



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda

Budget and Fiscal Management Committee

Councilmembers:

Rod Dembowski, Chair;

Jorge L. Barón, Vice Chair;

Claudia Balducci, Teresa Mosqueda, Sarah Perry, De'Sean Quinn, Girmay Zahilay

Lead Staff: April Sanders (206-263-3412)

Committee Clerk: Gabbi Williams (206-477-7470)

9:30 AM

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

REVISED AGENDA

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide comment remotely are listed below.

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.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Budget and Fiscal Management Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

The Committee will accept public comment on items on today's agenda in writing. You may do so by submitting your written comments to kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov. If your comments are submitted before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR:

Webinar ID: 867 1228 9077

By computer using the Zoom application at <https://zoom.us/join> and entering the webinar ID above.

Via phone by calling 1-253-215-8782 and entering the webinar ID above.

HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY: There are several ways to watch or listen in to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/kctv>, or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD)
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone – See “Connecting to the Webinar” above.

To help us manage the meeting, if you do not wish to be called upon for public comment please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes p. 5

February 26, 2025 meeting minutes

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.



Consent

4. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0012](#) p. 8

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the execution of a lease amendment to support the operation of natural resources and parks.

Sponsors: Zahilay

Sherrie Hsu, Council staff

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Discussion and Possible Action

5. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0039](#) (Materials to be distributed on Monday, March 10)

AN ORDINANCE relating to the sale of the surplus property located at 33431 13th Place S., Federal Way, Washington, in council district seven.

Sponsors: Zahilay and von Reichbauer

Sam Porter, Council staff



Discussion Only

6. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0070](#) p. 28

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 5, 2025, 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 \$0.2443 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 environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

Sponsors: Dembowski and Zahilay

Sherrie Hsu, Jake Tracy, and Brandi Paribello, Council staff

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711. Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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7. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0077](#) p. 28



A MOTION related to a property tax levy for 2026 through 2031 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 environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

Sponsors: Dembowski

Sherrie Hsu, Jake Tracy, and Brandi Paribello, Council staff

Other Business

Adjournment

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711. Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes Budget and Fiscal Management Committee

Councilmembers:
Rod Dembowski, Chair;
Jorge L. Barón, Vice Chair;
*Claudia Balducci, Teresa Mosqueda, Sarah Perry, De'Sean
Quinn, Girmay Zahilay*

Lead Staff: April Sanders (206-263-3412)
Committee Clerk: Gabbi Williams (206-477-7470)

9:30 AM

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Dembowski called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: 7 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Mosqueda, Perry, Quinn and Zahilay

3. **Approval of Minutes**

*Councilmember Barón moved approval of the February 12, 2025 meeting minutes.
There being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

Briefing

4. **[Briefing No. 2025-B0026](#)**

Looking Ahead: Possible Impacts of General Fund Cuts

Leesa Manion, King County Prosecuting Attorney, Patti Cole-Tindall, King County Sheriff, and Leon Richardson, Director, Department of Local Services, addressed the committee and answered questions from the members. Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, also addressed the committee via a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Discussion and Possible Action

5. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0055](#)

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the manager of treasury operations of King County to cancel the attached list of uncollectible personal property taxes in the amount of \$3,136,926 for the years 2016 through 2024.

April Sanders, Council staff, briefed the committee.

Councilmember Barón moved Amendment 1. The Amendment was adopted.

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

Yes: 7 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Mosqueda, Perry, Quinn and Zahilay

Discussion Only

6. [Proposed Ordinance No. 2025-0070](#)

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 5, 2025, 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 \$0.2443 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 environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

Sherrie Hsu, Jake Tracy, and Brandi Paribello, Council staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), also addressed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Deferred

7. [Proposed Motion No. 2025-0077](#)

A MOTION related to a property tax levy for 2026 through 2031 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 environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

Sherrie Hsu, Jake Tracy, and Brandi Paribello, Council staff, briefed the committee and answered questions from the members. Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), also addressed the committee and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Deferred

Other Business

There was no further business to come before the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____

Clerk's Signature



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Budget and Fiscal Management Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	4	Name:	Sherrie Hsu
Proposed No.:	2025-0012	Date:	March 12, 2025

SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0012 would authorize a lease renewal with 201 SW 34th Street, LLC to allow Truck Maintenance Facility operations to continue while construction is underway at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill.

SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0012 would authorize the Executive to sign a lease renewal with 201 SW 34th Street, LLC, for space located at 201 SW 34th Street in Renton used by the DNRP’s Solid Waste Division. Currently, the Truck Maintenance Facility operations use this location as an interim location for the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF) operations while an alternative site analysis is being conducted prior to the construction of a new maintenance facility.

The original lease was signed April 21, 2021, amended October 21, 2021, and set to expire on March 31, 2026. The proposed ordinance would extend the lease by three years, through March 31, 2029, with the opportunity to extend the lease with two one-year options. The monthly rent rate would start at \$75,000 per month.

BACKGROUND

The Truck Maintenance Facility (TMF) was originally located onsite at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF). In April 2021, an initial five-year lease was executed for the Farwest Steel Building to temporarily relocate the TMF from its location at CHRLF to allow TMF operations to continue, while construction of a new facility at CHRLF is underway. Construction of a new facility at CHRL would support of the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. The space is 98,306 square feet.

According to the property summary provided by Executive staff, the construction project was temporarily put on hold to allow for an alternative site analysis due to rising construction costs. This proposed lease extension would allow TMF operations to continue while construction is underway at the CHRLF.

ANALYSIS

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0012 would authorize a lease renewal for space located at 201 SW 34th Street in Renton used by the DNRP and Solid Waste Division for the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF) operations.

Rationale for leasing. According to the property summary provided by Executive staff, this lease extension would support continued landfill operations while alternative analysis for the permanent facility is being completed.

Lease terms. The original lease was signed April 21, 2021, amended October 21, 2021, and set to expire on March 31, 2026. The proposed ordinance would extend the lease by three years, through March 31, 2029, with the opportunity to extend the lease with two one-year options. The monthly rent rate would start at \$75,000 per month triple net lease.¹ The lease would increase by 3% annually.

The agreement would also include a \$45,000 tenant improvement allowance. Current tenant improvement costs total \$74,728 to paint the administration area and restrooms. The Solid Waste Division will cover the remaining \$29,728 to complete the tenant improvement project.

Table 1. Summary of the Lease Terms of Proposed Ordinance 2025-0012

Category	Terms
Square Footage	98,306 square feet
Cost per Square Foot (Base Rent)	\$9.71 per sq. ft. per year
Operating Costs	\$3.72 per sq. ft. per year
Term	Three years (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029), with options to extend with two one-year options.

Consistency with County Policies. In accordance with King County’s Real Property Asset Management Plan (RAMP) policy, FMD and Transit reviewed this legislation for potential equity and social justice (ESJ) impacts. According to the property summary provided by Executive staff, this lease is located in the Cedar Hills neighborhood of Renton. The proposed continued use is consistent with existing services in the area. The SWD Truck Maintenance Facility program supports solid waste services in all areas of King County.

¹ This means the tenant would be responsible for taxes, insurance, and utilities.

Legal Review. The lease has been reviewed by Council's legal counsel.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0012 with attachment
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Fiscal Note
4. Lease Property Summary



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2025-0012.1

Sponsors Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE authorizing the execution of a lease
2 amendment to support the operation of natural resources
3 and parks.

4 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

5 For the lease amendment from 201 SW 34th Street, LLC, located at 201
6 SW 34th Steet, Renton, within council district eight, the facilities
7 management division determined that there was not an appropriate county-
8 owned option and successfully negotiated to lease space.

9 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:**

10 **SECTION 1.** The executive is authorized to execute a lease amendment for the
11 property located at 201 SW 34th Steet, Renton, with 201 SW 34th Street, LLC,

- 12 substantially in the form of Attachment A to this ordinance, and to take all actions
- 13 necessary to implement the terms of the lease amendment.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, _____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. Lease Amendment

ATTACHMENT A:

LEASE AMENDMENT

SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE

THIS SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT (“Second Amendment”), is made by and between 201 SW 34th Street LLC, an Oregon limited liability company (“Landlord”), and King County, a home rule charter county and political subdivision of the State of Washington (“Tenant”), in connection with the Lease Agreement (“Lease”) with a Commencement Date of April 1, 2021.

RECITALS

- A. This is the Second Amendment between Landlord and Tenant to the Lease having been fully executed and with a Commencement Date of April 21, 2021, and amended by a First Amendment to Lease dated October 21, 2021.
- B. Landlord and Tenant wish to extend the Initial Term of the Lease three (3) years with the opportunity to extend the lease with two one (1) year options.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, effective June 1, 2024, Landlord and Tenant hereby agree as follows:

- 1. Any capitalized, undefined term used herein shall have the same meaning given such term in the Lease.
- 2. Section 1.7 (“Initial Term”) is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
 - 1.7. Initial Term: Eight (8) years. The “Initial Term” and any “Extended Term” are the “Term.”
- 3. Section 1.8 (“Intentionally Deleted”) is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:
 - 1.8. Extended Term: Two consecutive one-year option (1) terms.
- 4. Section 1.11 (“Expiration Date”) is deleted in its entirety and replaced with:
 - 1.11. This Lease shall expire on March 31, 2029, unless extended as provided below.
- 5. Section 1.12 (“Base Rent”) is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following table:

1.12.

Years	Base Rent per Month
1	\$75,000.00
2	\$77,250.00
3	\$79,567.50
4	\$81,954.53
5	\$84,413.17
6	\$86,945.57
7	\$89,553.94
8	\$92,240.56

6. Section 3.2 (“Expiration Date”) is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

3.2. Expiration Date. This Lease shall expire on March 31, 2029, unless extended as provided below.

7. Section 3.3 (“Intentionally Deleted”) is hereby deleted and replaced with the following language:

3.4 Extension Option. Provided Tenant is not in default under this Lease on the date this option is exercised and as of the last day of the Term, Tenant shall have the option to extend the initial Term for two successive periods of one year each (each an “Extended Term”). This option to extend may be exercised by Tenant only by giving Landlord written notice no more than twelve (12) months and no less than six (6) months prior to the last day of the then-current expiration date of the Lease. Tenant’s extension option shall apply to all of the Premises then leased by Tenant under this Lease. From

and after the commencement of the Extended Term, all of the terms, covenants, and conditions of this Lease shall continue in full force and effect as written, except that Base Rent for the Extended Term shall be subject to a 3% annual increase, as follows:

Optional Years	Base Rent per Month
9	\$95,007.78
10	\$97,858.01

8. Section 26 (“Early Termination”) is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with “Intentionally Deleted.”

9. **Estoppel.** Tenant represents to Landlord that (a) to Tenant’s actual knowledge, there are no uncured defaults by Landlord or Tenant under any of the terms or conditions of the Lease; (b) to Tenant’s actual knowledge, Tenant knows of no circumstances or occurrences which, with the passage of time or otherwise, would constitute a default by Landlord or Tenant under the Lease; and (c) to Tenant’s actual knowledge, Tenant has no basis for asserting any charges, liens, claims, offsets, abatements, credits or defenses to the payment of the rent, additional rent or any other sums due under the Lease. Landlord represents to Tenant that (d) to Landlord’s actual knowledge, there are no uncured defaults by Landlord or Tenant under any of the terms or conditions of the Lease; and (e) to Landlord’s actual knowledge, Landlord knows of no circumstances or occurrences which, with the passage of time or otherwise, would constitute a default by Landlord or Tenant under the Lease.

10. **All Other Terms Reserved.** Except to the extent herein revised, amended, or modified, all terms, conditions, and provisions of said Lease are hereby affirmed and ratified in all respects with respect to the Initial Term and Extension Options.

11. **Authority.** Landlord and Tenant each represent and warrant that it has the authority to enter into this Amendment, and that the signatories hereto are authorized representatives of Landlord and Tenant respectively.

12. **Council Approval Contingency.** This Lease Amendment is contingent on and shall not take effect unless and until it is approved by ordinance by the Metropolitan King County Council. This King County Council Approval Contingency will be satisfied when an ordinance passed by the Metropolitan King County Council approving this Lease Amendment becomes effective.

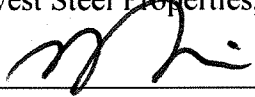
13. **Entire Agreement.** This Amendment, together with the Lease, contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior understandings and agreements on such subject matter. This Amendment cannot be changed in any manner except by a written agreement signed by Landlord and Tenant.
14. **Full Force and Effect.** Except as expressly amended or modified herein, all other terms, covenants and conditions of the Lease shall remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and confirmed. To the extent the provisions of this Amendment are inconsistent with the Lease, the terms of this Amendment shall control.
15. **Effective Date.** Upon mutual execution by Landlord and Tenant, this Second Amendment is effective June 1, 2024.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Second Amendment effective as of both signatures. This Second Amendment may be executed in counterparts and each counterpart constitutes an original document.

LANDLORD: 201 South 34th Street LLC

By: Farwest Steel Properties, Inc., Member

By: 

Name: MICK SINHU

Title: VP OF FINANCE

Date 07 31/24

TENANT:

KING COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Washington

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

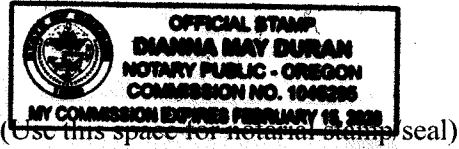
[NOTARY BLOCKS ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LANE)

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that Nick Sidhu is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he signed this instrument, on oath stated that he was authorized to execute the instrument and acknowledged it as the VP of Finance of Farwest Properties, Inc., an Oregon corporation, the sole member of 201 SW 34th Steet LLC, an Oregon limited liability company, to be the free and voluntary act of such party for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL this 31st day of October, ~~2021~~ 2024

Notary Public Dianna Duran
Print Name Dianna Duran
My commission expires Feb 15, 2028



STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
COUNTY OF KING)

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that _____ is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that ___ signed this instrument, on oath stated that ___ was authorized to execute the instrument and acknowledged it as the _____ of KING COUNTY, a home rule charter county and political subdivision of the State of Washington, to be the free and voluntary act of such party for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL this _____ day of _____, 2021

Notary Public
Print Name
My commission expires

(Use this space for notarial stamp/seal)



King County

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-1818
206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194
TTY Relay: 711
www.kingcounty.gov

January 8, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, will enable King County to amend its lease with 201 SW 34th Street, LLC, for space located at 201 SW 34th Street, Renton, Washington used by the Department of Natural Resources and Parks Solid Waste Division.

This proposed lease amendment supports the provision of King County operations for the Solid Waste Division Cedar Hills Landfill (CHRLF) by providing an interim location for the CHRLF truck maintenance facility to leased space, which will allow operations to continue while an alternative site analysis is being conducted prior to the construction of a new maintenance facility.

This transaction is recommended per the rationale and considerations provided in the attached property summary.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance.

If your staff have questions, contact Drew Zimmerman, Acting Director, Facilities Management Division at 206-263-5935.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Zimmerman", written over a circular stamp or mark.

for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

January 8, 2025

Page 2

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Lorraine Patterson-Harris, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services (DES)

Drew Zimmerman, Acting Director, Facilities Management Division (FMD), DES

Julie Ockerman, Manager, Real Estate Services, FMD, DES

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

KING COUNTY FISCAL NOTE - Property Leases and Sales

GENERAL TRANSACTION INFORMATION

Ordinance/Motion:	201 SW 34th Street Lease Amendment			Transaction Duration:	3 yrs
Title:	201 SW 34th Street Lease Amendment			Fair Market Value:	NA
Affected Agency/Agencies:	DNRP Solid Waste			Legal Transaction Type:	Lease Amendment
Note Prepared By:	Carolyn Mock / Brian Dennehy	Date Prepared:	3/19/24	Fiscal Transaction Type:	Stand Alone
Note Reviewed By:		Date Reviewed:			
Description of Request:	Solid Waste Lease at 201 SW 34th Street, Renton WA				

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Part 1 - Net Present Value Analysis Results

Net Present Value to King County (all impacts): ***	NA	Net Present Value to Primary Impacted Agency (customer of transaction): ***	NA
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Part 2 - Revenue and Expenditure Impacts

As of the preparation date of this fiscal note, the impact of the above legislation on the financial affairs of King County is estimated to be as indicated below:

Revenue to: 2,3,5

Appropriation Unit	Appr. Number	Department	Fund Number	Project Number	Revenue Account Code and Source/Description	Sum of Revenues Prior to 2023	2023 / 2024	2025 / 2026	2027 / 2028	Sum of Outyear Impacts ²
						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Expenditures from: 2,3,4,5

Appropriation Unit/Expenditure Type	Appr. Number	Department	Fund Number	Project Number	Expenditure Notes	Sum of Expenditures Prior to 2023	2023 / 2024	2025 / 2026	2027 / 2028	Sum of Outyear Impacts ²
DNRP Solid Waste	0	DNRP	3901	1133918						
Real Estate Services Labor Costs						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
King County Project Management						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lease Payments/Associated O&M					Rent & Estimated Operating Costs for Extended 3 Year Period, 4/1/26 - 3/31/29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,079,242	\$ 3,017,270	\$ 391,223
Service Costs (Appraisal, Title, Move)						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tenant and Other Improvements					TI Costs above allowance to be paid by Solid Waste	\$ -	\$ 29,728	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
10% Art for General Fund Transactions						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Transaction Costs						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL						\$ -	\$ 29,728	\$ 1,079,242	\$ 3,017,270	\$ 391,223
Real Estate Services Labor Costs						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
King County Project Management						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lease Payments/Associated O&M						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Service Costs (Appraisal, Title, Move)						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tenant and Other Improvements						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
10% Art for General Fund Transactions						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Transaction Costs						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL						\$ -	\$ 29,728	\$ 1,079,242	\$ 3,017,270	\$ 391,223

APPROPRIATION IMPACTS

As of the preparation date of this fiscal note, the impact of the above legislation on the budget appropriation of King County is estimated to be as indicated below: 1

Appropriation Unit	Appr. Number	Department	Fund Number	Project Number	Appropriation Notes	2023 / 2024 Appropriation Change	Total 6-Year CIP Outyear Planning Level Costs
					The transaction was anticipated in the current budget; no supplemental appropriation is required.	\$ -	\$ -
						\$ -	\$ -
						\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL						\$ -	\$ -

Assumption and Additional Notes:

*** An NPV analysis was not performed because this is an extension of an existing lease for a site required by Solid Waste.

- This transaction does not require the use of fund balance or reallocated grant funding.
- The transaction is not backed by new revenue.
- A detailed explanation of how the expenditure impacts were developed is provided below, including major assumptions made in developing the values presented in the fiscal note and other supporting data:
 - Current lease is for a 5 year term ending 3/31/26. This amendment extends the lease an additional 3 years to expire 3/31/29 plus two consecutive one-year options.
 - The existing lease calls for annual 3 percent increases. This will continue through the extended lease term.
 - The cost calculation above is for the extended 3 year term 4/1/26 to 3/31/29 only. The operating costs are based on the current 2024 operating cost charge with estimated 5% annual increases.
 - The original lease provides a Tenant Improvement Allowance of \$45,000. Total TI costs are estimated at \$74,728. The additional \$29,728 TI costs above the allowance will be paid by Solid Waste.

Lease Property Summary

Photo of Property



Property Owner: 201 SW 34th Street LLC
Address: 201 SW 34th Street, Renton, WA
Cost Per Sq. Ft.: \$9.71
Operational Costs: \$3.72
Term: Eight years
Square Footage: 98,306 SF/5.6 acres
Template: King
Council District: Five
Funding Source: King County Solid Waste CIP Fund, 3901 Fund
Previous Location: Temporary location for the truck maintenance facility during construction at the Cedar Hills Landfill.
Offer Expiration: Property owner has requested execution of agreement in early 2025, current lease agreement ends in March 2026.

Lease Synopsis:

The Truck Maintenance Facility (TMF) was originally located onsite at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill (CHRLF). In April 2021, an initial five-year lease was executed for the Farwest Steel Building to temporarily relocate the TMF from its location at CHRLF to allow

TMF operations to continue while construction of a new facility at CHRLF (in support of the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.¹) is underway.

Due to rising construction costs, the construction project was temporarily put on hold to allow for an alternative site analysis. The proposed extended lease term will allow TMF operations to continue while construction is underway at the CHRLF.

Context

Rationale for transaction: The additional lease term is needed to ensure the operational support provided by the TMF continues uninterrupted while the alternative site analysis is being conducted. The TMF needs to remain at the Farwest Steel Building until a permanent solution is identified.

Policy considerations: This transaction supports continued landfill operations while alternative analysis for the permanent facility is being completed.

Political considerations: N/A

*Community considerations
or partnerships:* N/A

Fiscal considerations: The rent for the initial lease is \$75,000 per month triple net lease, or NNN, which means that the tenant is responsible for expenses such as taxes, insurance, and utilities. The lease includes three percent annual increases. The additional term after initial five years continues with three percent annual increases.

Other considerations: N/A

CIP/operational impacts: This agreement includes a \$45,000 tenant improvement allowance, and current tenant improvement costs total \$74,728 to paint the administration area and restrooms. The Solid Waste Fund will cover the remaining \$29,728 to complete the tenant improvement project.

King County Strategic Plan impact: N/A

Equity and Social Justice impact: In accordance with King County's Real Property Asset Management Plan (RAMP) policy, the Facilities Management Division and Solid Waste Division reviewed this legislation for potential equity and social justice (ESJ) impacts. This lease is located in the Cedar Hills neighborhood of Renton. The proposed continued use is consistent with existing services in the area. The SWD Truck Maintenance Facility program supports solid waste services in all areas of King County.

