

King County Parks Levy Task Force



Meeting #5

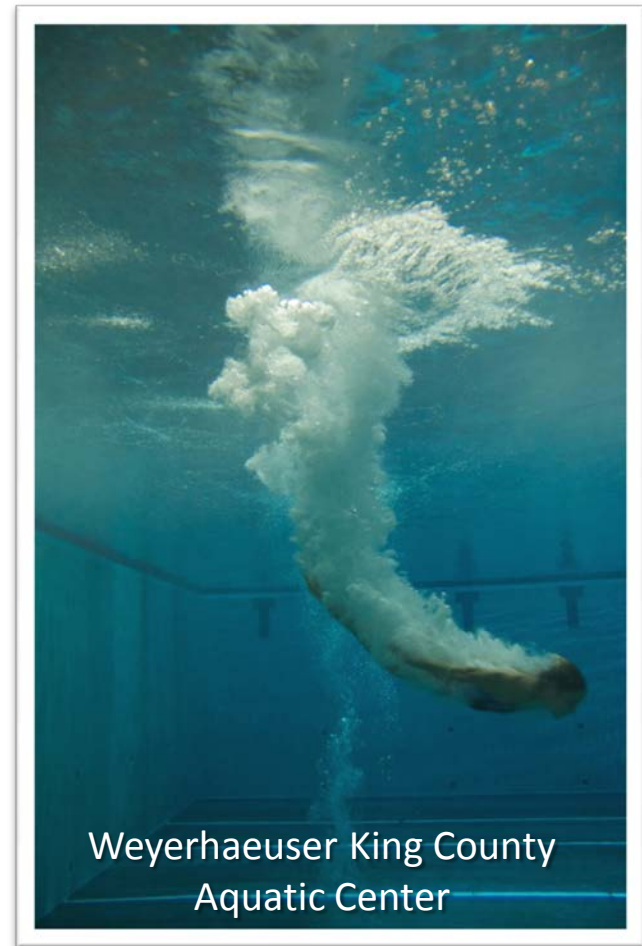
Tuesday, August 7, 2012

4 – 6 pm

Mercer Island Community and Event Center

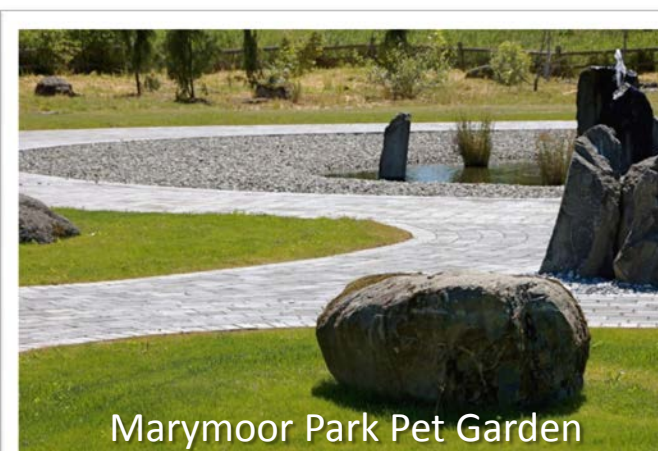
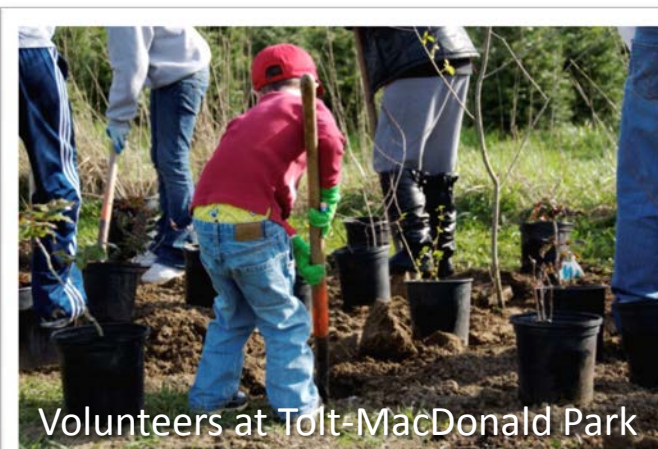
Meeting #5 Proposed Agenda

- I. Welcome / Introductions
- II. Task Force Business
- III. Review and Recap
- IV. Task Force Discussion and
Deliberation
- V. Overview of Public Funding
Options for Parks
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Next steps



Task Force Business

- Review Meeting #5 agenda
- Approve Meeting #4 Summary
- Summary of comments received by email:
Rural Forestry Commission
- Announcements
 - DATE CHANGE: August 21 meeting moved to **August 28**
 - Future meetings scheduled:
 - Sept 11
 - Sept 25



