



King County

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KING COUNTY

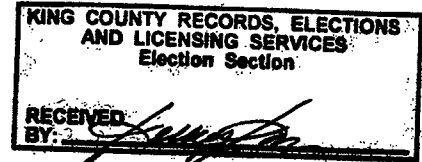
Signature Report

May 11, 2007

Ordinance 15759

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Operating Levy



Proposed No. 2007-0224.3

Sponsors Phillips, Ferguson and Constantine

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 21, 2007, 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 \$0.050 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in the
8 first year with annual increases in the levy amount by the
9 percentage change in the consumer price index in years two
10 through six, for the purpose of providing funds to enable
11 the continued and increased operation and maintenance
12 supporting King County's regional and rural parks and
13 recreation facilities and programs, and increased
14 accessibility for the disabled; providing for the
15 resubmission of the proposition to the voters at the special
16 election held on November 6, 2007, should this measure be

17 rejected by the voters at the August 21,2007, election; and
18 providing for other related matters.

19

20 **SECTION 1. Findings.**

21 A. King County owns and operates a park system with over twenty-five thousand
22 acres of regional parks and open spaces and over one hundred seventy-five miles of
23 regional trails. In addition, the county is the provider of local parks in the rural area and
24 is the transitional provider of local parks in the urban unincorporated areas. County parks
25 and open spaces include Marymoor park, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland park, the
26 King County Aquatic Center and portions of the Burke-Gilman trail.

27 B. Since 2003, on recommendation of the Metropolitan Parks Task Force and
28 direction from the county executive and county council, the parks and recreation division
29 has focused on managing a system of regional parks, open spaces and trails and a limited
30 set of regional active recreation assets.

31 C. Consistent with its role as a regional and local rural service provider under
32 Countywide Planning Policies and the state growth management act, the county has
33 divested itself of local parks and facilities in urban unincorporated areas as these areas
34 incorporate or annex to cities.

35 D. Since 2003, the county has emphasized generating revenue from park system
36 assets. Over twenty percent of annual parks and recreation operating revenue is now
37 generated from user fees and entrepreneurial efforts.

38 E. Nearly sixty percent of the operating budget for parks and recreation is
39 directly provided by a voter-approved levy.

40 F. The current parks levy was recommended by the Metropolitan Parks Task
41 Force before being referred to voters by the metropolitan King County council. The levy
42 was approved by fifty-seven percent of the voters at a special election in May 2003.

43 G. The current parks levy was initially authorized at a maximum rate of \$0.049
44 per one thousand dollars of assessed value. Collection began in 2004, and will be
45 completed at the end of 2007. Levy proceeds may only be applied to the operating costs
46 of regional parks, local rural parks, the community partnership grants program, and costs
47 associated with these purposes.

48 H. As specified under ordinance 14586, a citizen oversight committee was
49 established. The July 2006 report of the citizen oversight committee concluded that the
50 county complied with all levy requirements in 2004 and 2005.

51 I. The King County executive created the parks futures task force in November
52 2006 to recommend a funding plan for the current park system and to examine what steps
53 should be taken, if any, regarding future park system acquisitions. The task force is
54 comprised of nineteen individuals representing business, nonprofit and environmental
55 groups. It began meeting in November 2006 and concluded its work in March 2007,
56 receiving information from the county, various cities and stakeholders.

57 J. The task force issued a report in March 2007 recommending that the county
58 place two companion ballots before the voters at the August primary election. The first
59 recommendation was to renew the parks levy with a \$0.07, six-year, inflation adjusted
60 property tax lid lift. The second recommendation was for a new \$0.05, six-year, inflation
61 adjusted property tax lid lift to expand park and recreation opportunities through the
62 acquisition of open space and regional trails, and increased environmental education and

63 conservation programs and capital improvements at Woodland Park Zoo. The consumer
64 price index would be used to determine annual inflation.

65 K. Under state law, an inflation adjusted levy lid lift may be for a maximum term
66 of six years, and levy funds may not supplant other funds.