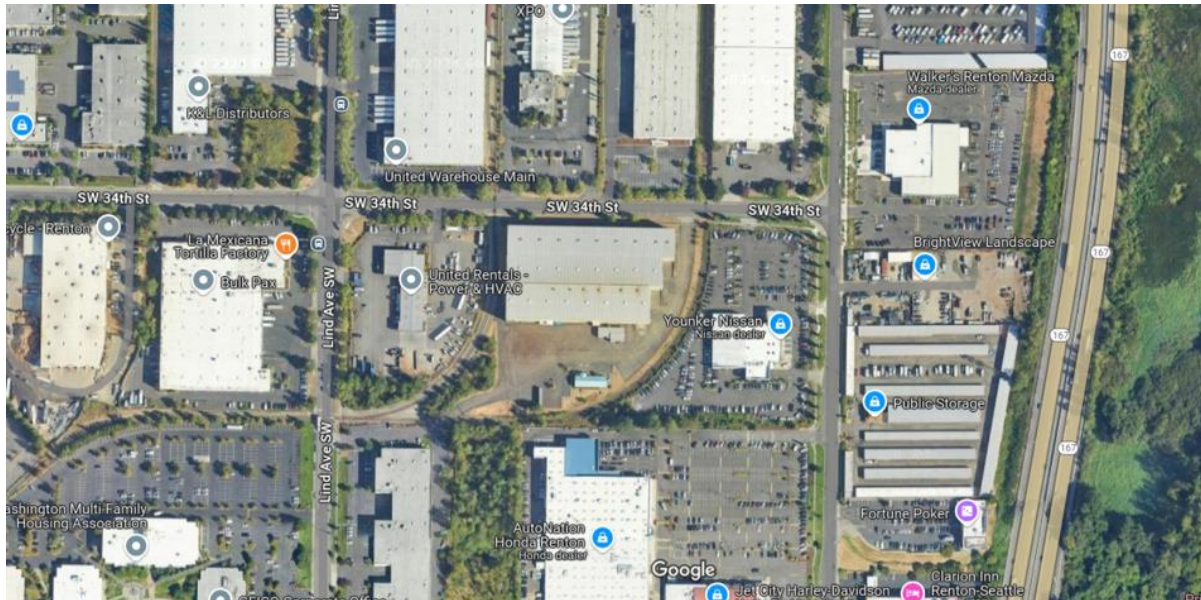
Energy Efficiency impact: N/A

¹ <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/waste-services/garbage-recycling-compost/solid-waste-planning-monitoring/comprehensive-solid-waste-management-plan>

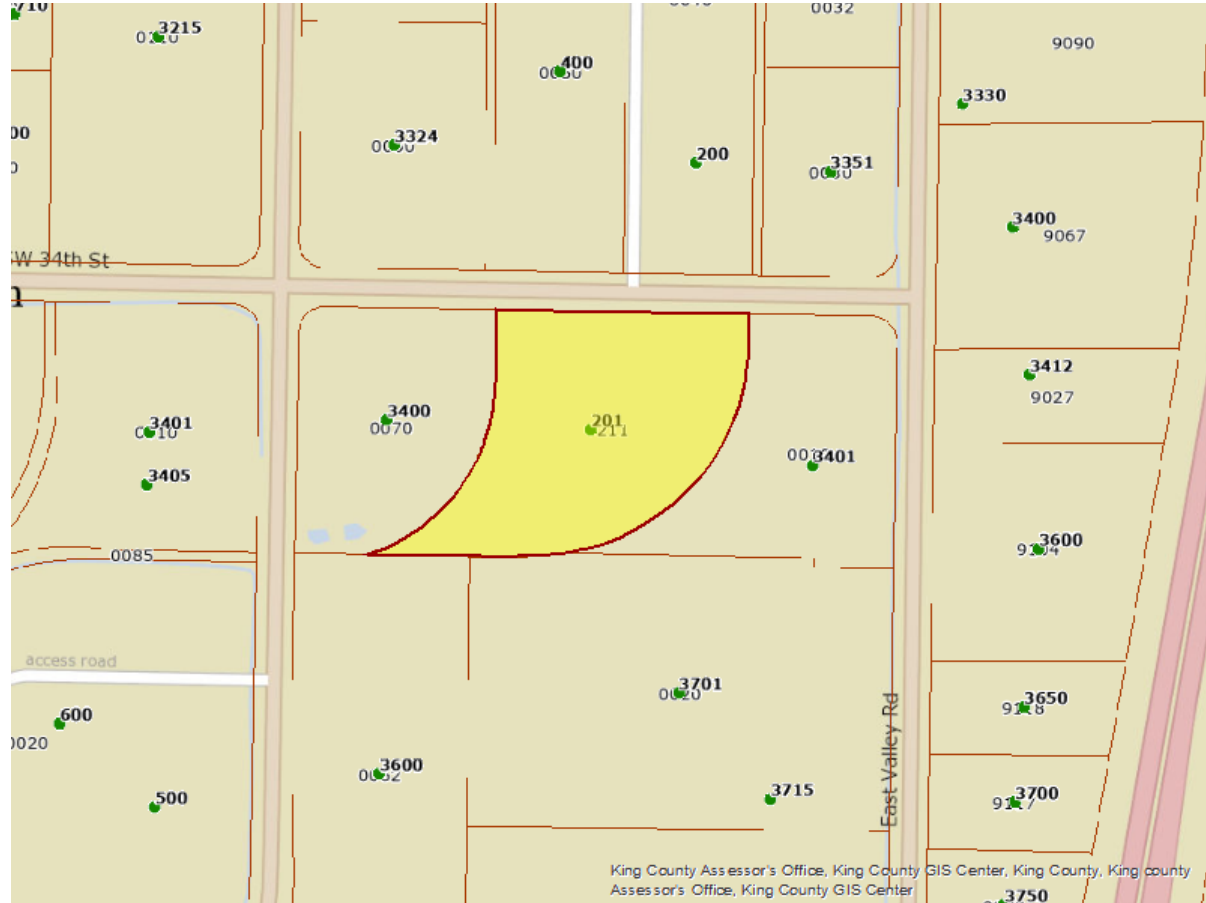
Lease Alternatives Analysis

Summary: Because this is an extension of an existing lease, alternatives were not considered.

Vicinity View Map



Parcel Map





King County

Budget & Fiscal Management Committee

March 12, 2025

Agenda Item No. 5 Proposed Ordinance 2025-0039

AN ORDINANCE relating to the sale of the surplus property located at 33431 13th Place S., Federal Way, Washington, in council district seven.

Materials for this item will be available prior to the meeting.



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Budget and Fiscal Management Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Items:	6-7	Name:	Sherrie Hsu Jake Tracy Brandi Paribello
Proposed No.:	2025-0070 2025-0077	Date:	March 12, 2025

SUBJECT

Proposed Ordinance (PO) 2025-0070 would place on the August 5, 2025, ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.5 billion in total over the six-year period.

[Proposed Motion \(PM\) 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 levy.](#)

SUMMARY

Proposed Ordinance (PO) 2025-0070 would place on the August 5, 2025, ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.5 billion in total over the six-year period. In comparison, the current 2020-2025 Park Levy is expected to generate approximately \$851 million over the six-year period, based on OEFA’s August 2024 forecast.¹

The levy would support:

- King County Parks operations and maintenance;
- King County Parks capital program;
- King County cities, towns, and park districts;
- Woodland Park Zoo;
- Seattle Aquarium;
- Seattle Waterfront Park;
- Memorial Stadium; and
- Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnership Grants.

¹ The current levy generated \$115.7 million in 2020, \$253.6 million in 2021-2022, an estimated \$307.9 million in 2023-2024, and is expected to generate \$169.8 million in 2025.

The initial levy rate is proposed at 24.43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV), with a proposed limit factor based on inflation growth² plus population growth. For the owner of a King County single-family home with a median 2024 AV of \$844,000, an initial levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV would cost this owner approximately \$206.19 annually (\$17.18 per month) in property tax in 2026. This would be approximately \$39.67 more per year (\$3.31 more per month) than the current levy for the same homeowner.

[Proposed Motion \(PM\) 2025-0077](#) would adopt a funding allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 levy.

The staff report identifies policy issues for consideration by the Council and committee members. Council staff and legal review are ongoing.

The proposed levy was transmitted to the Council on February 11, 2025, and has been dually referred first to the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and second to the Regional Policy Committee.

If approved by the Council, the levy proposal would be placed before voters at the August 5, 2025, election. The last regular Council meeting at which the Council could act as a non-emergency and with maximum processing time would be April 1, 2025; with minimum processing time, it would be the April 22, 2025, Council meeting. The last regular meeting at which the Council could act as an emergency would be the May 2, 2025, Council meeting.

[Updates made since the February 26, 2025 staff report are in blue font.](#)

BACKGROUND

Tax Levies and Levy Lid Lifts in Washington. State law limits a taxing district (e.g., King County) to a 1% increase in regular property taxes per year [plus the value of new construction](#) ("the standard limit factor").³ However, state law provides a mechanism by which taxing districts can exceed this limit – a majority of voters must approve such an increase through a proposition placed on a general or special election ballot.

There are four kinds of levy lid lifts for regular property tax levies, as discussed below.⁴

Single-Year Temporary Levy Lid Lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The levy lid is increased by more than 1% in the first year and is subject to the standard limit factor in subsequent years. • Once the number of years specified in the levy proposition have elapsed, the levy rate returns to what it would have been had the lift never been
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² Consumer Price Index for wage earners (CPI-W) for Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton.

³ RCW 84.55.010. The limit also allows an additional dollar amount for AV resulting from new construction and other exceptional cases.

⁴ The following discussion is based on RCW 84.55.050, WAC 458-19-045, and guidance from the Municipal Research and Services Center found at <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Finance/Revenues/Levy-Lid-Lift.aspx>. In all cases described, levies are subject to statutory maximums as prescribed by state law.

	approved.
Single-Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The levy lid is increased by more than 1% in the first year and is subject to the standard limit factor in all subsequent years.
Multi-Year Temporary Levy Lid Lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The levy lid lift states the levy rate for the first year. The levy rate is increased by more than 1% in each of two to six years and is subject to the standard limit factor in subsequent years. Once the number of years specified in the levy proposition have elapsed, the levy rate returns to what it would have been had the lift never been approved.
Multi-Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The levy lid is increased by more than 1% in each of two to six years and is subject to the standard limit factor in all subsequent years.

Levy Rate, Levy, and Limit Factor. A levy rate, levy, and limit factor are defined below.

- The *levy rate* is the rate of the property tax, set per \$1,000 AV.
- The *levy* is the total amount of property tax collected.
- The *limit factor* is the amount by which the total levy amount may not exceed in subsequent years. For a multi-year levy lid lift, the limit factor does not have to be the same for each year.

Prorationing. State law⁵ establishes a maximum aggregate property tax rate of \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for counties, cities, fire districts, library districts, and certain other junior taxing districts. If a taxing district reaches its statutory rate limitation, that district can only collect the amount of tax revenue that would be produced by that statutory maximum levy rate.

- In other words, if the aggregate of taxing districts exceeds the \$5.90 limit, the tax district's levies would have to be reduced so that the \$5.90 aggregate collection limit is not exceeded.
- Reductions are made in accordance with a district hierarchy established under state law.⁶
- In general, countywide levies are the most senior taxing districts and would be the last to be reduced, or pro-rated, under state law.⁷

Supplantation Considerations. Prior to 2024, a non-supplantation limitation under state law⁸ meant that proceeds from levy lid lifts could only be used for new programs and services under the specific purpose of the levy lid lift as identified in the ballot title; and for existing programs and services, as long as levy money was used to supplement, but

⁵ RCW 84.52.043.

⁶ RCW 84.52.010

⁷ State law currently removes regular park and recreation district property tax levies from the \$5.90 limit if levied on an island within a county with a population over two million (i.e., Vashon Island). This exemption, unless changed by state law, expires January 1, 2027. (Chapter 117, Laws of 2021)

⁸ RCW 84.55.050.

not supplant, existing funds. This meant that levy lid lift proceeds could not be used to support services that the county already provided. From 2015 through 2022, there was a moratorium pausing the non-supplantation restriction in counties with a population over 1.5 million – such as King County.⁹

The passage of House Bill 2044 during the 2024 legislation session eliminated this non-supplantation restriction for levies. This means that local governments can now use voter-approved levy lid lifts for ongoing expenses, in addition to new programs and services, that support the levy lid lift's specified purpose.

Property Tax Exemption. State law allows cities and counties the option to exempt eligible senior citizens, veterans with disabilities, and others with disabilities from the regular property tax increase resulting from a levy, subject to meeting eligibility criteria and receiving application approval.¹⁰

History of the Parks Levy. Prior to 2003, the King County parks system relied mainly on General Fund (then called “Current Expense Fund”) moneys. In 2003, the General Fund was facing \$52 million shortfall, attributed to growth in the cost of providing services, particularly in mandated criminal justice related functions, an economic recession, and an erosion of the county's tax base. Large deficits were predicted into the foreseeable future.

2002 Business Transition Plan. In 2002, to prevent the closure of the parks system, King County convened the Metropolitan Parks Task Force, a community advisory 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 inflation built in so that levy revenues would keep pace with inflationary pressures.

⁹ Chapter 296, Laws of 2021.

¹⁰ *Guide to Property Tax Exemptions for Seniors, Persons with Disabilities, and Disabled Veterans.* King County Department of Assessments. URL: <https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/assessor/documents/guide-to-property-tax-exemptions-for-senior-disabled-and-veterans.pdf?rev=aaa4b4d03cb146b6a961b4e531565ab5&hash=479455066CC8A083AE9B12C296316E13>. Last accessed on February 13, 2025.

- 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% to King County to acquire and preserve regional trails and natural areas, including funding for community partnership projects;
 - 20% to cities for trails, parks, and open space; and
 - 20% to Woodland Park Zoo for environmental education, conservation, and capital improvement projects.

The King County Parks Division (“Parks”) continued to implement its business transition plan, transferring 31 more parks and pools to local cities between 2007 and 2012.

2013 Parks Levy. In August 2013, King County voters approved a new, 18.91 cent six-year parks levy with an annual limit factor 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.

2019 Parks Levy. In 2019, Ordinance 18890¹¹ placed on the August 2019 ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy to support parks and open space throughout King County. The ordinance set an initial levy rate of 18.32 cents per \$1,000 of AV and is currently expected to generate approximately \$852 million over the life of the levy, to fund various projects and programs including:

- Up to \$8 million of the levy proceeds for a capital construction project at the Seattle Aquarium;
- Up to \$44 million of the levy proceeds to for pool maintenance, capital improvements and construction;
- Up to \$22 million of the levy proceeds for integrated floodplain management;
- 47% of the remaining proceeds for acquisition of open space, continued development of regional and other public trails, other capital improvement projects and major maintenance of the county’s open space system, and community partnerships and grants;
- 40% of the remaining proceeds for King County’s parks system operations and maintenance, with no more than \$10 million of this amount being used for targeted equity grants;
- 8% of the remaining proceeds for distribution to the towns and cities of King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital improvement projects; and
- 5% of the remaining proceeds for environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo.

At the same time the Council passed Ordinance 18890, it also passed a companion motion, Motion 15378,¹² which adopted an allocation plan for levy moneys, as well as guidance for four new grant programs. The allocation plan for the 2020-2025 Parks Levy is Attachment C to Motion 15378.

¹¹ [File No. 2019-0084](#)

¹² [File No. 2019-0142](#)

Summary of Outreach. Community engagement and outreach materials provided by Executive staff show that Parks conducted 21 engagement events in March and April 2024, both in-person and virtual, for the proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy. Comparatively, Parks conducted 54 in-person engagement events for the current levy. Executive staff state that, although they were not categorized as formal engagement events, the Parks Mobile Engagement Team spent several days each week in February through April of 2024 soliciting in-person feedback in parks and trails across King County. According to staff, over 4,800 people across all nine King County Council districts participated in surveys and Parks staff also met with towns and cities, parks districts, and key partners to receive additional feedback about the levy proposal.

In January 2024, Parks established the King County Parks Levy Community Advisory Committee which met nine times to provide guidance on developing the 2026-2031 Parks Levy. Based on review of current levy funding and activities, and feedback from forums and surveys, the Committee recommended funding the following priorities:

- Safety and Belonging: increase funding for maintenance and infrastructure; provide multi-language signing and wayfinding; collaborate, engage, and partner with local communities in a substantive and culturally appropriate way.
- Equity: distribute levy funds based on an assessment of community needs, gaps, and equitable outcomes; improve accessibility for people with disabilities; expand hours for parks and trails; provide multi-language signing and wayfinding.
- Climate Resilience & Mitigation: prioritize open space acquisition to protect existing ecosystems; fund strategic and regional trail connections that provide transportation alternatives for commuters and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; increase tree canopy, open space acquisitions, and forest stewardship in concrete “hot zones” in urban and underserved communities.
- New Parks, Trails, & Recreation Opportunities: focus on trail improvements and “last mile” additions to connect communities; increase grant funding for local communities; more equitably distribute pass-through funding; provide additional support for sports infrastructure and programming in underserved communities.

ANALYSIS

Financials. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070 would place on the August 5, 2025, ballot a proposition authorizing a six-year property tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.5 billion in total over the levy period. This is a multi-year temporary levy lid lift, meaning that funding would not continue after the six-year period expires.

Proposed Rate and Limit Factor. The initial levy rate is proposed at **24.43 cents** per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV), with a limit factor set as the combined percentage change in the prior year’s Seattle consumer price index for wage earners (CPI-W) and estimated population growth in King County. This is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Estimated Limit Factor: Inflation Plus Population Growth

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
CPI-W (Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton) ¹³	2.68%	2.49%	2.46%	2.41%	2.43%	2.68%
Estimated King County Pop. Growth ¹⁴	0.92%	0.93%	0.87%	0.80%	0.72%	0.92%
<i>Estimated Limit Factor</i>	3.60%	3.41%	3.33%	3.22%	3.15%	3.20%

Estimated Collections. Table 2 shows the estimated levy revenue for each year of the levy, based on the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis's (OEFA) August 2024 forecast for levy proceeds and presuming a limit factor based on the combined percentage change in the prior year's Seattle consumer price index for wage earners (CPI-W) and estimated population growth in King County. With these assumptions, the total projected revenue over the six-year levy period is **\$1.5 billion**.

For comparison, the current 2020-2025 levy had an initial rate of **18.32 cents** per \$1,000 AV in 2020, with a limit factor set as the combined percentage change in the prior year's Seattle CPI-W and estimated population growth in King County. The current 2020-2025 levy is expected to generate approximately **\$851 million** over the six-year levy period, based on OEFA's August 2024 forecast.¹⁵ This is approximately a 5% increase over the originally projected amount of \$810 million.

Table 2 also shows the estimated effective levy rate for each year of the levy period. For the current levy, the effective levy rate (which is calculated based on the limit factor, AV, and new construction) as of 2025 is 19.73 cents per \$1,000 AV.¹⁶ If, hypothetically, the current levy was extended into 2026 at a status quo continuation (applying the 2026 limit factor and AV assumptions to the 2025 levy collections), the effective rate for 2026 would have been 19.52 cents.

Note that the March 2025 OEFA forecast is expected to be adopted by the Forecast Council in March 2025. Council staff will provide updated analysis and highlight any changes when the latest forecast is adopted. [Based on the draft March 2025 OEFA forecast, total anticipated levy collections over six years is still \\$1.5 billion. The annual estimates are shown below.](#)

¹³ Inflation from Seattle CPI-W June Value in OEFA March 2024 Forecast.

¹⁴ Population forecast from OEFA March 2024 Forecast.

¹⁵ The current levy generated \$115.7 million in 2020, \$253.6 million in 2021-2022, an estimated \$307.9 million in 2023-2024, and is expected to generate \$169.8 million in 2025.

¹⁶ Based on August 2024 OEFA Forecast.

**Table 2. Estimated Annual Parks Levy Collections and Effective Levy Rate
(August 2024 OEFA Forecast)**

	Current Levy	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy					
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Estimated Proceeds ¹⁷	\$170 million	\$226 million	\$238 million	\$245 million	\$261 million	\$273 million	\$285 million
Estimated Effective Levy Rate ¹⁸ (per \$1000 AV)	\$0.1973	\$0.2443	\$0.24150	\$0.23896	\$0.23621	\$0.23260	\$0.22971

Estimated Annual Parks Levy Collections and Effective Levy Rate (Draft March 2025 OEFA Forecast)

	Current Levy	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy					
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Estimated Proceeds ¹⁹	\$170 million	\$220 million	\$232 million	\$246 million	\$258 million	\$271 million	\$285 million
Estimated Effective Levy Rate ²⁰ (per \$1000 AV)	\$0.1973	\$0.2443	\$0.2503	\$0.2547	\$0.2595	\$0.2614	\$0.2666

Impact to Household with Median-Valued Home. For the owner of a King County single-family home with a median AV of \$844,000 (based on 2024 assessed values²¹), an initial levy rate of **24.43 cents** per \$1,000 AV would cost this owner approximately **\$206.19** annually (\$17.18 per month) in property tax.

- For comparison, the effective levy rate of the current levy was approximately 19.43 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2024, which would cost the same homeowner approximately \$163.99 annually. For 2025, the effective levy rate of the current levy is approximately **19.73 cents** per \$1,000 AV, which would cost the same homeowner approximately **\$166.52** annually based on 2024 assessed values.
- To this homeowner, comparing the proposed 2026 rate with the effective 2025 rate, the proposed levy represents an approximate increase of \$39.67 annually (\$3.31 per month).

¹⁷ Based on August 2024 OEFA Forecast.

¹⁸ The effective levy rate is a function of assessed value, new construction, and the limit factor.

¹⁹ Based on Draft March 2025 OEFA Forecast.

²⁰ The effective levy rate is a function of assessed value, new construction, and the limit factor.

²¹ According to Executive staff, this value comes from Median Assessed Value (AV) by Levy or District data, provided by the King County Assessor's Office. The tax roll was certified by the Assessor's Office on January 27, 2025.

Prorating Considerations. Based on current prorating analysis from the OEFA's August 2024 forecast, it is not currently expected that the proposed levy would have a prorating impact on other taxing districts. In other words, levy suppression and prorating are not currently projected as an issue for the proposed levy as transmitted.

Prorating mitigation is not identified as an eligible levy expenditure in the PO. Whether or not to designate a specific reserve out of levy proceeds in the PO for any potential prorating mitigation would be a policy choice.

Based on the August 2024 OEFA forecast, assuming an initial parks levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2026, there would be about \$1.09 of room in 2026, and between \$0.73 to \$1.09 in the next six years, before the closest district would hit the \$5.90 limit. During the 2026-2031 time frame, the closest levy district to reaching the \$5.90 limit would be Vashon Island, with about \$0.73 of room in 2027.²² This calculation includes the AFIS levy renewal passed in early 2025. The Executive is expected to transmit a proposed EMS levy renewal later in 2025; EMS levies are not subject to the \$5.90 limit.

Funding Categories Overview. This section provides an overview of the proposed levy allocations as stated in the PO, as well as the more detailed proposed investments listed in the proposed allocation plan that is Attachment 2 to this staff report. (Note that the allocation plan is not explicitly referenced in the PO and therefore is not part of the legislation; this level of detail would not be adopted by adopting the ordinance. [PM 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 levy.](#))

Proposed Allocations as Stated in Proposed Ordinance. PO 2025-0070 would allocate levy proceeds for the following purposes, which are explicitly stated in the ordinance language:

- Up to \$42 million for Woodland Park Zoo;
- Up to \$15 million for Seattle Aquarium;
- Up to \$9 million for Friends of Waterfront Park;
- Up to \$2.5 million for Memorial Stadium;
- Up to \$30 million for Parks Capital and Open Space Grants; and
- Up to \$46 million for Aquatic Facilities Grants.

Note that the “up to” language in these allocations means that anywhere between \$0 and the maximum amount listed could be spent. The Executive’s proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive does intend to spend the maximum for each of these categories.

Of remaining levy proceeds (approximately \$1.35 billion), PO 2025-0070 would explicitly allocate money as follows:

²² State law currently removes regular park and recreation district property tax levies from the \$5.90 limit if levied on an island within a county with a population over two million (i.e., Vashon Island). This exemption, unless changed by state law, expires January 1, 2027. (House Bill 1034, Chapter 117, Laws of 2021)

- 43% of remaining proceeds for operations and maintenance of the open space system²³ and for the Healthy Communities and Parks Grants Program;²⁴
- 48% of remaining proceeds to parks acquisition, conservation, stewardship, capital improvement, community partnerships and grants, and the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center;²⁵ and
- 9% of remaining proceeds to towns, cities, and parks districts.

Proposed Allocation Plan. Executive staff have transmitted a proposed allocation plan, which is Attachment 2 to this staff report and summarized in Table 3. Note that the proposed allocation plan is neither explicitly referenced in, nor identified as an attachment to the transmitted PO, and therefore this level of detail would not be adopted by adopting the ordinance.

Whether to amend the ordinance to adopt the proposed allocation plan, introduce a companion motion to adopt the proposed allocation plan, and/or to include additional specific allocations in the PO, is a policy choice for members to consider. For the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, the Council adopted, simultaneous to levy ordinance adoption,²⁶ a companion motion²⁷ that included the adopted current allocation plan (referred to herein as the “2020-2025 Parks Levy motion.”)

For the proposed 2026-2031 levy, a proposed companion motion (Proposed Motion 2025-0077) has been introduced. Proposed Motion 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan attached to the motion. While the attachment to the motion is currently the Executive’s proposed allocation plan, members may choose to amend the allocation plan; this would be a policy choice.