Review and Recap



200 PARKS 175 MILES OF TRAIL 26,000 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE

King County Parks **Your Big Backyard**  King County

Our Vision



Providing regional
and rural
recreational facilities



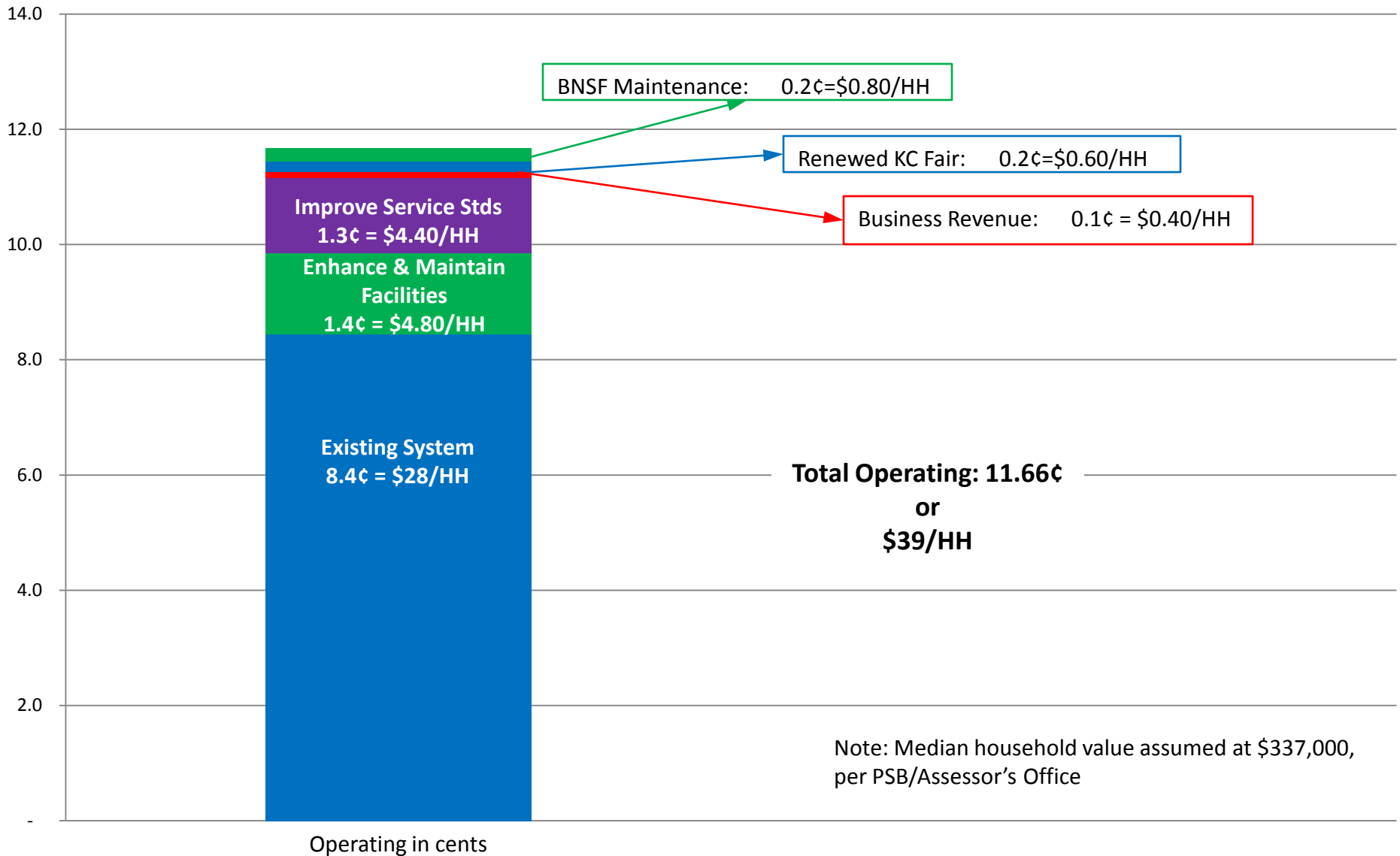
Partnering with
business and
community



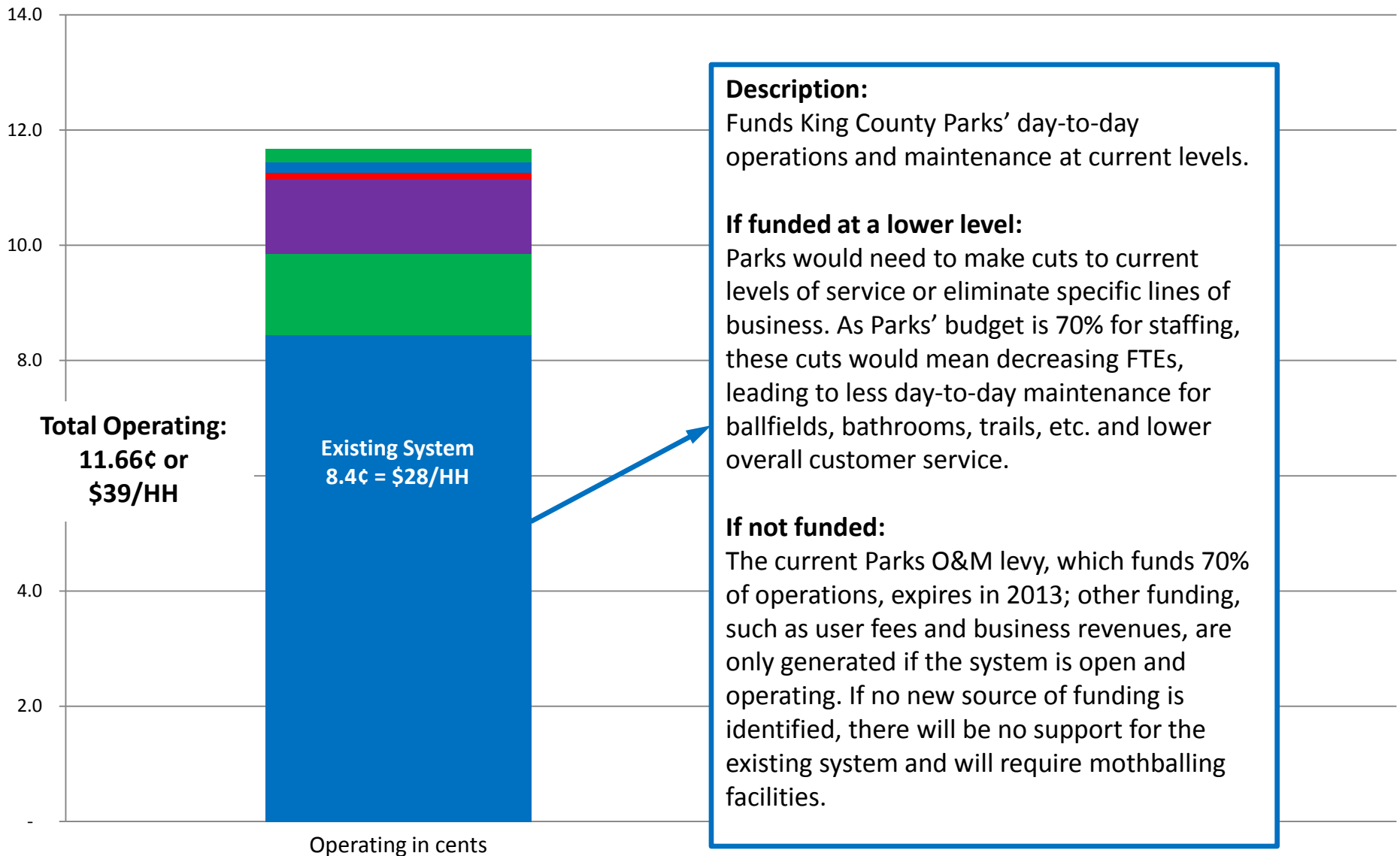
Connecting the county:
Regional Trails System
and open space corridors



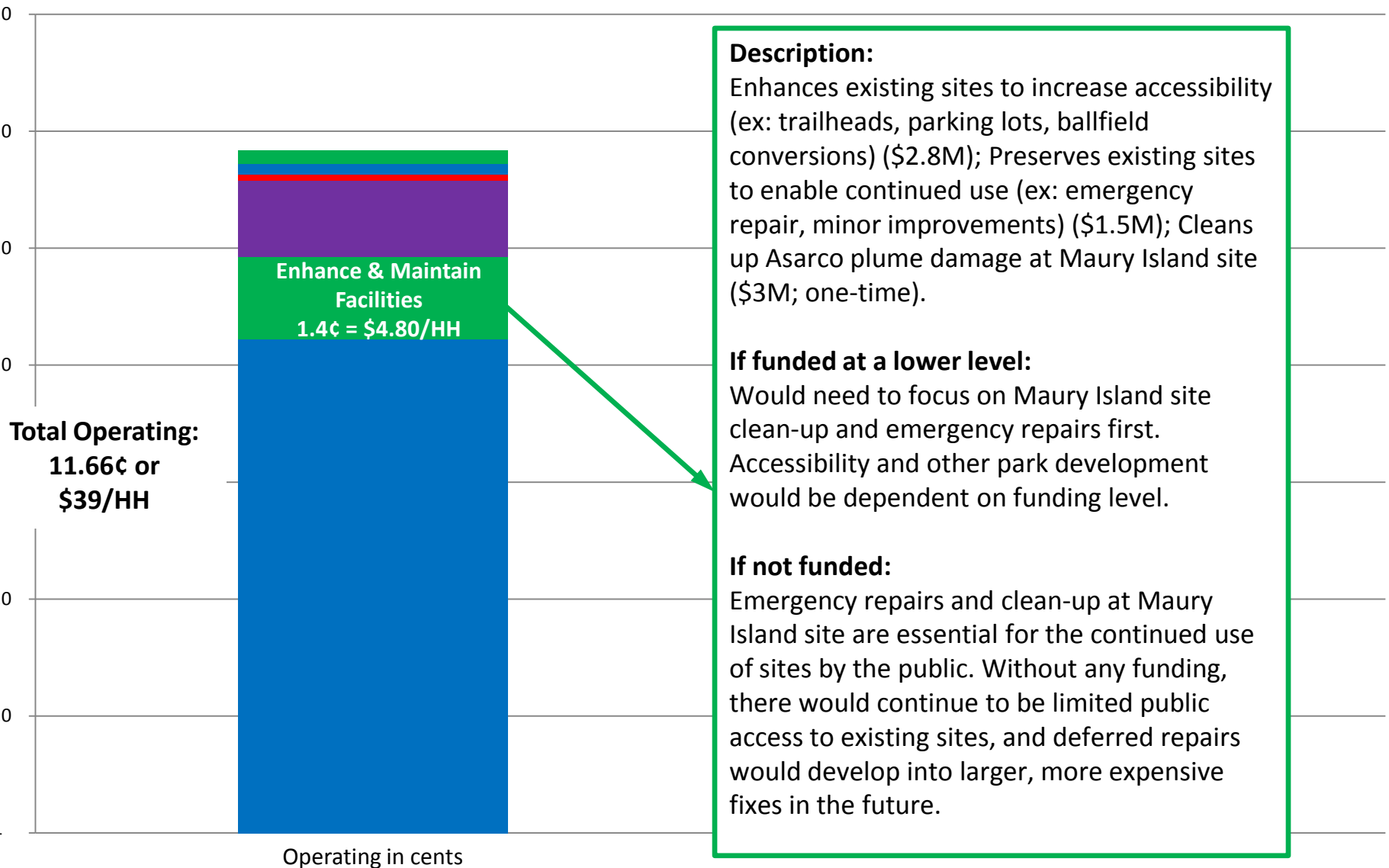
2014-2019 Funding Options: Operating



2014-2019 Funding Options: Operating Assumptions



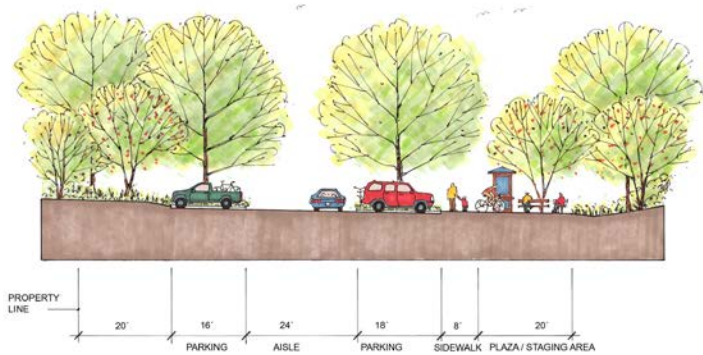
2014-2019 Funding Options: Operating Assumptions



