

**KING COUNTY  
CONSERVATION FUTURES CITIZENS COMMITTEE**

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July 1, 2015

The Honorable Larry Phillips  
Chair, King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Suite 1200  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Council Chair Phillips,

On behalf of the King County Conservation Futures Citizens Committee, enclosed is our annual recommendation report for the allocation of fiscal year 2016 King County Conservation Futures and King County Parks Levy open space acquisition funds.

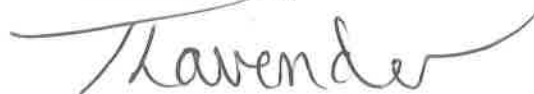
This year we have seen a 20% increase in the number applications from last year's record number, a total of 51 applications overall. Of particular note, there was over \$25 million in requests for \$9.7 million in CFT funds. For the King County Parks Levy open space acquisition funds, almost \$10 million was requested for \$7.75 million in available funding. The Parks Levy open space acquisition funding level has risen by over one million dollars this year due to an increase in collections. We again saw a high overall quality of proposed projects, and we were able to recommend full or partial funding for 46 of them, including 19 city projects.

A large number of the projects recommended for funding fill in gaps in existing parks, open spaces and habitat systems, or make connections between them. Many of the suburban city projects contain creeks or riverfront, as do two Seattle projects, while two others in Seattle will create important new green spaces in urban neighborhoods with open space deficits. In unincorporated King County, the Committee recommends funding for projects that will further protect salmon habitat, support farming, and enhance local and regional trails. The Committee continues to focus on King County's equity and social justice goals when making its recommendations. Several projects will provide additional open space in communities with unmet open space needs, and others provide free access to outdoor parks and open spaces outdoors for lower income residents who reside in both our cities and rural areas.

Please see the enclosed report for project highlights and detailed descriptions of each of the Committee's recommendations for individual projects. There is also a table in the last two pages of the report that summarizes the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee would like to thank you for giving us the chance to contribute to this important process, and for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely Yours,



Terry Lavender, Chair  
KING COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Enclosure

Honorable Larry Philips

July 1, 2015

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cc: Honorable Dow Constantine, King County Executive  
Honorable Rod Dembowski, Chair, Transportation, Economy  
and Environment Committee, King County Council  
Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Bob Burns, Deputy Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Kevin Brown, Division Director, King County Parks and Recreation Division  
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, King County Water and Land Resources Division