The Proposed Motion would stipulate that the amounts in the allocation plan may be modified when deemed advisable or necessary in the judgment of the Council, through adoption of an appropriations ordinance. If the Executive wished to make changes to allocations within the allocation plan, a report would be required to be submitted to the Council detailing the proposed changes. This process mirrors what was adopted in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy Motion. These processes are also policy choices.

²³ Defined in Section 1 as “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.”

²⁴ No more than \$30M to Healthy Community and Parks Grants, formerly known as Targeted Equity Grants.

²⁵ Executive staff state that inclusion of the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in this category is an error, and that it was intended to be an off-the-top allocation of up to \$22 million.

²⁶ Ordinance 18890.

²⁷ Motion 15378.

Table 3. Executive Proposed Allocation Plan for 2026-2031 Parks Levy

Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnerships		\$117 million
	Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$46 million
	Parks Capital and Open Space	\$30 million
	Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly known as Targeted Equity Grants)	\$30 million
	Community Partnerships and Grants ²⁸	\$11 million
Pass-Through		\$209 million
	King County cities, towns, and park districts	\$119 million
	Woodland Park Zoo	\$42 million
	Seattle Waterfront	\$9 million
	Seattle Aquarium	\$15 million
	Memorial Stadium	\$2.5 million
	Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center ²⁹	\$22 million
King County Parks Operations and Maintenance		\$551 million
	Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery and Internal Supports	\$517 million
	Parks Patrol Expansion	\$4.3 million
	Safety Program Expansion	\$3.2 million
	Asset Management Program	\$4.1 million
	Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program	\$10.4 million
	Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion	\$4.8 million
	Jobs & Housing Program	\$5 million
	Tribal, Indigenous, & Historic Interpretive Program	\$1.8 million
King County Parks Capital Program		\$624 million
	Climate resilience and stewardship	\$217.5 million
	Regional trails and other public trails system	\$179 million
	New park development and improvements	\$51 million
	Active recreation repair and renovation	\$177 million
Election Costs		\$1.5 million
Additional assumed costs		\$18 million
	Fixed income exemption ³⁰	\$3 million
	1% undercollection assumption ³¹	\$15 million

²⁸ Defined in Section 1 as "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."

²⁹ Executive staff state that inclusion of the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center was intended to be an off-the-top allocation of up to \$22 million; its inclusion in the PO under Section 4.E (as part of the capital distribution) was an error and was intended to be included under Section 4.D.

³⁰ As authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

³¹ According to Executive staff, the 1% undercollection assumption is a consistent rate assumed countywide with other levies. The first four years of the Parks levy has seen less than 1% of the undercollection rate. Though FY 2024 year-end reconciliation is still underway and is expected to be finalized by April 2025, FY 2024 shows a little over that rate, consistent with the trajectory in the King County 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Comparison with Current Parks Levy. Table 4 summarizes a comparison of the current 2020-2025 Parks Levy and the proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy.

Table 4. Comparison of Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

	2020-2025 Parks Levy Adopted Allocations	2020-2025 Parks Levy Actual Investment³²	Proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy Investment (Allocation Plan³³)
Levy Rate			
Initial Levy Rate	Initial rate of 18.32 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2020; Effective rate is 19.73 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2025		Initial rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV
Total Levy Collection over 6-year period	\$810 million	\$851 million	\$1.5 billion
Estimated Annual Cost to Homeowner of Median-Valued King County Home	\$166.52 ³⁴		\$206.19 ³⁵
Pass-Through Investments			
Woodland Park Zoo	\$36 million	\$39 million	\$42 million
Seattle Aquarium	\$8 million	\$8 million	\$15 million
Seattle Waterfront	<i>Not in current levy</i>	<i>Not in current levy</i>	\$9 million
Memorial Stadium	<i>Not in current levy</i>	<i>Not in current levy</i>	\$2.5 million (in first two years)
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$8 million	\$8 million	\$22 million
Cities, Towns, and Park Districts ³⁶	\$60 million	\$62 million	\$119 million
King County Parks operations and maintenance	\$277 million	\$299 million	\$551 million
King County Parks capital program			
Climate resilience, conservation, and stewardship	\$98.5 million	\$102.2 million	\$217 million
Regional and other public trails system	\$165.65 million	\$170.15 million	\$179 million
New park development and improvements	<i>Not in current levy</i>	<i>Not in current levy</i>	\$51 million
Active recreation repair and renovation	\$41.5 million	\$55.2 million	\$177 million
Grants			
Parks Capital and Open Space Grant (Cities)	\$25 million	\$25 million	\$30 million
Aquatic Facilities Grant	\$36 million	\$36 million	\$46 million
Healthy Communities and Parks Grant (formerly Targeted Equity Grant)	\$10 million	\$10 million	\$30 million
Community Partnership Grants	\$9.57 million	\$9.8 million	\$11 million
Open Space River Corridors Grant	\$22 million	\$22 million	<i>Not continued</i>

³² Based on current levy forecast within the August 2024 OEFA forecast. FY 2024 expenditures are expected to be finalized by April 2025. FY 2025 expenditures are expected to be finalized by April 2026.

³³ Note that the proposed allocation plan is not explicitly referenced in the proposed ordinance, and therefore this level of detail would not be adopted by adopting the ordinance.

³⁴ Based on effective 2025 levy rate and 2024 median assessed value.

³⁵ Based on proposed 2026 levy rate and 2024 median assessed value.

³⁶ Park Districts were not included in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy.

Operations and Maintenance. After off-the-top distributions for educational and civic venues, two grant programs, and election costs, the PO specifies that 43% of the remainder of Parks Levy moneys would be used for:

- Operations and maintenance of the County’s Open Space System, and
- Healthy Community and Parks Grants program, which is referred to as the Target Equity Grant program in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy.

The PO would set a maximum of \$30 million that could be expended on the Healthy Community and Parks Grants program, with no minimum spending amount specified. Further details on this program can be found in the Grant Programs section of this staff report.

The PO and its attachments do not provide any further specificity on how funding in this category would be spent. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive intends to spend the maximum-allowed \$30 million on the Healthy Communities and Grants Program, leaving an estimated \$550.6 million for operations and maintenance of the County’s open space system. This represents a roughly 84% increase in funding for this category compared to current forecasts for the 2020-2025 levy. Executive staff states that \$33 million of the increase is due to inflationary pressures increasing the cost to maintain current service levels. Further information can be found in Attachment 4 to this staff report.

The following subsections break down the Executive’s planned spending on operations and maintenance as contained in the proposed allocation plan.

Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery, and Internal Supports. The vast majority (\$517 million or 93%) of operations and maintenance funding would go towards maintaining the current King County open space system. The allocation plan states that this money would cover the system’s day-to-day operational needs, including but not limited to personnel, supplies, services, fleet, equipment, and administrative costs.

The \$517 million in this category also includes \$2.4 million that would be split between the King County Fair, Washington State University 4-H Program, and King County Search and Rescue operations. These three programs are currently funded by Parks Levy dollars. The Parks Levy Operations Financial Plan,³⁷ which was transmitted with the PO but not formally attached to the levy ordinance, provides the following breakdown of funding for these programs:

- King County Search and Rescue - \$1.2 million (double what was initially planned for the 2020-2025 investment, but level funding with that which began in the 2023-2024 biennial budget)³⁸
- WSU Cooperative / 4-H - \$906,000 (level funding with current)

³⁷ Attachment 11 to this staff report.

³⁸ Executive staff state that the \$600,000 figure in the Operations Financial Plan is incorrect.

The amount going to the King County Fair is not explicitly stated, but subtracting the \$2.4 million listed in the proposed allocation plan for these programs from the numbers above would leave \$300,000 for the King County Fair. For comparison, the allocation plan adopted by the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion set aside \$300,000 for the Fair over the life of that levy.

Parks Patrol Expansion. King County Parks currently has a service level agreement with the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) to provide a Parks Patrol Program through which two KCSO deputies are assigned full time to the King County parks system. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would spend \$4.3 million over the life of the levy to expand the program. Executive staff state that the expansion would include increased enforcement and education related to parks rules by adding two additional deputies over the levy period. They further state that the proposed expansion of this program would help to continue to address safety issues, provide quick response times, and consistent communication for concerns raised by staff or the public about the parks system.

Safety Program Expansion. According to Executive staff, Parks' safety program currently supports personnel, equipment, and training to implement a modern, comprehensive safety program for the division. Goals of the Safety Program include accident and injury prevention, ensuring compliance with safety regulations, and promoting a proactive and team-oriented safety-first culture. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would spend \$3.2 million over the life of the levy to expand the program. Executive staff state that this expansion would enable Parks to invest funds into planning, training, comprehensive workplace and practice evaluations, targeted safety program and initiative development, and procedures.

Asset Management Program. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would spend \$4.1 million on an asset management program. Council staff have requested further details on the asset management program, which will be included in the next staff report.

Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program. According to Executive staff, the Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program incorporates the department's enforcement of land use guidelines to comply with the permit system requirements in K.C.C 14.30. The proposed funding would support property services, permitting for use of Parks property, and enforcement of the Parks Land Use Guidelines,³⁹ which Parks does not currently have resources to do. The Parks Land Use Guidelines require the Parks to review and make recommendations on Special Use Permit applications requesting use of Parks' property for non-park purposes.

Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion. The 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion directed the Executive to develop a plan to implement Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

³⁹ King County Parks: Land Use Guidelines October 2020. Last accessed February 19, 2025.
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo05t2bj3gk7tybd3xax7/KCP_Land_Use_Guidelines.pdf?rlkey=fqq5q6u3fnf71a7q688ed12xl&e=2&dl=0

beginning in 2020. The YCC is currently active as a summer internship program and, according to its website,⁴⁰ youth interns participate in the following activities:

- Engage in discussions about the intersections of race and the environment;
- Lead conversations with other interns on self-selected topics;
- Develop and build-upon career skills such as writing, public speaking, and interviewing;
- Become familiar with land management practices and the multiple facets of a park agency;
- Network with Parks staff, community leaders, and environmental professionals;
- Explore solutions to problems impacting human and environmental health; and
- Participate in workshops about local environmental challenges.

The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would expand the YCC by investing an additional \$4.8 million. Council staff have requested additional information on what the expansion would entail, and how much funding the YCC is planned to receive from the Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery, and Internal Supports subcategory absent this expansion. This information will be included in the next staff report.

Jobs and Housing Program. The Jobs and Housing Program was established by the Council in the COVID 7 budget⁴¹ passed in 2021, using Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) dollars. This initiative was intended to support a jobs and rehousing program for individuals experiencing homelessness. Funding was housed in the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB).

The Jobs and Housing Program began operations in 2021 and provided temporary jobs, career preparation, and housing and support services within King County and other local organizations. These temporary jobs lasted up to one year and included paid ORCA transit pass and other transportation assistance, housing support, career support, and coaching services for one year. Of the 87 temporary jobs provided, 37 of were with King County Parks.

The 2025 Annual Budget⁴² appropriated the last of the CLFR funding for the Jobs and Housing Program, with the program intended to sunset at that time. Simultaneously, however, the budget appropriated \$851,000 to continue the Parks portion of the program, known as the Parks Beautification Program, through 2025, using solely Parks Levy moneys.

The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would use \$5 million of operations and maintenance funding to continue the Jobs and Housing program through the life of the levy. This represents roughly level annual funding with that appropriated for 2025. Executive staff have confirmed that the \$5 million only includes the “jobs” portion of the Jobs and Housing program, and that Parks is not currently responsible for

⁴⁰ King County Parks: Youth Conservation Corps. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kcpyouthcorps.org/>

⁴¹ Ordinance 19289.

⁴² Ordinance 19861.

housing or support services but will evaluate potential partnerships with other agencies for continued collaboration. PSB has been responsible for working with housing and service providers on this program; however, as mentioned above, PSB's CLFR funding is expected to be exhausted in 2025.

Tribal, Indigenous, and Historic Interpretive Program. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive would use \$1.8 million in operations and maintenance funding for a new Tribal, Indigenous, and Historic Interpretive Program. The allocation plan states that this program would "support work with Tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations to strengthen government-to-government relationships and improve conservation and recreational planning." Executive staff state that this program is the result of a recommendation by the Community Advisory Committee to strengthen partnerships with Tribal organizations and to collaborate with Tribes to better achieve common objectives.

They further state that the program would be developed in partnership with area tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations, and that resources would be invested in, but not limited to, the following:

- Improving conservation and recreational planning so that public use can be better balanced with protecting and honoring traditional cultural places;
- Supporting storytelling and interpretation that honors site-based history and context; and
- As appropriate, feasible, and if desired by those Parks would be working with, incorporating traditional cultural knowledge and practices in land management efforts and programs.

Capital Projects and Aquatic Center. After off-the-top distributions for educational and civic venues, two grant programs, and election costs, the PO specifies that 48% of the remainder of Parks Levy moneys would be used for:

- 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;
- Acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other public trails;
- Capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement of open space system infrastructure;
- The community partnerships and grants program; and
- Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

The PO and its attachments do not provide any further specificity on how much money would be appropriated to each of these categories or what projects they might entail. Executive staff state that proposed allocations are not explicitly enumerated in the ordinance as they are planning-level estimates and may change in the future.

Executive staff state that the inclusion of the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in this 48% category was an error, and that it was intended to be an off-the-top allocation of up to \$22 million for major maintenance capital investments to the Aquatic Center.

The Executive’s proposed allocation plan provides further information on the expected allocations, which are discussed below. Further details on The Community Partnerships and Grants program can be found in the Grant Programs section of this staff report.

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center. The Executive’s proposed allocation plan states that \$22 million is expected to go to the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center over the life of the levy. Executive staff state that, as the facility is 35 years old, there are significant deferred maintenance and end of lifecycle needs that would be covered by this funding.

Climate Resilience and Stewardship. The Executive’s proposed allocation plan creates a new subcategory, “Climate Resilience and Stewardship,” that replaces the “Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation” subcategory in the adopted 2020-2025 Parks Levy allocation plan (Motion 15378) and includes several of the same spending items.

Table 5 below shows the difference between the 2020-2025 adopted allocation plan and the 2026-2031 proposed allocation plan for this subcategory.

Table 5. Comparison of Climate Resilience and Stewardship/Open Space Acquisition Funding, Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

Subcategory	2020-2025 Allocation Plan (\$123.5 million)	2026-2031 Proposed Allocation Plan (\$217.5 million)⁴³
King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$78 million	\$96 million
Towns and Cities Open Space	\$25 million	Now categorized as Parks Capital and Open Space Grants (\$30 million)
Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)	\$18 million	\$20 million
Fish Passage Program	Not included	\$10 million
Climate Resilience	Not included	\$33 million
Environmental Stewardship	Not included	\$58.5 million
Water Access Acquisition on Lake Washington	\$2.5 million ⁴⁴	Not included

Each of these subcategories is discussed in more detail below.

King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation and Stewardship (\$116 million). The proposed allocation plan estimates that \$96 million would be used for King

⁴³ Total does not include Parks Capital and Open Space Grants, which are proposed to move to another category.

⁴⁴ The allocation was directed to be used for properties located in proximity to the Burke-Gilman Trail. Waterfront property near the Burke-Gilman Trail in the City of Lake Forest Park was acquired.

County's acquisition and conservation of open space lands, with an additional \$20 million proposed for stewardship of lands acquired with this money.

Attachment B to the PO includes Acquisition Guidelines for Parks Levy funding used to acquire open space and natural lands⁴⁵ in coordination with the County's Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) program. Attachment B gives the following process, which aligns with the process the Executive uses currently (but was not spelled out in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy ordinance or motion):

1. Early each calendar year, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) would set a proposed allocation for open space from levy funds for the following fiscal year.
2. Staff would generate proposals for the use of these funds, taking into account opportunities to leverage resources with funding from Conservation Futures, as well as from other local, state, and federal funding sources.
3. An overall proposal allocating the open space funds to specific projects would be developed and discussed with the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (CFAC) that is responsible for developing CFT funding recommendations.
4. Taking the CFAC's recommendations into account, DNRP would develop a proposed budget for these parks levy funds.
5. The DNRP-proposed budget for parks levy funding would be reviewed by the County Executive, and ultimately County Council, as part of the overall budget process for the following year.

Council staff has asked Executive staff whether the entire \$96 million is intended to be subject to this process, or whether some subset of the \$96 million is not expected to be spent in coordination with the CFT program. Council may wish to clarify exactly what funding is subject to Attachment B.

As noted in Table 5, the allocation plan for the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion⁴⁶ also included funding for towns and cities open space. Via the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion, the Council directed establishment of the Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program, and the \$25 million was used for those purposes. The current proposal for the Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program is discussed in the Grant Programs section of this staff report.

Fish Passage Program (\$10 million). The Fish Passage Restoration Program removes barriers for salmon to reach historic spawning and rearing habitat in order to restore healthy populations. Executive staff have confirmed that the \$10 million would only be used for work on Parks-owned properties or land where Parks has easements. Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding is expected to supplement the \$10 million.

Executive staff state that the fish passage projects anticipated for the 2026-2031 levy are consistent with the Motion 15378 Report. Between 2022 and 2024, Parks

⁴⁵ Neither of these terms is defined in the PO. In the County's [Open Space Plan](#), "open space" is a catch-all term, of which "natural areas" is a subset meaning "ecological lands managed almost exclusively for environmental protection and enhancement."

⁴⁶ Motion 15738.

completed eight projects that remedied ten fish passage barriers. The 2026-2031 Levy proposal provides funding for eight additional projects, with further fish passage projects needing completion after 2031.

Climate Resilience (\$33 million). Investments in climate resilience would include the following.

- *Parks' Forest Stewardship Program and Projects.* Parks' Forest Stewardship webpage⁴⁷ states that Parks manages over 29,000 acres of public forest land, 3,800 of which are designated as working forests. Types of stewardship actions listed there include development of stewardship plans, variable thinning management, red alder conversion, and root rot treatment.
- *Potential Stormwater Park Pilot Projects.* Stormwater parks are community facilities that both manage stormwater from a larger area and provide recreational opportunities.⁴⁸ Executive staff state that the locations of the pilot projects have not been identified yet, and that identifying sites would be part of a scoping and feasibility study effort that would be completed jointly between Parks Division and Water and Land Resources Division.
- *Establishment of a Climate Response Fund.* The proposed allocation plan states that this fund would support community response projects and programming. Executive staff state that projects and programming could include, but wouldn't be limited to:
 - Adding electric vehicle charging stations for both county-fleet and public vehicles at parks;
 - Converting existing Parks facilities that still run on fossil fuels to electric;
 - Adding solar panels to existing Park facilities;
 - Adding air-conditioning to publicly accessible Park facilities;
 - Urban tree planting projects; and
 - Adding splash pads, misters and/or sprinklers at parks.

Environmental Stewardship (\$58 million). The proposed allocation plan states that investments in environmental stewardship will support:

- Early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition;
- Structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation benefits;
- Improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions;
- Natural resource and site management planning;
- Multi-benefit river corridor projects; and
- Landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance.

Regional and Other Public Trails. The proposed allocation plan includes \$179 million in investments for regional trails and other public trails. In comparison, the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion included \$165.7 million in investments to this category.

⁴⁷ King County Parks: Forest Stewardship. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/natural-working-lands/forest-stewardship>.

⁴⁸ Puget Sound Regional Council: Stormwater Parks. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/stormwater-parks>

Table 6. Comparison of Regional and Other Public Trails Funding, Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

Subcategory	2020-2025 Allocation Plan (\$165.65 million)	2026-2031 Proposed Allocation Plan (\$179 million)
Eastrail	\$50.5 million	\$65 million
Lake to Sound Trail	\$16 million	\$55 million
Green River Trail North Extension	\$6 million	\$6 million
Interurban Trail South	\$5.5 million	\$8 million
Soos Creek Trail	\$4 million	\$7 million
Other New Regional Trails		\$38 million
East Lake Sammamish Trail	\$32 million	
Capital improvements for existing regional trail system	\$18 million	
Green to Cedar Rivers Trail North A	\$9 million	
Regional trails acquisition	\$2 million	
Foothills Trail	\$5 million	
East Lake Sammamish Trail – Redmond Light Rail Extension	\$4 million	
Wayne Golf Course Trail Connector Improvements	\$2 million	
Interurban Trail to Burke Gilman Connection	\$7.5 million	
Interurban Trail Connection	\$150,000	
Kirkland Green Loop Trail	\$2.5 million	
Missing Link of Green River Trail	\$1.5 million	

The proposed allocation plan includes the following investments:

Eastrail (\$65 million). The proposed levy would support construction of two additional segments of Eastrail, construction of an Eastrail connection to Coulon Park, paving the Central Wilburton segment, and completing design on the Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.

Eastrail is anticipated to be an uninterrupted 42-mile trail that would connect Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Woodinville, Snohomish, and Redmond. Approximately 16 miles are open, of which 7.5 miles are owned by King County. Trail segments currently under construction⁴⁹ are the Wilburton Trestle,⁵⁰ the I-90 Bridge Trail segment,⁵¹ and the Central Wilburton Trail Segment.⁵²

⁴⁹ King County Parks: Eastrail. Last accessed February 15, 2025. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/capital-projects/eastrail>

According to Executive staff, the proposed \$65 million allocation to Eastrail would support the I-90 Steel Bridge Crossing, Central Wilburton Paving, 124th to 145th Interim Trail, Coulon Park North Entrance to South Entrance, Coulon Park North Entrance to Mile Post 5, and Mile Post 5 to Ripley Lane.

Lake to Sound Trail (\$55 million). The proposed levy would support construction of two additional segments of the Lake to Sound Trail and the completion of the design to connect Lake to Sound Trail to SeaTac Airport. The Lake to Sound Trail is a multi-jurisdiction, multiple segment trail that extends 16 miles from the Cedar River at Lake Washington in Renton to Des Moines Beach Park on Puget Sound.

Green River Trail Extension – North (\$6 million). The proposed levy would support construction of the Green River Trail North to Seattle. The Green River Trail is a regional trail of more than 19 paved miles from the south edge of Seattle to the City of Kent, passing through industrial lands near the Duwamish Waterway in Tukwila to the broad Green River Valley. The North extension project would extend the existing Green River Trail north from Cecil Moses Park in Tukwila, along West Marginal Place South, to the Seattle City limits near South Park.⁵³

Interurban Trail South Investments (\$8 million). The proposed levy would complete full rehabilitation of the Interurban Trail South. The Interurban Trail links Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, Algona, and Pacific along a 14-mile trail following the Interurban Rail Line.

Soos Creek Trail (\$7 million). The proposed levy would support construction of Soos Creek Trail Segment 5a and plan for future Soos Creek Trail segments. The Soos Creek Trail is a 6-mile paved trail in the East Hill area of Kent with a gentle grade for strolls, bicycle rides, and horse rides.⁵⁴

Other New Regional Trails (\$38 million). Of this amount, \$18 million would support planning, acquisition, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections, including, but not limited to: Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

The remaining \$20 million would support emergent needs on the regional trail system, including, but not limited to: surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements.

⁵⁰ Construction started May 2024; anticipated opening summer 2026; costs \$37 million, of which \$20.5 million came from the 2020-2025 Parks Levy; other funding sources are Amazon, Washington State, City of Bellevue, and Kaiser Permanente.

⁵¹ Construction 2028-2030; anticipated opening 2030; costs \$49 million, of which \$2 million came from the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, along with a \$25 million federal RAISE Grant and \$12 million from Washington State's Climate Commitment Act.

