;
2. King County cities and towns;
3. Metropolitan park districts geographically located in King County.

Eligible Projects for King County
Parks levy funding received by King County for open space, natural lands and urban green spaces acquisition can be used to acquire land for the following purposes:
1. Passive recreational uses (e.g. hiking, mountain biking, bird-watching, etc.);
2. Regional trails;
3. Open space lands except if the land is primarily an agricultural use; agriculture can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds (e.g. community garden, pea patch), as long as the primary use allows public recreation and access.

Eligible Projects for King County cities, towns and metropolitan park districts
Parks levy funding received by King County cities, towns and metropolitan park districts for open space, natural lands and urban green spaces acquisition can be used to acquire land or undertake capital projects for the following purposes:
1. Active recreational uses (e.g. athletic fields, sports courts, ballfield turf projects, etc.)
2. Passive recreational uses (e.g. hiking, mountain biking, bird-watching, etc.);
3. Local trails;
4. Open space lands except if the land is primarily an agricultural use; agriculture can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds (e.g. community garden, pea patch), as long as the primary use allows public recreation and access;
5. Other capital projects in parks or recreational facilities.
Other requirements for all entities
Open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisitions funded by the parks levy proceeds must allow public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.
Targeted Equity Grant Program Guidelines

Overview
Historically, many communities in King County have experienced inequitable and limited regional investments in parks, open space, trails and recreation. There are an estimated 500,000 people in King County who live without proximity or access to parks, open space and public recreation facilities. To help address these inequities, the parks levy includes funding for a targeted equity grant program.

Purpose
The purpose of the targeted equity grant program is to increase access to and the use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in underserved communities. This program is consistent with and builds upon the goal of investing in community partnership in the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by helping to build internal capacities of community-based partners.

Eligible Entities
Parks levy funding for the targeted equity grant program is intended to reach areas and individuals with the greatest need for access and recreation in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. This includes:

1. King County towns and cities;
2. Tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County;
3. Non-profit organizations;
4. Small or emerging community organizations without a 501c3 status, through a partnership with a fiscal agent.

Eligible Geographic Areas and Communities
The targeted equity grant program will be eligible to entities that intend to increase access to and the use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in the following areas:

1. In equity areas as defined by King County Code 26.12.003, as may be amended; or
2. Programming or projects designed to increase access to or the use of parks and recreation facilities by individuals with disabilities.

Eligible Projects
The targeted equity grant program may be used to fund the following:

1. Build capacity, and/or partnerships to develop and plan successful parks, recreation, conservation and open space projects and programs;
2. Land acquisition for parks, open space and recreation purposes;
3. Capital projects and programming for parks, open space and recreation.
Other Guidelines for all entities

All acquisitions, capital projects and programming funded by the parks levy proceeds must allow public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.
### 2020-2025 Parks Levy Planned Funding (rounded)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Election Costs</strong></td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional Assumed Costs</strong></td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed income exemption 1</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% undercollection assumption</td>
<td>$7,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Space - River Corridors</strong></td>
<td>$22,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pools</strong></td>
<td>$44,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seattle Aquarium</strong></td>
<td>$8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>King County Operations and Maintenance</strong></td>
<td>$277,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Targeted Equity Grants</strong></td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation</strong></td>
<td>$123,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Open Space</td>
<td>$78,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns and Cities Open Space</td>
<td>$25,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&amp;M)</td>
<td>$18,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Access Acquisition on Lake Washington 4</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regional and Other Public Trails System</strong></td>
<td>$165,650,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastside Rail Corridor (Bellevue, Woodinville, Kirkland)</td>
<td>$50,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lake Sammamish Trail</td>
<td>$32,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Improvements for existing Regional Trail System</td>
<td>$18,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake to Sound Trail (Renton, Tukwila)</td>
<td>$16,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green to Cedar Rivers Trail - North A (Maple Valley)</td>
<td>$9,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green River Trail Extension - North (Seattle)</td>
<td>$6,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Trails Acquisition</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interurban Trail South Investments (Kent, Auburn)</td>
<td>$5,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foothills Trail (Enumclaw)</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lake Sammamish Trail - Redmond Light Rail Extension</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Golf Course Trail Connector Improvements</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interurban Trail to Burke-Gilman Connection 6</td>
<td>$7,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interurban Trail Connection (Milton)</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland Green Loop Trail 6</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soos Creek Trail</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing Link of Green River Trail</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Repair and Renovation</td>
<td>$41,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Investments at 5 existing sites</td>
<td>$12,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballfield Turf Replacement and New Turf Projects</td>
<td>$12,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Area Rehabilitation</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailhead Access Improvement</td>
<td>$3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry Trail Rehabilitation</td>
<td>$5,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sport Court and Ballfield Rehabilitation</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Partnerships and Grants\(^{8}\) $9,570,000

King County Towns and Cities\(^{9}\) $60,000,000

Woodland Park Zoo $36,000,000

Total Estimated Expenditures 2020-2025\(^{10,11}\) $810,220,000

Notes:

