



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Motion 15378

**Proposed No.** 2019-0142.2

**Sponsors** Balducci, Kohl-Welles and  
Dembowski

1           A MOTION related to a property tax levy for 2020 through  
2           2025 for the purpose of maintaining and operating King  
3           County's open space system; improving parks, recreation,  
4           access and mobility in the King County open space system  
5           by acquiring lands and continuing to develop regional  
6           trails; improving parks and trails in and acquiring lands by  
7           metropolitan parks districts, towns and cities in King  
8           County; funding environmental education, maintenance and  
9           conservation programs at the Woodland Park Zoo; funding  
10          capital construction at the Seattle Aquarium; and funding  
11          for capital improvements at publicly owned pools, for all  
12          King County residents.

13          WHEREAS, the county owns and operates regional trails, regional recreational  
14          facilities, regional natural areas, regional parks and local parks in unincorporated areas,  
15          which are parts of the county's "open space system," and

16          WHEREAS, the county's open space system consists of approximately twenty-  
17          eight thousand acres of parks, natural areas and resource lands and more than one  
18          hundred seventy-five miles of regional trails, and

19          WHEREAS, a robust open space system contributes to a high quality of life, and

20 WHEREAS, such an open space system provides physical, social and mental  
21 health benefits to individuals; economic opportunity through recreation and tourism;  
22 economic growth for private businesses that must attract and retain skilled workers; and  
23 environmental benefits and cultural resource protection through open space conservation,  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the open space system provides all these benefits to King County  
26 residents and businesses, and

27 WHEREAS, for the benefit of all King County residents, in February 2019, the  
28 executive transmitted to the council Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084, which would submit  
29 to the qualified electors of King County a property tax levy on an August 2019 special  
30 election ballot for the purpose of maintaining and operating King County's open space  
31 system, including parks; acquiring lands; continuing to develop regional trails; repairing,  
32 replacing and improving parks and trails in King County's towns and cities; funding  
33 environmental education, maintenance and conservation programs at the Woodland Park  
34 Zoo; and funding capital construction at the Seattle Aquarium;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

36 A. It is the intent of the council that levy proceeds be used for:

37 1. Metropolitan park district, town and city capital improvements and major  
38 maintenance repair or replacement, as provided for in Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed  
39 Ordinance 2019-0084), Section 4.E.2.e, and for open space acquisition and conservation  
40 purposes, as provided for in Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084),  
41 Section 4.E.2.a, and that such uses be consistent with the capital project grant and open  
42 space, natural lands and urban green space acquisition guidelines, which are included as

43 Attachment A to this motion;

44           2. A targeted equity grant program, consistent with the targeted equity grant  
45 program guidelines, which are included as Attachment B to this motion;

46           3.a. Operations, projects and programs, and in such allocations, as provided in  
47 Attachment C to this motion.

48           b. The moneys allocated to operations, projects and programs listed in  
49 Attachment C to this motion may be modified where deemed advisable or necessary in  
50 the judgment of the council; and implementation or completion of any project or program  
51 listed in Attachment C to this motion will not be required if the council determines that it  
52 has become inadvisable or impractical. The council will make such a determination  
53 through action on an appropriations ordinance. Of the allocation for the Eastside Rail  
54 Corridor, if any funding remains after completion of the projects planned as of the date of  
55 adoption of this motion, or if any of this funding cannot be spent on those projects during  
56 the levy period, remaining funding will be allocated to trail connections to the Eastside  
57 Rail Corridor within the city of Renton. Of the allocation for the Lake to Sound Trail, if  
58 any funding remains after completion of the projects planned as of the date of adoption of  
59 this motion, or if any of this funding cannot be spent on those projects during the levy  
60 period, remaining funding will be allocated to the Soos Creek Trail project.

61           c. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks  
62 report to the council annually by September 30 of each year, beginning in 2020, if it  
63 anticipates requesting a reallocation of moneys for projects or programs listed in  
64 Attachment C to this motion in the following year. The report should be filed in the form  
65 of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who will retain

66 the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of  
67 staff and the lead staff to the mobility and environment committee or its successor, and  
68 the lead staff to the budget and fiscal management committee or its successor. The last  
69 report should be filed by September 30, 2025;

70 4. Development and improvement of public pools, with eight million dollars  
71 allocated to the Weyerhaeuser King County aquatic center. Use of the remaining levy  
72 proceeds for development and improvement of public pools will be consistent with the  
73 aquatic centers grant program guidelines, which are included as Attachment D to this  
74 motion; and

75 5. Integrated floodplain management projects, consistent with the open space -  
76 river corridor grant program guidelines, which are included as Attachment E to this  
77 motion.