⁵² Construction 2025-2026; anticipated opening 2026; costs \$2.5 million funded by Amazon.

⁵³ King County Parks: Green River Trail North Extension. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/capital-projects/green-river-trail-north-extension>

⁵⁴ King County Parks: Soos Creek Trail. Last accessed February 15, 2025.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/trails/leafline-trails/soos-creek-trail>

New Park Development and Improvements. The proposed allocation plan includes \$51 million in investments for new park development and improvements.

Dog Parks (\$3 million). According to Executive staff, King County Parks completed a Draft Dog Park Feasibility Study in 2024. One of the prioritization criteria for locations assessed in the study was whether a community identified off-leash parks as a need in the King County Department of Local Services Community Needs Report. Based on this, feasible sites identified in that study include:

- North Shorewood Park
- Lake Geneva Park
- Skyway Park (if it aligns with the Community Center plan)

Executive staff state that King County Parks is also actively looking for potentially suitable locations on Vashon Island and in Fairwood near Petrovitsky Park.

As background, Ordinance 19771, passed in 2024, adopted several changes to King County Code Title 7, including allowing off-leash dog parks at County parks other than Marymoor Park.

Lakeland Park North (\$10 million). This would support design and construction of a 20-acre nature park at Lakeland North Urban Park between Auburn and Federal Way including trails, nature-based play area, shelter, restroom and parking.

Skyway Park Planning and Community Center (\$13 million). This would support design, construction, and initial operational costs at Skyway Park Community Center. Approximately \$20 million in additional funding would be needed for construction and is expected to come from REET and bond financing.

Backcountry Trail: new trails (\$3 million). According to Executive staff, new trails may be created at the sites that are listed under Major Maintenance and would also be created at future sites to be acquired.

Ballfield and Sports Courts: new facilities (\$3 million). According to Executive staff, potential projects may include adding pickleball courts at existing parks, adding recreational cricket facilities at existing parks, and adding light to existing courts or fields.

Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion (\$19 million). This would support design and construction at South County Ballfields in Federal Way.

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation, and Other Park Repair and Renovation. The proposed allocation plan includes \$177 million in investments to active recreation repair and renovation, and other pair repair and renovation. In comparison, the 2020-2025 Parks Levy motion included \$41.5 million in investments to this category.

Major maintenance existing infrastructure (\$90 million). This includes:

- General Infrastructure: \$23 million
- Playground rehabilitation: \$7 million
- Play amenities rehabilitation: \$6 million
- Parks building system rehabilitation: \$8 million
- Ballfield synthetic turf replacement: \$12 million
- Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation: \$2 million
- Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation: \$6 million
- Backcountry trail rehabilitation: \$6 million
- Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation: \$12 million
- Other agency projects (Sound Transit, WSDOT, KC Roads, etc.): \$8 million

ADA and accessibility rehabilitation (\$12 million). According to Executive staff, these projects would be identified by the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which are currently in progress.

Regional trails rehabilitation (\$55 million). This would support keeping the existing regional trail system clean, safe, and open and includes, but is not limited to, repair/replacement of bridges and trestles, trail surface repairs/rehabilitation, safety updates, repairs to meet current guidelines and standards, and landscaping/mitigation maintenance and monitoring.

Marymoor Park rehabilitation:(\$16 million). This would fund rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities throughout Marymoor Park to keep the park clean, safe, and open. It also includes funding for improvements to address growing user demand including, but not limited to, signage, utilities, pedestrian facilities, buildings, roadways, velodrome rehabilitation, and concert venue updates. This program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

Sunset Park Renovation and Repair (\$4 million). According to Executive staff, the exact updates are still to be determined as part of a public engagement process, but may include, restroom renovation, parking improvements, court and field improvements, and adding additional amenities such as play area.

Grants Programs. The PO includes four grant programs that would be funded through the 2026-2031 Parks Levy. All four programs are continuations of existing grant programs, though modifications are proposed to three of the four. One program from the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, the Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program, is not proposed to continue. Table 7 below compares funding in the allocation plan of the current 2020-2025 Parks Levy and the allocation plan for the proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy.

Table 7. Comparison of Grant Program Funding, Current Parks Levy vs. Proposed Parks Levy Renewal

Program Name	2020-2025 Allocation Plan (\$102.57 million)	2026-2031 Allocation Plan (\$117 million)
Parks Capital and Open Space Grants (PCOS)	\$25 million ⁵⁵	\$30 million
Aquatic Facilities Grants	\$36 million	\$46 million
Healthy Communities and Parks Grants ⁵⁶	\$10 million	\$30 million
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$9.57 million	\$11 million
Open Space – River Corridors Grants	\$22 million	\$0

Table 7 shows that varying levels of increases are proposed for four of the programs, the largest of which would be a tripling of funding for the Healthy Communities and Parks Grants. Executive staff state that since 2022, the Healthy Communities and Parks Program received 404 applications requesting \$50.7 million, but King County was only able to approve about a quarter of the requests, or 105 applications (\$6.53 million), due to limited funding availability. This led the Parks Levy Oversight Board to recommend an increase in total funding for this grant program in the next levy to meet current and future demand. Executive staff state that their community engagement found support for increasing grant funding generally as well.

Executive staff state that the Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program is not proposed to continue because “during this program’s request for application cycles in 2022 and 2023 in the current levy period, there were not enough applicants to use all the allocated funding. Over half of the grants awarded in this program went to King County Parks or Water and Land Resources (WLR) Division (17 of 31). Parks and WLR plan to continue open space river corridor work without the grant program in the next levy cycle under several program areas, including the Environmental Stewardship Program and the Climate Resilience Program.”

For the PCOS, Aquatic Facilities, and Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Programs, the Executive proposes new program requirements through Attachment A to the PO. Existing program requirements, including eligible entities, eligible project types, advisory committee makeup, and selection process and criteria, are currently set by Ordinance 19166 (“the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance”). Analysis is ongoing as to whether the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance would need to be repealed in order to prevent conflicts with Attachment A to the PO.

As Tables 8, 9, and 10 show, the current programs have requirements around their advisory committees, project selection criteria, and approval process that are not included in Attachment A to the PO. Executive staff state that they propose to set those

⁵⁵ Note that in the 2020-2025 Allocation Plan, this is named “Towns and Cities Open Space” under the Open Space Acquisition category.

⁵⁶ Called “Targeted Equity Grant Program” in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy.

parameters internally for the 2026-2031 levy period, and anticipate making the following changes:

1. Defining a consistent grant framework in terms of goals;
2. Establishing consistent biennial grants cycles; and
3. Providing Council notification of awards, rather than Council approval.

Further detail on Executive's staff's proposed changes can be found in the Policy Issues section of this staff report. Whether to add guidance or requirements on these topics, with or without changes to what is in the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance, is a policy choice.

Because Attachment A is a formal attachment to the PO, the guidelines contained therein would not be able to be changed throughout the six-year levy period. This is also a policy choice.

Details of each grant program are discussed below.

Parks Capital and Open Space (PCOS) Grants. The PCOS Grant Program was a new program under the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. The PO defines the program as one that "provides moneys to metropolitan park districts, towns, or cities located in King County to achieve capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair, or replacement of parks or recreation infrastructure."

The PO includes an off-the-top allocation of up to \$30 million for the PCOS Grant Program. The proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive intends to spend the full \$30 million over the levy period.

Table 8. below shows the key elements of the program, as described in Attachment A to the PO, compared to the existing program under the 2020 Parks Levy Grant Ordinance. Yellow highlighting indicates areas of difference between the existing program and proposed one.

Table 8. PCOS Grant Program Requirements Comparison⁵⁷

Program Element	2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance Requirements	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Attachment A Requirements
Eligible Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts • Public entities that serve King County
Eligible Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital projects to develop new or existing parks/trails/open space, at any stage • Acquiring land for parks/trails/open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital projects to develop new or existing parks/trails/open space, at any stage • Acquiring land for parks/trails/open space⁵⁸
Advisory Committee	Representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities • School Districts • Nonprofit Organizations Council gives input on representatives	No advisory committee structure given
Project Selection Criteria	Criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.	No additional criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committee makes recommendations • Executive transmits grant funding ordinance biennially 	No approval process given

Adding other public entities as an eligible entity, and removing eligibility of agricultural open space, is a policy choice.

Aquatic Facilities Grants. The Aquatic Facilities Grant Program was a new program begun under the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. The PO defines the program as one that “provides moneys to publicly owned pools for: capital improvement projects, including planning, feasibility studies, preconstruction and design, and construction; and major maintenance repair or replacement projects.”

⁵⁷ Terms are summarized here; Council staff has noted inconsistency in terminology though could be rectified.

⁵⁸ Except land primarily in agricultural use.

The PO includes an off-the-top allocation of up to **\$46 million** for the Aquatic Facilities Grant Program. The proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive intends to spend the full **\$46 million** over the life of the levy.

Table 9 shows the key elements of the program, as described in Attachment A to the PO, compared to the existing program under the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance. Yellow highlighting indicates areas of difference between the existing program and proposed one.

Table 9. Aquatic Facilities Grant Program Requirements Comparison

Program Element	2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance Requirements	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Attachment A Requirements
Eligible Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts • School districts • Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Metropolitan park districts • School districts • Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities • Nonprofits that operate public aquatic facilities
Eligible Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stages of capital projects related to public aquatic facilities, including land acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stages of capital projects related to public aquatic facilities, including land acquisition⁵⁹
Advisory Committee	Same advisory committee as PCOS Grant Program	No advisory committee structure given
Project Selection Criteria	Criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.	No additional criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committee makes recommendations • Executive transmits grant funding ordinance biennially 	No approval process given

Adding nonprofits as an eligible entity is also a policy choice. Executive staff state that nonprofit-operated aquatic facilities are present but not numerous in King County, citing Whitewater Aquatics, which runs the Evergreen Aquatic Center in White Center as one example. Executive staff state that “opening the grant program to nonprofits that operate public aquatic facilities will increase access to aquatics for King County residents.”

⁵⁹ The exact terminology used is different between the 2020 Parks Grant Ordinance and Attachment A, but they are understood to cover the same project types.

Healthy Communities and Parks Grants. The Targeted Equity Grant Program was a new program established under the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. The PO would rename this program to “Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Program” and define it as a program that “provides moneys in order to achieve equitable opportunities and access to parks and recreation for traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County and King County towns and cities.”

The PO includes up to \$30 million for the Healthy Communities and Parks Program, under the 43% allocation that also includes operations and maintenance of King County’s open space system. Council staff has inquired as to why this program is part of a percentage allocation, whereas the PCOS and Aquatic Facilities Grant Programs are off -the-top allocations. The proposed allocation plan indicates that the Executive intends to spend the full \$30 million over the life of the levy.

Table 10 shows the key elements of the program, as described in Attachment A to the PO, compared to the existing program under the 2020 Parks Levy Grant Ordinance. Yellow highlighting indicates areas of difference between the existing program and proposed one.

Table 10. Targeted Equity/Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Program Requirements Comparison⁶⁰

Program Element	2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance Requirements	Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Attachment A Requirements
Eligible Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King County • Cities and towns • Tribal Organizations • Nonprofit organizations • Community organizations without a 501(c)(3) status partnering with a fiscal agent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Tribal Organizations • Nonprofit organizations • Community organizations without a 501(c)(3) status partnering with a fiscal agent • Metropolitan park districts
Eligible Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building/Outreach/Planning • Land Acquisition in specific communities of need⁶¹ • Capital projects or programs that address unmet needs in underserved areas • Projects providing access for those with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition; • Feasibility study; • Planning and design; and/or • Construction.
Advisory Committee	Representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and park districts • Open Space Equity Cabinet • Nonprofit and community-based organizations Council gives input on representatives	No advisory committee structure given
Project Selection Criteria	Criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.	No additional criteria given for weighing relative merits of applications.
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory committee makes recommendations • Executive transmits grant funding ordinance annually 	No approval process given

King County is proposed to be removed as an eligible entity and metropolitan park districts added. Council staff has inquired about the reasoning for these changes. Changes to eligible entities is a policy choice.

⁶⁰ Terms are summarized here based on Council staff understanding of Executive intent; Council staff has noted inconsistency in terminology that could be rectified.

⁶¹ Either opportunity areas under K.C.C. 26.12 or areas determined to have been based on the Determinants of Equity.

Council staff asked Executive staff whether there was an intent to change the eligible project types, or if the categories proposed in Attachment A, along with verbiage about “traditionally underserved areas and communities” in the program purpose section, are intended to capture the same range of projects contained in the 2020 Parks Levy Grants Ordinance. Executive staff state the intent is that the same types of projects be eligible as currently.

Community Partnerships and Grants. The PO would direct that an unspecified amount of money from the 48% allocation, which also includes capital projects and the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center, be used for the Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) program. The proposed allocation plan states that the Executive plans to use \$11 million for the CPG program over the life of the levy. In previous levies, the CPG program amount has not been explicitly stated in the ordinance, and this practice is continued in the PO. Whether to add a funding amount for the CPG program in the PO is a policy choice.

The CPG Program originated in 2002. The goals of the CPG program, as adopted by the Council in 2003, are:

- Address present and future regional public parks, sports, and recreation facility needs without new tax funded operations and maintenance costs;
- Empower user groups, sports associations, and other community-based organizations to leverage their commitment, passion, and resources into long-term, high quality, self-sustaining public parks, sports, and recreation facilities; and
- Develop a region-wide support network of users, organizations, and citizens, in general, whose successes are interconnected with the political, financial, and operational successes of the region’s parks, sports, and recreation system.⁶²

The PO defines the CPG program as “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.”

For a typical CPG project, King County contributes the use of park land, as well as a grant to support the project. The community partner contributes the additional capital and in-kind resources needed to develop or renovate the facility, and signs a lease or use agreement with the County, through which it commits to carry out the operations, maintenance, and programming for the facility for a set period of time.

King County code sets the requirements for when Council involvement is required in disbursement of a CPG grant, shown in Table 11.⁶³

⁶² Motion 11680

⁶³ K.C.C. 7.08.110

Table 11. Community Partnership and Grants – Council Involvement

Private Investment Amount	Council Involvement
<\$10,000	None
\$10,000 - \$99,999	Notification 30 days prior to signing of agreement to Transportation, Economy, and Environment chair and Councilmember in whose district the project is located
>\$100,000	Council approval by ordinance

City, Town, and Park District Distributions. King County cities and towns received funding from the past three voter-approved levies. The 2020-2025 levy allocated 8% of levy proceeds to these entities. The proposed 2026-2031 Parks Levy would increase the allocation to 9% of levy proceeds and add certain park districts within King County to the allocation list. Administrative costs are set at 1% of the allocation, which is \$190,000 for cities, towns, and park districts. Executive staff state that certain parks districts were added as recipients of the annual minimum allocation based on feedback from the Community Advisory Committee. Under the current levy, these parks districts were eligible for levy moneys if the district applied for grants supported by the levy. Staff state that these parks districts are parks and recreation service providers for specific geographic areas that own and operate parks but that are not directly supported by King County Parks or city/town parks.

Table 12 provides a high-level comparison of the proposed distributions in the 2026-2031 Parks Levy and the current levy.

Table 12. City, Town, and Park District Distributions, Proposed Levy vs. Current Levy

	2020-2025 Current Levy	2026-2031 Proposed Levy
Allocation Percentage & Dollar Amount	8% (\$60 million)	9% (\$119 million)
Annual Minimum Allocation	\$25,000 annually to each city, and an additional \$75,000 annually to each city with a population greater than 4,000.	\$100,000 to each town and city in King County, as well as Fall City Metropolitan Park District, Si View Metropolitan Park District, and Vashon Park District.
Allocation of Remainder	50% distributed in proportion to each town or city's population; 50% distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city.	60% would be distributed in proportion to each town or city's population; 40% would be distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city.

Table 13 shows the total six-year pass-through allocations for each city, town, and park district in the current levy under the current parks levy, in a status quo scenario for the proposed levy, in the Executive-proposed new levy with a split of 60% in proportion to population/40% in proportion to assessed parcel values, and a scenario in which the new levy pass-through allocation remains a 50/50 split.

Executive staff state that the rationale for changing the remainder allocation from a 50/50 split to 60/40 was to more equitably distribute the levy proceeds to communities across King County. Staff state that smaller towns and cities would still receive an increase in annual levy distributions due to the increase in minimum annual allocation to \$100,000; staff state this would offset the impacts of changing the remainder allocation formula.

Table 13. City, Town, and Park District Allocation Comparison

Jurisdiction	Current Parks Levy Allocation (6-year total, 2020-2025)	Status Quo Scenario (6-year total, 2026-2031)	Executive Proposal Allocation Formula: 60% Pop / 40% AV (6-year total, 2026-2031)	Executive Proposal w/ Current Formula 50% Pop / 50% AV (6-year total, 2026-2031)
Algona	\$210,510	\$292,097	\$736,398	\$733,755
Auburn	\$1,901,032	\$3,655,252	\$3,596,019	\$3,475,892
Beaux Arts Village	\$161,301	\$176,539	\$622,761	\$624,981
Bellevue	\$4,661,610	\$10,137,999	\$9,148,563	\$9,578,066
Black Diamond	\$734,293	\$915,363	\$900,894	\$896,850
Bothell	\$1,397,709	\$2,473,284	\$2,277,614	\$2,363,312
Burien	\$1,426,232	\$2,540,264	\$2,528,210	\$2,426,360
Carnation	\$190,045	\$244,039	\$690,645	\$688,519
Clyde Hill	\$302,846	\$508,933	\$897,611	\$937,861
Covington	\$942,767	\$1,404,931	\$1,400,041	\$1,357,677
Des Moines	\$1,109,525	\$1,796,533	\$1,795,407	\$1,726,290
Duvall	\$758,890	\$973,127	\$958,361	\$951,222
Enumclaw	\$808,935	\$1,090,648	\$1,087,137	\$1,061,844
Fall City MPD	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
Federal Way	\$2,099,470	\$4,121,249	\$4,155,022	\$3,914,533
Hunts Point	\$206,498	\$282,676	\$703,964	\$724,887
Issaquah	\$1,480,034	\$2,666,609	\$2,521,995	\$2,545,287
Kenmore	\$1,055,812	\$1,670,397	\$1,620,659	\$1,607,559
Kent	\$2,912,018	\$6,029,381	\$5,925,949	\$5,710,646
Kirkland	\$2,833,374	\$5,844,697	\$5,401,809	\$5,536,805
Lake Forest Park	\$868,282	\$1,230,015	\$1,194,994	\$1,193,029
Maple Valley	\$1,084,866	\$1,738,626	\$1,715,841	\$1,671,782
Medina	\$371,554	\$670,282	\$1,017,526	\$1,089,738
Mercer Island	\$1,424,720	\$2,536,714	\$2,286,070	\$2,423,018
Milton	\$181,778	\$224,625	\$670,605	\$670,244

Newcastle	\$896,063	\$1,295,252	\$1,244,737	\$1,254,437
Normandy Park	\$742,228	\$933,997	\$911,929	\$914,390
North Bend	\$765,516	\$988,687	\$965,495	\$965,869
Pacific	\$709,879	\$858,032	\$858,030	\$842,884
Redmond	\$2,440,512	\$4,922,128	\$4,560,158	\$4,668,396
Renton	\$2,463,220	\$4,975,455	\$4,853,794	\$4,718,591
Sammamish	\$2,138,362	\$4,212,581	\$3,923,342	\$4,000,503
SeaTac	\$1,095,634	\$1,763,912	\$1,764,761	\$1,695,584
Seattle	\$16,494,538	\$37,925,610	\$35,738,135	\$35,734,393
Shoreline	\$1,650,740	\$3,067,484	\$3,003,754	\$2,922,629
Si View MPD	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
Skykomish	\$153,082	\$157,237	\$606,904	\$606,812
Snoqualmie	\$873,949	\$1,243,323	\$1,212,419	\$1,205,556
Tukwila	\$1,087,392	\$1,744,556	\$1,663,988	\$1,677,364
Vashon PD	\$0	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
Woodinville	\$927,672	\$1,369,483	\$1,301,957	\$1,324,310
Yarrow Point	\$221,534	\$317,986	\$736,503	\$758,125
TOTAL	\$61,784,423	\$119,000,000	\$119,000,000	\$119,000,000

Notes:

WA OFM Population: Sourced from the Washington Office of Financial Management's April 1 population estimate for 2024. Any cities partially in other counties are allocated funding based on the portion of the population living within King County.

KCAO Taxable AV: Based on the tax rolls as of October 2024. The calculation assumes that the ratio of both population and assessed value between the cities remains fixed throughout the duration of the levy.

Current Parks Levy Allocation: \$25K/yr to all cities and towns; \$75K/yr to all cities and towns with populations greater than 4,000; remaining disbursement according to formula (50/50 split between population and total assessed value).

Status Quo Scenario: Using same formula as "Current Parks Levy Allocation," with funds totaling \$119M.

Executive Proposal Allocation: \$100K/yr to all cities, towns, and park districts largely serving unincorporated areas; remaining disbursement according to adjusted formula (60/40 split between population and total assessed value).

Executive Proposal w/ Current Formula: Same as "Executive Proposal Allocation," using current formula for comparison (50/50 split between population and total assessed value).

Council staff analysis on comparisons between the proposal and the current levy are ongoing.

Educational and Civic Venue Distributions. The Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium have both received distributions in past levies; the zoo in the past three levies, and the aquarium in the current levy. The 2026-2031 Parks Levy provides allocations to those venues, as well as new allocations to Friends of Waterfront Park and Memorial Stadium; Executive staff state "alignment with Parks Levy goals" as the rationale for making distributions to each of these organizations. Tables 14 and 15 below compare the allocations to the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium as proposed and in the current levy.

Table 14. Woodland Park Zoo Allocation Comparison

		2020-2025 Current Levy	2026-2031 Proposed Levy
Dollar Amount Allocated		\$36 million	Up to \$42 million
Allowed Uses	<p>Environmental education, emphasizing accessibility to traditionally underserved populations throughout the County;</p> <p>Horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds;</p> <p>Conservation of threatened species; and</p> <p>Development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change.</p>	<p>Environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities;</p> <p>Horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds;</p> <p>Conservation of threatened species; and</p> <p>Development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change.</p>	

Executive staff state that additional specific use of the allocation includes community learning and engagement programs, family engagement programs, program-funded admissions and transportation for School to Zoo, volunteer engagement, education program registration and management, visitor research and program evaluation, empathy initiatives, creative services/signage, zoo keeper talks and tours (raptor program), website development and support, and information technology support of zoo programs.

Table 15. Seattle Aquarium Allocation Comparison

	2020-2025 Current Levy	2026-2031 Proposed Levy
Dollar Amount Allocated	\$8 million	Up to \$15 million
Allowed Uses	Capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project to amplify the aquarium's existing global conservation efforts.	<p>Environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities;</p> <p>Maintenance of buildings and grounds; Conservation of threatened species; and</p> <p>Development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change.</p>

According to Executive staff, more specific uses of the Seattle Aquarium allocation include supporting school groups, offering free community tickets, discounts for seniors and tribal members, summer camps, scholarships, beach naturalist program, Cedar River salmon journey program, community science program, youth ocean advocates program, Community Day events, urban kelp research, microplastic research, and symposiums around species reintroduction, habitat restoration, and ocean policy.