Enhance and Maintain Facilities

What:

- Supports park and trail accessibility and minor maintenance projects
- Business revenue opportunity funding



Example trailhead cross-section

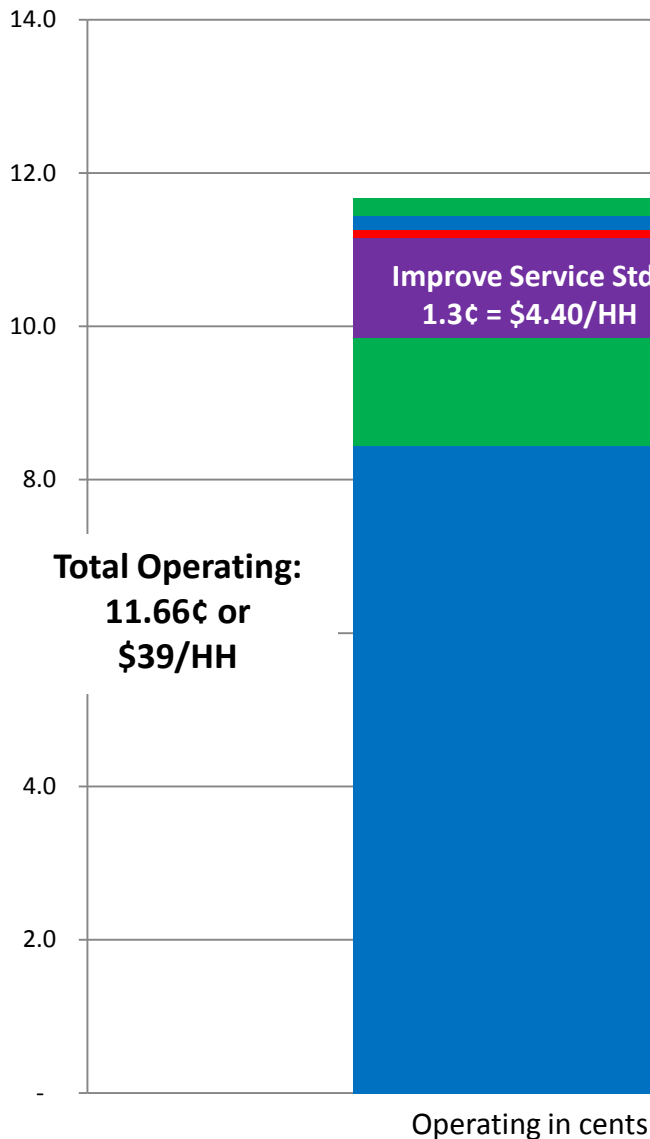
Benefits:

- Public can safely access and enjoy more of our inventory
- Preserves existing infrastructure
- Efficiency (staff time and resources are planned vs. putting out fires)
- New partnerships that result in direct revenue generation or recreation opportunities



Starbucks Wayfinding Kiosk

2014-2019 Funding Options: Operating Assumptions



Description:

Achieves higher level of service on day-to-day operations, similar to that of other systems in region, by:

- Improving maintenance standards (restroom cleanings, ballfield grooming, regional trail and backcountry trail repair, customer service, performance management)
- Investing in greater enforcement and safety measures
- Enhancing natural area stewardship capacity (restoration, forestry, noxious weeds)
- Harnessing volunteers and other partnerships
- Supporting White Center Teen Program

If funded at a lower level:

Spectrum of approaches, depending on funding level, from achieving smaller overall improvement to investing in some of the above areas to the detriment of others areas.

If not funded:

Parks' system is currently maintained at a comparatively low level by industry standards, and these standards would remain the same. In some areas, the system would deteriorate if not better resourced.

Improve Service Standards: Enforcement and Safety



Burned out sanican at Big Finn Hill

What:

- Additional King County Sheriff's Office support
- Signage, especially sign installations at new acquisitions
- Public safety education



Motorcycle at Taylor Mountain

Benefits:

- Protects public investment
- Ensures safety of public and King County Parks staff

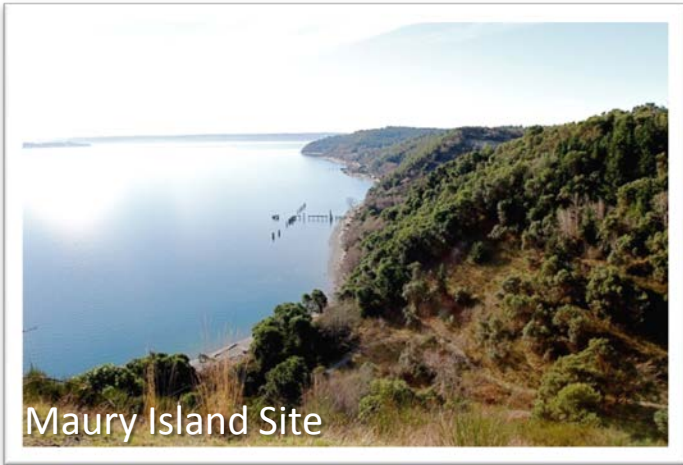
Improve Service Standards: Natural Area Stewardship

What:

- Staffing and training for specialized skills (arborist, forest management, noxious weed control)
- Support for habitat restoration projects
- Maury Island site planning
- Specialized equipment

Benefits:

- Protects public investment
- Improves ecological health and function
- Improves customer service and accountability to public and other stakeholders
- Encourages quality workforce with skills matching needs



Maury Island Site



Cougar Mountain staff

Improve Service Standards: Volunteer Program & Partnerships



What:

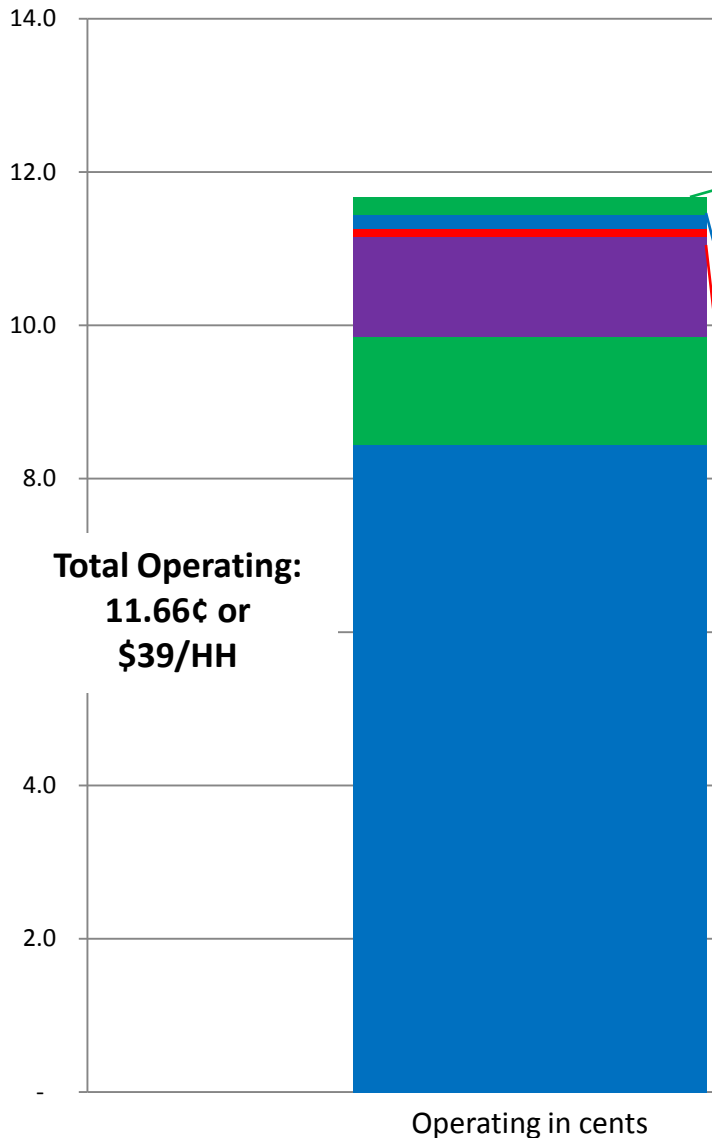
- Staffing and additional support for volunteer and partnership cultivation and management
- Additional funding for distribution to community partners
- Associated supplies and equipment