78 B.1. The department of natural resources and parks is requested to conduct  
79 community outreach with the following communities:

80 a. The Redmond Ridge Residential Owners Association ("ROA") to develop a  
81 strategy to mitigate impacts to ROA-owned trails from users of regional trails;

82 b. The Hobart and Fairwood communities to increase active recreation  
83 opportunities; and

84 c. Communities surrounding Duvall park to identify potential partnerships and  
85 other strategies to activate the space.

86 2. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks  
87 transmit to the council by December 31, 2020, a report on the community outreach efforts  
88 and recommendations resulting from the community outreach efforts. The report should

89 be filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the  
90 council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all  
91 councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff to the mobility and  
92 environment committee or its successor, and the lead staff to the budget and fiscal  
93 management committee or its successor.

94 C. Contracts between King County and towns and cities, as provided for in  
95 Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084), Section 6, should include a  
96 requirement that towns and cities report to the department of natural resources and parks  
97 and county councilmember offices when major milestones for parks capital projects, such  
98 as groundbreaking and opening dates, are scheduled. Towns and cities should report at  
99 least thirty days in advance of such major milestones.

100 D. All expenditures from Ordinance XXXXX (Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084)  
101 made in unincorporated areas of King County should only be made after consultation  
102 with the department of local services, in accordance with K.C.C. 2.16.055.

103 E. The department of natural resources and parks is requested to develop a plan  
104 to implement a youth conservation corps beginning in 2020. Funding for the youth  
105 conservation corps should be included in an appropriations ordinance, and the  
106 appropriations ordinance should be transmitted no later than December 31, 2019.

107 F.1. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks  
108 transmit to the council by January 31, 2020, a proposed ordinance to implement one or  
109 more advisory committees to review and make recommendations on grant awards for the  
110 grant programs described in Attachments A, B, D and E to this motion. The proposed  
111 ordinance should also propose grant processes and protocols.

112           2. The committee or committees should include representatives from a variety  
113 of stakeholders, such as cities, towns and metropolitan park districts and community  
114 members and organizations.

115           3. The department of natural resources and parks should consult appropriately  
116 with tribes in King County on parks levy expenditures, which may include review of  
117 grant proposals or invitations to participate on advisory committees, or both.

118           4. The proposed ordinance should describe the responsibilities of the advisory  
119 committee or committees, which may include consultation with the conservation futures  
120 citizens oversight committee and the King County flood control district.

121           5. It is the intent of the council that grant awards as provided for in Attachments  
122 A, B, D and E will begin in 2020. Final grant funding recommendations shall be made  
123 by appropriation.

124           G.1. The council requests that the department of natural resources and parks  
125 conduct an assessment of the feasibility and cost for the following projects:

126           a. the south extension of the Green to Cedar Rivers trail, including connections  
127 to a Black Diamond open space area; and

128           b. closing the gaps in the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, including, but not limited  
129 to the former Mill site in the city of Snoqualmie, and between the Issaquah Preston Trail  
130 and Snoqualmie Valley Trail.

131           2. The department of natural resources and parks is requested to transmit the  
132 assessment to the council by December 31, 2021. The assessment should be filed in the  
133 form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who will

134 retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief  
135 of staff and the lead staff to the mobility and environment committee or its successor.  
136

Motion 15378 was introduced on 3/27/2019 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 4/17/2019, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci



KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rod Dembowski", written over a horizontal line.

Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melani Pedroza", written over a horizontal line.

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Open Space, Natural Lands and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines, dated March 28, 2019, B. Targeted Equity Grant Program Guidelines, dated March 28, 2019, C. 2020-2025 Parks Levy Planned Funding (rounded), dated March 28, 2019, D. Aquatic Centers Grant Program Guidelines, dated March 28, 2019, E. Open Space – River Corridors Grant Program, dated March 28, 2019

1 **Capital Project Grant and Open Space, Natural Lands and Urban Green Space**  
2 **Acquisition Guidelines**

3  
4 Purpose

5 This document provides guidelines for the use of parks levy proceeds for capital project  
6 grants and open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisitions. Parks levy  
7 funding for open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisition is intended to  
8 be used by King County, King County cities, towns and metropolitan park districts solely  
9 for land acquisition. This includes lands located in opportunity or equity areas as defined  
10 in King County Code 26.12.003.