New in the proposed levy are the following allocations:

- Up to \$9 million for distribution to Friends of Waterfront Park, which shall be used solely for: accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; support for a clean and safe environment; free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and inclusive community partnerships; and
- Up to \$2.5 million for distribution to the Memorial Stadium project, which shall be used solely for capital costs. [Seattle Public Schools \(SPS\), the City of Seattle, and One Roof Stadium Partnership \(a consortium of Seattle Kraken, One Roof Foundation, and Climate Pledge Arena\)](#) plan for a new multiuse student and community events facility to replace the 77-year-old Memorial Stadium with a new facility for year-round athletics, education, entertainment, and a focus on expanding the ways the stadium serves students and other youth from all backgrounds. Funding from sources other than the Parks Levy include:
 - \$66.5 million from the 2022 SPS Capital Levy;
 - \$41 million from the City of Seattle; and
 - \$4 million in state funding.

One Roof Stadium Partnership will invest in, design, build, operate, and maintain the new stadium, with SPS continuing to own the stadium and maintain priority use.

Administrative costs are set at 1% of the allocation which totals \$685,000 for educational and civic venues.

When asked whether these venues were eligible for or have received proceeds from the Doors Open Levy, Executive staff stated initial research into this program confirmed that Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium are eligible to apply for funding via that levy, but because the funding amounts were capped at certain dollar amounts (i.e., \$1 million for these large organizations), those proceeds were deemed insufficient to supplement or replace funding from the Parks Levy.

Oversight Board. Parks levy oversight boards have been in place since the 2004-2007 Parks Levy to monitor the expenditures of levy proceeds.

The structure and nomination process of the board has not changed from the current levy and is as follows:

- Nine members with each Councilmember nominating a candidate for the board who resides in the Councilmember's district no later than March 31, 2026.
- The Executive must appoint the candidate by May 31, 2026. If the Executive does not meet that deadline, the Executive must request that the Councilmember nominate another candidate by June 30, 2026.
- All members must be confirmed by the Council.
- Members may not be elected or appointed officials of any unit of government, however individuals serving in a civic capacity on a local board or commission are eligible.

Duties of the board include reviewing and reporting on the expenditure of levy proceeds in 2026 to the Executive, the Council, and the Regional Policy Committee by December 31, 2027, and then annually thereafter. The board expires on December 31, 2032.

Exemptions. As in the current levy, the proposed levy allows exemption for low-income senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other people with disabilities from the regular property tax increase on their residences if they have been approved for an exemption under RCW 84.36.381. Taxpayers who have combined disposable income of \$84,000 or less AND meet one of the following requirements as of December 31st of the year before the taxes are due would be exempt:

- At least 61 years of age or older;
- Retired from regular gainful employment due to a disability; or
- Veteran of the armed forces of the United States receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at one of the following:
 - Combined service-connected evaluation rating of 80% or higher.
 - Total disability rating for a service-connected disability without regard to evaluation percent.

Executive staff state that exemptions are already removed from the assessed value that is assumed in the proposed levy revenue model and do not impact the total estimated revenue for the levy period at the proposed rate. The \$3 million listed in the proposed levy allocation plan is a forecast of the cost to the levy of new exemptions being added to tax rolls and/or changes in assessed value that make exempt property a larger overall share of total assessed value.

Table 16 shows the value of current property tax exemptions across King County, according to the most recent data from the King County Assessor. In total, based on assessed values (AV) for 2025, \$128.2 billion of property has an exemption and if it were taxed at the proposed levy rate of \$0.2443 per \$1,000 in AV, the exempted property would generate approximately \$31.3 million annually in levy revenue, or approximately \$188 million in revenue over the life of the proposed levy.

Table 16. Total Countywide Property Tax Exemptions, By Type

Exemption Type	Total Appraised	Total Taxable	Exempt Assessed Value	Estimated Levy Revenue Reduction from Exemption (2026)	Six-year total*
Current Use	\$3,514,574,105	\$2,308,003,056	\$1,206,571,049	\$294,765	\$1,768,592
Exempt (mostly Gov-owned)**	\$109,319,435,407	\$20,750,700	\$109,298,684,707	\$26,701,669	\$160,210,012
Senior	\$18,978,189,170	\$12,620,050,594	\$6,358,138,576	\$1,553,293	\$9,319,760
Home Improvement	\$415,554,000	\$387,141,200	\$28,412,800	\$6,941	\$41,647
Historic Property	\$979,620,500	\$336,143,782	\$643,476,718	\$157,201	\$943,208
Multi-family tax exemption	\$69,985,440	\$18,162,900	\$51,822,540	\$12,660	\$75,961
Multiple Exemptions	\$21,621,927	\$11,487,388	\$10,134,539	\$2,476	\$14,855
Non-Profit	\$10,595,600,951	\$24,685,952	\$10,570,914,999	\$2,582,475	\$15,494,847
No Exemptions	\$829,378,195,296	\$829,378,195,296	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property Exemptions	\$19,945,334,465	\$19,927,374,340	\$17,960,125	\$4,388	\$26,326
Total	\$993,218,111,261	\$865,031,995,208	\$128,186,116,053	\$31,315,868	\$187,895,209

*Six-year estimate assumes no AV growth or changes in levy rate due to inflation or population growth.

**Exempt is primarily government owned, but also includes some Multifamily Property Tax Exempt (MFTE) and non-profit exemptions.

If members wish for processing costs for tax exemptions to be an eligible use of levy proceeds, the levy ordinance would need to be amended.

Policy Issues. This section briefly summarizes key policy issues identified by Council Staff for the Council’s consideration. Additional information on these topics can be found in the Analysis section of the staff report.

Levy Rate. The proposed initial levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV would represent an increase over the status quo rate, which would have been approximately 19.52 cents

per \$1,000 AV if the current levy rate and limit factor were extended into 2026 and future years. In other words, if hypothetically, the current levy was extended into 2026 at a status quo calculation (applying the 2026 limit factor and assessed value assumptions to the 2025 levy collections), the effective rate for 2026 would have been 19.52 cents. The proposed initial levy rate for the 2026-2031 Parks Levy represents a policy choice for members.

Specificity in the Levy Ordinance. The Executive transmitted a proposed allocation plan, which gives detail on specific projects, programs, and funding amounts that are not included in the PO or its attachments. In other words, this level of specificity is not included in the legislation before the Council. As a result, the County could, at a later date, choose not to fund these projects or programs, or change the funding amounts. Depending on the level of specificity, these changes might not be immediately apparent in a budget ordinance.

Executive staff state that proposed allocations are not explicitly enumerated in the ordinance as they are planning-level estimates and may change in the future.

Whether to amend the ordinance to adopt the proposed allocation plan, introduce a companion motion to adopt an allocation plan, and/or to include additional specific allocations in the PO, is a policy choice for members to consider.

For the 2020-2025 Parks Levy, the Council adopted, simultaneous to levy ordinance adoption,⁶⁴ a companion motion⁶⁵ that included the allocation plan.

For the proposed 2026-2031 levy, a proposed companion motion (Proposed Motion 2025-0077) has been introduced. Proposed Motion 2025-0077 would adopt a funding allocation plan attached to the motion. While the attachment to the motion is currently the Executive's proposed allocation plan, members may choose to amend the allocation plan; this would be a policy choice.

The Proposed Motion would stipulate that the amounts in the allocation plan may be modified when deemed advisable or necessary in the judgment of the council, through adoption of an appropriations ordinance. If the Executive wished to make changes to allocations within the allocation plan, a report would be required to be submitted to the Council detailing the proposed changes. This process mirrors what was adopted in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy Motion. These processes are also policy choices.

Changes to Town/City/Park District Allocations. The PO would increase the minimum annual allocation for all towns and cities to \$100,000 from a population-based range of \$25,000 to \$75,000, adds certain parks districts to the list of recipients eligible for the minimum annual allocation, and changes the allocation of the remainder from a 50/50 split to 60% distributed in proportion to each town or city's population and 40% distributed in proportion to the assessed value of parcels within each town or city. Whether to approve these changes or maintain the allocations under the current levy is a policy choice for members.

⁶⁴ Ordinance 18890.

⁶⁵ Motion 15378.

New Educational and Civic Venue Funding Recipients. Increases to funding levels for the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium, as well as adding new allocations to Friends of the Waterfront Park and Memorial Stadium, are policy choices for the members.

Grant Program Changes. The PO increases funding maximums (to varying degrees) for four existing grant programs, and eliminates one existing grant program, the Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program. These changes are a policy choice.

For the PCOS, Aquatic Facilities, and Healthy Communities and Parks Grant Programs, guidance related to advisory committee structure, project selection criteria, and approval process would not be carried forward into the new levy. Executive staff state that they intend to set these processes internally for the current levy. Executive staff provided the following anticipated changes to the current process:

1. *Defining a consistent grant framework in terms of goals*
 - i. *Ordinance 19166 legislation uses terms interchangeably and inconsistently (goals, priorities).*
2. *Establishing consistent biennial grants cycles*
 - ii. *Reduce burden for applicants (extensive requirements to apply, contract, report, etc.).*
 - iii. *Allows for larger number of grant funds available within given request for application timeframe.*
3. *Establishing a streamlined grant approval process so that grantees can receive awards sooner*
 - iv. *Provide notification of the award to Council verses legislative approval (similar to Youth and Amateur Sports Grants).*
 - v. *The legislative process can take several months which impacts distribution of funds to grantees; grantees have provided feedback that this delay is an obstacle for their organizations to begin work on key parks and recreation projects. Currently, it can take anywhere from 6-8 months from application to receipt of funds.*

Whether to formally adopt committee structure, project selection criteria, and approval processes for these three grant programs, with or without changes, is a policy choice.

For the same three programs, changes are proposed to eligible entities and projects. These changes are a policy choice.

Overall Allocations. The PO would make changes to various allocations compared to the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. These allocations could be modified or other allocations could potentially be included by members. Depending on their nature, changes to allocations could potentially necessitate reductions or changes to the estimated amounts for the currently planned programming found in the proposed allocation plan.

Attachments A and B. Attachment A (General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs) and Attachment B (Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban

Green Space Acquisition Guidelines) specify processes and eligibility criteria for use of levy proceeds for grant programs and open space acquisitions. 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 once approved by voters. Whether to adopt these guidelines as part of the ordinance or adopt them by companion motion (if one were introduced) is a policy choice.

ANSWERS TO COUNCILMEMBER QUESTIONS FROM 2/26 BFM

1. Regarding property tax exemptions, how effective has the county been in enrolling people? What is that process? Do we know how many people are being missed and is there any type of outreach or assistance available to bring more people into the program?

A 2020 proviso report showed that in 2019, there were 1,808 applications. Approximately 94% of applications were approved. The process of applying for a property tax exemption is either through an online portal⁶⁶ or through paper copies.

According to a December 2024 report by the King County Auditor,⁶⁷ the Department of Assessments has created a comprehensive customer service strategy which includes customer communications, outreach, application support, and creating and maintaining a positive working environment for the team. The strategy includes equity goals like supporting taxpayers regardless of language, resources, or abilities. The King County Assessor's website provides a guide to property tax exemptions.⁶⁸

2. How close are we to the \$5.90 limit that would trigger prorationing?

Based on the August 2024 OEFA forecast, assuming an initial parks levy rate of 24.43 cents per \$1,000 AV in 2026, there would be about \$1.09 of room in 2026, and between \$0.73 to \$1.09 in the next six years, before the closest district would hit the \$5.90 limit. During the 2026-2031 time frame, the closest levy district to reaching the \$5.90 limit would be Vashon Island, with about \$0.73 of room in 2027.⁶⁹ This calculation includes the AFIS levy renewal passed in early 2025. The Executive is expected to transmit a proposed EMS levy renewal later in 2025; EMS levies are not subject to the \$5.90 limit.

3. What is included in this levy proposal related to operating support for trail safety?

According to Executive staff, Parks will soon launch its first Parks Ranger Program to help inform trail users about safe trail practices. The Levy proposal includes funding to sustain and grow Parks' Ranger and safety programs. In addition, Parks implements targeted educational campaigns about trail etiquette when needs arise, which Parks' Community Investments & Engagement team will continue to implement in the next levy.

⁶⁶ [Property Tax Exemption Portal](#)

⁶⁷ *Second Follow-up on Property Tax Exemptions: Stronger Systems Needed to Meet Demand*, pg. 3.

⁶⁸ [Guide to Property Tax Exemptions](#)

⁶⁹ State law currently removes regular park and recreation district property tax levies from the \$5.90 limit if levied on an island within a county with a population over two million (i.e., Vashon Island). This exemption, unless changed by state law, expires January 1, 2027. (House Bill 1034, Chapter 117, Laws of 2021)

4. Can you provide further information on the planned trail lighting investments in the CIP list (trail intersection lighting emergent needs) including locations and dollar amounts if known? Are there any other planned investments in lighting?

According to Executive staff, the proposed levy includes \$20M for emergent need projects that arise during the levy period. This includes potential lighting projects. The emergent needs programmatic project is, by design, structured to allow for flexibility as needs arise across the system. As such, locations for lighting investments in 2026-2031 are not yet identified.

Other planned investments in lighting are contingent upon the determination to extend regional trail hours beyond the current time frame of thirty minutes before sunrise and thirty minutes after sunset. This is currently under review.

6. Can you provide a list of the locations of the fish passage barrier removal projects that will be undertaken with the funding for this ordinance? How much additional money would be needed to complete work on all 50ish Parks fish passage barriers? What is the cost and feasibility for completing all the fish passage barrier removal projects?

According to Executive staff, the proposed upcoming fish passage projects are still in the planning stage, and so all information provided is based on planning level estimates. As estimates become firmer, it is possible more projects can be added to the 6-year workplan.

Based on current information, the proposed \$10 million would be allocated to the fish passage project listed below:

- Snoqualmie Valley Trail – Tributary to Horseshoe Lake, north of NE Carnation Farm Rd (FPS-2373)
- Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park – Red Town Trailhead at Coal Creek (FPS-2258 & FPS-1513)
- Foothills Trail – Tributary to Boise Creek (FPS-8175)
- Lower Newaukum Creek Natural Area – Tributary to Newaukum Creek (FPS-13689)

These are planning level cost estimates; however, in current dollars, the total cost for each Parks fish passage project ranges from approximately \$1-5M. The most expensive projects are typically associated with regional trails and roads that cross deep ravines created by streams. On the lower end of the cost range are projects that simply remove a culvert altogether because a crossing is no longer needed. Parks estimates that the total cost to remedy all 50 of the remaining fish passage barriers would range in cost from \$100-250M in current dollars.

7. Please provide a list of participants that advised the levy proposal.

Members of the Community Advisory Committee represented the following organizations or groups:

- Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
- Eastrail Partners
- Federal Way Black Collective
- Issaquah Alps Trail Club
- King County Parks Directors – Multiple Cities
- King County Play Equity Coalition
- Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
- Leafline Trails Coalition
- Living Well Kent
- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Open Space Equity Cabinet
- Pacific Northwest Swim
- Parks Levy Oversight Board
- REI
- Seattle Aquarium
- Seattle Parks Foundation
- Si View Metro Parks District
- Skyway Coalition
- SnoValley Chamber of Commerce
- The Wilderness Society
- Trust for Public Land
- Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust
- White Center Community Development Association
- Woodland Park Zoo

8. What is the current allocation per city or town?

This information is provided in Table 16 of the staff report.

**9. How does this proposal address unmet regional needs in parks spaces?
How are historically underserved areas addressed?**

According to Executive staff, During the community engagement process, which included direct engagement with the community and feedback from the Community Advisory Committee, “improving safety and belonging” was identified as a priority for underserved communities. The proposed Levy has a focus on major maintenance, much of which is targeted in underserved communities, which is a key component of making parks feel safe and welcoming.

In response to community feedback, the proposed Levy would invest significant funds for park rehabilitation and development in underserved communities, thus increasing recreational access. Sites for this work include:

- \$10M for the development of a new park near Federal Way (Lakeland North).
- \$19M to convert the existing South County Ballfields complex to synthetic turf, thus increasing access to recreational facilities in South King County.
- \$13M to complete the design and begin construction of the Skyway Community Center.

- \$4M to rehabilitate Sunset Park based on community engagement and input.
- Over \$76M is proposed to advance planning, design, and construction of regional trails connecting communities in South King County to the larger regional trail network, including Lake to Sound Trail, Green River Trail Extension North, Interurban Trail South, and Soos Creek Trail.
- As part of the “Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship” allocation category, funds are also included to be responsive to community requests to activate and improve access to parks and recreation in Opportunity Areas.

10. What is the capacity of Parks to complete these investments in six years? How many additional FTEs would be hired to complete the levy work and at what cost?

Executive staff are working on a response on this question.

ANSWERS TO COUNCILMEMBER QUESTIONS FROM 2/12 BFM (Briefing from Executive Staff)

1. Can you provide a detailed list of proposed investments?

This information is provided in Attachment 3 to this staff report.

2. Was the proposed increase in funding for grant programs due to the proposals not being able to meet demand?

According to Executive staff, yes, this was due to the proposals not being able to meet demand. The Parks Levy Oversight Board found that since 2022, the Communities and Parks Fund has received 404 applications requesting \$50.7 million. King County was only able to approve about a quarter of the requests, or 105 applications (\$6.53 million), due to limited funding availability. This led the Parks Levy Oversight Board to recommend an increase in total funding for this grant program in the next levy to meet current and future demand. Additionally, feedback through many of the engagement activities from partners, community advisory committee, the public, and the Parks Levy Oversight Board, identified that an increase in Parks grant programs would be beneficial. The Open Space - River Corridors Grant Program is not proposed to continue due to lack of demand.

3. What was the rationale for changing from 50%/50% to 60%/40% in the towns/cities allocation formula?

According to Executive staff, the adjusted formula for towns/cities (60%/40%) was changed to more equitably distribute the levy proceeds to communities across King County. Smaller towns and cities would still receive an increase in annual levy distributions by receiving a minimum of \$100,000/year, which would offset the impacts by changing the existing formula.

4. Please provide a breakdown of the actuals spent in each category of the current parks levy over the 2020-2025 period, shown side-by-side with proposed allocation plan?

This information is provided in Table 4 of this staff report.

5. For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

This information is provided in Attachment 4 to this staff report.

6. How does the fish passage work align with the scoping motion? How much more will there be to do if the work funded under the levy is all completed?

According to Executive staff, the fish passage projects proposed in the 2026-2031 Levy are consistent with the Motion 15378 Report. Between 2022-2024, Parks completed eight projects that remedied ten fish passage barriers. The 2026-2031 Levy proposal provides funding for eight additional projects, with further fish passage projects needing completion after 2031.

Since the 2021 Report, the Countywide Fish Passage Restoration Program has generated a capital work plan that targets fish passage work at County-owned barriers prioritized based on benefits for salmon and kokanee. Moving past 2031, Parks plans to continue to remedy Parks' barriers that block salmon access to meaningful upstream habitat (which is represented by about 50 known barriers on Parks-owned parcels).

7. Can you provide a breakdown of non-Parks Levy funding for the Skyway community center, whether the project is fully funded, and when completion is expected?

According to Executive staff, the total estimated planning level cost for the community center is \$40 million:

- Existing funding: \$8 million (from 2021-2022 King County budget)
- Proposed 2026-2031 levy funding: \$13 million
- REET 2 funding: \$19 million (may include some level of debt financing)

The estimated completion and opening year is 2030. Budget requests for this project would follow standard review and approval processes.

8. Can you provide the details of any cricket-specific investments planned?

According to Executive staff, the \$3M *Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities)* line item under "New Park Development Improvements" heading is intended to provide funding to develop new facilities in our existing parks. Specific projects have not yet been identified for this line item, as a community engagement process would be used to inform projects. Facilities to support recreational cricket could be funded using this line item.

Additionally, South County Ballfields would be converted to multi-use artificial turf fields. An assessment will be done to determine what types of uses would be beneficial to have at these fields (i.e. lacrosse, cricket, soccer, etc.).

SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070 was transmitted to the Council on February 11, 2025, and has been dually referred first to the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and second to the Regional Policy Committee.

The BFM and RPC chairs have agreed to the schedule below:

Action	Committee/ Council	Date	Amendment Deadlines
<i>Transmittal</i>		<i>2/11/25</i>	
<i>Exec Staff Briefing</i>	<i>BFM</i>	<i>2/12/25</i>	
<i>Discussion only</i>	<i>BFM</i>	<i>2/26/25</i>	
<i>Discussion only</i>	<i>BFM</i>	<i>3/12/25</i>	
<i>Briefing (Legislation still in BFM control)</i>	<i>RPC</i>	<i>3/12/25</i>	
<i>Discussion and Possible Action</i>	<i>BFM</i>	<i>3/26/25</i>	<i>Striker direction: March 19</i> <i>Striker distribution: March 21</i> <i>Line AMD direction: March 24</i>
<i>Discussion and Possible Action</i>	<i>Special RPC</i>	<i>4/3/25</i>	<i>Striker direction: March 28</i> <i>Striker distribution: March 31</i> <i>Line AMD direction: April 1</i>
<i>Final Action</i>	<i>Full Council</i>	<i>4/15/25</i>	
<i>Final Action (with courtesy delay)</i>	<i>Full Council</i>	<i>4/22/25¹</i>	

Following action by the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee and Regional Policy Committee, the legislation would then go to Full Council for final approval. The following are key full Council meeting deadlines⁷⁰ to place this measure on the August 5, 2025, ballot:

- Last regular Council meeting assuming maximum processing time: April 1, 2025.
- Last regular Council meeting assuming minimum processing time (requires Executive to sign on same day): April 22, 2025.
- Last special Council meeting to pass the ordinance as an emergency: May 2, 2025.
- Deadline for King County Elections to receive effective ordinance: May 2, 2025.

INVITED

- John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070 (and its attachments)
2. Parks Levy Executive-Proposed Allocation Plan for 2026-2031
3. King County Parks Anticipated CIP Project Investments List
4. King County Parks Inflation Analysis
5. Transmittal Letter
6. Fiscal Note
7. Park Levy Sub-fund Financial Plan
8. Parks Capital Program
9. Parks Levy Operations Financial Plan
10. King County Parks Map of Project Highlights
11. Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2025
12. [Proposed Motion 2025-0077 \(and its attachment\)](#)

⁷⁰ Council Clerk's memorandum on Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2025 (Attachment 11).



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1
1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2025-0070.1

Sponsors Dembowski and Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the
2 qualified electors of King County at a special election to be
3 held in King County on August 5, 2025, of a proposition
4 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy
5 limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a period of
6 six consecutive years, at a total rate of not more than
7 \$0.2443 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in
8 the first year and limiting annual levy increases by the King
9 County inflation plus population index published by the
10 King County office of economic and financial analysis, or
11 the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is greater in
12 years two through six for the purpose of maintaining and
13 operating King County's open space system; improving
14 parks, recreation, access and mobility in the King County
15 open space system by acquiring lands and continuing to
16 develop regional trails; improving parks and trails in and
17 acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns and
18 cities in King County; funding environmental education,
19 maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland
20 Park Zoo; funding environmental education, maintenance

21 and conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium;
22 funding development, maintenance, and programming for
23 Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital
24 improvements at publicly owned pools, for all King County
25 residents.

26 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

27 1. King County owns and operates a system of regional and local parks
28 and trails that consists of thirty-two thousand acres of parklands and more
29 than one hundred eighty-five miles of regional trails. The county provides
30 regional trails, regional recreational facilities, regional natural areas,
31 regional parks, and local parks in unincorporated areas. Examples of
32 regional and local county parks and trails include Marymoor park, Cougar
33 Mountain Regional Wildland park, Steve Cox Memorial park, Dick
34 Thurnau Memorial park, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center,
35 and the Sammamish River trail.