Benefits:

- Promotes community stewardship and increases number of people actively engaged in supporting King County Parks
- Improves customer service and accountability to public and other stakeholders
- Helps address maintenance needs (ex: noxious weed removal)



2014-2019 Funding Options: Operating Assumptions



Preserve and protect BNSF corridor : 0.2¢=\$0.80/HH

Description:

Basic maintenance of BNSF corridor (drainage, dumping, and vegetation control) to protect corridor for future trail development.

If funded at a lower level:

There would likely be more degradation of the rail corridor, making trail build out more expensive in the future.

If not funded:

The corridor is currently not maintained and quickly degrading. This would continue until the corridor was developed, likely adding to the future cost of development.

Renewed KC Fair: 0.2¢=\$0.60/HH

Description:

Funds a renewed vision of the King County Fair and supports 4H program.

If funded at a lower level:

Range of possibilities, depending on funding level, from most modest fair to only funding 4H program.

If not funded:

No possibility for fair and no support for 4H, meaning program participants lose eligibility for competitions.

Business Revenue Adjustment from 5% to 3% annual growth: 0.1¢ = \$0.40/HH

Description:

Business revenue goal has been 5% annual growth for past 10 years and needs to be adjusted, given economic climate and revenue opportunities on existing inventory.

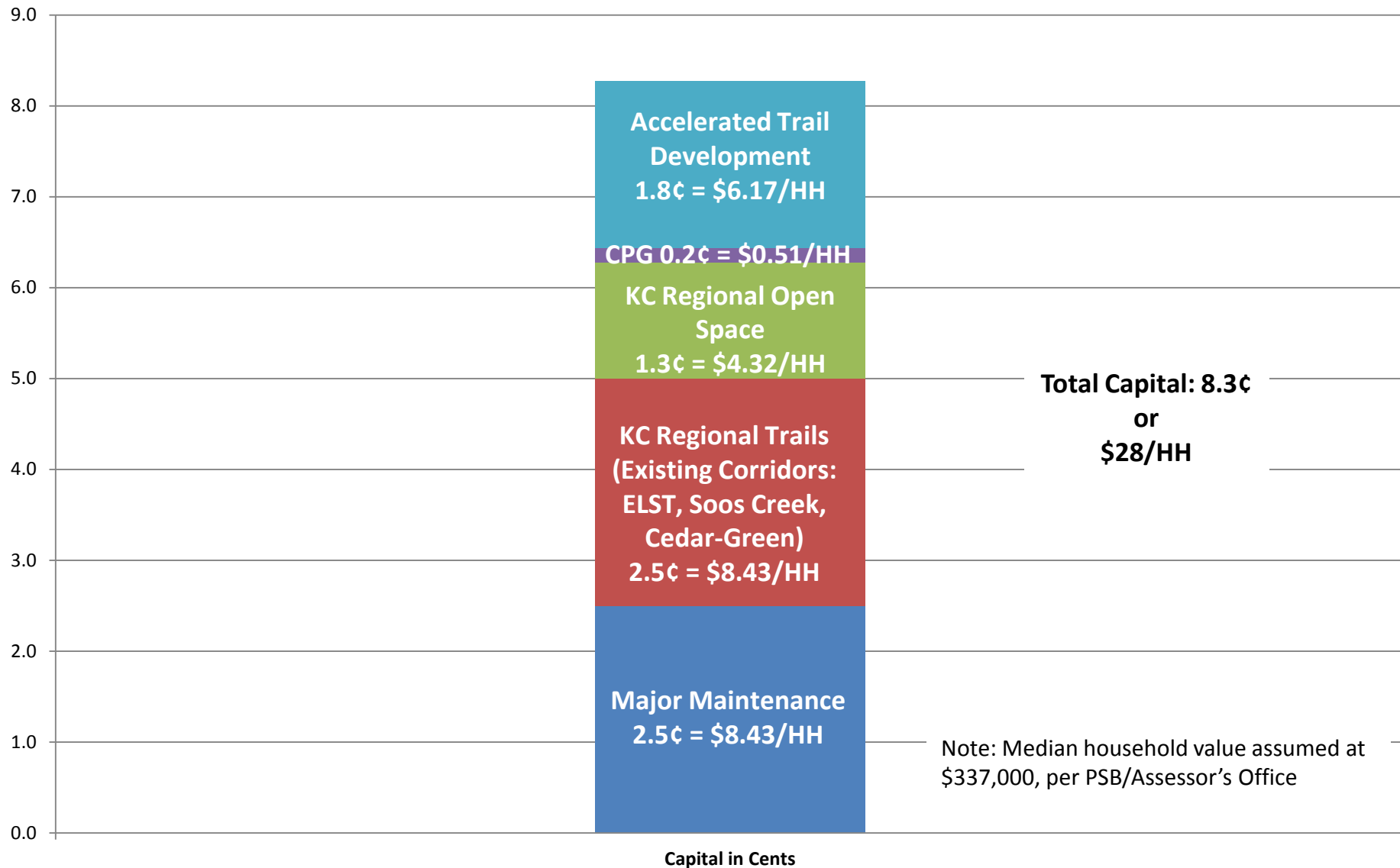
If funded at a lower level:

If a higher growth rate is not achieved, it would require cuts throughout the system to offset unrealized revenue.

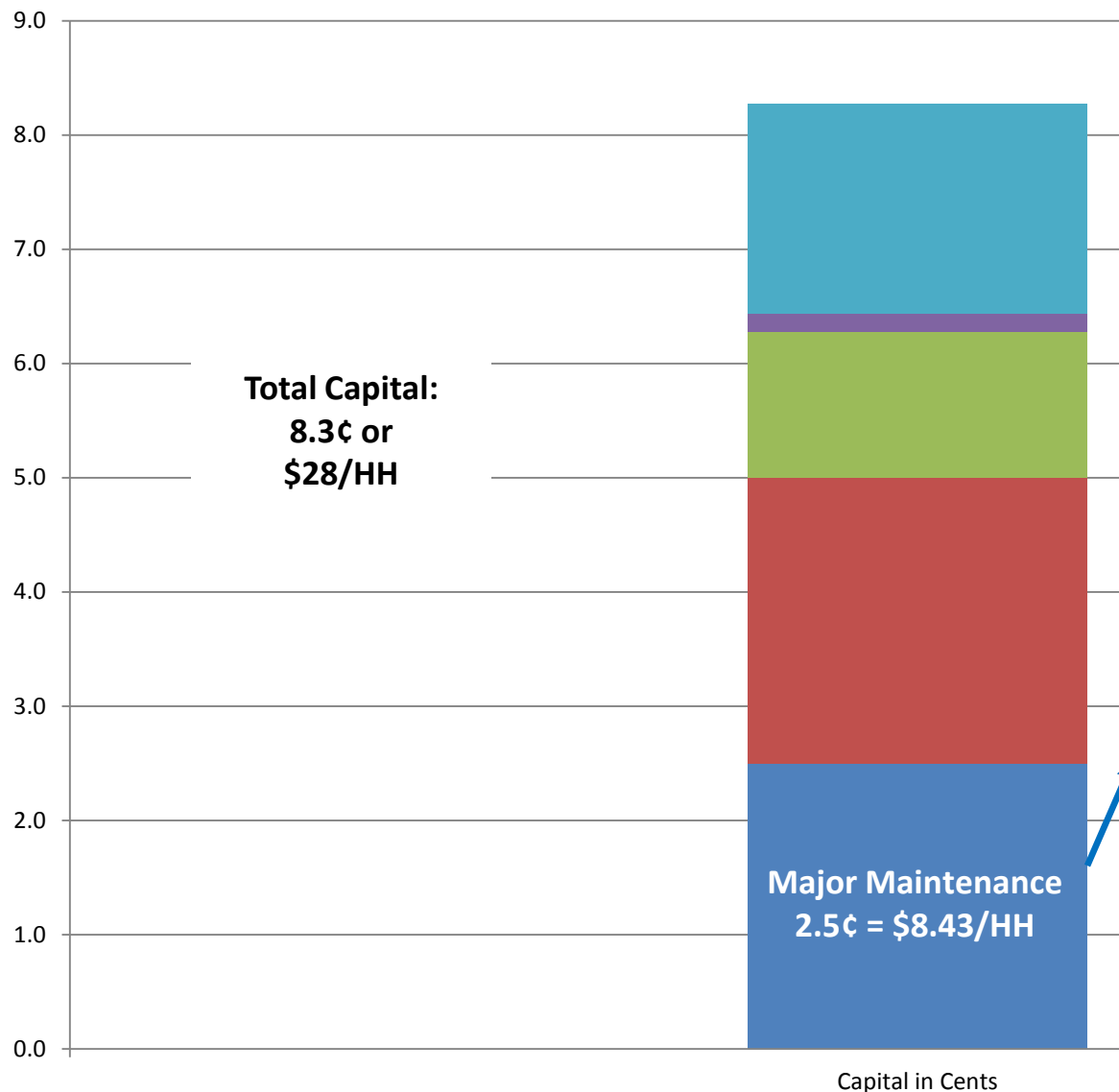
If not funded:

Continued 5% growth is not realistic, and if not met, would require cuts throughout the system to offset unrealized revenue.

2014-2019 Funding Options: Capital



2014-2019 Funding Options: Capital Assumptions



Description:

Addresses core infrastructure: major repair/rehabilitation/replacement of facilities to keep them safe and open:

- Major Maintenance Study - \$15.6M: Repairs needed for facilities at 18 sites as identified in 2012 study
- Bridges & Trestles - \$6.5M: Repairs 14 out of 72 bridges and trestles
- Maintenance Shops - \$19.2M: Addresses urgent replacement of 5 shops identified in 2007 major maintenance study
- Other - \$1.1M annually: Major repairs to play areas, parking lots, restrooms, fields, vandalism repair, etc., beyond sites identified in major maintenance study

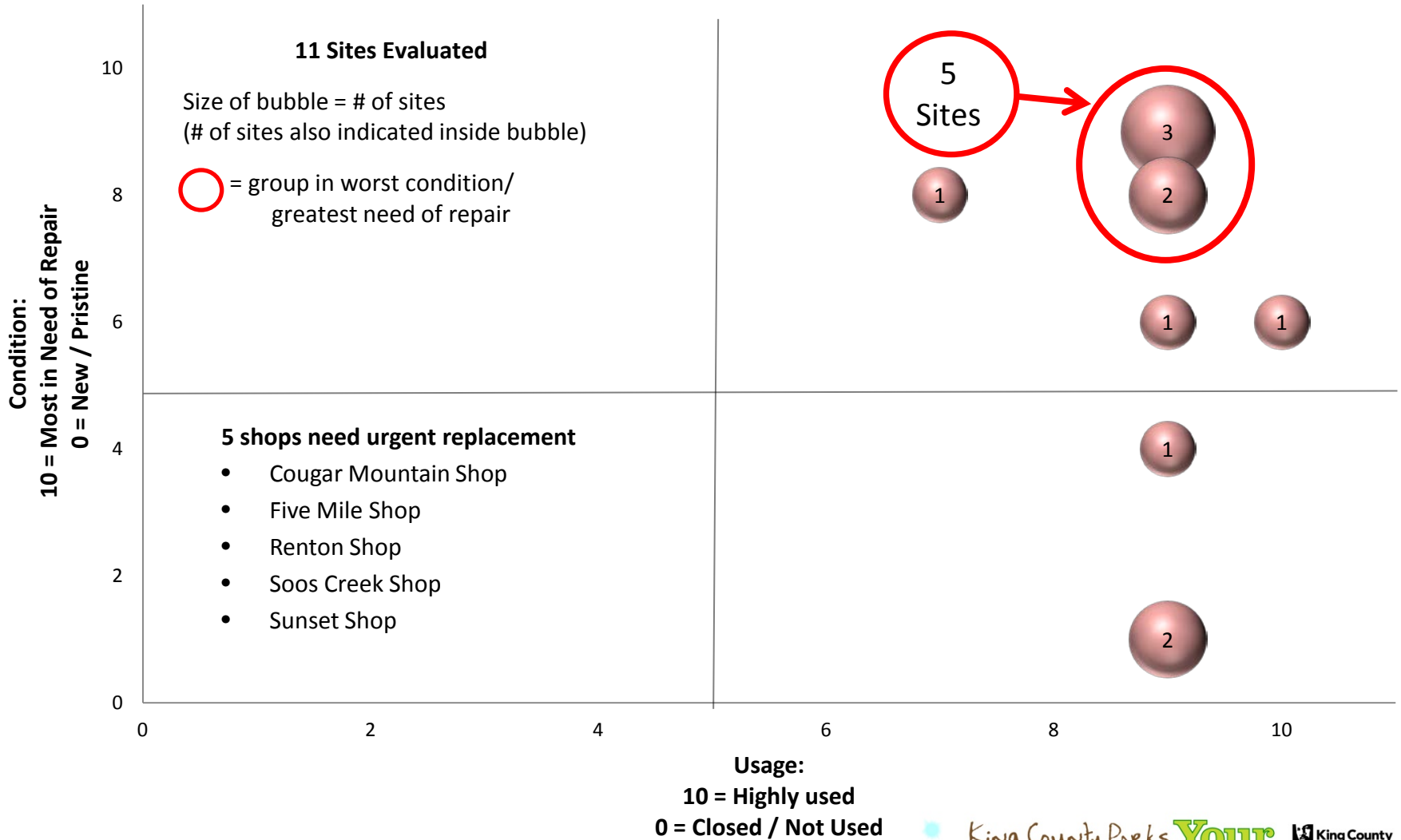
If funded at a lower level:

Addresses fewer known issues. Deferred repairs/rehab runs risk of becoming more expensive to fix in future.