67 L. The task force recommended that the \$0.07 renewal levy be used to sustain
68 and enhance current levels of operations and maintenance of county regional and rural
69 parks, to provide up to \$300,000 annually for the recreation grant programs, and support
70 capital funding for the parks division.

71 M. King County has identified an acquisition and development strategy to
72 complete the three-hundred-mile regional trails system, which includes the Burke-
73 Gilman, Sammamish River, Green River and East Lake Sammamish trails. The strategy
74 identifies priority acquisitions and development based on criteria such as key connectors
75 or missing links, proximity to urban populations, pursuit of acquisitions which could be
76 lost to development, and partnerships with other agencies.

77 N. King County has a goal of improving water quality in the region by acquiring
78 and preserving open space and natural areas within watersheds.

79 O. The task force recommended that three cents of the five-cent acquisition levy
80 be allocated to King County for protecting and acquiring key open space and natural
81 lands as well as acquiring and developing critical trail connections as identified in the
82 division's Regional Trail System Plan.

83 P. The task force recommended that open space and natural lands acquisitions be
84 made that will protect additional lands, shorelines, lakes, streams and water quality
85 within watersheds, and called on the county to ensure appropriate public access as part of

86 any such acquisitions. The task force noted that both the purchase of development rights
87 and fee title may be appropriate.

88 Q. Regional trail expenditures recommended by the task force include acquisition
89 of remaining planned regional trail corridors and development of key urban regional trail
90 connections including the East Lake Sammamish trail, the Sammamish River trail
91 connection to East Lake Sammamish trail and the Soos Creek trail.

92 R. The task force recommended that one cent of the five-cent acquisition levy
93 proceeds be distributed to cities for acquisition and development of open space and
94 natural lands and city trail projects that support connections to the regional trail system,
95 defined to include both county regional trails and city trails that are regional in nature,
96 and may specifically include local trails in underserved areas linking to city or county
97 trails that connect to regional trails. Any such distributions would be contingent upon an
98 equal or greater contribution of matching funds from the recipient city for the same
99 project.

100 S. The task force recommended that city funding requests be made through the
101 Conservation Futures Tax Citizen Oversight Committee, whose mission should be
102 expanded to review applications for this purpose.

103 T. The task force recommended that one cent of the five-cent acquisition levy be
104 used for a one-time investment in environmental education and conservation programs
105 and capital improvements at Woodland Park Zoo.

106 U. There are approximately two hundred sixty thousand disabled citizens in King
107 County, who are entitled to access to parks and recreational opportunities.

108 **SECTION 2. Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this
109 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

110 A. "Levy" means the portion of the regular property tax levy, for the specific
111 purpose and term provided in this ordinance and authorized by the electorate in
112 accordance with state law.

113 B. "Levy proceeds" means the principal amount of funds raised by the levy, any
114 interest earnings on the funds and the proceeds of any interim financing following
115 authorization of the levy.

116 C. "Limit factor" means the ratio of the most recent September Consumer Price
117 Index to the immediately previous September Consumer Price Index (final published
118 CPI-W All City Average, as calculated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or
119 its successor) expressed as a multiple of one hundred percent to achieve the result of one
120 hundred percent plus inflation.

121 D. "Recreation grant programs" means the community partnership grant program
122 through which King County provides funds to recreation-oriented user groups, sports
123 associations and community-based organizations to undertake any combination of
124 developing, operating or maintaining a public park or recreation facility or program for
125 the public benefit.

126 E. "Regional parks" means:

127 1. Those parks, facilities, or properties designated in Attachment A to this
128 ordinance as regional trails, resource and ecological lands, regional active facilities or
129 regional passive parks; and

130 2. Any other parks, facilities or properties, including, without limitation, new
131 acquisitions, that are designated as regional parks by the parks and recreation division
132 based on their regional use and that are similar in character and nature to the regional
133 parks and recreation facilities identified in Attachment A to this ordinance.

134 F. "Rural parks" means:

135 1. Those parks facilities or properties designated in attachment A to this
136 ordinance as rural parks and facilities; and

137 2. Any other parks, facilities or properties, including, without limitation, new
138 acquisitions, that are designated as rural parks by the parks and recreation division based
139 on their similar character and nature to those rural parks and recreation facilities
140 identified in Attachment A to this ordinance.