1. As authorized by RCW 84.36.381
2. Of the allocation for pools, $8 million to be allocated to the King County Aquatic Center.
3. Of the allocation for King County operations and maintenance, $300,000 to be allocated to the King County Fair.
4. Acquisition for water access should prioritize properties located in proximity to the Burke-Gilman Trail.
5. Of the allocation for the Eastside Rail Corridor at least $100,000 to be spent on design for the Cross Kirkland Corridor Connection. Of the allocation for the Eastside Rail Corridor, if there is any funding remaining after completion of the projects planned as of the date of adoption of this motion, or if any of these project dollars cannot be spent during the levy period, remaining funding to be allocated to trail connections to the Eastside Rail Corridor within the city of Renton. Of the allocation for the Lake to Sound Trail, if any funding remains after completion of the projects planned as of the date of adoption of this motion, or if any of this funding cannot be spent on those projects during the levy period, remaining funding will be allocated to the Soos Creek Trail project.
6. The funding for the Interurban Trail to Burke-Gilman Connector and the Kirkland Green Loop Trail is intended to be allocated to city partners.
7. The five projects include Marymoor Park, Dockton Park, Five Mile Park, Skyway Park, and Preston Mill Park. The King County Aquatic Center would be funded through the pools allocation.
8. Of the allocation for Community Partnerships and Grants, $500,000 to be spent on Starfire Soccer Capital Project and $570,000 to be spent on the Evergreen Pool.
9. $25,000 would be allocated to each town and city and an additional $75,000 would be allocated to cities with more than 4,000 residents; the remainder of the allocation for towns and cities would be as follows: 50% allocated in proportion to each town or city’s population and 50% allocated in proportion to each town or city’s assessed value.
10. $35,000 to be allocated to Duvall Park.
11. $250,000 to be allocated for parks purposes to a new community center in Fall City.
Aquatic Centers Grant Program Guidelines

Overview
For more than 50 years, King County communities have built public pools and aquatic centers to improve access for residents to recreation, competition and education opportunities. This grant program is intended to assist communities across all of King County as our region grows and existing facilities become obsolete or reach capacity. The Aquatic Centers grant program will provide funding opportunities for construction, repair or expansion of new or existing aquatic centers in King County.

Eligible Entities
Parks levy funding for the Aquatic Centers Grant Program is intended to preserve or increase public access to aquatic centers in King County. Eligible entities include:

1. King County towns and cities;
2. Metropolitan Parks Districts;
3. School Districts;
4. Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities.

Eligible Projects
The Aquatic Centers grant program will fund projects necessary to the operation and construction of aquatic centers. The grant program will make funds available for the following expenses:

1. Planning or feasibility studies related to development of a publicly-owned aquatic facility;
2. Land purchase;
3. Pre-construction;
4. Design;
5. Construction;
6. Renovation;
7. Repair;
8. Expansion;
9. Other capital costs associated with the construction or continued function of an aquatic center.

Other Guidelines for all entities
All facilities receiving funding from the Aquatic Centers grant program must allow regular public access. There is no minimum for capital requests. Capital grants for new aquatic centers are capped at $5,000,000 or 25% of a facility’s total cost, whichever is lower. Capital grants for existing facilities are capped at $5,000,000 and grants from $1 - $100,000 can provide up to 100% of a project’s total cost, grants from $100,001 - $2,000,000 can provide no more than 50% of a project’s total cost and grants from...
$2,000,001 - $5,000,000 can provide no more than 25% of a project's total cost. If a facility serves multiple purposes, to calculate project cost, only infrastructure necessary for an aquatic center may be included.

Grants up to $100,000 may be awarded to support planning or feasibility studies related to development of a publicly-owned aquatic facility.

To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.

All grant awards should make clear that King County assumes no role or funding obligation for the ongoing operations, maintenance or completion of aquatic facilities.
Open Space – River Corridors Grant Program

Overview
A grant program designed to provide funding for habitat restoration, open space and recreation in river corridors. The purpose is to incentivize projects that will integrate multiple attributes of projects inside river corridors such as flood control, habitat, passive recreation and trails.

Eligible Entities
Parks levy funding for the Open Space – River Corridors grant program is intended to reach areas with the greatest need for habitat restoration and/or recreation within river corridors in King County. Eligible entities shall include:

1. King County towns and cities;
2. Tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County;
3. Port districts;
4. Flood control zone districts;
5. Flood control and diking and drainage districts;
6. Conservation districts;
7. Non-profit organizations; and,
8. Salmon recovery forums (i.e., WRIAs 7, 8, 9, 10).

Eligible Projects
An Open Space – River Corridors grant program will fund as elements of flood hazard reduction projects: open space acquisition, ecosystem restoration and/or recreation projects.

Eligible activities for the grant program include:

1. Pre-construction (e.g., planning);
2. Feasibility and design;
3. Construction;
4. Design and construction combined;
5. Land acquisition (purchase or easement);
6. Project specific outreach and education.

Other Guidelines for all entities
All acquisitions, capital projects and programming funded by the parks levy proceeds must allow public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.

Funding shall not be provided to fund environmental mitigation required by law or by permit or to supplant open space acquisition, habitat restoration or recreation already budgeted for by the grant applicant.

A priority shall be placed on river corridors with threatened or endangered species and/or where improvements contribute to Puget Sound Orca recovery.
SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would place a proposition on the August 6, 2019 ballot, authorizing a six-year property tax levy related to parks and open space.

SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would place on the August 6, 2019 ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately $738 million in total and support:

- King County's park system;
- Acquisition of open space and continued development of regional trails;
- Repair, replacement and improvements to local parks and trails in cities in King County;
- Environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; and
- A capital construction project at the Seattle Aquarium.

The initial levy rate is proposed at 16.82 cents per $1,000 of assessed value (AV). The proposal would also set a limit factor of CPI-W (Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton) plus population growth.

For a King County single-family home with a current median price of $610,000, the levy amount would be $102.60 for 2020 at the proposed 16.82 cents per $1,000 AV. (At the current parks levy rate of 12.68 cents, the cost for the same home owner would be $77.35 for 2020.)

The staff report also identifies several policy issues for consideration by the Regional Policy Committee and Council. The first Regional Policy Committee briefing on the Parks Levy was on February 27, 2019 and the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee was briefed on March 12, 2019.
BACKGROUND

History of Parks Levy

2002 Business Transition Plan

In 2002, to attempt to prevent the closure of the parks system, King County convened the Metropolitan Parks Task Force, a citizen group that was asked to help develop a business transition plan for the County’s parks. Major recommendations, which were codified in Ordinance 14509, included focusing on the County’s regional role; becoming more entrepreneurial, by seeking revenues from fees and sponsorships; and finding community partners.

