



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
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June 2, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would provide grant funding project allocations for the King County Parks Levy grant program managed by the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). These grants will help increase access to recreation in underserved areas by funding programs, capacity-building, land acquisition, and capital projects throughout the County.

The proposed Ordinance would fund 23 projects for a total of \$3,200,000. The proposed legislation allocates Parks Levy funding for projects selected through the Targeted Equity competitive grant programs. These projects enable tribal organizations, nonprofits, King County, cities, towns, and fiscally sponsored community organizations to submit proposals that enhance or create new parks and recreational opportunities. The projects will also leverage additional resources and complement DNRP's overall mission.

The selected projects, consistent with Ordinance 19166 project eligibility, would fund recreation programs, increase access to open space and parks, expand active and passive recreation facilities, and build capacity in community organizations to address the County's regional recreation needs in underserved communities. Because these grant programs were funded in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget, the proposed Ordinance has no fiscal impact.

In accordance with Ordinance 19166, DNRP solicited applications from tribal organizations, nonprofits, King County, cities, towns, and fiscally sponsored community organizations. The Targeted Equity Grants Advisory Committee convened six times in 2022 to review and rank grant proposals based upon eligibility criteria and alignment with program, department, and County goals and objectives. Additionally, staff conducted community engagement and outreach activities with more than 115 community members and stakeholders. Projects recommended for funding are listed in the proposed Ordinance and the memorandum attached to this letter.

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Page 2

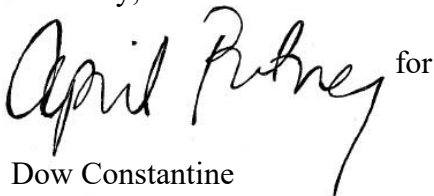
The Targeted Equity Grants Advisory Committee, based on community feedback, has voted to change the working name of this program to be the *Healthy Communities and Parks Fund*. This working name is now used when communicating information about the program to the public and potential grant applicants. Parks is not seeking a formal name change of the Targeted Equity Grant Program to continue alignment with Ordinance 18890 and the Parks Levy ballot measure.

The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan health and human services goal to improve the health and well-being of all people in our community by improving, expanding, and increasing access to the region's network of recreation, parks, trails, open space, and aquatic programs and facilities. The proposed legislation furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Initiative through investments in partnerships that allow the County to apply early, upstream, and preventative solutions to public health.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will positively impact King County residents by expanding recreational opportunities and improving parks, trails, and open space in underserved communities.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4525.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks Division, DNRP