141 **SECTION 3. Levy submittal to voters.** To provide necessary funds for the park
142 and recreation purposes identified in section 5 of this ordinance, the county council shall
143 submit to the qualified electors of the county a proposition authorizing a regular property
144 tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for six
145 consecutive years, with collection commencing in 2008, at a rate not to exceed \$0.050
146 one thousand dollars of assessed value. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050, this levy
147 shall be a regular property tax levy subject to the limit factor.

148 **SECTION 4. Deposit of levy proceeds.** The levy proceeds shall be deposited in
149 a levy subfund of the parks and recreation fund, or its successor.

150 **SECTION 5. Eligible expenditures.** If approved by the qualified electors of the
151 county, all levy proceeds shall be used for the continued and increased operations and
152 maintenance of King County's regional and rural parks, program improvements to

Ordinance 15759

153 provide increased accessibility for the disabled and to provide up to \$300,000 annually
154 for recreation grant programs. Eligible expenditures shall include all costs and charges to
155 the parks and recreation division or the county associated with or attributable to the
156 purposes listed in this section.

157 **SECTION 6. Call for special election.** In accordance with RCW 29A.04.321, a
158 special election is called for August 21, 2007, to consider a proposition authorizing a
159 regular property tax levy for the purposes described in this ordinance. The manager of
160 the records, elections and licensing services division shall cause notice to be given of this
161 ordinance in accordance with the state constitution and general law and to submit to the
162 qualified electors of the county, at the said special county election, the proposition
163 hereinafter set forth. The clerk of the council shall certify that proposition to the manager
164 of the records, elections and licensing services division, in substantially the following
165 form:

166 **PROPOSITION 1:** The King County Council has passed Ordinance X
167 concerning funding for rural and regional parks, open space and trails. This proposition
168 would replace an expiring levy and fund continued and increased maintenance,
169 operations and disabled accessibility at King County's rural and regional parks (like
170 Marymoor; Cougar Mountain; portions of Burke Gilman Trail). It would authorize King
171 County to levy an additional regular property tax of \$0.050 cents per \$1,000 of assessed
172 valuation for collection in 2008 and authorize annual increases by the percentage increase
173 in the consumer price index for each of the five succeeding years, as allowed by chapter
174 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be:
175 Approved? ___

176 Rejected? __

177 **SECTION 7. County parks citizen oversight board established.** If the
178 qualified electors of King County approve the proposition set forth in section 6 of this
179 ordinance, a county parks citizen oversight board shall be appointed by the county
180 executive to review the expenditure of levy proceeds and make policy recommendations
181 to the county executive and county council regarding future expenditures. In the event
182 that the qualified electors of King County approve both the proposition set forth in
183 section 6 of this ordinance and the proposition set forth in Ordinance ----- (Proposed
184 Ordinance 2007-0225), Section 7, then the council may, at its discretion, nominate and
185 confirm the same members to both boards or combine the board functions into one board.
186 The board shall consist of nine members. Each councilmember shall nominate a
187 candidate for the board from the councilmember's district. If the executive does not
188 appoint a person who has been nominated by a councilmember, the executive must
189 request that the councilmember nominate another candidate for appointment. Board
190 members shall be confirmed by the council. Members shall be residents of King County.
191 The chair of the council shall designate one additional person to participate in board
192 discussion, but the person shall neither vote nor be a member of the board. On or before
193 May 30 of each year beginning in 2009, the board shall review and make a written report
194 to the King County executive and the King County council on the expenditure of all levy
195 proceeds and any policy recommendations regarding levy proceeds. Ten copies of each
196 written report shall be filed with the clerk of the council, for distribution to all
197 councilmembers. The parks and recreation division shall provide the board with all

198 reports on division activities that the division transmits to the King County council in
199 accordance with K.C.C. 7.08.090. The board expires June 30, 2014.