2003 Parks Levy

In 2003, following significant reductions in General Fund support for King County’s parks and open space system, King County voters approved a 4.9-cent, four-year levy to support operations and maintenance for regional and rural parks. At the same time, the County implemented other strategies from the business transition plan, including transferring 56 urban parks and pools to local governments by the end of 2007.

2007 Parks Levies

In August 2007, voters approved two six-year parks levies:

- **Operating Levy**: A 5-cent operating levy was adopted to fund maintenance and operations for regional and rural parks. This levy was projected to raise approximately $16 million in its first year, and had an inflator built in so that levy revenues would keep pace with inflationary pressures.

- **Open Space & Trails Levy**: A 5-cent capital levy was adopted to fund expansion of the regional parks and open space system. This levy was split into three parts:
  - 60 percent to King County to acquire and preserve regional trails and natural areas, including funding for community partnership projects;
  - 20 percent to cities for trails, parks, and open space; and
  - 20 percent to Woodland Park Zoo for environmental education, conservation, and capital improvement projects.

The Parks Division continued to implement its business transition plan, transferring more parks and pools to local cities between 2007 and 2012. The Division also launched entrepreneurial programs at County parks facilities, including community partnership investments; parking and use fees; naming rights partnerships with corporations; concessions; and improvements to attract events such as Cirque du Soleil.

2012 Parks Levy Task Force. In May 2012, the Council adopted Motion 13682, which asked the Executive to convene a Parks Levy Task Force to review parks and open space needs and plan for levy renewal. The Parks Levy Task Force was a diverse, 21-
member citizen group that reviewed the Division’s programs and plans, community input, equity and social justice issues, and system needs. The Task Force focused its work around four thematic areas:

- **Take care of what we have.** The Task Force noted that with no General Fund support, parks levies are essential to the continued existence of the system.

- **Connect regional open space and natural lands.** The Task Force identified strategic acquisition areas, where open space or trail connections could enhance habitat, lower maintenance costs, and make better connections.

- **Improve mobility.** The Task Force identified areas where trails could fill “missing links” or provide connections to transit hubs, including the multimodal connectivity possible through the Lake to Sound Trail and Eastside Rail Corridor.

- **Make parks more accessible.** Using the County’s equity and social justice initiative as a lens, the Task Force looked for ways the County’s parks and open space system could become more accessible to all community members.

In late 2012, the Task Force recommended to the Executive a new, 19.01 cent six-year levy to continue the programs funded by the 2007 levies, and also to add funding for a set of strategic enhancements.

**2013 Parks Levy.** In August 2013, King County voters approved a new, 18.91-cent six-year parks levy with an annual escalator tied to the consumer price index. The levy included 14.89 cents to continue the programs of the expiring levies and an additional 4.02 cents for new and enhanced programs. The levy was estimated to have a total annual cost of $56.73 in 2014 for the owner of a $300,000 home.

In August 2018, the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis estimated that the levy will have generated a total of $420.2 million over the six-year levy period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. 2014-2019 Parks Levy Collections – Actuals and Estimated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$63.6M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANALYSIS**

This section summarizes the levy proposal and provides staff analysis as follows:

- Levy proposal overview
- Summary of the levy ordinance sections

---

1 The Council passed Ordinance 17568 placing the measure on the August 2013 ballot.
2 August 2018 King County Economic and Financial Analysis, [https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/business/Forecasting/documents/August2018_Forecast_pdf.ashx?la=en](https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/business/Forecasting/documents/August2018_Forecast_pdf.ashx?la=en)
Levy Proposal Overview. Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would place on the August 6, 2019 ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately $738 million in total and support:

- King County's park system;
- Acquisition of open space and continued development of regional trails;
- Repair, replacement and improvements to local parks and trails in cities in King County;
- Environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; and
- A capital construction project at the Seattle Aquarium.

The initial levy rate is proposed at 16.82 cents per $1,000 of assessed value (AV). The proposal would also set a limit factor of CPI-W (Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton) plus population growth.

Table 2. Estimated Limit Factor: Inflation Plus Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPI-W (Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton)</td>
<td>2.91%</td>
<td>2.63%</td>
<td>2.60%</td>
<td>2.56%</td>
<td>2.79%</td>
<td>2.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated King County Pop. Growth</td>
<td>1.00%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Limit Factor</td>
<td>3.91%</td>
<td>3.43%</td>
<td>3.40%</td>
<td>3.46%</td>
<td>3.69%</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that while Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) staff estimate that the levy will generate a total of $738 million, the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) is preparing its March 2019 forecast so projected levy collections could change when the updated forecast is released.

Table 3. Estimated Annual Parks Levy Collections and Levy Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Proceeds</td>
<td>$108.7M</td>
<td>$114.6M</td>
<td>$120.0M</td>
<td>$125.5M</td>
<td>$131.3M</td>
<td>$137.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Effective Levy Rate</td>
<td>$0.1682</td>
<td>$0.1649</td>
<td>$0.1647</td>
<td>$0.1660</td>
<td>$0.1669</td>
<td>$0.1671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The effective levy rate is a function of assessed value, new construction, and the limit factor.

For a King County single-family home with a current median price of $610,000\(^3\), the levy amount would be $102.60 for 2020 at the proposed 16.82 cents per $1,000 AV. Note that at the current parks levy rate of 12.68 cents, the cost for the same home owner would be $77.35 for 2020.

\(^3\) Rosenberg, Mike. "Seattle-area home prices drop to lowest point in two years – down $116,000 since last spring." Seattle Times, February 7, 2019. [https://www.seattletimes.com/business/real-estate/seattle-area-home-prices-drop-to-lowest-point-in-two-years-down-116000-since-last-spring/]
The proposed levy ordinance also specifies that the levy would be included in any real property exemption authorized by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 84.36.381. Qualifications for the property tax exemptions will be discussed later in this staff report.