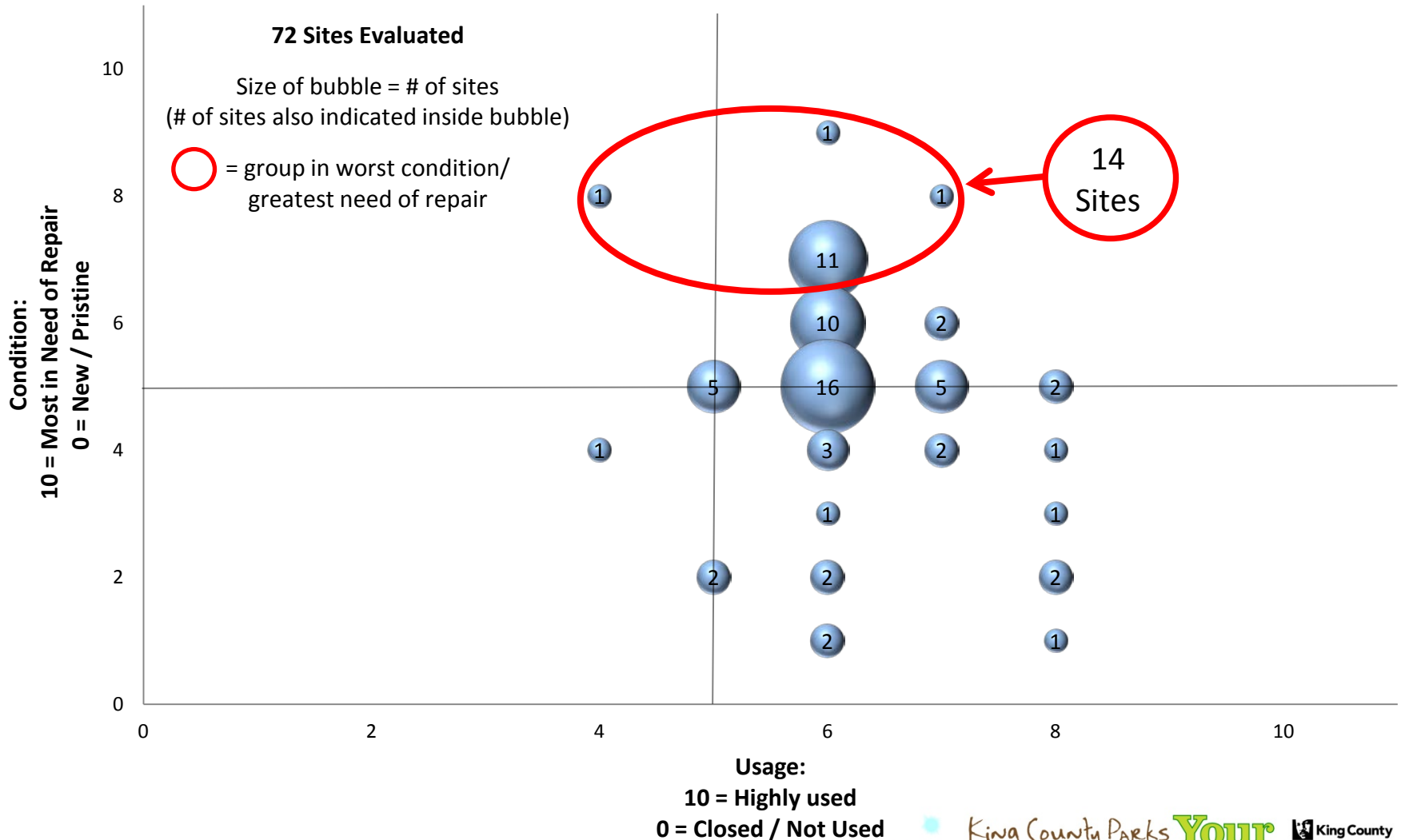
If not funded:

Aging infrastructure runs risk of more expensive repair and/or closure if major maintenance not addressed. Particularly important for RTS, responding to major vandalism, and staff safety. Existing maintenance shops inadequate, leading to safety issues, equipment damage, and inefficiencies.

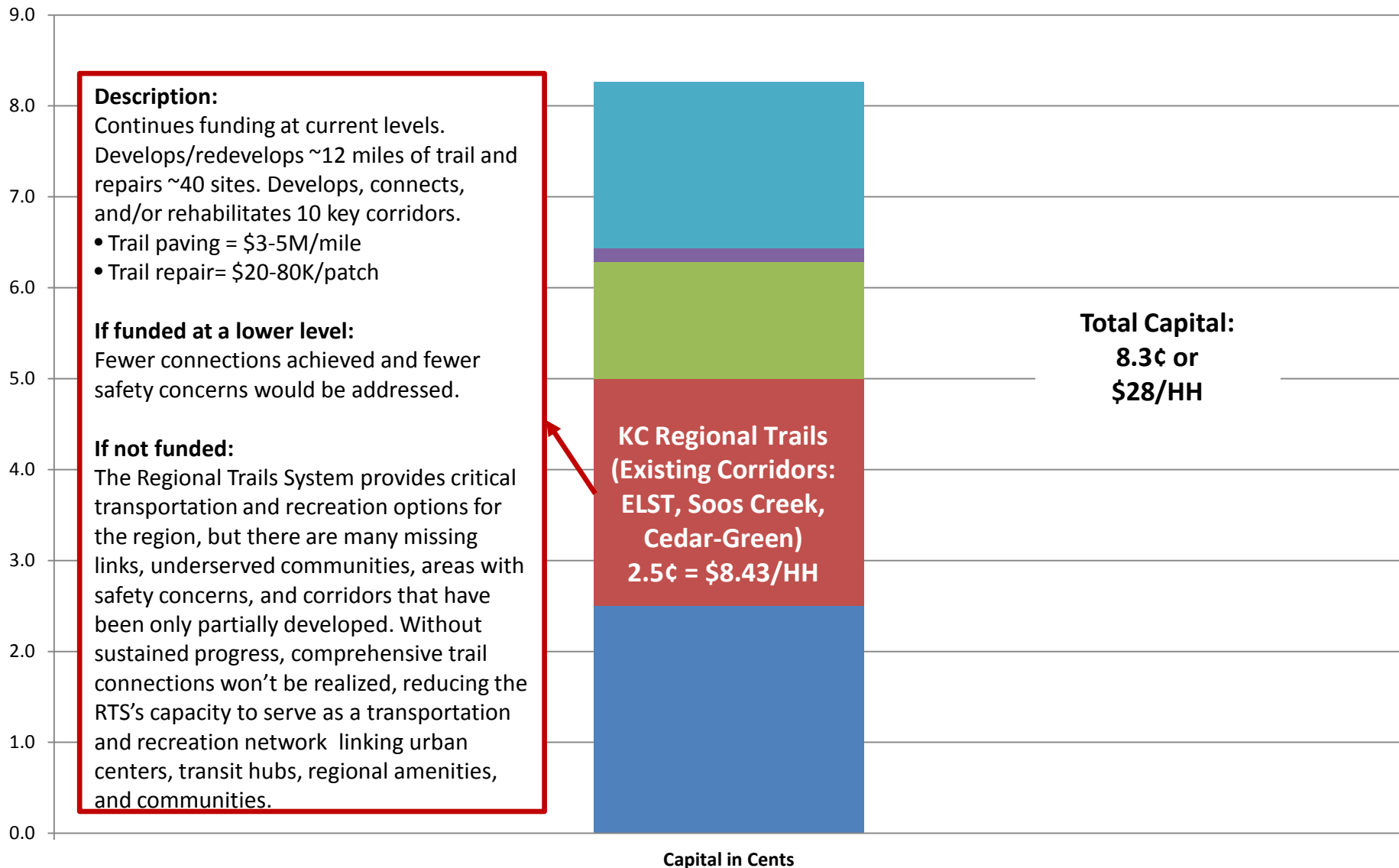
Major Maintenance: Maintenance Shops



Major Maintenance: Bridges & Trestles



2014-2019 Funding Options: Capital Assumptions



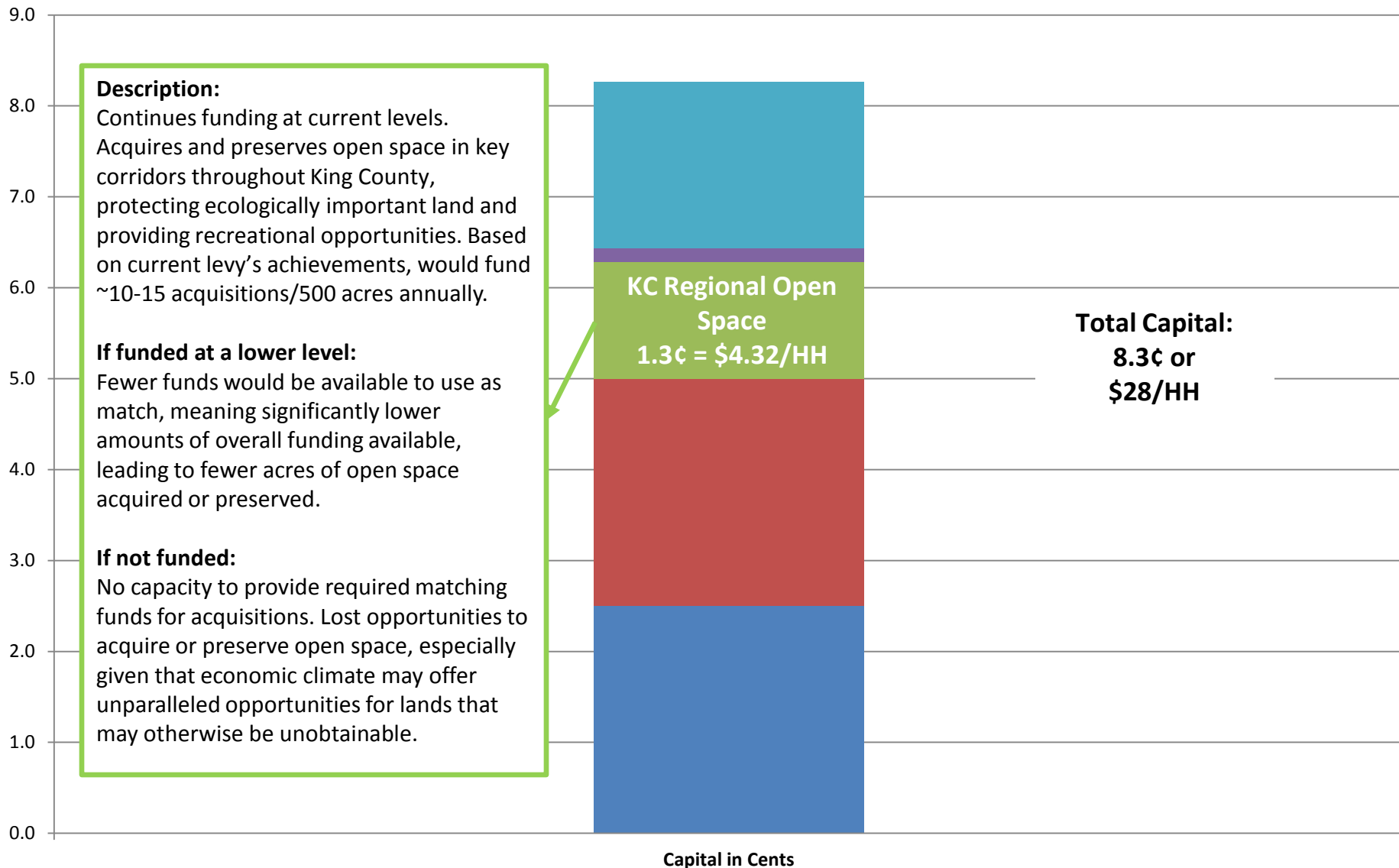
Regional Trails: Next Critical Areas to Develop, Connect or Rehab



