



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

June 29, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would provide grant funding project allocations for the King County Parks Levy grant programs managed by the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). These grants will improve access to parks and recreation in the King County open space system by acquiring lands, developing recreation facilities, expanding access to aquatic facilities, improving programs for public recreation in underserved communities, and restoring ecological function of river corridors throughout the County.

The proposed legislation would allocate a total of \$29,479,218 in funding from the 2020 – 2025 King County Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy for 53 projects selected through the Parks Capital and Open Space, Targeted Equity, Aquatic Facilities, and Open Space – River Corridors competitive grant programs, consistent with Ordinance 19166 eligibility requirements. These grant programs were funded in the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget; therefore, the proposed Ordinance has no fiscal impact and no budget action is needed. Attached is a memorandum outlining the Parks Advisory Committees' recommendations for awards for the Levy grant programs.

As described in the attached memorandum, and in accordance with Ordinance 19166, DNRP solicited applications from eligible organizations by conducting outreach and engagement. In addition, Parks provided consultants for community-based organizations to receive grant application technical assistance.

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.

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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation will positively impact communities by improving access to parks and recreation in King County.

If your staff have 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

Enclosures

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 and Recreation Division, DNRP