200 **SECTION 8. Contingent resubmission to the voters at the November 6, 2007,**
201 **election and call for special election.** The proposition contained in section 6 of this
202 ordinance shall be placed on the November 6, 2007, special election ballot by the King
203 County manager of records, elections and licensing services if the proposition is not
204 approved by the voters at the election held on August 21, 2007. In accordance with RCW
205 29A.04.321, and only if the proposition is not approved by the voters at the election held
206 on August 21, 2007, a special election is hereby called for November 6, 2007, for the
207 purpose presenting the proposition contained in section 6 for the voters approval or
208 rejection.

209 **SECTION 9.** Pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280, the following individuals are
210 appointed to serve on the voters' pamphlet committees, each committee to write a
211 statement for or against the proposed parks renewal levy ballot measure:

- | 212 | FOR | AGAINST |
|-----|----------|----------|
| 213 | 1. _____ | 1. _____ |
| 214 | 2. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 215 | 3. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 216 | 4. _____ | 4. _____ |

217 **SECTION 10. Ratification.** Certification of the proposition by the clerk of the
218 county council to the manager of the records, elections and licensing services division in
219 accordance with law before the election on August 21, 2007, and any other act consistent

Ordinance 15759

220 with the authority and before the effective date of this ordinance are hereby ratified and
221 confirmed.

07 MAY 22 AM 11: 56

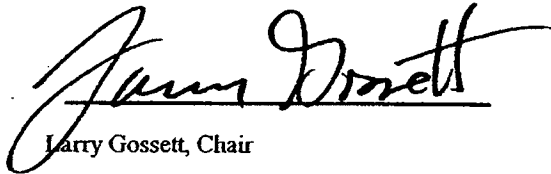
222 SECTION 11. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application
223 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
224 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

225

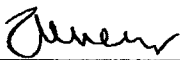
Ordinance 15759 was introduced on 4/2/2007 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 5/7/2007, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr.
Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 0

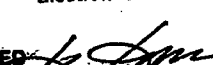
KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Gossett, Chair

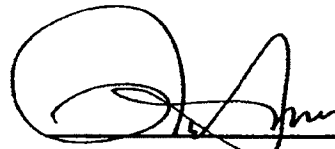
ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

KING COUNTY CLERK'S ELECTIONS
AND LICENSING SERVICES
Election Section
RECEIVED BY: 

APPROVED this 17 day of May, 2007.


Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments A. List of King County Parks Facilities--March 2007

RECEIVED
2007 MAY 18 PM 1:13
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachment A to Operating Ordinance

List of King County Parks Facilities

March 2007

Regional Trails

North

Burke Gilman Trail (1)

East

East Lake Sammamish Trail (3)

Klahanie Trail (3)

Redmond Watershed Trail (3)

Snoqualmie Valley Trail (3)

East Plateau Trail (3)

Preston Snoqualmie Trail (3)

Sammamish River Trail (1, 3)

West Lake Sammamish Trail (3)

South

Cedar River Trail (9)

Enumclaw Plateau Trail (9)

Green River to Cedar River Trail (9)

Maple Valley Lake Wilderness Trail (9)

Cedar River to Lake Sammamish Trail (3, 9)

Green River Trail (5, 7)

Lake Youngs Trail and Connector Trail (9)

Soos Creek Trail (9)

Regional Active Facilities

North

Big Finn Hill (6)

East

Marymoor Park (3)

Tolt River John McDonald Park (3)

South

Petrovitsky Park (9)

King County Aquatic Center (7)

Regional Passive Parks

East

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park (9)
 Duthie Hill Park (3)
 Grand Ridge Park (3)
 Preston/Mitchell Hill Corridor (3)
 Rattlesnake Ridge (shared with State) (3)
 Soaring Eagle Park (3)
 Squak Mountain/Squak/Tiger Corridor (9)
 Three Forks Natural Area (3)

South

Maury Island Marine Park (8)
 McGarvey Park Open Space (9)
 Spring Lake/Lake Desire Corridor (9)

Rural Parks and Facilities

North

Cottage Lake Park (3)
 Cottage Lake Pool (3)
 Northshore Little League Ballfield (3)
 Sixty Acres North Park (3)