11  
12 Eligible Entities

13 Entities eligible to receive funding include the following:

- 14 1. King County;
- 15 2. King County cities and towns;
- 16 3. Metropolitan park districts geographically located in King County.

17  
18 Eligible Projects for King County

19 Parks levy funding received by King County for open space, natural lands and urban  
20 green spaces acquisition can be used to acquire land for the following purposes:

- 21 1. Passive recreational uses (e.g. hiking, mountain biking, bird-watching, etc.);
- 22 2. Regional trails;
- 23 3. Open space lands except if the land is primarily an agricultural use; agriculture  
24 can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds  
25 (e.g. community garden, pea patch), as long as the primary use allows public  
26 recreation and access.

27 Eligible Projects for King County cities, towns and metropolitan park districts

28 Parks levy funding received by King County cities, towns and metropolitan park districts  
29 for open space, natural lands and urban green spaces acquisition can be used to  
30 acquire land or undertake capital projects for the following purposes:

- 31 1. Active recreational uses (e.g. athletic fields, sports courts, ballfield turf projects,  
32 etc.)
- 33 2. Passive recreational uses (e.g. hiking, mountain biking, bird-watching, etc.);
- 34 3. Local trails;
- 35 4. Open space lands except if the land is primarily an agricultural use; agriculture  
36 can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds  
37 (e.g. community garden, pea patch), as long as the primary use allows public  
38 recreation and access;
- 39 5. Other capital projects in parks or recreational facilities.



42 Other requirements for all entities

43 Open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisitions funded by the parks levy  
44 proceeds must allow public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the  
45 eligible entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.

1 **Targeted Equity Grant Program Guidelines**

2 Overview

3 Historically, many communities in King County have experienced inequitable and limited  
4 regional investments in parks, open space, trails and recreation. There are an estimated  
5 500,000 people in King County who live without proximity or access to parks, open  
6 space and public recreation facilities. To help address these inequities, the parks levy  
7 includes funding for a targeted equity grant program.

8 Purpose

9 The purpose of the targeted equity grant program is to increase access to and the use  
10 of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in underserved communities. This  
11 program is consistent with and builds upon the goal of investing in community  
12 partnership in the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by helping to  
13 build internal capacities of community-based partners.

14 Eligible Entities

15 Parks levy funding for the targeted equity grant program is intended to reach areas and  
16 individuals with the greatest need for access and recreation in both incorporated and  
17 unincorporated areas. This includes:

- 18 1. King County towns and cities;
- 19 2. Tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County;
- 20 3. Non-profit organizations;
- 21 4. Small or emerging community organizations without a 501c3 status, through a  
22 partnership with a fiscal agent.

23 Eligible Geographic Areas and Communities

24 The targeted equity grant program will be eligible to entities that intend to increase  
25 access to and the use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in the  
26 following areas:

- 27 1. In equity areas as defined by King County Code 26.12.003, as may be amended;  
28 or
- 29 2. Programming or projects designed to increase access to or the use of parks and  
30 recreation facilities by individuals with disabilities.

31 Eligible Projects

32 The targeted equity grant program may be used to fund the following:

- 34 1. Build capacity, and/or partnerships to develop and plan successful parks,  
35 recreation, conservation and open space projects and programs;
- 36 2. Land acquisition for parks, open space and recreation purposes;
- 37 3. Capital projects and programming for parks, open space and recreation.

38  
39 Other Guidelines for all entities  
40 All acquisitions, capital projects and programming funded by the parks levy proceeds  
41 must allow public access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible  
42 entities will be required to enter into contracts with King County.

Attachment C dated March 28, 2019

2020-2025 Parks Levy Planned Funding (rounded)