36 2. Parks, natural areas, and trails contribute to a high quality of life. A
37 robust system of parks and trails provides: physical, social, and mental
38 health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation
39 and tourism; economic growth for private businesses that must attract and
40 retain skilled workers; increased climate resilience; environmental benefits
41 like clean water and healthy habitat and cultural resource protection
42 through open space conservation. King County's open space system
43 provides all these benefits to King County residents and businesses.

44 3. The 2002 Parks Business Transition Plan, adopted by the King County
45 council and enacted by Ordinance 14509, became the blueprint for
46 establishing the regional open space system we have today. Building on
47 that blueprint, the county has adopted open space plans, which have
48 provided the framework guiding King County in the acquisition, planning,
49 development, stewardship, maintenance, and management of its complex
50 system of parks, regional trails, and acres of open space. The latest open
51 space plan was updated in 2022 and adopted by Ordinance 19501.

52 4. In implementing the open space plan, the parks and recreation division
53 of the department of natural resources and parks has successfully focused
54 its lines of business on regional parks and trails, backcountry trails, natural
55 lands, and local parks in unincorporated King County and has
56 implemented business practices that generate revenue from park system
57 assets by implementing or increasing user fees and establishing corporate
58 and community partnerships that enhance park amenities and leverage
59 public and private dollars to improve parks and increase access to parks.

60 5. Consistent with the recommendations of past parks-related task forces
61 and community advisory committees, the county has sought voter-
62 approved levies on four prior occasions: in 2003, enacted by Ordinance
63 14586, to provide maintenance and operating funding for the parks and
64 recreation division for 2004 through 2007; in 2007, enacted by Ordinance
65 15759, to provide funding for maintenance and operations as well as
66 funding for open space acquisition, regional trail development, the

67 Woodland Park Zoo and for King County towns and cities for use in their
68 open space acquisition and trail projects for 2008 through 2013; in 2013,
69 enacted by Ordinance 17568, to provide funding for maintenance and
70 operations as well as for open space acquisition, asset maintenance and
71 improvement, parks and trails projects, the Woodland Park Zoo and for
72 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
73 2014 through 2019; and in 2019, enacted by Ordinance 18890, to provide
74 funding for maintenance and operations as well as for open space
75 acquisition, asset maintenance and improvement, parks and trails projects,
76 the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, aquatic facilities, and for
77 King County towns and cities to use for their parks and recreation for
78 2020 through 2025. Voters approved the funding measures on all four
79 occasions that they were on the ballot. The voter-approved levies have
80 helped keep the open space system clean, safe, and open.

81 6. Tribal nations are co-managers with the county in managing our shared
82 public lands, waters, and resources. The county recognizes that this
83 relationship is informed and guided by the treaty rights which many tribes
84 exercise within King County. The department of natural resources and
85 parks has undertaken many actions with tribes as comanagers in an effort
86 to foster mutual respect, and establish regular and meaningful
87 communication, cooperation, and consultation with tribal officials in
88 developing and executing state and King County policies that have tribal
89 implications. The county has an ongoing goal to strengthen the

90 government-to-government relationship with tribes that share territory
91 with and have interests in King County

92 7. The 2020 through 2025 voter-approved parks, trails, and open space
93 replacement levy provides approximately eighty-five percent of the
94 operating budget of the parks and recreation division, with approximately
95 fifteen percent generated through business activities and entrepreneurial
96 efforts. King County general fund support to the parks and recreation
97 division was eliminated as of 2011.

98 8. The community partnerships and grants program enacted by Ordinance
99 14509 enhances parks amenities by partnering with parks and recreation
100 organizations. Since the inception of the community partnership and grant
101 program in 2003, more than seventy projects representing more than
102 seventy million dollars' worth of new, enhanced, or preserved public
103 recreation facilities have been completed, with only twenty-two million
104 dollars of King County capital investment.

105 9. The Woodland Park Zoo received distributions from the past three
106 voter-approved levies to supplement zoo operating revenue for education
107 and conservation programs, horticulture and maintenance, and capital
108 improvements. Levy proceeds distributed to the zoo provided
109 environmental education, programming and transportation focusing on
110 accessibility for underserved areas, supported thousands of students-
111 annually, and benefitted residents throughout King County. Levy

112 proceeds also provided conservation and animal care for threatened
113 Pacific Northwest species.

114 10. The Seattle Aquarium received distributions from the past voter-
115 approved levy for capital costs for the Ocean Pavilion project to amplify
116 the aquarium's existing global conservation efforts by bringing visitors
117 face-to-face with tropical species native to the Coral Triangle and by
118 housing approximately three thousand five hundred sustainably sourced
119 tropical fish and invertebrates, including rays, sharks, mangroves, and up
120 to 30 species of coral.

121 11. The removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct provided an unprecedented
122 opportunity to create new green space in the heart of Seattle. The
123 resulting waterfront park is a twenty-acre public space stretching from
124 Belltown to Pioneer Square, providing the entire region lasting economic,
125 social, and environmental benefits. Seattle Waterfront park will link
126 iconic attractions including Olympic Sculpture park, Pike Place Market,
127 the Seattle Aquarium, the Colman Dock ferry terminal, Pioneer Square,
128 stadiums, and surrounding neighborhoods.

129 12. The Memorial Stadium project will create an innovative multi-
130 purpose student and community events facility at Seattle Center. That
131 transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the city of
132 Seattle, providing an improved venue for local and regional sports and
133 events.

134 13. King County towns and cities received funding from the past three
135 voter-approved levies. In 2008 through 2013, towns and cities could use
136 levy proceeds for open space and natural lands acquisition and
137 development of town or city trail projects that supported connections to
138 the regional trail system with distributions being contingent upon an equal
139 or greater contribution of matching moneys from the recipient town or city
140 for the same project. In the 2014 through 2019 and the 2020 through 2025
141 levies, types of uses for the distribution to King County towns and cities
142 were broadened to provide flexibility and better meet the parks and
143 recreation needs of cities.

144 14. Parks levy oversight committees were established to monitor the
145 expenditures of the proceeds from the 2004 through 2007, 2008 through
146 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through 2025 levies. Annual
147 committee review has concluded that the county has complied with all
148 levy requirements.

149 15. During the 2008 through 2013, 2014 through 2019, and 2020 through
150 2025 levy periods, the process for developing, reviewing, and
151 recommending potential conservation futures tax and parks levy
152 acquisition projects has maximized acquisitions for open space, natural
153 lands, and regional trail rights of way due to the similar objectives for the
154 conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition programs. Parks levy
155 open space funding distributed to King County is a critical component of
156 match for county applications for conservation futures tax funding. The

157 process for conservation futures tax outlined in K.C.C. 26.12.010
158 maintains transparency, accessibility, and consistency of the distribution
159 of conservation futures tax and parks levy acquisition funds for the public,
160 stakeholder groups, government agencies, and officials.

161 16. King County is growing rapidly as a region. In 2024, King County's
162 population increased by more than thirty thousand people; over the next
163 ten years, the county is expected to grow by another two hundred fifty
164 thousand people. Recent trend reports indicate that participation in
165 outdoor recreation continues to grow, increasing by more than four
166 percent nation-wide in 2023. More and more people are using King
167 County parks and trails, which puts greater pressure on the system. As
168 development increases to accommodate population growth, the risk of
169 losing natural lands and green spaces throughout the county grows. Those
170 valuable lands contribute to King County residents' high quality of life.
171 The cost of land to accommodate this growth and preserve open spaces is
172 also increasing. Today is the opportune time to address future needs of
173 residents by investing in our parks and trails and accelerating conservation
174 of open space.

175 17. In King County, many communities have experienced a history of
176 inequitable and limited regional investments in parks, recreation, and open
177 space, limiting the ability of residents to lead healthy lives.
178 Approximately five hundred thousand King County residents live without
179 ready access to, parks, recreation, and open spaces. There is a need to

180 address disparities in access to parks, recreation, and open space for
181 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with
182 disabilities. This proposal provides an opportunity to address parks and
183 recreation needs of these traditionally underserved areas and communities,
184 including people with disabilities.

185 18. Recognizing growth in population, increased use of parks and trails
186 and the need to address disparities to prepare the 2026 through 2031 levy,
187 the parks and recreation division conducted outreach to obtain feedback on
188 the current park system and future parks and recreation needs for all King
189 County residents. In March and April 2024, parks and recreation division
190 staff conducted twenty-one in-person and virtual community engagement
191 events and hosted two online surveys across eight languages. Participants
192 represented all geographic areas of the county including towns and cities,
193 business, recreation, community, and environmental interests. More than
194 four thousand eight hundred people across all nine King County Council
195 districts participated in the surveys. Parks and recreation division staff also
196 met with towns and cities, parks districts, and key partners to receive
197 additional feedback about the levy.

198 19. Feedback from engagement events, online surveys, and meetings
199 showed support for the King County open space system and defined
200 measures of success. Four themes emerged as top priorities: safety and
201 belonging; new parks, trails, recreation, and infrastructure; equity,
202 representation, inclusion, and access; and maintenance, repairs, and

203 staffing. Feedback supported funding for King County towns' and cities'
204 parks and recreation programs; expansion of the regional trails system;
205 and natural lands conservation.

206 20. From January through July 2024, parks and recreation division staff
207 convened a Community Advisory Committee tasked with recommending
208 how to preserve King County's system of parks, trails, and open space
209 after the 2019 through 2025 levy expires. The Community Advisory
210 Committee also advised staff about how best to meet the growing parks
211 and recreation needs in King County and the region. Representing King
212 County Boards, cities, non-profit organizations, community and
213 environmental interests, businesses, and sports, the Community Advisory
214 Committee met nine times to provide guidance on developing the 2026
215 through 2031 levy.

216 21. The King County executive took into consideration information
217 obtained from this engagement, the region's growing population, increased
218 use of parks and trails across King County, and the lack of parks,
219 recreation, and open space in some communities, and has put forth this
220 proposal that acknowledges the changing landscape and the need to grow
221 the open space system to keep up with regional demand. This proposal is
222 also consistent with the goals and priorities of past levy task forces.

223 22. This proposal would exempt low-income senior citizens, disabled
224 veterans, and other people with disabilities from the regular property tax
225 increase on their residences resulting from a levy authorized by this

226 ordinance if they have been approved for an exemption under RCW
227 84.36.381.

228 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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

231 A. "Aquatic facilities grants program" means the program through which King
232 County provides moneys to publicly owned pools for: capital improvement projects,
233 including planning, feasibility studies, preconstruction and design, and construction; and
234 major maintenance repair or replacement projects.

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

240 C. "Conservation" means protection of natural and resource lands from
241 development through fee or easement acquisition, restoration of natural functions, and
242 administration of incentives for landowners that voluntarily preserve open space.

243 D. "Conservation futures tax program" means the program defined in K.C.C.
244 chapter 26.12.

245 E. "Educational and civic venues" means the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle
246 Aquarium, Seattle Waterfront park, and Memorial Stadium.

247 F. "Healthy community and parks grants program" means the program through
248 which King County provides moneys in order to achieve equitable opportunities and

249 access to parks and recreation for traditionally underserved areas and communities,
250 including people with disabilities, located in unincorporated King County and King
251 County towns and cities.

252 G. "Levy" means the levy of regular property taxes for the specific purposes and
253 term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in accordance with state
254 law.

255 H. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of moneys raised by the levy,
256 any interest earnings on the moneys, and the proceeds of any interim financing following
257 authorization of the levy.

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

261 J. "Open space system" means the system that includes parks, trails, natural
262 areas, resource lands, and structures or buildings owned or otherwise under the
263 jurisdiction of the parks and recreation division of the department of natural resources.

264 K. "Parks capital and open space grants program" means the program through
265 which King County provides moneys to metropolitan park districts, towns, or cities
266 located in King County to achieve capital improvement projects and major maintenance
267 repair, or replacement of parks or recreation infrastructure.

268 L. "Parks district" means the active metropolitan park districts under chapter
269 35.61 RCW and parks and recreation service areas under chapter 36.68 RCW in King
270 County.

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

275 **SECTION 2. Levy submittal to voters.** To provide necessary moneys for the
276 purposes identified in section 4 of this ordinance, the King County council shall submit to
277 the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property tax levy
278 in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six consecutive
279 years, with collection commencing in 2026, at a rate not to exceed \$0.2443 per one
280 thousand dollars of assessed value in the first year of the levy period. The dollar amount
281 of the levy in the first year shall be the base upon which the levy amounts in year two
282 through six shall be calculated. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050, this levy shall be a
283 regular property tax levy subject to the limit factor.

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

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

288 A. Costs incurred by the county that are attributable to the parks, recreation,
289 trails, and open space levy elections;

290 B. Distributions to educational and civic venues, limited to the following
291 facilities:

292 1. Up to forty-two million dollars for distribution to the Woodland Park
293 Zoological Society which shall be used solely for: environmental education with an

294 emphasis on accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and communities, including
295 people with disabilities; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds;
296 conservation of threatened species; and development of conservation and education
297 strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and habitats from climate change;

298 2. Up to fifteen million dollars for distribution to the Seattle Aquarium which
299 shall be used solely for: environmental education with an emphasis on accessibility to
300 traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities;
301 maintenance of buildings and grounds; conservation of threatened species; and
302 development of conservation and education strategies to mitigate impacts to animals and
303 habitats from climate change;

304 3. Up to nine million dollars for distribution to Friends of Waterfront Park,
305 which shall be used solely for: accessibility to traditionally underserved areas and
306 communities, including people with disabilities; support for a clean and safe
307 environment; free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and
308 inclusive community partnerships; and

309 4. Up to two million five-hundred thousand dollars for distribution to the
310 Memorial Stadium project, which shall be used solely for capital costs;

311 C. Up to thirty million dollars for the parks capital and open space grants
312 program;

313 D. Up to forty-six million dollars for the aquatic facilities grant program; and

314 E. The remainder for the following purposes:

315 1. Forty-three percent of levy proceeds for maintenance and operations of King
316 County's open space system and the healthy community and parks grants program, but no

317 more than thirty million dollars may be used for the healthy community and parks grants
318 program;

319 2. Forty-eight percent of levy proceeds for:

320 a. Acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of additional open space lands,
321 natural areas, resource or ecological lands, rights of way for regional trails, and urban
322 green spaces;

323 b. Acquisition of rights of way for and development of regional and other
324 public trails;

325 c. Capital improvement projects and major maintenance repair or replacement
326 of open space system infrastructure;

327 d. Community partnerships and grants program; and

328 e. Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center;

329 3. Nine percent of levy proceeds for distribution to towns, cities, and parks
330 districts in King County for their town or city parks system operations and capital
331 improvement projects, of which amount:

332 a. One-hundred thousand dollars shall be distributed annually to each town,
333 city, and the following parks districts that predominantly serve unincorporated King
334 County: Fall City Metropolitan Park District, Si View Metropolitan Park District, and
335 Vashon Park District; and

336 b. Of the remainder, sixty percent shall be distributed in proportion to each
337 town or city's population and forty percent shall be distributed in proportion to the
338 assessed value of parcels within each town or city;

362 reauthorize an additional six-year property tax beginning in 2026 at
363 \$0.2443 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, use the 2026 levy amount to
364 compute annual increases in 2027-2031 by the King County inflation plus
365 population index or the chapter 84.55 RCW limitation, whichever is
366 greater, exempting qualifying seniors, veterans, and disabled persons per
367 RCW 84.36.381. Should this proposition be:

368 Approved? _

369 Rejected? _

370 **SECTION 6. Distributions.** Each distribution of levy proceeds to a King County
371 town or city, park district, the Woodland Park Zoological Society or its successor, the
372 Seattle Aquarium or its successor, the Seattle Waterfront park, and Memorial Stadium
373 project partners or their successor for the eligible purposes identified in section 4 of this
374 ordinance shall be subject to the execution of a contract between the county and each
375 entity for the same purposes. Distribution of levy proceeds shall be subject to the
376 execution of a contract for: publicly owned pool capital improvement projects, major
377 maintenance repair, replacement projects or aquatics programming; capital improvement
378 projects and major maintenance repair or replacement projects to parks or recreation
379 infrastructure in metropolitan park districts, towns or cities; and acquisition, conservation
380 and stewardship of additional natural areas, resource or ecological lands, rights of way
381 for regional trails and urban green spaces. General requirements for levy grant programs
382 are included in Attachment A to this ordinance. Distribution of levy proceeds to King
383 County for open space acquisition purposes shall be in accordance with the annual
384 conservation futures tax process for the development, review and recommendation to the

385 King County council as set for in the open space and natural lands acquisition process,
386 which is included in Attachment B to this ordinance.

387 **SECTION 7. Parks levy oversight board established.**

388 A. If the proposition in section 5 of this ordinance is approved by the qualified
389 electors of King County, a parks levy oversight board shall be appointed by the
390 executive. The board shall consist of nine members. Each councilmember shall
391 nominate a candidate for the board who resides in the councilmember's district no later
392 than March 31, 2026. If the executive does not appoint by May 31, 2026, the person
393 nominated by a councilmember, the executive must request that the councilmember
394 should by June 30, 2026, nominate another candidate for appointment. Members shall be
395 confirmed by the council. Members may not be elected or appointed officials of any unit
396 of government, except that individuals serving in a civic capacity on a local board or
397 commission would be eligible to serve on the parks levy oversight board.

398 B. The board shall review the allocation of levy proceeds and progress on
399 achieving the purposes of this proposition. On or before December 31, 2027, the board
400 shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and the
401 regional policy committee on the expenditure of levy proceeds for 2026. Thereafter, the
402 board shall review and report to the King County executive, the King County council and
403 the regional policy committee annually. Any report to the King County council under
404 this section shall be made in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the
405 clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all
406 councilmembers. The board expires December 31, 2032.

407 **SECTION 8. Exemption.** The additional regular property taxes authorized by
408 this ordinance shall be included in any real property tax exemption authorized by RCW
409 84.36.381.

410 **SECTION 9. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
411 King County council to the director of elections in accordance with law before the
412 election on August 5, 2025, and any other acts consistent with the authority and before
413 the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and confirmed.

414 **SECTION 10. Severability.** If any provision of this ordinance or its application

415 o any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
416 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines, B. Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines

General Requirements for King County Parks Levy Grant Programs

Any project funded by parks levy proceeds must allow for regular public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.

1. Parks Capital and Open Space Grant Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the parks capital and open space grant program to:

1. Develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities; and/or
2. Acquire park land.

Eligible Entities

1. King County cities and towns;
2. Metropolitan park districts geographically located in King County; and/or
3. Public entities that serve unincorporated King County.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received for capital projects to develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Feasibility study;
2. Planning and design; and/or
3. Construction.

Lands acquired using parks levy funding are 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, birdwatching, etc.);
 3. Local trails; and/or
 4. Open space lands, except if the land is primarily in agricultural use. Agriculture can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds (e.g., community garden, p-patch), as long as the primary use allows public recreation and access.
-

2. Aquatic Facilities Grant Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the aquatic facilities grant program, which provides funding opportunities to develop new and/or improve existing aquatic facilities in King County.

Eligible Entities

1. King County towns and cities;
2. Metropolitan park districts;
3. Public Schools districts;
4. Nonprofits that operate public aquatic facilities; and/or

5. Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities.

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to develop new and/or improve existing aquatics facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Land acquisition;
 2. Feasibility study;
 3. Planning and design; and/or
 4. Construction.
-

3. Healthy Communities and Parks Fund Program Guidelines

Purpose

This provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for the Healthy Communities and Parks Fund grant program, which provides funding opportunities to increase access to and use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in traditionally underserved areas and communities, as well as to build internal capacities of community-based partners who provide recreation to these areas and communities.

Funding is for the following purposes:

1. Develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities; and/or
2. Provide programs focusing on recreation, sports, play, and physical activity.

Eligible Entities

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

Eligible Projects

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to develop new and/or improve existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities are for the following purposes:

1. Land acquisition;
2. Feasibility study;
3. Planning and design; and/or
4. Construction.

Parks levy funding received by eligible entities to provide programs are to be focused on recreational programming (e.g., swim programs, youth sports leagues, etc.).

Open Space, Natural Lands, and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines

The overall approach for funding allocation and coordination with the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) program for the acquisition of open space and natural lands through the countywide parks levy is as follows:

1. Early each calendar year, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) will set a proposed allocation for open space from levy funds for the following fiscal year.
2. Staff will generate proposals for the use of these funds, taking into account opportunities to leverage resources with funding from Conservation Futures, as well as from other local, state, and federal funding sources.
3. An overall proposal allocating the open space funds to specific projects will be developed and discussed with the Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (CFAC) that is responsible for developing CFT funding recommendations. These discussions are expected to occur in the spring, the same timeframe during which the CFAC annually reviews CFT project proposals. This will create an opportunity for the CFAC to provide an advisory recommendation regarding allocation of these parks levy funds.
4. Taking the CFAC's recommendations into account, DNRP will develop a proposed budget for these parks levy funds.
5. The DNRP proposed budget for parks levy funding will be reviewed by the County Executive, and ultimately County Council, as part of the overall budget process for the following year.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)	
Election Costs	\$1,500,000
Additional Assumed Costs	\$18,000,000
Fixed income exemption ¹	\$3,000,000
1% undercollection assumption	\$15,000,000
Woodland Park Zoo	\$42,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	\$15,000,000
Seattle Waterfront²	\$9,000,000
Memorial Stadium³	\$2,500,000
Pools	\$22,000,000
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$22,000,000
Grants and Community Partnerships	\$117,000,000
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly named Targeted Equity Grants)	\$30,000,000
Cities - Capital Projects & Acquisitions	\$30,000,000
Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$46,000,000
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$11,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts	\$119,000,000
King County Operations and Maintenance⁴	\$550,600,000
Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery and Internal Supports	\$517,000,000
Parks Patrol Expansion	\$4,300,000
Safety Program Expansion	\$3,200,000
Asset Management Program	\$4,100,000
Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program	\$10,400,000
Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion	\$4,800,000
Jobs & Housing Program	\$5,000,000
Tribal, Indigenous, & Historic Interpretive Program	\$1,800,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship	\$217,500,000
King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$96,000,000
Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)	\$20,000,000
Fish Passage Program ⁵	\$10,000,000
Climate Resilience ⁶	\$33,000,000
Environmental Stewardship ⁷	\$58,500,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System⁸	\$179,000,000
Eastrail	\$65,000,000
Lake to Sound Trail	\$55,000,000
Green River Trail Extension - North	\$6,000,000
Interurban Trail South investments	\$8,000,000
Soos Creek Trail	\$7,000,000
Other New Regional Trails ⁹	\$38,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements¹³	\$51,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements	
Dog Parks	\$3,000,000
Lakeland Park North	\$10,000,000
Skyway Park Planning and Community Center	\$13,000,000
Backcountry Trails (new trails)	\$3,000,000
Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities)	\$3,000,000
Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion	\$19,000,000
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation	\$177,000,000
Major Maintenance Existing Infrastructure¹⁰	
General infrastructure	\$23,000,000

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

<i>Playground rehabilitation</i>	\$7,000,000
<i>Park amenities rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Parks building system rehabilitation</i>	\$8,000,000
<i>Ballfield synthetic turf replacement</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Backcountry Trail rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Other agency projects (Sound Transit, WSDOT, KC Roads, etc.)</i>	\$8,000,000
ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation	\$12,000,000
Regional Trails Rehabilitation¹¹	\$55,000,000
Marymoor Park Rehabilitation¹²	\$16,000,000
Sunset Park Renovation and Repair	\$4,000,000

1. As authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

2. New levy investment that support accessibility for traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; maintenance and operations of facilities and grounds; offering free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and inclusive community partnerships.