East

Canyon Creek Natural Area (3)
 Estebo Park (3)
 Fall City Quigley Park (3)
 Lake Joy Park (3)
 Ravenhill Open Space (3)

Duvall Park (3)
 Fall City Community Park (3)
 Fall City West Park (3)
 Preston Community Center (3)

South

Cedar Downs Site (9)
 Dockton Park (8)
 Lake Francis Park (9)
 Maple Valley Heights Park (9)
 Mount Peak Park (9)
 Vashon Pool (8)

Coalfield Park (9)
 Gracie Hansen Community Center (9)
 Levdansky Park (9)
 May Valley Park (9)
 Ravensdale Park (9)
 Whitney Bridge Park (9)

1
 2
 3
 4

1

2

Passive Natural Area Parks

3

4

North

5

Bassett Pond Park (3)

Bear Creek Park (3)

6

Bear Creek Waterways (3)

Cold Creek Natural Area (3)

7

Evans Crest Natural Area (3)

Sammamish River Farm (3)

8

Upper Bear Creek Natural Area (3)

9

10

East

11

Carnation Marsh (3)

Chinook Bend Habitat Resource Area (3)

12

Evans Creek Park (3)

Fall City Natural Area (3)

13

Griffin Creek Park Natural Area (3)

Hazel Wolf Wetlands (3)

14

Issaquah Creek Natural Area (9)

Kathryn C. Lewis Park (3)

15

Little Si Park (3)

Middle Fork Snoq. Park Natural Area (3)

16

Moss Lake Natural Area (3)

Nowak Park (3)

17

Patterson Creek Park Natural Area (3)

Raging River Natural Area (3)

18

Ring Hill Park (3)

Stillwater Park (3)

19

Tollgate Farm (3)

Tolt River Natural Area (3)

20

21

22

South

23

Auburn Narrows Park (9)

Bass Lake Natural Area (9)

24

Belmondo Reach (9)

Big Bend Park (9)

25

Big Spring/Newaukum Creek Natural Area (9)

26

BN Peninsula Natural Area (9)

Cavanaugh Pond (9)

27

Black Diamond Natural Area (9)

Cedar Grove Natural Area (9)

28

Cedar Grove Road Natural Area

Cemetery Reach Natural Area (9)

29

Christiansen Pond (8)

Covington Natural Area (7)

30

Crowe Marsh Natural Area (9)

Dockton Forest (8)

31

Dockton Forest Lease Site (8)

Dorre Don Reach Natural Area (9)

32

Ellis Creek Natural Area (8)

Flaming Geyser Natural Area (9)

33

Green River Farm (7)

Green River Natural Area (9)

34

Hatchery Natural Area (9)

Horseneck Farm (7)

35

Hyde Lake Park (9)

Island Center Forest (8)

36

Island Center Forest Natural Area (8)

Jones Reach Natural Area (9)

37

Kanaskat Natural Area (9)

Lake Desire Site 2 (9)

38

Landsburg Reach (9)

Little Soos Creek Wetlands (9)

39

Log Cabin Reach Natural Area (9)

Lower Lions Reach Natural Area (9)

40

Lower Newaukum Creek Natural Area (9)

Lower Peterson Creek Corridor (9)

41

Maple Ridge Highlands Open Space (9)

Marjorie R. Stanley Natural Area (8)

42

May Valley Natural Area (9)

Middle Issaquah Creek Natural Area (9)

43

Mullen Slough Natural Area (7)

Neely Bridge Park (9)

44

Paradise Valley Natural Area (8)

Peterson Lake Park Natural Area (9)

- 1 Piner Point Natural Area (8)
- 2 Ravensdale Retreat Natural Area (9)
- 3 Ricardi Reach (9)
- 4 South 277th Farm (7)
- 5 Taylor Mountain Forest (9)
- 6 Wetland 14 Natural Area (9)
- 7
- 8

- Porter Levee (9)
- Rainbow Bend Natural Area (9)
- Rock Creek Natural Area (9)
- Sugarloaf Mountain Site (9)
- Taylor Reach Natural Area (9)
- Wetland 79 Natural Area (9)

