

Expanding Access to Sports and Recreation Activities for Underserved Youth

King County Executive Dow Constantine’s 2017-2018 proposed budget will increase recreational opportunities for underserved youth using the Rental Car Sales Tax.

Until recently, 75 percent of the Rental Car Sales tax revenue was devoted to paying debt service on Kingdome bonds, and 25 percent went to support King County Parks’ Youth Sports Facilities Grant program. Now that the Kingdome bonds are retired, 100 percent of Rental Car Sales Tax is available for youth sports activities.

King County Parks and Recreation Division will use these funds to provide grants and programming that increase recreational opportunities for underserved youth in King County.

Recreational Access Grants
<p><i>Total annual grant funding: ~\$1,050,000</i> <i>Grant size: Up to \$250,000</i> <i>Number of grants awarded each year: ~4-10</i></p> <p>Transportation, the cost of equipment, team fees, and a lack of culturally appropriate opportunities are some of the greatest barriers for access to sports and recreation for underserved youth. Recreational Access Grants will target low-income communities with the goal of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fostering kids’ access to the outdoors and recreation▪ Supporting participation in youth sports and recreation
Park and Recreation Improvement Grants
<p><i>Total annual grant funding: ~\$600,000</i> <i>Grant size: Up to \$300K</i> <i>Number of grants awarded each year: ~2-5</i></p> <p>Park and Recreation Improvement Grants will fund permanent recreation amenities, such as playground equipment, skate parks and basketball courts, in King County that serve historically underserved communities. This grant program builds on the current Youth Sports Facilities grant program; however, grant awards will be much larger and will likely have no matching requirement.</p>
Recreation Programs in Underserved Areas of King County
<p>In addition to the grant programs, King County Parks will expand recreation programs in urban unincorporated King County, including Skyway and East Federal Way. With the newly available Rental Car Sales Tax funding, King County Parks will also look to support programs that help address the shortage of recreational opportunities in underserved areas of King County.</p>