Council staff asked OEFA about whether pro-rationing is expected. Pro-rationing, or suppression, occurs when a senior taxing district, such as the County, imposes a new levy such that in some tax codes the total property tax rate exceeds the aggregate limit for cities, counties and special districts of $5.90 per $1,000 AV – in those cases, some junior taxing districts have had to reduce property tax collections. OEFA staff indicated that because property values have increased, they do not expect pro-rationing to occur over the life of the levy unless property values decline unexpectedly.

**Summary of Levy Ordinance Sections.** This section of the staff report summarizes each of the sections of the ordinance. More detail will be provided later in the staff report on certain sections.

**Section 1: Definitions.** The following are defined terms in the proposed ordinance.

- **Community partnerships and grants program:** The program through which King County provides monies to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility in unincorporated King County and King County cities for public benefit.

- **Conservation futures tax program:** the program defined in K.C.C. chapter 26.12. Note that the term conservation futures tax program does not appear in the levy ordinance or its attachments other than in the definition – Parks staff confirmed that this definition was inadvertently included in the levy ordinance. Staff are working on a technical striking amendment and the amendment would remove this definition.

- **Levy:** The levy of regular property taxes, for the specific purposes and term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state law.

- **Levy proceeds:** The principal amount of monies raised by the levy, any interest earnings on the monies and the proceeds of any interim financing following authorization of the levy.

- **Limit factor:** The most recent published King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) King County inflation plus population index, or the limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW, whichever is greater.

- **Parks system:** Any building or other structure, park, open space, natural area, resource or ecological land, trail, or other property owned or otherwise under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department of natural resources and parks.

- **Targeted equity grant program:** The program through which King County provides monies in order to achieve equitable opportunities and access to public parks and recreation for underserved communities located in unincorporated King County and
King County cities.

Section 2: Levy submittal to voters. Section 2 specifies the levy period as six consecutive years beginning in 2020 at a rate of 16.82 cents per $1,000 AV in the first year. This section also states that the levy is subject to the limit factor, which is defined in Section 1 as the greater of OEFA's King County inflation plus population index or the limitation specified in RCW 84.55 (the lesser of one percent or inflation).

Section 3: Deposit of levy proceeds. Levy proceeds would be deposited in a dedicated subfund of the parks and recreation fund.

Section 4: Eligible expenditures. Section 4 specifies how the levy proceeds would be allocated. From the total proceeds, the levy would pay for costs associated with the election (estimated by Executive staff at $3 million) and "up to" $8 million from the first four years for the Seattle Aquarium's Ocean Pavilion project.

The remainder of the proceeds would be used as follows:

- **40 percent for maintenance and operations** of King County's parks system including a maximum of $6 million for the targeted equity grant program;

- **47 percent for acquisitions, capital, and community partnerships and grants:**
  - acquisition, conservation and stewardship of additional open space, natural areas, resource or ecological lands and urban green spaces;
  - acquisition of rights of ways and development of regional trails;
  - major maintenance repair, replacement and improvement of parks system infrastructure; and
  - community partnerships and grants program.

- **8 percent for distribution to cities.** The proposed levy would set an annual minimum of $25,000 for each city with a population of 4,000 or less and an additional $75,000 annually for cities with populations greater than 4,000. The remainder would be distributed with 50 percent distributed based on city population and 50 percent distributed based on assessed value of parcels within each city.

- **5 percent for Woodland Park Zoological Society** to be used solely for environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved populations throughout the county; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of threatened species; and development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate climate change impacts to animals and habitats.

Of the allocations for the Seattle Aquarium, the cities and the Woodland Park Zoological Society, a portion of the levy proceeds would be retained by the county for administration related to these distributions. No maximum is specified for administration, but the levy ordinance does state that levy proceeds may not supplant existing funding, consistent with RCW 84.55.050. In other words, proceeds from the
The proposed levy could not be used to support existing County administrative personnel costs other than those supported by the expiring levy.

The proposed allocations will be discussed in more detail later in this staff report.

Section 5: Call for special election. Section 5 calls for a special election to be held in conjunction with the primary election on August 6, 2019. This section also includes draft ballot measure language.

Section 6: Distributions. This section calls for distributions of levy proceeds to cities, metropolitan park districts, the Woodland Park Zoological Society or the Seattle Aquarium to be subject to execution of a contract between the county and each entity.

Distribution of levy proceeds to cities and park districts for open space conservation and acquisition are required to be in accordance with Attachment A (Open Space, Natural Lands and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines) to the proposed ordinance.

Attachment A specifies requirements for use of parks levy proceeds for acquisitions of open space, natural lands and urban green space and identifies entities eligible to use this funding (King County, King County cities and park districts located in King County). All acquisitions funded by the parks levy must allow public access. Attachment A specifies that County acquisitions funded by the parks levy can only be passive recreation, regional trails and open space lands except if the land is primarily an agricultural use. Agriculture can be one of multiple uses if the primary use allows public recreation and access.

For cities and park districts, these funds can be used for active recreation as long as at least 20 percent remains open space, natural land, or urban green space and available for passive recreation. For cities and park districts, these funds can also be used for passive recreational uses, local trails and open space land except if the land is primarily an agricultural use – as with the guidelines for county acquisitions, agriculture may be one of multiple uses on lands funded by parks levy proceeds as long as the primary use allows public recreation and access.

Attachment A calls for the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) to develop a grant process by March 1, 2020 for parks levy proceeds for acquisitions. The overall approach would be for DNRP to set a proposed allocation for open space from levy funds each calendar year for the following fiscal year to allocate funding for (a) King County and (b) King County cities and park districts. Final decisions would be reviewed by the County Executive and the Council as part of the budget process.