- East Lake Sammamish Trail
 - South Sammamish Segment
- Sammamish River Trail
 - Redevelop to current standards
- Lake-to-Sound Trail
- Green River Trail
 - Connection to Seattle System
- Green-to-Cedar River Trail
 - Connection to Black Diamond
- Soos Creek Trail
 - Connection to Cedar River Trail
 - Connection to Green-to-Cedar River Trail
- Foothills Trail
 - Connection to Buckley/Pierce County System
- Snoqualmie Valley Trail
 - Extension to Snohomish County System
- Gateways/Trailheads

200 PARKS 175 MILES OF TRAIL 26,000 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE

2014-2019 Funding Options: Capital Assumptions



Regional Open Space

Long term vision:

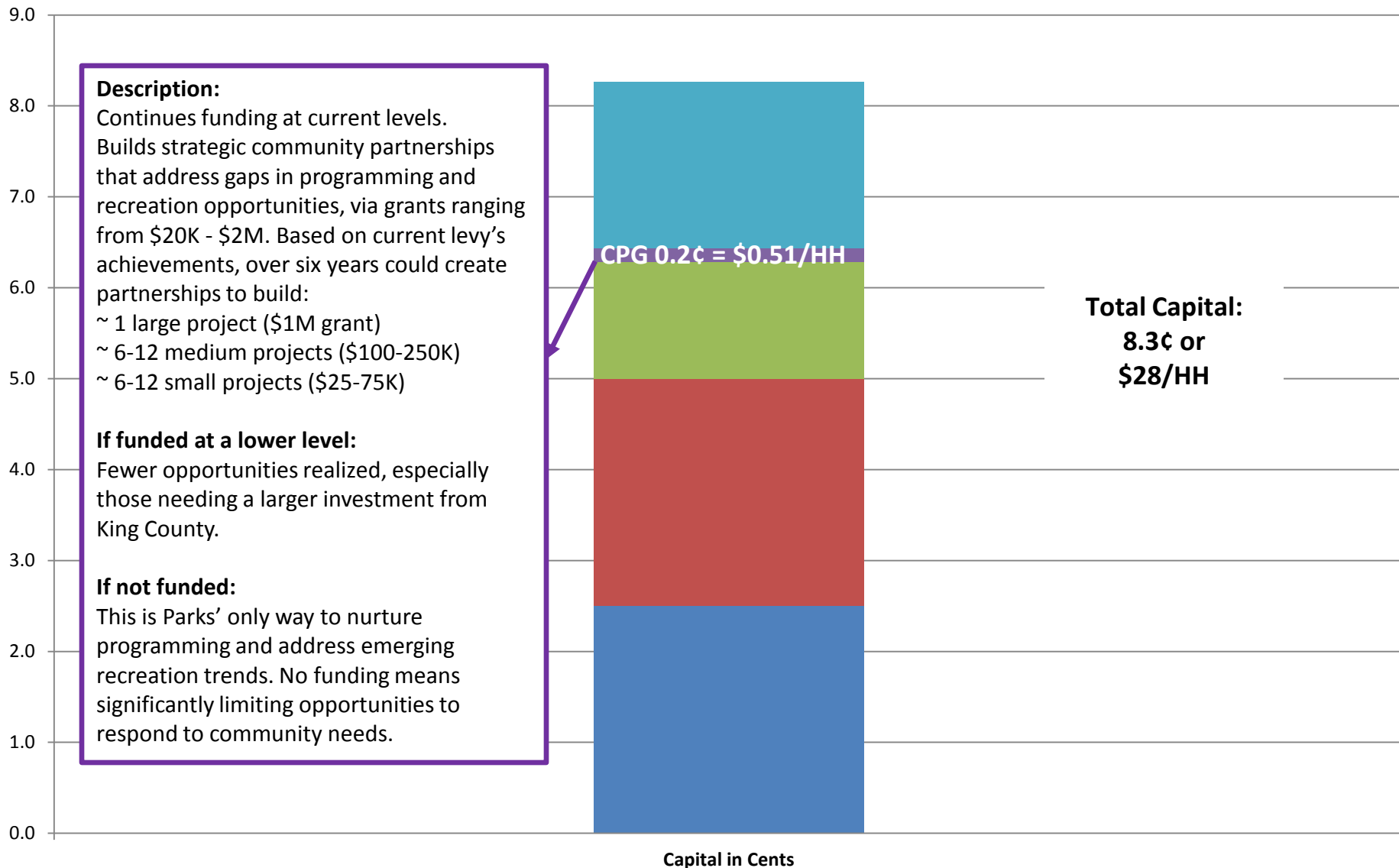
- Identified high priority lands to acquire over the next 30-50 years
- Focus on acquisitions that preserve and promote open space corridors
- Near-term opportunities due to real estate market

Benefits:

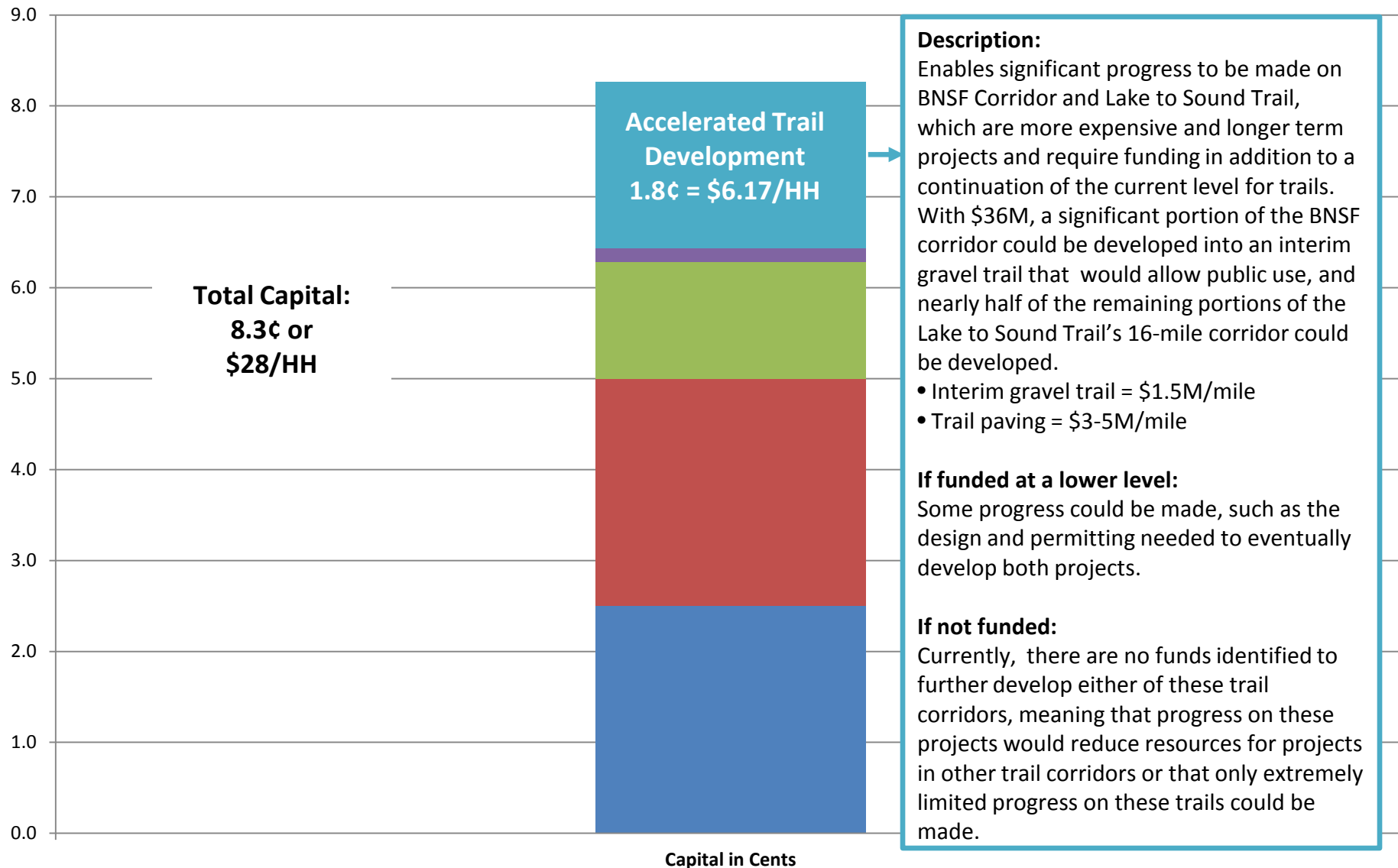
- Provides recreation opportunities
- Improves ecological functions
- Protects wildlife corridors, native biodiversity
- Enhances quality of life



2014-2019 Funding Options: Capital Assumptions



2014-2019 Funding Options: Capital Assumptions



Funding Options



King County Revenue Outlook and Parks Funding

Dwight Dively – July 10, 2012



Funding Options for Parks

- ▶ Parks were historically a General Fund function. Annexations, tax policy changes, and the 2001 recession led to most General Fund support being eliminated.
- ▶ The Great Recession led to the elimination of all remaining General Fund support.
- ▶ General Fund tax revenue growth is usually less than inflation and population growth due to 1% limit on property tax revenue growth. Thus, King County has increasingly relied on ballot measures to fund services.
- ▶ Property tax levy lid lifts have been used by King County to fund parks. A lid lift allows the County to exceed the 1% per year revenue growth limit, as long as the tax rate stays below the maximum (\$1.80 per \$1000 AV).
- ▶ Other options to fund parks include Park and Recreation Districts, Metropolitan Park Districts, and annual excess property tax levies.

Park Districts / Service Area

What are they:

- Independent governing agencies
- With separate taxing authority
- Takes a multi-step process to create, including public vote

Funding Option: Park and Recreation District

How it is created:

- Petition by $\geq 15\%$ of registered voters
- AND**
- Majority vote at general election

Taxing authority:

- Park & Recreation District can levy a property tax :
 - $\leq 60\text{¢} / \$1,000$ AV
 - Up to 6 years
 - 60% voter approval with a turnout $\geq 40\%$ of those voting in the last general election
 - May fund operating, capital, or a combination

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- Most junior suppression level (1st proration group of 7)

Funding Option: Park and Recreation Service Area

How it is created:

- Unincorporated area—Resolution adopted by county council **OR** petition by $\geq 10\%$ of registered voters
- If it includes a city(ies)—Resolution of city council (s)

AND

- Majority vote at general or special election

Taxing authority:

- Park & Recreation Service Area can levy a property tax :
 - $\leq 60\text{¢} / \$1,000$ AV
 - Up to 6 years
 - 60% voter approval with a turnout $\geq 40\%$ of those voting in the last general election
 - May fund operating, capital, or a combination

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- Most junior suppression level (1st proration group of 7)

Funding Option: Metropolitan Park District

How it is created:

- Petition by $\geq 15\%$ of registered voters **OR** resolution of the governing bodies of each city / county which includes a portion of park district area
- AND**
- Filing of proposal with the boundary review board
- AND**
- Majority vote at general or special election

Taxing authority:

- Metropolitan Park District can levy two property taxes:
 - $\leq 50\text{¢}$ / \$1,000 AV
 - $\leq 25\text{¢}$ / \$1,000 AV
 - Both are permanent
 - May fund operating, capital, or a combination

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- Two suppression levels:
 - 3rd proration group of 7 for 25¢ levy
 - 4th proration group of 7 for 50¢ levy

Funding Options: County

Counties also have funding options available, including:

- General Fund
- Property Tax Levy Lid Lift—I-747 Constrained
- Property Tax Levy Lid Lift—Indexed
- Annual Excess Property Tax Levies*
- Bonds & Excess Levies For Capital Purposes*
- Additional Real Estate Excise Tax

*Also available for use by Park Districts / Service Areas

General Fund

- Historic source of parks funding
- Limited by I-747 to 1% revenue growth / year plus new construction
- Tax revenue limited to property and sales taxes
- Parks not a service mandated by State for counties to provide
- Funding for Parks significantly reduced, then eliminated, in response to recessions since 2000

Property Tax Levy Lid Lift I-747 Constrained

How it is created:

- Proposition submitted to voters by County Council
- AND**
- Majority vote at primary, general or special election

Parameters:

- Initial year limited by County's total property tax limit (\$1.80 / \$1,000 AV)
- Subsequent years limited by I-747 to 1% revenue growth / year plus new construction
- May be permanent or time-limited
- May fund operating, capital, or a combination

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- Most senior suppression level (7th proration group of 7)

Property Tax Levy Lid Lift Indexed

How it is created:

- Proposition submitted to voters by County Council

AND

- Majority vote at primary or general election

Parameters:

- Initial year limited by County's total property tax limit (\$1.80 / \$1,000 AV)
- Subsequent years limited by index factor specified in proposition (e.g., cpi)
- Up to 6 years
- May fund operating, capital, or a combination

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- Most senior suppression level (7th proration group of 7)

Annual Excess Property Tax Levies

How it is created:

- Proposition submitted to voters by County Council

AND

- 60% voter approval at a primary, general or special election with a turnout $\geq 40\%$ of those voting in the last general election

Parameters:

- Limited to 1 year
- May fund operating, capital, or a combination

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- Exempt from property tax rate limits

Bonds

Excess Levies For Capital Purposes

How it is created:

- Proposition submitted to voters by County Council

AND

- 60% voter approval at a primary, general or special election with a turnout $\geq 40\%$ of those voting in the last general election

AND

- County issues bonds

Parameters:

- May fund capital only (Cannot be used for equipment replacement)
- Must have a “rational unity” of purposes
- Typically long-term; levy continues till bond is paid off

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- Exempt from property tax rate limits

Additional Real Estate Excise Tax

How it is created:

- Proposition submitted to voters by County Council **OR** petition by $\geq 10\%$ of voters voting in the last preceding general election

AND

- Voter approval at a primary, general or special election

Parameters:

- May fund acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas only
- Up to 1% of real estate sale price
- Paid by purchaser

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- NA, not a property tax

Other

- Grants
- Business revenues

How it fits with other taxing authorities:

- N/A

Questions? Comments?



200 PARKS 175 MILES OF TRAIL 26,000 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE

King County Parks **Your** Big Backyard  King County 40

Meeting #6

Aug 28, 4 pm – 6 pm
Mercer Island Community & Event Center

- Main Topics:
 - Public perceptions of parks, trails and open space
 - Discussion and deliberation among Task Force members



Unveiling of the new camping container,
to be installed at Tolt-MacDonald Park in September