

2026-2027 PROPOSED COMMUNITY NEEDS LIST INVESTMENTS

The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget advances priorities put forward by residents of Unincorporated King County through the community needs list (CNL) process.

Background

The Department of Local Services (DLS) is required by King County Code 2.16.055, C.1 to develop 11 CNLs—one for each of the six rural community service areas and five urban potential annexation areas. The CNLs are lists of potential services, programs, facilities, and capital improvements identified by the community that will require additional resources.

Funding Constraints

While King County agencies strive to be responsive to the community, a number of CNL requests cannot be implemented in 2026-2027 due to funding constraints in the General Fund and Roads Fund. New revenue tools provided by the State Legislature helped address the \$175 million deficit in the General Fund, with limited funding available for new programs and services. Without a new sustainable revenue source, the Roads Fund will be unable to fund many of the traffic safety, road repair, drainage improvements, and quality of life needs of the community in Unincorporated King County.

2026-2027 Proposed Investments

The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget includes the following proposals that are responsive to the CNLs:

- KCSO will invest \$463,000 to add a Special Assault Unit deputy to reduce the backlog of cases in the unincorporated area and will also fund \$2.1 million in recruiting efforts, hiring incentive pay, and referral incentives to recruit additional deputies across King County. This proposed investment is responsive to multiple CNL requests for increased deputies and patrols. *(EN_A20000, DS_020, DS_007, DS_008; CNL: BCCS.25.006, BCCS.25.027, BCCS.25.028, EFP.25.004, EFP.25.009, FWP.25.022, FCTC.005, FCTC.25.004, GMVC.25.010, SNVC.24.023, SNVC.25.015, SEKC.25.012, SEKC.25.025, VMIC.25.029)*
- DLS will add \$250,000 in contingency funding to support emergency response in Unincorporated King County, allowing the department to be responsive to the community's needs during an emergency event. *(EN_A77000, DS_001; CNL: ERP.25.001)*
- DLS will add a position to support communications with residents of Unincorporated King County. Additional communications capacity will allow for a more proactive approach to working with County partner agencies to provide information on County services. *(EN_A77000, DS_003; CNL: GMVC.25.006, GMVC.25.012, GMVC.25.017, NHP.25.016, SWP.25.005, SNVC.24.006, FCTC.25.001)*
- Metro Transit will add \$1.4 million in one-time funding to continue the Snoqualmie Valley Shuttle, which provides mobility access in a rural area including connections to Issaquah and Redmond. *(EN_A46410, DS_009; CNL: SNVC.24.049)*
- The 2026-2031 Parks Levy includes \$1 million for the planning, design, and construction of new dog parks. Tentative sites include Lake Geneva Park, North Shorewood Park, and Skyway Park. In

2026-2027, Parks will invest in the design and potentially construction of an off-leash dog park; the location will be identified when the Off Leash Dog Park Plan is finalized in late 2025. (3581, #1150601; CNL: SWP.023)

- The Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) will invest \$1.4 million to improve the Cemetery Pond Regional Stormwater Facility, which occupies historic wetlands. The project will restore portions of the wetland to increase the facility's detention storage and improve water quality treatment. (3292, #1129498; CNL: ERP.25.008, ERP.25.018, FCTC.009)
- The Community Needs List includes several requests that are supported by Conservation Future Advisory Committee recommendations:
 - Community members requested conservation efforts from High Point to North Bend (CNL: SNVC.25.005). The 2026-2027 Proposed Budget includes:
 - \$2.6 million to acquire 200 acres in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Area. This would protect portions of two alpine lakes and the headwaters of Granite Creek and secure recreational access for popular backcountry trails. (\$2M - 3151, #1150373; \$661,000 - 3581, #1150412)
 - \$109,000 to acquire property in the Snoqualmie Riverfront Reach area to support site stabilization. (3151, #1150427)
 - \$700,000 to acquire 18 acres in the Stillwater Natural Area, which is a priority for salmon habitat restoration. (\$525,000 - 3151, # 1150376; \$175,000 - 3581, #1150414).
 - \$1.9M to acquire 116 acres to protect property in the Upper Snoqualmie watershed. (\$1.4M - 3151, #1148007; \$483,000 - 3581, #1148037)
 - \$525,000 to acquire 49 acres in undeveloped upland forest east of the Raging River and along the Preston Snoqualmie Regional Trail. (\$400,000 - 3151, #1148001; \$131,000 - 3581, # 1147995)
 - Community members also requested conservation efforts along the Middle Green River/Green River Gorge to prevent environmental degradation (CNL: SEKC.25.009). The 2026-2027 Proposed budget includes:
 - \$4 million to acquire 43 acres along the Middle Green River and Newaukum Creek to protect salmon habitat, promote ecological connectivity between State Park lands, the Green River Natural Area, and the lower Newaukum Creek Ravine; and protect and restore the middle portion of Newaukum Creek. (\$1.7M - 3151, #1145729; \$1M – 3151, #1148073; \$1.3M - 3581, # 1136778)

2026-2027 Next Steps

Throughout the 2026-2027 biennium, agencies will continue to work to identify new projects and funding for CNL requests that may be implemented in the future.