Distributions for the targeted equity grant program are required to be in accordance with Attachment B (Targeted Equity Grant Program Guidelines) to the proposed ordinance.

Attachment B specifies requirements for the Targeted Equity Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to increase access to and the use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in underserved communities. Parks levy for
this grant program is intended to reach areas with the greatest need for access and recreation in both incorporated and unincorporated areas, including: King County cities, tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County; non-profit organizations; small or emerging community organizations without a 501c3 status through partnership with a fiscal agent.

The program will be eligible to entities that intend to improve access in equity areas as defined by King County Code (KCC) 26.12.0034, which defines “equity areas” as areas within King County that are (1) located in a census tract in which the median household income is in the lowest third among tracts in the county and (2) located in a census tract in which hospitalization rates for asthma, diabetes, and heart disease are in the highest third for the county; and (3) for areas within the Urban Growth Boundary, do not have a publicly owned and accessible park within 0.25 mile of a residence or for areas outside the Urban Growth Boundary, do not have a publicly owned and accessible park within two miles of a residence. An area may also be an equity area if a project's proponents can demonstrate and the citizen oversight committee determines that residents living in an area experience disproportionately limited access to public open space, as well as hardships such as low incomes, poor health or high rates of utilization of free and reduced price school meals.

The grant program may be used to fund: capacity building and/or partnerships to develop and plan successful parks, recreation, conservation and open space projects and programs; land acquisition for parks, open space and recreation; and capital projects for parks, open space and recreation.

All funded projects must allow public access. According to Attachment B, DNRP will develop a grant process and protocol by June 1, 2020 for the targeted equity grant program.

Section 7: Parks levy oversight board established. If the levy is approved by the voters, the Executive will appoint a nine-member parks levy oversight board with all members being confirmed by the Council. Elected or appointed government officials may not serve on the board. The board would be charged with reviewing the allocation of levy proceeds and progress on achieving the purposes of the levy, and reporting to the County. The Parks Levy Oversight Board is discussed in more detail later in this staff report.

Section 8: Exemption. This section states that the property taxes authorized by the levy would be included in the real property tax exemption program authorized by RCW 84.36.381, which exempts some seniors, disabled individuals and veterans.

Section 9: Ratification. This section ratifies and confirms certification of the proposition by the Council Clerk to the Director of Elections.

---

4 DNRP is required by KCC 26.12.003 to identify and update equity areas at least every five years.
Section 10: Severability. This section states that if any provision of the ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions or the application of the provision to other persons of circumstances would not be affected.

Note that Attachment A and Attachment B are summarized in the discussion of Section 6 above.

Specified Allocations of Parks Levy proceeds. Section 4 of the levy ordinance describes how levy proceeds will be allocated.

Elections Costs. From the total proceeds, costs attributable to the special election in August would be reimbursed by the levy. DNRP estimates these costs at $3 million.

Seattle Aquarium. From the total proceeds, "up to" $8 million would support the Seattle Aquarium's Ocean Pavilion project. Of this amount, the County would retain a portion for administration costs related to this project. Note that the legislation authorizing the current 2014-2019 levy did not allocate funding for the Seattle Aquarium.

According to Executive staff, the phrase "up to" is intended to convey that $8 million is the maximum the Aquarium would receive and also reflects that a portion of that $8 million would be retained by the County for administrative costs.

The August 2018 Draft Environmental Impact Statement provides the following description of the project and the project objectives: "The proposed Ocean Pavilion would be located along Seattle's central waterfront, just east of the existing Seattle Aquarium facilities on Piers 59 and 60." The project objectives are to accommodate an increase in expected attendance, which would require a larger building capacity and additional pedestrian and Americans with Disabilities Act pathways, as well as providing public open space and connection to the existing Aquarium facility. The project is expected to begin construction in 2021 with completion in 2023.

According to Executive staff, the overall project is estimated to cost in excess of $100 million.

Allocations for Maintenance and Operations. As proposed in the legislation, the 2020-2025 Parks Levy would designate 40 percent of levy proceeds (after reimbursement of elections costs and the allocation for the Seattle Aquarium) for ongoing maintenance and operations of King County's parks system with no more than six million dollars to be used for a new targeted equity grant program. The targeted equity grant program is a new program and it is described as a program through which King County provides monies in order to achieve equitable opportunities and access to public parks and recreation for underserved communities.

Table 4 below compares the funding allocation for maintenance and operations in the proposed levy and the current levy.

---

6 https://www.seattleaquarium.org/planning
Table 4. Maintenance and Operations in Proposed Levy vs. Current Levy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020-2025 Total</th>
<th>2020 Levy Rate</th>
<th>2014-2019 Total</th>
<th>2014 Levy Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance and operations</td>
<td>$277,000,000</td>
<td>$0.0631</td>
<td>$191,600,000</td>
<td>$0.0859</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed levy would decrease the rate allocated to maintenance and operations from the previous level of 8.59 cents per $1,000 AV to 6.31 cents. Due to the increase in assessed value of homes across the region this lower rate is expected to yield $277 million which is $86 million more than the previous levy.

A Parks and Recreation Operating Fund Financial Plan was transmitted as a supporting document, but is not part of the levy ordinance (Attachment 4 to the staff report), indicates that funding from the proposed levy would continue to support the Washington State University Cooperative Extension to operate the 4-H program in King County and that new levy funding would be provided for King County Search and Rescue. Currently, the Parks Division does not partner or fund the King County Search and Rescue program. However, these programs are not identified in the levy ordinance itself.

Allocation for Trails, Open Space Acquisition and Conservation, and Active Recreation Repair and Renovation. Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would designate 47 percent of levy proceeds to support the regional trails system, open space acquisition and land conservation, active recreation repair and renovation, and community partnerships and grants.