3. This allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

4. Of this allocation, 93% funds the day-to-day operational needs to maintain the park system (personnel, supplies, services, fleet, equipment, administrative costs, etc.). \$2.4M shall be allocated for the King County Fair, Washington State University 4-H Program, and King County Search and Rescue operations. Additional funding to be allocated for critical programs and services to manage the growing parks system and enhance safety and belonging for park users. These programs include the expansion of the service level agreement with King County Sheriff's Office to fund the Parks Patrol Program; the expansion of the Parks Safety Program for ongoing implementation of safety related elements within the park system, i.e., regulatory compliance and trainings for onsite staff; and expansion of the Youth Conservation Corps summer internship program.

New investments include:

- Funding for the continuity of the Jobs and Housing Program due to sunseting of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) funding in 2024.
- Funding for the enforcement of Parks Land Use Guidelines on park lands and regional trail segments to protect capital investments, open space acquisitions, and new properties and easements in support of environmental preservation.
- Funding to support work with Tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations to strengthen government-to-government relationships, and improve conservation and recreational planning.

5. The Fish Passage Program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

6. Climate resilience investments will support Parks' forest stewardship program and projects; potential stormwater park pilot projects; and establish a climate response fund intended to support community response projects and programming as identified.

7. Environmental stewardship investments will support early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition; structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation benefits; improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions; natural resource and site management planning; multi-benefit river corridor projects; and landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance.

8. This allocation provides funding for Regional and Other Public Trails System including:

- Construction of two additional segments of Lake to Sound Trail and the completion of the design to connect Lake to Sound Trail to SeaTac Airport.
- Construction of two additional segments of Easttrail, an Easttrail connection to Coulon Park, paves Central Wilburton segment, and completes design on Easttrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.
- Construction of the Green River Trail North to Seattle.
- Complete full rehabilitation of the Interurban Trail South.
- Construction of Soos Creek Trail Segment 5a and planning for future Soos Creek Trail segments.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

9. Of this allocation, \$18M will fund a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

\$20M of this funding will be used for emergent needs on the regional trail system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements.

10. Capital major maintenance programs keep parks clean, safe, and open and include, but are not limited to: rehabilitation of play areas, park buildings, existing synthetic turf fields, pools, docks, ballfields, sports courts, backcountry trails, drainage infrastructure, restrooms, picnic shelters, signage, as well as coordination with other agencies who have infrastructure on parks property (e.g., Sound Transit, WSDOT). A portion of this funding is also intended to respond to emergent projects identified by Park users associated with existing facilities. These programs are expected supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

11. Funding for new park development and improvements includes Skyway Park Community Center that will support design, construction, and initial operational costs. Additional funding for construction (approximately \$20M) will be needed and is expected to be funded with a combination of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and bond financing. Funding allocated for Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion is for design and construction at South County Ballfields in Federal Way.

12. This program keeps the existing regional trail system clean, safe, and open and includes, but is not limited to, repair/replacement of bridges and trestles, trail surface repairs/rehabilitation, safety updates, repairs to meet current guidelines and standards, and landscaping/mitigation maintenance and monitoring.

13. This allocation will fund rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities throughout Marymoor Park to keep the park clean, safe, and open. It also includes funding for improvements to address growing user demand including, but not limited to, signage, utilities, pedestrian facilities, buildings, roadways, velodrome rehabilitation, and concert venue updates. This program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

Parks Capital Program 2026-2031 Levy Investments

Major Maintenance Existing Infrastructure (\$177M)

General infrastructure (\$23M)

- Parking lot repair and rehabilitation projects at several parks including, Dockton Park, Preston Athletic Fields, Petrovitsky Park, Coalfield Park, and Steve Cox Memorial Park.
- Pathway repair and rehabilitation projects at several parks including Dockton Park, Tolt MacDonald Park, Five Mile Lake.
- Rehabilitation of the Bike Park at Dick Thurnau Park.

Playground rehabilitation (\$7M)

- Preston Athletic Fields
- Lake Geneva Park
- Redmond Ridge Park
- Big Finn Hill Park (2–5-year-old)
- Soos Creek Park (Gary Grant Park)
- Steve Cox Memorial Park

Park amenities rehabilitation (\$6M)

- North Shorewood Park amenities rehabilitation
- Countywide picnic table replacements
- Countywide kiosk and wayfinding signage rehabilitation
- Restroom Building Improvements (rehabilitation, replacement, or additions)
 - Tolt MacDonald Park
 - Cottage Lake Park
 - Dockton Park
 - Redmond Ridge Park
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessments and emergent needs

Parks building system rehabilitation (\$8M)

- Tolt MacDonald Park Yurt replacements
- Urgent repairs and rehabilitation (e.g., HVAC, windows, flooring, kitchen facilities, roofs) from in 2024 facility assessment report for the following buildings:
 - Steve Cox Park Community Center (i.e., Log Cabin)
 - Grace Hansen Community Center
 - Preston Community Center
 - Clise Mansion
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessment and emergent needs

Ballfield synthetic turf replacement (\$12M)

- Ravensdale Park (Multipurpose Fields 2 & 3)
- Marymoor Park Soccer Fields (1 – 4) and Ballfields (1 & 2)
- Jim Ellis Memorial Regional Park Soccer Fields 1 & 2
- Big Finn Hill Park Multi-Purpose Field
- Steve Cox Memorial Park Multipurpose Fields 2 & 3 and Mel Olsen Stadium Ballfield 1

Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation (\$2M)

- Cottage Lake Pool repairs and rehabilitation
- Repairs and rehabilitation of existing docks and/or boat ramps at:
 - Cottage Lake
 - Lake Joy
 - Lake Geneva
 - Five Mile Lake
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessment and emergent needs

Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation (\$6M)

- Ballfield fencing replacement projects
 - Ravensdale Park
 - Tolt MacDonald park
 - Steve Cox Park
 - Petrovitsky Park
- Countywide aluminum bleachers replacement (to meet current safety standards)
- Ballfield light pole replacement

Backcountry Trail rehabilitation (\$6M)

- Frog Holler Forest
- Black Diamond Open Space
- Ring Hill Forest
- Taylor Mountain Forest
- Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area
- North Green River Park (Titus Pit)
- Glendale Forest
- Union Hill Forest
- Auburn Narrows Natural Area

Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation (\$12M)

- Rehabilitation and/or replacement of non-fish bearing drainage culverts at:
 - Skyway Park
 - Black Diamond Open Space
 - Five Mile Lake

- Maury Island Marine Park
- Additional projects to be identified by future condition assessment and emergent needs

Other agency projects (\$8M)

Other public agencies frequently construct and/or impact assets on parks property. The funds in this program would be used for coordination and collaboration with these other agencies on projects that affect parks property. Some examples of current projects where King County Parks is working with other agencies include:

- Sound Transit: Downtown Redmond Light Rail Extension project which affects and connects directly to Marymoor Park
- WSDOT Projects including:
- I-405, SR 522 Vicinity to SR 527 Express Toll Lanes Improvement Project which involves building two bridges over the West Sammamish River Trail near Bothell and reconstructing the trail.
- State Route 18 Widening project which involves project elements and impacts affecting Taylor Mountain Natural Area and Preston Mill Park.
- City of Kenmore: State Route 522 Cat Whisker Creek Fish Passage project which affects the Burke Gilman Trail in the City of Kenmore.
- King County Water and Land Resources Division: Lower Frew Levee Setback Project which is located in and affects Tolt MacDonald Park and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.
- King County Road Services Division: Replacement of the Boise X Connection Bridge #3055A which affects the Foothills Trail.

ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation (\$12M)

Projects to be identified by the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan currently in-progress

Regional Trails Rehabilitation (\$55M)

- Bridge and Trestle Rehabilitation and Replacement Projects
 - Cedar River Trail (Bridge 2266-5)
 - Sammamish River Trail Site (2156-8)
 - Soos Creek Park And Trail (2250-5)
 - Snoqualmie Valley Trail Site (Boxley Bridge 2178-45)
 - Preston Snoqualmie Trail #3 (2277-2)
- Countywide on-going Trail Rehabilitation programs
 - pavement restriping program
 - access control repairs and replacement
 - pavement repair, overlay, and root barrier
- Countywide intersection lighting program at priority locations for safety
- Site Management Plan development
 - Burke Gilman Trail
 - Sammamish River Trail
- Additional projects to be identified by emergent needs

Marymoor Park Rehabilitation (\$16M)

Updates to critical infrastructure are including, but not limited to,

- Improved wayfinding signage
- Utilities including water, sewer, electrical, fiber
- Pedestrian facilities including dedicated pathways and safe roadway crossings
- Roadway including rehabilitation and safety improvements for traffic flow and parking
- Velodrome rehabilitation
- Concert venue improvements and updates
- Restrooms improvements
- Building rehabilitation (may also be funded partially from the Building system rehabilitation program)

Sunset Park Renovation and Repair (\$4M)

The exact updates are still to be determined as part of a public engagement process, but may include, restroom renovation, parking improvements, court and field improvements, adding additional amenities such as play area.

New Park Development and Improvements (\$51M)

Dog Parks (\$3M)

- North Shorewood Park
- Lake Geneva Park
- Skyway Park (if it aligns with the Community Center plan)

Lakeland Park North (\$10M)

Design and construction of a 20-acre nature park at Lakeland North Urban Park between Auburn and Federal Way including trails, nature-based play area, shelter, restroom and parking.

Skyway Park Planning and Community Center (\$13M)

Total estimated Planning Level Project Cost (i.e., includes design, permitting, construction) for the community center is \$40M. The funding plan is as follows.

Existing Funding (approximately):	\$ 8 M (from 2021/2022 King County Budget)
Proposed 2026-2031 Levy Funds:	\$13 M
<u>REET 2 funding:</u>	<u>\$19 M</u> (may include some level of debt financing)
Total:	\$40 M

Backcountry Trails (new trails) (\$3M)

New trails may be created at the sites listed above under Major Maintenance and would also be created at future sites to be acquired.

Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities) (\$3M)

Potential projects may include:

- Adding pickleball courts at existing parks
- Adding recreational cricket facilities at existing parks
- Adding light to existing courts or fields

Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion (\$19M)

South County Ballfields

Regional and Other Public Trails System (\$179M)

Eastrail (\$65M)

- I-90 Steel Bridge Crossing (Bellevue): Design and Construct
- Central Wilburton Paving (Bellevue): Design and Construct
- 124th to 145th Interim Trail (Woodinville): Design and Construct
- Coulon Park North Entrance to South Entrance (Renton): Design and Construct
- Coulon Park North Entrance to Mile Post 5 (Renton/Bellevue): Design and Construct
- Mile Post 5 to Ripley Lane (Renton/Bellevue): Design to be shovel ready for 2032

Lake to Sound Trail (\$55M)

- Segment D: Design and construct (1.67 miles in Renton)
- Segment E: Design and construct (0.68 miles in Renton)
- Segment F1: Design and construct (0.93 miles in Tukwila)
- Segment F2: Design to be shovel ready for 2032 (1.68 Tukwila to SeaTac)
- Segment G: Design to be shovel ready for 2032 (connects Lake to Sound to Eastrail at Coulon)

Green River Trail Extension - North (\$6M)

Establishes a safe and continuous trail north from Cecil Moses Park in Tukwila along West Marginal Place South to the Seattle City limits.

Interurban Trail South investments (\$8M)

Funding completes the major rehabilitation of entire corridor.

Soos Creek Trail (\$7M)

- Construct Segment 5A of Soos Creek Trail at the north end of Lake Youngs.
- Begins planning and design for future trail connections (Soos Creek – Lake Meridian – Jenkins Creek)

Other New Regional Trails (\$38M)

- Planning and preliminary design for future trail connections Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.
- Emergent needs on the regional trail system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements. This is also where improvements for extended trail hours could be funded from if it moves forward.

King County Parks Levy Proposal - For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

Question #32. For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

During the current levy period, Parks has faced inflationary cost increases to both operating and capital budgets. The proposed Parks levy renewal intends to balance those future inflationary increases while allocating funds to projects and programs with community benefit.

The table below outlines the categories of the proposed allocation plan and shows the allocation amounts under three scenarios; the levy allocations under the adopted rate, the levy allocations under the current rate, and the levy allocations under the proposed rate. Additional information about the increased distributions is included for key categories.

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center (KCAC) - KCAC is a 35 year old facility with end of lifecycle repairs, replacements, and deferred maintenance needs that are significant for Lights On, Doors Open. KCAC is also a revenue generating facility that contributes to Parks business revenue targets. Over the course of the current levy, \$4M of unbudgeted repair and replacement costs were incurred. Costs for planned work within the 2020-2025 levy were two to three times more than 2019 estimates. As Parks sunset the current levy, the \$22M in the levy proposal would potentially catch up on known deferred maintenance projects that are imperative for the facility's ongoing operations, including annual host site engagements.

Community Partnerships and Grants - The Community Partnerships and Grants program partners with community organizations to develop a wide range of projects on Parks property, typically capital projects. Similar to the Parks Capital Improvement Program, there has been volatile inflationary costs for materials, supplies, and contracted labor costs.

King County Operations and Maintenance - 55% (\$302M) of Operations and Maintenance accounts for current service levels. To maintain the current levels of service, an increase of \$33M (6%) is needed over the six year period. This accounts for outyear inflationary costs related to wages, employee benefits, internal service growth rates, general operating supplies, and the costs of running a park system that tend to cost more than typical inflation such as utilities and contractor rates. The Operations and Maintenance proposal also accounts for investing \$182M (33%) to increase the capacity to take care of the growing park system, including new and aging assets and acquisitions aligned with the Land Conservation Initiative. \$33.6M (6%) accounts for new and expanded programs.

August 2024 OEFA Forecast	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Seattle CPI-W	2.96%	2.62%	2.84%	2.60%	2.49%	2.51%
Estimated King County Population Growth	0.93%	0.92%	0.90%	0.88%	0.87%	0.85%
= Limit Factor (CPI + Population Growth)	3.89%	3.54%	3.74%	3.48%	3.36%	3.36%

Climate Resilience and Environmental Stewardship - These two new portfolios were added that are not in the current levy distributions. Within those portfolios, new investments include a Climate Response Fund, Stormwater Park, Multi-benefit River Corridor projects in partnership with the DNRP Water and Land Resources Division, Natural Resource Planning (mitigation sites and wetland delineation), Environmental Remediation, and funding for maintenance facility acquisitions and improvements.

Regional and Other Public Trails System & Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation - Volatility in the construction market and inflation in materials, supplies, and construction labor has historically impacted capital improvement projects county-wide. Of this Regional and Other Public Trails System allocation, \$18M will fund a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie

King County Parks Levy Proposal - For each area of the allocation plan where it is possible, can you provide what portion of the increase is inflation, what is the result of new projects, etc.?

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)	Adopted Levy Rate (August 2019) 18.32	Current Levy Rate (August 2024) 19.54	Proposed Distribution
Election Costs	\$3,000,000	\$737,000	\$1,500,000
Additional Assumed Costs	\$10,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$18,000,000
Woodland Park Zoo	\$36,000,000	\$39,000,000	\$42,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$15,000,000
Seattle Waterfront	\$0	\$0	\$9,000,000
Memorial Stadium	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$22,000,000
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grant Program)	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$30,000,000
Cities - Capital Projects & Acquisitions	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$30,000,000
Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$36,000,000	\$36,000,000	\$46,000,000
Open Space-River Corridors	\$22,000,000	\$22,000,000	\$0
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$9,570,000	\$9,800,000	\$11,000,000
King County Towns and Cities	\$60,000,000	\$62,000,000	\$119,000,000
King County Operations and Maintenance	\$277,000,000	\$299,000,000	\$551,000,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship	\$98,500,000	\$102,154,000	\$217,000,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System	\$165,650,000	\$170,154,000	\$179,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements	\$0	\$0	\$51,000,000
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation	\$41,500,000	\$55,155,000	\$177,000,000



King County

Dow Constantine
 King County Executive
 401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
 Seattle, WA 98104-1818
206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194
 TTY Relay: 711
www.kingcounty.gov

February 11, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

I am pleased to transmit to you a proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, place a measure on the August 5, 2025, primary election ballot to reauthorize the King County's Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy (Parks Levy). The current Parks Levy expires at the end of 2025. If approved by King County voters, a renewed Parks Levy would enable King County's parks and trails system to remain clean, safe, and open while making strategic investments as our region grows.

The proposed ballot measure asks King County voters to authorize a property tax levy lid lift to maintain and operate King County's parks system, acquire open space, develop regional trails, and increase access to parks and recreation for all King County residents. If passed, it would also provide funding to King County cities, towns, and park districts for local parks, trail development, and operations, as well as to the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium, and Seattle Waterfront Park for environmental and education programs. As proposed, the renewed Parks Levy would increase the property tax rate to 24.43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, generating approximately \$1.5 billion over the six-year period (2026-2031). Compared to the current levy, this would represent an approximately \$3.44 increase per month for homeowners of a median value home based on 2024 home values.

In developing the legislation, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) convened a Parks Levy Community Advisory Committee and undertook a robust community engagement process that included 21 community events and meetings with many interested parties. DNRP briefed each King County Councilmember office and offered briefings to all cities in the County. Online surveys in eight languages were completed by more than 4,800 community members. DNRP incorporated this community and partner input into the legislation and levy planning.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

February 11, 2025

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The proposed renewed levy measure will support:

- Continued care of King County's extensive system of more than 200 parks, 185 miles of regional trails, and 32,000 acres of open space;
- Growth, connection, and stewardship of regional open space natural lands and urban green spaces, which increases climate resilience, habitat connectivity, and recreation opportunities;
- Further development of the regional trails system and improved mobility through completion of essential trail connections and maintaining existing trails; and
- Making parks and recreation opportunities more accessible for all who live, work, or play in King County.

The proposed legislation continues to invest upstream where needs are greatest. It supports community partnerships through capital, operating, and programming dollars for parks that serve communities of opportunity. The proposed renewed levy also continues and expands the Healthy Communities and Parks grant program to build capacity and increase access to green space and public recreation opportunities in underserved areas.

The proposed legislation furthers the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by managing and restoring parks and other natural lands to maximize biological carbon storage. Through investments in natural lands conservation, forest stewardship, and other capital projects, the proposed legislation will increase community resilience to a changing climate.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will help King County preserve and protect our existing parks and trails system, build upon and maximize the benefits of levy investments to date, and strategically address our region's current and future needs. Attached to this letter are the King County Parks Levy Proposed Allocation Plan, as well as the King County Parks Capital Program and Parks Operating Financial Plan for reference.

If your staff have questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4526.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay

February 11, 2025

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP

2025 FISCAL NOTE

Ordinance/Motior 2025-XXXX
 Title: 2026-2031 Parks Levy Renewal
 Affected Agency and/or Agencies: Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
 Note Prepared By: Andrea Smith, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP
 Date Prepared: February 4, 2025
 Note Reviewed By: Elka Peterson Horner, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget
 Date Reviewed: February 10, 2025

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 5, 2025, 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 \$0.2443 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:

Agency	Fund Code	Revenue Source	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Parks Levy Collection Sub-Fund/Parks and Recreation	1455	Property Tax Levy Lid Lift (Net) ^{1,2}	\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000
TOTAL			\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000

Expenditures from:

Allocation Category	Fund Code	Department	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Reimbursement of Election Costs ³	1455	DNRP	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Woodland Park Zoo ⁴	1455	DNRP	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000
Seattle Aquarium ⁵	1455	DNRP	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Seattle Waterfront ⁶	1455	DNRP	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Memorial Stadium ⁷	1455	DNRP	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0
Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (formerly TEG) ⁸	1451	DNRP	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnership Grants (CPG) ⁸	3581	DNRP	\$29,000,000	\$29,000,000	\$29,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts ⁹	1455	DNRP	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$39,000,000
King County Parks Operations & Maintenance ¹⁰	1451	DNRP	\$164,000,000	\$189,000,000	\$216,000,000
King County Parks Capital Program ¹¹	3581	DNRP	\$193,000,000	\$215,000,000	\$238,000,000
TOTAL			\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000	\$554,000,000

Expenditures by Categories

	2026-2027	2028-2029	2030-2031
Reimbursement of Election Costs	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Wages/Benefits ¹²	\$98,000,000	\$113,000,000	\$130,000,000
Supplies/Services ¹²	\$76,000,000	\$86,000,000	\$96,000,000
Capital Outlay	\$222,000,000	\$244,000,000	\$267,000,000
Other Transfers ¹³	\$64,500,000	\$62,000,000	\$61,000,000
TOTAL		\$462,000,000	\$505,000,000

Does this legislation require a budget supplemental? Yes/No Yes, if the proposed ballot measure is approved by voters.

Notes and Assumptions:

- The levy period covers 2026 through 2031. The fiscal note shows a levy rate of 24.43¢ per \$1,000 assessed value (AV) in the first year, 2026. 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 2024 Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) and PSB projections.
- Total revenues are net levy proceeds. Gross levy proceeds are total revenues estimated to be generated with a 24.43¢ 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.
- Election costs will be paid by the General Fund in 2025 and reimbursed from levy proceeds in 2026 if the ballot is approved.
- Distribution to the Woodland Park Zoo shall be no more than \$42M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- Distribution to the Seattle Aquarium shall be no more than \$15M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

6. Distribution to the Seattle Waterfront shall be no more than \$9M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

7. Distribution to the Memorial Stadium shall be no more than \$2.5M over the first two years of the levy (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds). The allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

8. Funding for the three (3) Levy Grant Programs and Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) over the six years is as follows:

\$30M - Healthy Community and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grants)

\$30M – Capital Projects & Acquisitions (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$46M – Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$11M - 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" (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

9. 9% of the remaining revenue is distributed to the towns and cities in King County (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

10. 43% of the remaining revenue funds King County Parks operations and maintenance, 4-H Program support, KC Fair, and King County Search and Rescue operations. This includes assumed exemptions and undercollections.

11. 48% of the remaining revenue is allocated to the Capital Improvement Program to fund the following capital portfolios:

Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship (\$218M)

Regional and Other Public Trails (\$179M)

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation (\$177M)

New Park Development and Improvements (\$51M)

It also includes \$22M for Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

**2026-2031 Parks Levy Renewal Financial Plan
Parks Levy Collection Sub-Fund/000001455**

Category	2021-2022 Actuals	2023-2024 Adopted Budget	2026-2027 Projected	2028-2029 Projected	2030-2031 Projected
Beginning Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-
Revenues					
2026-2031 Levy Proceeds (Gross)	-	-	462,000,000	505,000,000	554,000,000
Assumed Exemptions/Undercollection	-	-	(6,000,000)	(6,000,000)	(6,000,000)
Total Revenues	-	-	456,000,000	499,000,000	548,000,000
Expenditures					
Reimbursement of Election Costs	-	-	1,500,000	-	-
Woodland Park Zoo	-	-	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Seattle Waterfront	-	-	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Memorial Stadium	-	-	2,500,000	-	-
Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (<i>formerly TEG</i>)	-	-	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Parks Levy Grants and Community Partnership Grants (CPG)	-	-	29,000,000	29,000,000	29,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts	-	-	40,000,000	40,000,000	39,000,000
King County Parks Operations & Maintenance	-	-	158,000,000	183,000,000	210,000,000
King County Parks Capital Program	-	-	193,000,000	215,000,000	238,000,000
Total Expenditures	-	-	456,000,000	499,000,000	548,000,000
Estimated Underexpenditures					
Other Fund Transactions					
Total Other Fund Transactions	-	-	-	-	-
Ending Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves					
Total Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve Shortfall	-	-	-	-	-
Ending Undesignated Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-

Financial Plan Notes

This is a new sub-fund within Parks and Recreation 1450. Accordingly, there are no 2021-2022 Actuals or 2023-2024 Adopted Budget.

