



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Motion 15559

**Proposed No. 2019-0438.1**

**Sponsors Dunn**

1           A MOTION providing direction to the conservation futures  
2           advisory committee on priorities for allocating conservation  
3           futures tax levy funds.

4           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.010 declares that it is in the best interest of the state to  
5 maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space  
6 lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops and to ensure the use and  
7 enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being  
8 of the state and its citizens, and

9           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.210 authorizes the county to acquire property rights "to  
10 protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or other otherwise  
11 conserve, selected open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land," and

12           WHEREAS, property right acquired under this authorization are defined as  
13 conservation futures, and

14           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.230 authorizes the use of a property tax levy to fund the  
15 acquisition of conservation futures and the maintenance and operation of acquired  
16 properties, and

17           WHEREAS, RCW 84.34.240 authorizes counties to establish a special  
18 conservation futures fund to which the levy proceeds are credited, and

19           WHEREAS, King County has established a conservation futures tax levy and

20 fund, and

21 WHEREAS, King County is required to establish a process to help ensure, over  
22 time, that the distribution of the tax levy is throughout the county, and

23 WHEREAS, K.C.C. chapter 26.12 establishes an annual process for distribution  
24 of the tax levy to acquire open space lands, including green spaces, greenbelts, wildlife  
25 habitat and trail rights-of-way, and

26 WHEREAS, the process includes an advisory committee that makes project and  
27 funding allocation recommendations for each project to the executive, and

28 WHEREAS, the executive makes project and funding recommendations as part of  
29 the budget process, and

30 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.010 allows the council to adopt a motion providing  
31 direction to the conservation futures advisory committee on priorities for evaluating  
32 project applications, and

33 WHEREAS, K.C.C. 26.12.025 establishes criteria for conservation futures project  
34 selection, which provides: "wildlife habitat or rare plant reserve; salmon habitat and  
35 aquatic resources; scenic resources; community separator; historic or cultural resources;  
36 urban passive-use natural area or greenbelt; park, open space or natural corridor addition;  
37 and passive recreation opportunity in an area with unmet needs; and projects that seek to  
38 redress historic disparities in access to or health benefits of open space in opportunity areas.

39 Additional criteria may include: educational or interpretive opportunity; impact to open  
40 space resources; feasibility, including ownership complexity, a willing seller or sellers or  
41 community support; partnerships; if the property identified in an adopted comprehensive  
42 plan, park open space, habitat, cultural resource or community plan; transfer of

43 development rights participation; stewardship and maintenance; regional significance;  
44 adopted financial policies; and any other criteria consistent with chapter 84.34 RCW," and  
45 Motion 15513 gives additional detail on project eligibility criteria, and

46 WHEREAS, Soos Creek park is located within a wildlife habitat network corridor  
47 that provides habitat for over one hundred twenty bird species, including the red tailed  
48 hawk and the great blue heron, and other animals such as black bears, cougars, bobcats,  
49 red foxes and coyotes, and

50 WHEREAS, Soos Creek park serves as a community separator, provides passive  
51 recreational opportunities, and provides salmon habitat and aquatic resources, and

52 WHEREAS, addition of forested open space properties adjacent to Soos Creek  
53 park would add to the natural corridor, would protect wildlife habitat, would bolster the  
54 park's function as a community separator and would provide greater access to the park for  
55 residents living on its east side, and

56 WHEREAS, the Spring Lake-Lake Desire park-McGarvey park open space  
57 complex consists of over nine hundred twenty five acres of contiguous protected open  
58 space in an area that contains over five miles of recreational trails, and

59 WHEREAS, the Spring Lake-Lake Desire park-McGarvey park open space  
60 complex serves as a community separator and provides salmon habitat and aquatic  
61 resources, as well as habitat for deer, coyotes, river otters and bears, and

62 WHEREAS, addition of open space properties to the Spring Lake-Lake Desire  
63 park-McGarvey park open space complex would protect wildlife habitat and bolster the  
64 complex's function as a community separator, and

65 WHEREAS, use of conservation future tax levy funds for purchase of property

66 rights in the area of the Soos Creek park and the Spring Lake-Lake Desire park-  
67 McGarvey park open space complex for wildlife habitat, aquatic resources, a community  
68 separator, or addition to an existing open space area meets the criteria in K.C.C.  
69 26.12.025,

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

71 A. The council establishes as a priority for the conservation futures advisory  
72 committee's consideration during the annual project selection and funding  
73 recommendation process, one or more projects that includes the purchase or property  
74 rights for the purpose of wildlife habitat, aquatic resources, community separator function  
75 or open space system addition in or near Soos creek park, including parcel numbers  
76 3423059062 and 3323059034, and the Spring Lake-Lake Desire park-McGarvey park  
77 open space complex, including parcel number 2523059086, in the unincorporated  
78 Fairwood community, to preserve the existing open space.

79 B. The department of natural resources and parks, water and land resources  
80 division, is requested to work with landowners and jurisdictions in which properties  
81 reflecting this priority is located, in submitting project proposals that meet this priority, as

82 part of the 2020 conservation futures tax levy funding selection process provided for in

83 K.C.C. 26.12.010.

84

Motion 15559 was introduced on 10/16/2019 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/11/2019, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci



KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None