As shown in Table 5 below, this is comprised of 3.47 cents per $1,000 AV for the regional trails system, 2.99 cents for open space acquisition and land conservation, and 1.00 cent for active recreation repair and renovation.

Table 5. Regional Trails System, Open Space, and Repair and Renovation in Proposed Levy vs. Current Levy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020-2025 Total</th>
<th>2020 Levy Rate per $1,000 AV</th>
<th>2014-2019 Total</th>
<th>2014 Levy Rate per $1,000 AV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Trails System</td>
<td>$154,000,000</td>
<td>$0.0347</td>
<td>$94,000,000</td>
<td>$0.0424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space Acquisition and Land Conservation</td>
<td>$131,000,000</td>
<td>$0.0299</td>
<td>$49,000,000</td>
<td>$0.0218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair and Renovation</td>
<td>$44,000,000</td>
<td>$0.0100</td>
<td>$20,000,000</td>
<td>$0.009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Trails System

The allocation of 3.47 cents for regional trails is a decrease from the previous levy rate of 4.24 cents. Due to the increase in assessed value of homes across the region this lower rate is expected to yield $154 million which is $60 million more than the previous levy. These monies would be used for the acquisition and development of rights of ways for regional trails. According to the transmitted Parks Capital Portfolio (Attachment 5), proposed projects and estimated funding include the following list of projects in addition to $18 million for pavement resurfacing and other safety improvements of the existing trail network7:

- Eastside Rail Corridor - $50.5 million8
- East Lake Sammamish Trail - $32 million
- Lake to Sound Trail - $16 million
- Foothills Trail - $5 million
- Green to Cedar Rivers Trail - $9 million
- Interurban Trail South - $5.5 million
- Green River Trail Extension North - $6 million
- Wayne Connector Trail - $2 million

Parks staff indicated that the transmitted Capital Portfolio inadvertently omitted two projects. Parks provided a revised list, so in addition to the projects above, the division plans to use levy proceeds to support:

- East Lake Sammamish Trail (Redmond Light Rail Extension) - $4 million
- Regional Trails Acquisitions - $6 million

Note that these projects and amounts reflect the division’s planned use of levy proceeds, but they are not specified in the levy ordinance.

Parks staff is working on providing an updated project list with cost estimates, as well as providing a detailed breakdown of costs for each of the projects.

Open Space Acquisition and Land Conservation

The allocation of 2.99 cents for open space acquisition and land conservation is a decrease from previous levy rate of 2.18 cents. Due to the increase in assessed value of homes across the region this lower rate is expected to yield $131 million which is $82 million more than the previous levy. These monies would be used for the acquisition and operations and maintenance of open space, natural lands and urban green space for passive recreational use (e.g. hiking, mountain biking, bird-watching, community garden, pea patches). The breakdown of this allocation is $78 million for King County

---

7 The $18 million would be allocated approximately $3 million per year to address regional trail surface improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act transition planning, regional trail system standards and safety and monitoring and maintenance. According to the trail surface improvements tend to require the most resources
8 The transmitted Capital Portfolio identified a cost of $50 million for the Eastside Rail Corridor, but Parks indicated that the correct estimated amount is $50.5 million.
open space, $35 million for cities’ open space, and $18 million for operations and maintenance of lands acquired.

Council staff asked how these funds would be prioritized and Parks staff indicated that over the last three years (through the Land Conservation Initiative work), the County and cities have mapped and identified nearly 65,000 acres of land to acquire within 30 years.\(^9\) Individual parcels have not been prioritized because the acquisitions all depend on willing sellers.

**Repair and Renovation**

The allocation of 1.00 cent for active recreation repair and renovation is an increase from the previous levy rate of 0.90 cents. These monies would be used for major maintenance repair, replacement and improvement of parks system infrastructure. As described in the Allocation of Levy Proceeds to the Parks Capital Portfolio (Attachment 5), proposed program areas and estimated funding are shown in Table 6 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Rationale for Prioritization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play area rehabilitation</td>
<td>$2.5M</td>
<td>These projects would be determined based on the life-cycle schedule and routine inspections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballfield turf replacement</td>
<td>$12.5M</td>
<td>These projects would be determined based on the life-cycle schedule and routine inspections. For example, synthetic turf fields typically have an 8 to 10 year life-cycle and are prioritized accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport court and grass ballfield rehabilitation</td>
<td>$5.0M</td>
<td>These projects would be prioritized based on reports and assessments by Parks staff and users, as well as recent capital project requests that were not able to be funded with the existing levy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailhead improvements</td>
<td>$3.5M</td>
<td>These would be prioritized based on recent acquisitions and user demand for trail access. According to Parks, safety is also a key criteria particularly concerning parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry trail rehabilitation</td>
<td>$5.5M</td>
<td>These projects would be prioritized based on reports and assessments by Parks staff and users, as well as recent capital project requests that were not able to be funded with the existing levy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure repairs at:</td>
<td>$15M</td>
<td>The estimated costs for these projects exceed the planned $15M – the division will prioritize investments based on asset lifecycle, asset condition, customer and community demand, and coordination with other agencies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^9\) The lands fall into six categories: natural farmland, forests, river land, urban green space, and trail corridor connections.
Examples of targeted improvements at Marymoor Park, the Aquatic Center, Dockton Park, Five-Mile Park, and Skyway Park include:

- **Marymoor Park**: Repairing and renovating facilities such as the concert stage roof, the event pad, Clise Mansion, and parking lots and pavement;
- **Aquatic Center**: Replacing existing skylights;
- **Dockton Park**: Removing and replacing play area structures;
- **Five-Mile Park**: Reconstructing the parking lot, providing new Americans with Disabilities Act accessible pathways from the parking lot to the playground, beach and restrooms; and renovating restrooms; and
- **Skyway Park**: Parks will work with the community to evaluate the highest priorities, which could include new restroom facilities, parking improvements, and/or adding a second sport court.