This 2026-2031 levy lid lift will replace the 2020-2025 levy lid lift which is collected in sub-fund 1454.

Outyear revenue and expenditure inflation assumptions are consistent with figures provided by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB) and/or the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA).

Revenues Notes:

- Levy rate of 24.43¢ per \$1,000 assessed value (AV) in the first year. 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 2024 OEFA and PSB projections.
- Limit factor is the percentage rate annual collections are allowed to grow. For this proposal, it is the combined percentage change in the Seattle consumer price index for wage earners (CPI-W) and estimated population growth in King County. Specific rates are outlined in the table below.
- Gross levy proceeds are total revenues estimated to be generated with a 24.43¢ levy rate, before undercollection and exemption assumptions are applied.
- Assumed Exemptions/Undercollection means the exemption of qualifying households per RCW 84.36.381, and a one percent undercollection rate assumed countywide for property taxes.
- Total revenues are net levy proceeds.

Expenditure Notes:

- Figures shown are rounded to the nearest million dollars, as a result percentages presented in this plan may not be precise as described below. Actual distributions will follow the percentages listed below.
- Election costs will be paid by the General Fund in 2025 and reimbursed from levy proceeds in 2026 if the ballot is approved.
- Distribution to the Woodland Park Zoo shall be no more than \$42M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- Distribution to the Seattle Aquarium shall be no more than \$15M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- Distribution to the Seattle Waterfront shall be no more than \$9M over the six years (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- Distribution to the Memorial Stadium shall be no more than \$2.5M over the first two years of the levy (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

- Funding for the three (3) Levy Grant Programs and Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) over the six years is as follows:

\$30M - Healthy Community and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grants)

\$30M – Capital Projects & Acquisitions (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$46M – Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds)

\$11M - 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" (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).

- 9% of the remaining revenue is distributed to the towns and cities in King County (the county shall retain a small amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds).
- 43% of the remaining revenue funds King County Parks operations and maintenance, 4-H Program support, KC Fair, and King County Search and Rescue operations.
- 48% of the remaining revenue is allocated to the Capital Improvement Program for continued and expanded regional trail development; open space acquisition and stewardship; community partnerships and grants; and recreation repair and renovation, including playgrounds, ballfields, and backcountry trails. This also includes \$22M for Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

Reserve Notes:

- The purpose of this fund is to distribute levy proceeds to various organizations. There are no reserves for this fund.

This plan was updated by Andrea V. Smith on February 4, 2025 and Elka Peterson Horner on February 10, 2025.

2026-2031 Parks Levy Renewal - Allocation of Levy Proceeds

	2026 Estimated	2027 Estimated	2028 Estimated
King County Levy Proceeds ¹	108,000,000	114,000,000	119,000,000
Total Funding	\$108,000,000	\$114,000,000	\$119,000,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System ²	26,000,000	27,000,000	29,000,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship ³	31,000,000	34,000,000	35,000,000
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation ⁴	29,000,000	30,000,000	33,000,000
Levy Grants and Community Partnerships Grants ⁵	14,500,000	14,500,000	14,500,000
New Park Development and Improvements ⁶	7,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
Total Allocations	\$107,500,000	\$113,500,000	\$119,500,000

Notes

1. Section 4.E.2 of the proposed ordinance allocates 48% of remaining levy proceeds for a series of eligible uses and describes the planned projects within the subcategories. The allocation of funding for these projects is based on project readiness, additional funding opportunities from future grants or work with partner agencies, changing conditions, and other factors.

2. Regional Trails System refers to the "acquisition and development of rights of ways for regional trails" including the Lake to Sound Trail Corridor (\$65 million), Lake to Sound Trail (\$55M), Interurban Trail South (\$8M), Soos Creek Trail (\$7M), and other trails. The system includes a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments including Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail (\$18M). The system includes, but is not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and other trail-related projects.

3. Open Space Acquisition refers to the distribution of levy proceeds to King County and King County cities for the acquisition of open space lands, natural areas, resource or ecological lands and urban green spaces", in accordance with the acquisition guidelines in Attachment A of the proposed ordinance. Climate resilience investments will include stormwater park pilot projects; and establish a climate response fund intended to support community resilience. Stewardship investments will support early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition, including site improvements; improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions; natural resource and site management; and landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance. Fish Passage projects are also funded through REET funding.

4. Active Recreation Repair and Renovation refers to "major maintenance repair, replacement and improvement of existing facilities" and includes major maintenance programs that keep parks clean, safe, and open such as, rehabilitation of ballfields, sports courts, backcountry trails, drainage infrastructure, restrooms, picnic shelters, signage, and other infrastructure on parks property (e.g., Sound Transit, Washington State Department of Transportation). Projects identified by Park users associated with existing facilities. These programs are expected to be funded through Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center.

5. Funding for the three (3) Levy Grant Programs over the six years is as follows:
\$30M - Healthy Community and Parks Fund (formerly Targeted Equity Grants); \$30M – Capital Projects & distributed in accordance with Attachment B of the proposed ordinance.

\$11M is allocated to the Community Partnerships and Grants (CPG) program. CPG refers to "the program oriented groups, sports associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of facility or program in King County and King County cities for public benefit" (the county shall retain a similar distribution of levy proceeds).

6. Funding for new park development and improvements includes Skyway Park Community Center that requires additional funding for construction (approximately \$20M) will be needed and is expected to be funded with levy proceeds. Additional funding for Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion is for design and construction at South County Ballfield.

to the Parks Capital Portfolio

2029 Estimated	2030 Estimated	2031 Estimated	2026-2031 Total
125,000,000	131,000,000	136,000,000	733,000,000
\$125,000,000	\$131,000,000	\$136,000,000	\$733,000,000
31,000,000	32,000,000	34,000,000	179,000,000
37,000,000	39,000,000	41,000,000	217,000,000
35,000,000	35,000,000	37,000,000	199,000,000
14,500,000	14,500,000	14,500,000	87,000,000
9,000,000	9,000,000	10,000,000	51,000,000
\$126,500,000	\$129,500,000	\$136,500,000	\$733,000,000

ible uses. This document illustrates the allocation of the eligible projects is subject to change based on factors such as project conditions, emergent needs, and strategic goals.

l. Proposed projects and estimated funding include: Eastside Rail Green River Trail Extension North (\$6M), as well as investments to and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, An additional \$20M will fund emergent needs on the regional trail l intersection improvements.

ies for the "acquisition, conservation and stewardship of additional with the open space, natural lands and urban green space support Parks' forest stewardship program and projects; potential response projects and programming as identified. Environmental n; structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation anagement planning; multi-benefit river corridor projects; and nded and expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax

ovement of parks system infrastructure". Proposed program areas olay areas, park buildings, existing synthetic turf fields, pools, docks, s, as well as coordination with other agencies who have A portion of this funding is also intended to respond to emergent supplemented with REET funding. This includes \$22M for

↳ Acquisitions; and \$46M – Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants to be

m through which King County provides monies to recreation-
n of developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation
all amount to be used for expenditures related to administration and

will support design, construction, and initial operational costs.
with a combination of REET and bond financing. Funding allocated
ields in Federal Way.

Financial Plan
Parks and Recreation Operating Fund/000

Category	2023-2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted
Beginning Fund Balance	19,355,065	28,096,719
Revenues		
King County Parks Levy Proceeds	115,159,287	68,791,754
Federal Shared Revenues	518,185	-
Business Revenue	13,436,272	7,909,683
Parks Open Space and Trails Levy Revenue	-	1,226,878
Parks Open Space and Zoo Levy Revenue	-	29,893
Interest Earnings and Other Miscellaneous	588,709	96,000
Total Revenues	129,702,453	78,054,208
Expenditures		
Parks Operations & Maintenance	124,772,839	84,327,582
Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (formerly TEG)	6,932,741	1,941,243
WSU Cooperative / 4-H	289,427	151,000
King County Search and Rescue	240,738	200,000
Total Expenditures	132,235,745	86,619,825
Estimated Underexpenditures		
Other Fund Transactions		
Total Other Fund Transactions		
Ending Fund Balance	16,821,773	19,531,102
Reserves		
Cash Flow Reserve	16,529,468	5,413,739
Rainy Day Reserves		
Targeted Equity Grants Carry Forward	2,449,871	
Total Reserves	18,979,339	5,413,739
Reserve Shortfall	-	-
Ending Undesignated Fund Balance	-	14,117,363

Financial Plan Notes

2023-2024 Actuals reflects preliminary year-end data for 2024 as reported in the GL-10 report 2/5/2025.

Revenues Notes:

- The 2020-2025 King County Parks Levy expires at the end of 2025. Revenue estimates beyond 2025 are based on current assumptions.
- Business revenue includes user fees and entrepreneurial efforts to support the park system and reduce the levy by three percent annually.

- Miscellaneous revenue includes interest earnings, delinquent levy proceeds from the previous levy term, 2031 has been proposed at 1% for expenditures related to administration and distribution of levy proceeds

Expenditure Notes:

- Parks will continue to contribute \$151,000 funding, on a reimbursement basis, to the Washington State L in King County and \$200,000 funding on a reimbursement basis, to King County Search and Rescue Associ

Reserve Notes (see next page):

- The Cash Flow Reserve is set to three-months of budgeted expenditures, in compliance with Motion 1376 collected in the second quarter of each year. This reserve stabilizes the fund's cash balance from dipping t October.
- The Rainy Day Reserve is set to 90 days of expenditures at the end of the levy period, in compliance with M Management Policy.

This plan was updated by Andrea V. Smith February 5, 2025 and Elka Peterson Horner on February 10, 2025

001451

2026-2027 Projected	2028-2029 Projected	2030-2031 Projected
8,914,050	23,095,331	30,308,221
164,355,080	184,353,338	204,767,098
-	-	-
8,146,973	8,391,383	8,643,124
-	-	-
-	-	-
100,800	105,840	111,132
172,602,853	192,850,561	213,521,354
147,919,572	175,135,671	194,528,743
10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
302,000	302,000	302,000
200,000	200,000	200,000
158,421,572	185,637,671	205,030,743
-	-	-
23,095,331	30,308,221	38,798,832
19,802,697	23,204,709	25,628,843
		25,277,763
3,000,000	4,500,000	1,500,000
22,802,697	27,704,709	52,406,606
-	-	-
292,635	2,603,512	-

ased on a 24.43 cent proposed levy renewal option.

he burden on taxpayers. Starting in 2026, the target is to grow by

and a levy administration fee. A levy administration fee for 2026-
i).

University Cooperative Extension in order to operate the 4-H program
ation for its operations.

i4, because the main revenue for this fund is a property tax which is
below zero before the property tax payments are made in April and

4otion 13764 and the King County Comprehensive Financial













5.

2026
-2031

KING COUNTY PARKS LEVY



LEGEND

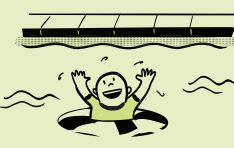
-  Backcountry Trail + Forestry
-  Bridge & Trestle
-  Existing Regional Trail
-  Fish Passage
-  Forestry
-  Infrastructure Rehab
-  Regional Trail Improvement
-  Play Area
-  Site with Major Capital Investment
-  Synthetic Turf Replacement
-  Seattle Aquarium & Waterfront Park
-  Woodland Park Zoo

 King County
PARKS
Your Big Backyard

For visualization purposes only—locations and details are approximate.



\$119M in pass-through funds to cities, towns, and parks districts
BFM Meeting Materials



\$46M for Aquatic Facilities Grants



\$30M for Healthy Communities and Parks Fund Grant
Page 124



\$30M for City Capital and Open Space Grant

\$11M in Community Partnerships and Grant Program



\$12M in ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation
March 12, 2025





King County

MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2024

TO: All Councilmembers
All Council Staff

FM: Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

RE: Deadlines for Adoption of Ballot Measures in 2025

The deadlines for adoption of ballot measures for 2025 elections are in the table below. This schedule is predicated on the Council meeting as set out in the current Council Rule 4 (KCC 1.24.035), including first 4 Tuesdays a month as well as no Council meetings being held during the December 2024 recess (Dec. 11, 2024, through Jan. 2, 2025), the second week of April 2025 (April 7-11), or in the first two weeks of August 2025 (Aug. 4-15)

2025 Election Dates

	<u>2/11¹</u>	<u>4/22¹</u>	<u>8/5²</u>	<u>11/4³</u>
Last regular council meeting with maximum processing time (25 days)	11/12/24	1/21/25	4/1/25	7/8/25
Last regular council meeting with minimum processing time (10 days)	12/3/24 ⁴	2/11/25 ⁴	4/22/25 ⁴	7/22/25
Last regular council meeting to pass as emergency	12/10/24	2/18/25	4/22/25	7/23/25
Last special council meeting to pass as emergency	12/13/24	2/21/25	5/2/25	8/5/25
Election Division deadline for receiving effective ordinance	12/13/24	2/21/25	5/2/25	8/5/25

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, which in 2025 is May 9, immediately before the first day of regular candidate filing, which in 2025 is May 12, 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, which in 2025 is August 5. RCW 29A.04.321.

4. **This would require that the adopted ordinance be signed by the Chair, Clerk and Executive on the day of the meeting.**

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.



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 12

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2025-0077.1

Sponsors Dembowski

1 A MOTION related to a property tax levy for 2026 through
2 2031 for the purpose of: maintaining and operating King
3 County's open space system; improving parks, recreation,
4 access, and mobility in the King County open space system
5 by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional
6 trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by
7 metropolitan parks districts, towns, and cities in King
8 County; funding environmental education, maintenance,
9 and conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo;
10 funding environmental education, maintenance and
11 conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding
12 development, maintenance, and programming for Seattle
13 Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at
14 publicly owned pools, for all King County residents.

15 WHEREAS, King County owns and operates a system of regional and local parks
16 and trails that consists of thirty-two thousand acres of parklands and more than one
17 hundred eighty-five miles of regional trails, and

18 WHEREAS, the county provides regional trails, regional recreational facilities,
19 regional natural areas, regional parks, and local parks in unincorporated areas, which are
20 parts of King County's "open space system," and

21 WHEREAS, a robust open space system contributes to a high quality of life, and

22 WHEREAS, the open space system provides: physical, social, and mental health
23 benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation and tourism; economic
24 growth for private businesses that must attract and retain skilled workers; increased
25 climate resilience; environmental benefits like clean water and healthy habitat; and
26 cultural resource protection through open space conservation, and

27 WHEREAS, for the benefit of all King County residents, in February 2025, the
28 executive transmitted to the council Proposed Ordinance 2025-0070, which would submit
29 to the qualified electors of King County a property tax levy on an August 2025 special
30 election ballot for the purpose of: maintaining and operating King County's open space
31 system; improving parks, recreation, access, and mobility in the King County open space
32 system by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional trails; improving parks and
33 trails in and acquiring lands by metropolitan parks districts, towns, and cities in King
34 County; funding environmental education, maintenance, and conservation programs at
35 the Woodland Park Zoo; funding environmental education, maintenance, and
36 conservation programs at the Seattle Aquarium; funding development, maintenance, and
37 programming for Seattle Waterfront park; and funding for capital improvements at
38 publicly owned pools;

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

40 A. It is the intent of the council that levy proceeds be used for the operations,
41 projects, and programs and in such allocations, as provided in Attachment A to this
42 motion.

43 B. The moneys allocated to operations, projects, and programs listed in
44 Attachment A to this motion may be modified when deemed advisable or necessary in the
45 judgment of the council. Implementation or completion of any project or program listed
46 in Attachment A to this motion will not be required if the council determines that it has
47 become inadvisable or impractical. The council will make such a determination through
48 action on appropriations ordinances.

49 C. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks report
50 to the council annually by September 30 of each year, beginning in 2026, if it anticipates
51 requesting a reallocation of moneys for projects or programs listed in Attachment A to
52 this motion in the following year. The report should be electronically filed with the clerk
53 of the council, who will retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all

54 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the chief policy officer. The last report
55 should be filed by September 30, 2031.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Girmay Zahilay, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: A. Parks Levy Executive-proposed Allocation Plan

Attachment A - Parks Levy Executive-proposed Allocation Plan

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)	
Election Costs	\$1,500,000
Additional Assumed Costs	\$18,000,000
Fixed income exemption ¹	\$3,000,000
1% undercollection assumption	\$15,000,000
Woodland Park Zoo	\$42,000,000
Seattle Aquarium	\$15,000,000
Seattle Waterfront²	\$9,000,000
Memorial Stadium³	\$2,500,000
Pools	\$22,000,000
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$22,000,000
Grants and Community Partnerships	\$117,000,000
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (formerly named Targeted Equity Grants)	\$30,000,000
Cities - Capital Projects & Acquisitions	\$30,000,000
Aquatic Facilities Capital Grants	\$46,000,000
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$11,000,000
King County Cities, Towns, and Park Districts	\$119,000,000
King County Operations and Maintenance⁴	\$550,600,000
Operations, Maintenance, Program Delivery and Internal Supports	\$517,000,000
Parks Patrol Expansion	\$4,300,000
Safety Program Expansion	\$3,200,000
Asset Management Program	\$4,100,000
Land Use Stewardship and Encroachment Program	\$10,400,000
Youth Conservation Corps Program Expansion	\$4,800,000
Jobs & Housing Program	\$5,000,000
Tribal, Indigenous, & Historic Interpretive Program	\$1,800,000
Climate Resilience, Conservation and Stewardship	\$217,500,000
King County Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$96,000,000
Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)	\$20,000,000
Fish Passage Program ⁵	\$10,000,000
Climate Resilience ⁶	\$33,000,000
Environmental Stewardship ⁷	\$58,500,000
Regional and Other Public Trails System⁸	\$179,000,000
Eastrail	\$65,000,000
Lake to Sound Trail	\$55,000,000
Green River Trail Extension - North	\$6,000,000
Interurban Trail South investments	\$8,000,000
Soos Creek Trail	\$7,000,000
Other New Regional Trails ⁹	\$38,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements¹¹	\$51,000,000
New Park Development and Improvements	
Dog Parks	\$3,000,000

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

<i>Lakeland Park North</i>	\$10,000,000
<i>Skyway Park Planning and Community Center</i>	\$13,000,000
<i>Backcountry Trails (new trails)</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>Ballfield and Sports Courts (new facilities)</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion</i>	\$19,000,000

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other Park Repair and Renovation	\$177,000,000
Major Maintenance Existing Infrastructure¹⁰	
<i>General infrastructure</i>	\$23,000,000
<i>Playground rehabilitation</i>	\$7,000,000
<i>Park amenities rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Parks building system rehabilitation</i>	\$8,000,000
<i>Ballfield synthetic turf replacement</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Pools, water access, docks rehabilitation</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>Ballfields and sports court rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Backcountry Trail rehabilitation</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Drainage infrastructure rehabilitation</i>	\$12,000,000
<i>Other agency projects (Sound Transit, WSDOT, KC Roads, etc.)</i>	\$8,000,000
ADA and Accessibility Rehabilitation	\$12,000,000
Regional Trails Rehabilitation¹²	\$55,000,000
Marymoor Park Rehabilitation¹³	\$16,000,000
Sunset Park Renovation and Repair	\$4,000,000

1. As authorized by RCW 84.36.381.

2. New levy investment that support accessibility for traditionally underserved areas and communities, including people with disabilities; maintenance and operations of facilities and grounds; offering free arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programming to all visitors; and inclusive community partnerships.

3. This allocation will fund the renovation of the Memorial Stadium at Seattle Center. This transformative project will be led by Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle, providing an improved multi-purpose venue for local and regional sports and events.

4. Of this allocation, 93% funds the day-to-day operational needs to maintain the park system (personnel, supplies, services, fleet, equipment, administrative costs, etc.). \$2.4M shall be allocated for the King County Fair, Washington State University 4-H Program, and King County Search and Rescue operations. Additional funding to be allocated for critical programs and services to manage the growing parks system and enhance safety and belonging for park users. These programs include the expansion of the service level agreement with King County Sheriff's Office to fund the Parks Patrol Program; the expansion of the Parks Safety Program for ongoing implementation of safety related elements within the park system, i.e., regulatory compliance and trainings for onsite staff; and expansion of the Youth Conservation Corps summer internship program.

New investments include:

- Funding for the continuity of the Jobs and Housing Program due to sunseting of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (CLFR) funding in 2024.
- Funding for the enforcement of Parks Land Use Guidelines on park lands and regional trail segments to protect capital investments, open space acquisitions, and new properties and easements in support of environmental preservation.
- Funding to support work with Tribes, indigenous organizations, and historic preservation organizations to strengthen government-to-government relationships, and improve conservation and recreational planning.

5. The Fish Passage Program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

6. Climate resilience investments will support Parks' forest stewardship program and projects; potential stormwater park pilot projects; and establish a climate response fund intended to support community response projects and programming as identified.

Parks Levy Renewal Proposed Allocation Plan (2026-2031)

7. Environmental stewardship investments will support early actions to safeguard sites for public use following acquisition; structure demolitions to deliver full ecological and recreation benefits; improvements to existing maintenance facilities and acquisitions; natural resource and site management planning; multi-benefit river corridor projects; and landscaping/restoration/mitigation site monitoring and maintenance.

8. This allocation provides funding for Regional and Other Public Trails System including:

- Construction of two additional segments of Lake to Sound Trail and the completion of the design to connect Lake to Sound Trail to SeaTac Airport.
- Construction of two additional segments of Eastrail, an Eastrail connection to Coulon Park, paves Central Wilburton segment, and completes design on Eastrail to Lake to Sound Trail connection.
- Construction of the Green River Trail North to Seattle.
- Complete full rehabilitation of the Interurban Trail South.
- Construction of Soos Creek Trail Segment 5a and planning for future Soos Creek Trail segments.

9. Of this allocation, \$18M will fund a combination of planning, acquisitions, and preliminary design for potential future trail segments and connections including, but not limited to, Green River Trail, Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green to Cedar Trail, and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

\$20M of this funding will be used for emergent needs on the regional trail system including, but not limited to, surface improvements, lighting, access control improvements, and intersection improvements.

10. Capital major maintenance programs keep parks clean, safe, and open and include, but are not limited to: rehabilitation of play areas, park buildings, existing synthetic turf fields, pools, docks, ballfields, sports courts, backcountry trails, drainage infrastructure, restrooms, picnic shelters, signage, as well as coordination with other agencies who have infrastructure on parks property (e.g., Sound Transit, WSDOT). A portion of this funding is also intended to respond to emergent projects identified by Park users associated with existing facilities. These programs are expected supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.

11. Funding for new park development and improvements includes Skyway Park Community Center that will support design, construction, and initial operational costs. Additional funding for construction (approximately \$20M) will be needed and is expected to be funded with a combination of Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and bond financing. Funding allocated for Natural Grass to Synthetic Turf Field Conversion is for design and construction at South County Ballfields in Federal Way.

12. This program keeps the existing regional trail system clean, safe, and open and includes, but is not limited to, repair/replacement of bridges and trestles, trail surface repairs/rehabilitation, safety updates, repairs to meet current guidelines and standards, and landscaping/mitigation maintenance and monitoring.

13. This allocation will fund rehabilitation of infrastructure and facilities throughout Marymoor Park to keep the park clean, safe, and open. It also includes funding for improvements to address growing user demand including, but not limited to, signage, utilities, pedestrian facilities, buildings, roadways, velodrome rehabilitation, and concert venue updates. This program is expected to be supplemented with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funding.