

King County Open Space Plan 2022 Update

- Plan purpose and goals
- Key updates
- Community feedback
- Next steps

Parks' Mission & Vision

Mission

Steward, enhance, and acquire parks to inspire healthy communities.

Vision

Parks, trails, and natural lands for all, sustained with the cooperative efforts of our community.



 King County

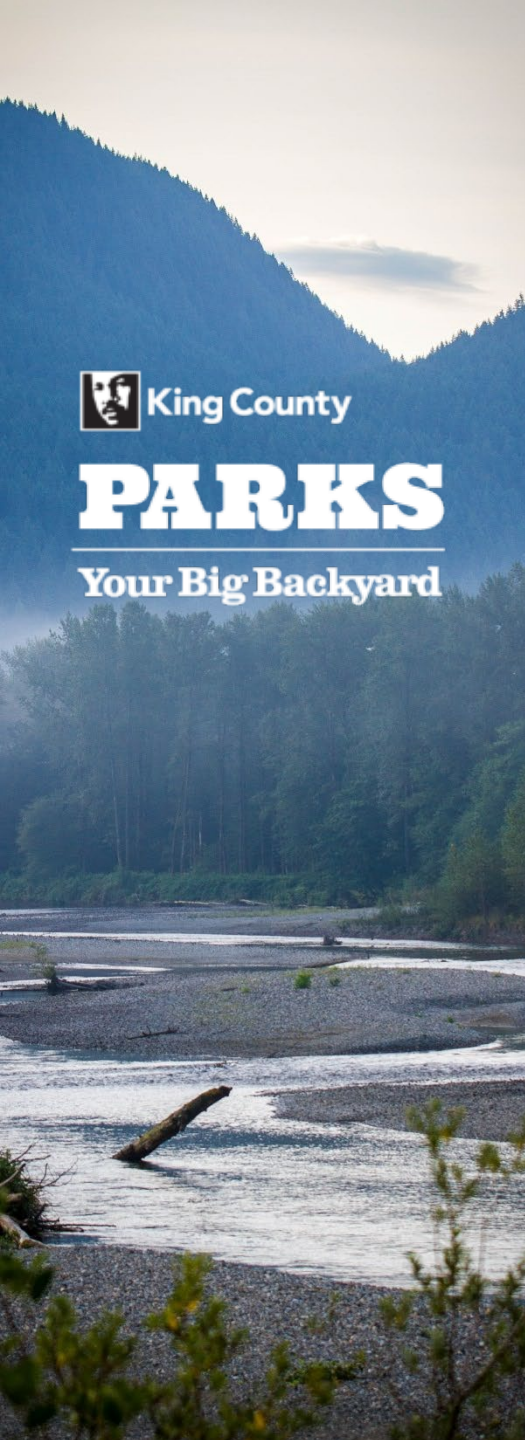
PARKS

Your Big Backyard

A photograph of a small, clear stream flowing through a dense forest. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. Several large, smooth rocks are scattered throughout the stream, many of which are covered in vibrant green moss. The banks are lined with thick, leafy vegetation, including ferns and various shrubs. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

What is the King County Open Space Plan?

- Acts as a functional plan to the King County Comprehensive Plan
- Provides the policy framework for the King County Parks & Recreation system
- Allows King County Parks to be eligible for certain grant programs



 King County
PARKS
Your Big Backyard

Plan Goals

- Highlight current Parks levy delivery commitments
- Advance other King County Initiatives
- Strengthen decision making
- Build on past engagement, hear from new voices
- Respond to new and changed context since 2016 update

Key Take-Aways

- Parks and trails are essential to thriving communities
- We prioritize equitable access to parks and nature
- Sustained support is needed to respond to growing demand

King County's Open Space System

Parks' Open Space System by the Numbers:

175 miles of regional trail corridors



205 parks



32,000 acres of open space



250 miles of backcountry trails



150,000 acres of working forest and ecological conservation easements



Updating the Plan



Staff reviewed and updated policies

Built upon recent engagement

- ✓ Parks Levy, SCAP, Subarea Planning, etc.

Parks surveys & focus groups

- ✓ Customers satisfied?
- ✓ Partner / key customer feedback?
- ✓ Can our facilities be more welcoming, accessible, safe?

State Environmental Policy Act

- ✓ Public review period (Feb. 2 – 16)
- ✓ Virtual info session on Feb. 2 (~10 attended)
- ✓ 3 letters submitted:
 - Washington Trails Association (support)
 - Two from Snoqualmie Tribe (input)

Community Engagement

Customer survey (1,007 participants, 3,300+ comments)

- 97% highly value open space system
- Priorities: Clean, safe, open; repair aging parks and trails

Partner survey (97 partners, 3,000+ comments)

- 100% highly value open space system
- Highly satisfied with Parks' customer service
- Priorities: Clean, safe, open; fund partner programs; grow system

Safety focus groups (5 external, 2 internal)

- Employee / visitor presence, easy-to-access information
- Well-programmed, well-maintained, accessible, clean
- Intentional support for unhoused residents
- Cultural awareness and acceptance

Open Space Plan Contents

1. Background / planning context
2. Service area
3. King County Parks and the open space system
4. Public involvement and engagement
5. Partnerships and community investments
6. Operations and stewardship
7. Capital improvement program

~Feb 2-16

Public Meeting &
SEPA Comment
Period

Late Feb

Update Plan
per Feedback

March / April

DNRP / Executive
Office Review

Spring /
Summer 2022

Council Review &
Potential Adoption

Summer / Fall
2022

Submit to RCO



Timeline

A man and a young child are riding bicycles on a paved path. The man is wearing a blue shirt, shorts, a white helmet, and sunglasses, and is holding the child's bicycle. The child is wearing a blue shirt, shorts, and a helmet. They are surrounded by lush greenery and trees. In the background, other cyclists are visible on the path. A green rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Questions and
discussion?**