Note that these projects and amounts are listed in the Allocation of Levy Proceeds to the Parks Capital Portfolio (Attachment 5), but not specified in the levy ordinance.

**Community Partnerships and Grants**

Community partnerships and grants provides monies to recreation-oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations for developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit. The proposed levy includes $1.5 million annually (or $9 million over the life of the levy) for this purpose.

According to Parks staff, approximately $5.4 million in collections is anticipated to be used for community partnerships and grants, along with $3 million in Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds during 2014-2019. Under the proposed levy, the community partnerships and grants program would be fully backed by levy proceeds.

**Allocations to Cities.** The 2020-2025 Parks Levy would allocate eight percent of levy proceeds (after reimbursement of election costs and allocation of proceeds to the Seattle Aquarium) to cities within King County. These proceeds would be used for the cities’ local parks system projects.

The proposal would increase the 2020 levy rate allocated to cities from a status quo level of 0.82 cents to 1.37 cents, providing an estimated $60,000,000 in revenue for cities over the six-year period, compared to $29,000,000 in the 2014-2019 levy.

The proposed levy would guarantee $25,000 annually to each city, and an additional $75,000 annually to each city with a population greater than 4,000. Fifty percent of the remaining $40 million would be distributed among cities based on city population, and fifty percent would be distributed based on the assessed value of parcels within the city.
The current 2014-2019 levy allocated proceeds using this formula but did not include any minimum annual funding for cities.

Table 6 below compares the proposed funding allocations for cities in the 2020-2025 Levy, a "status quo" scenario in which the annual minimum funding is not included in the levy, and the current levy.

**Table 6. Total Allocation for Cities in Proposed Levy vs. Current Levy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Allocation</td>
<td>$60,000,000</td>
<td>$36,000,000</td>
<td>$29,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Levy Rate</td>
<td>$0.137</td>
<td>$0.0820</td>
<td>$0.131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7 below shows the estimated pass-through funding distributed to each city from the current Parks Levy, the amount the executive anticipates each city would receive under the proposed levy, and the anticipated pass-through funding given the status quo scenario described above. These numbers have been rounded and therefore do not sum precisely.

**Table 7. Total Allocation for Each City in Proposed Levy vs. Current Levy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>2020-2025 Total (Proposed)</th>
<th>2025-2025 Total (Status Quo Scenario)</th>
<th>2014-2019 Total (Estimated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alguna</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
<td>$1,030,000</td>
<td>$820,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaux Arts Village</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
<td>$9,300</td>
<td>$7,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>$4,400,000</td>
<td>$3,430,000</td>
<td>$2,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Diamond</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$73,000</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bothell</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>$444,000</td>
<td>$356,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burien</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>$726,000</td>
<td>$582,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnation</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clyde Hill</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>2020-2025 Total (Proposed)</td>
<td>2025-2025 Total (Status Quo Scenario)</td>
<td>2014-2019 Total (Estimated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covington</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$279,000</td>
<td>$224,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>$435,000</td>
<td>$349,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duvall</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$118,000</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enumclaw</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$166,000</td>
<td>$133,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Way</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$1,320,000</td>
<td>$1,060,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunts Point</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issaquah</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>$707,000</td>
<td>$567,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenmore</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$379,000</td>
<td>$304,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>$2,700,000</td>
<td>$1,930,000</td>
<td>$1,550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>$1,760,000</td>
<td>$1,410,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Forest Park</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$239,000</td>
<td>$191,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Valley</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$380,000</td>
<td>$305,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medina</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$185,000</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer Island</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>$738,000</td>
<td>$592,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton</td>
<td>$170,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$224,000</td>
<td>$179,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normandy Park</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>2020-2025 Total (Proposed)</td>
<td>2025-2025 Total (Status Quo Scenario)</td>
<td>2014-2019 Total (Estimated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Bend</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$113,000</td>
<td>$91,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$88,000</td>
<td>$71,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redmond</td>
<td>$2,100,000</td>
<td>$1,383,000</td>
<td>$1,109,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renton</td>
<td>$2,400,000</td>
<td>$1,625,000</td>
<td>$1,303,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sammamish</td>
<td>$1,900,000</td>
<td>$1,127,000</td>
<td>$904,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SeaTac</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
<td>$507,000</td>
<td>$406,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>$16,800,000</td>
<td>$14,270,000</td>
<td>$11,440,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
<td>$919,000</td>
<td>$737,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skykomish</td>
<td>$153,000</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snoqualmie</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$240,000</td>
<td>$192,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukwila</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
<td>$446,000</td>
<td>$357,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodinville</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
<td>$257,000</td>
<td>$206,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarrow Point</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$57,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allocation for the Woodland Park Zoological Society. Five percent of the proceeds (after reimbursement of elections costs and the allocation for the Seattle Aquarium) would be dedicated to the Woodland Park Zoological Society, which represents a status quo amount of funding – estimated at $36 million over the life of the levy – as compared to the current levy. As proposed, these funds could only be used for:

- Environmental education, emphasizing accessibility to traditionally underserved populations throughout the county;
- Horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds;
- Conservation of threatened species; and
• Development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change.

The proposed levy contains several changes to the allowable uses of the funding in this allocation. First, the proposed levy would allow levy proceeds to be used to support conservation of any threatened species, while the current levy funds can only be used for "conservation and animal care for rare, threatened or endangered Pacific Northwest species."

Second, current 2014-2019 levy proceeds may be used to support "board-approved capital projects/campaigns in existence as of December 31, 2012." The proposed levy does not allow for use of levy proceeds for the Woodland Park Zoological Society's capital projects.

Third, the proposed levy would allow proceeds to be used for "development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change." This represents a new eligible expenditure in the proposed levy as compared to the current levy.

**Administration Costs.** Of the levy proceeds allocated to the Seattle Aquarium, cities and the Woodland Park Zoological Society, the County would retain a portion of the proceeds to support administrative costs associated with those programs. No amount is specified, though the ordinance does state that levy proceeds may not supplant existing funding consistent with RCW 84.55.050.

**Parks Levy Citizen Oversight Board.** Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would re-establish a Parks Levy Citizen Oversight Board. The nine-member Board is composed of one member from each council district. Under the current levy, members were appointed by the Council and serve through the middle of 2020.

The Oversight Board’s task is to review parks levy spending each year and ensure that it complies with the requirements of the levy approved by the voters. Because the Oversight Board’s term ends in 2020 (after the Oversight Board has completed its review of 2019 spending for the 2014-2019 levy), the proposed ordinance would create a new Oversight Board to review spending of the 2020-2025 levy proceeds. As with the previous Oversight Board, members could not be elected or appointed officials in any unit of government, except that individuals serving in a civic capacity on a local board or commission would be eligible to serve on the Oversight Board.

The proposed ordinance states that each councilmember "shall nominate a candidate for the board from the councilmember's district no later than ninety days from the start of the first year of collections shall nominate a board member from his or her district." Executive staff has stated the intent is that Oversight Board Members reside in the district, and that nominations occur 90 days after January 1, 2020. These changes would be included in a technical striking amendment that staff is preparing.

Although the current language of the proposed ordinance gives 90 days for nominations, executive staff has stated that for the current levy, 90 days was not enough time for nominations. The Council may therefore want to consider extending the
90-day nomination deadline. Executive staff has stated that appointments would need to be in place by September of 2020 at the latest.

**Low-income exemption.** RCW 84.36.281 gives cities and counties the option to exempt senior citizens, veterans with disabilities, and others with disabilities from the regular property tax increase resulting from a levy, if they meet certain income criteria. Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084 would invoke this exemption.

“Low-income,” for the purpose of this exemption, is defined as anyone with a combined disposable income of $40,000 or less in the assessment year. Such persons must apply to the Department of Revenue for the exemption and be approved by that agency.

Executive staff estimates that this exemption would result in a $3 million reduction in revenue from the Parks Levy over the six years of implementation, and have built this reduction into their calculations.

**Policy issues.** Staff have identified several policy issues as summarized below. Staff analysis continues.

1. **Levy rate.** The proposed initial levy rate of 0.1682 cents per $1,000 AV would represent an increase over the status quo rate of approximately 0.1268 cents. The proposed initial levy rate represents a policy choice for the Regional Policy Committee and the Council.

2. **Limit factor.** As noted in the staff report, the limit factor is proposed at CPI-W plus King County population growth. The current levy limit factor is CPI-W. DNRP staff indicate that parks facilities and trails are directly impacted by population growth, which is the rationale for factoring population changes into the limit factor.

3. **Specificity in the Levy Ordinance.** Documents submitted with the levy ordinance and provided by DNRP staff provide greater detail on how the department plans to use levy proceeds – for example, the transmitted Parks and Recreation Operating Fund Financial Plan (Attachment 4) shows the intent to fund Washington State University Cooperative and King County Search and Rescue. However, these programs are not identified in the levy ordinance. As a result, the County could at a later date choose not to fund these programs. A counterpoint is that, to the extent specific programs are identified in the levy ordinance, there may also be some risk if future circumstances change such that spending levy proceeds on those programs is no longer necessary or desired, that the levy proceeds could not be used for a different purpose.

4. **Changes to city allocations.** As noted previously, the Proposed Ordinance includes a new methodology for allocating funds to cities. The amount allocated to cities, as well as the methodology, represent a policy choice for the Regional Policy Committee and for the Council.

5. **New programs.** The proposed levy would include up to $8 million for the Seattle Aquarium, which is a new proposed use of Parks Levy proceeds. Another new proposed use is the targeted equity grant program. The allocated amounts and use of the proceeds for new (as well as existing) programs represent a policy choice.
6. Overall allocations. The proposed levy would make changes to the various allocations, but the percentages could be modified or other allocations could potentially be included by the Regional Policy Committee and the Council. Depending on their nature, changes to allocations could potentially necessitate reductions or changes to the estimated amounts for the currently planned programming.

7. Attachments A and B would be binding. This is a new policy issue identified since the February 27th Regional Policy Committee briefing. Attachment A (Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines) and Attachment B (Targeted Equity Grant Program Guidelines) specify processes and eligibility criteria for use of levy proceeds for acquisitions and the Targeted Equity Grant Program. Because these processes and criteria would be part of the levy ordinance, the County would not be able to deviate from them in the future. Whether to specify the processes and eligibility criteria now and include them as attachments to the levy ordinance constitute a policy choice.

**SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS**

The following are key full Council meeting deadlines\(^{10}\) to place this measure on the August ballot:

- Last **regular** Council meeting assuming minimum processing time is April 24th
- Last **special** Council meeting as a non-emergency is April 30th
- Last **regular** Council meeting to pass the ordinance as an emergency is May 8th
- Last **special** Council meeting to pass the ordinance as an emergency is May 10th

If action occurs at today’s meeting, the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee would likely consider the legislation at its next regular meeting on March 26th. The next scheduled Regional Policy Committee meeting is a special meeting on April 17th.

Following action at the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, the legislation would be considered by the full Council. If there are any changes by the committee or the full council resulting in a version of the legislation not considered by the Regional Policy Committee, the new version would need to be re-referred to the Regional Policy Committee for subsequent consideration.

---

\(^{10}\) Council Clerk’s memorandum on Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2019 (Attachment 6)