<b>Election Costs</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>
<b>Additional Assumed Costs</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<i>Fixed income exemption<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>\$3,000,000</i>
<i>1% undercollection assumption</i>	<i>\$7,000,000</i>
<b>Open Space - River Corridors</b>	<b>\$22,000,000</b>
<b>Pools<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$44,000,000</b>
<b>Seattle Aquarium</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>
<b>King County Operations and Maintenance<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$277,000,000</b>
<b>Targeted Equity Grants</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation</b>	<b>\$123,500,000</b>
<i>King County Open Space</i>	<i>\$78,000,000</i>
<i>Towns and Cities Open Space</i>	<i>\$25,000,000</i>
<i>Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&amp;M)</i>	<i>\$18,000,000</i>
<i>Water Access Acquisition on Lake Washington<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>\$2,500,000</i>
<b>Regional and Other Public Trails System</b>	<b>\$165,650,000</b>
<i>Eastside Rail Corridor (Bellevue, Woodinville, Kirkland)<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>\$50,500,000</i>
<i>East Lake Sammamish Trail</i>	<i>\$32,000,000</i>
<i>Capital Improvements for existing Regional Trail System</i>	<i>\$18,000,000</i>
<i>Lake to Sound Trail (Renton, Tukwila)</i>	<i>\$16,000,000</i>
<i>Green to Cedar Rivers Trail - North A (Maple Valley)</i>	<i>\$9,000,000</i>
<i>Green River Trail Extension - North (Seattle)</i>	<i>\$6,000,000</i>
<i>Regional Trails Acquisition</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>
<i>Interurban Trail South Investments (Kent, Auburn)</i>	<i>\$5,500,000</i>
<i>Foothills Trail (Enumclaw)</i>	<i>\$5,000,000</i>
<i>East Lake Sammamish Trail - Redmond Light Rail Extension</i>	<i>\$4,000,000</i>
<i>Wayne Golf Course Trail Connector Improvements</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>
<i>Interurban Trail to Burke-Gilman Connection<sup>6</sup></i>	<i>\$7,500,000</i>
<i>Interurban Trail Connection (Milton)</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>
<i>Kirkland Green Loop Trail<sup>6</sup></i>	<i>\$2,500,000</i>
<i>Soos Creek Trail</i>	<i>\$4,000,000</i>
<i>Missing Link of Green River Trail</i>	<i>\$1,500,000</i>

42	<b>Active Recreation Repair and Renovation and Other</b>	
	<b>Park Repair and Renovation</b>	<b>\$41,500,000</b>
43	<i>Infrastructure Investments at 5 existing sites<sup>7</sup></i>	<i>\$12,500,000</i>
44	<i>Ballfield Turf Replacement and New Turf Projects</i>	<i>\$12,500,000</i>
45	<i>Play Area Rehabilitation</i>	<i>\$2,500,000</i>
46	<i>Trailhead Access Improvement</i>	<i>\$3,500,000</i>
47	<i>Backcountry Trail Rehabilitation</i>	<i>\$5,500,000</i>
48	<i>Other Sport Court and Ballfield Rehabilitation</i>	<i>\$5,000,000</i>
49		
50	<b>Community Partnerships and Grants<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>\$9,570,000</b>
51		
52	<b>King County Towns and Cities<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>\$60,000,000</b>
53		
54	<b>Woodland Park Zoo</b>	<b>\$36,000,000</b>
55		
56	<b>Total Estimated Expenditures 2020-2025<sup>10-11</sup></b>	<b>\$810,220,000</b>

**Notes:**

- 59 1. As authorized by RCW 84.36.381
- 60 2. Of the allocation for pools, \$8 million to be allocated to the King County Aquatic Center.
- 61 3. Of the allocation for King County operations and maintenance, \$300,000 to be allocated to the King County Fair.
- 62 4. Acquisition for water access should prioritize properties located in proximity to the Burke-Gilman Trail.
- 63 5. Of the allocation for the Eastside Rail Corridor at least \$100,000 to be spent on design for the Cross Kirkland Corridor Connection. Of the allocation for the Eastside Rail Corridor, if there is any funding remaining after completion of the projects planned as of the date of adoption of this motion, or if any of these project dollars cannot be spent during the levy period, remaining funding to be allocated to trail connections to the Eastside Rail Corridor within the city of Renton. Of the allocation for the Lake to Sound Trail, if any funding remains after completion of the projects planned as of the date of adoption of this motion, or if any of this funding cannot be spent on those projects during the levy period, remaining funding will be allocated to the Soos Creek Trail project.
- 64 6. The funding for the Interurban Trail to Burke-Gilman Connector and the Kirkland Green Loop Trail is intended to be allocated to city partners.
- 65 7. The five projects include Marymoor Park, Dockton Park, Five Mile Park, Skyway Park, and Preston Mill Park. The King County Aquatic Center would be funded through the pools allocation.
- 66 8. Of the allocation for Community Partnerships and Grants, \$500,000 to be spent on Starfire Soccer Capital Project and \$570,000 to be spent on the Evergreen Pool.
- 67 9. \$25,000 would be allocated to each town and city and an additional \$75,000 would be allocated to cities with more than 4,000 residents; the remainder of the allocation for towns and cities would be as follows: 50% allocated in proportion to each town or city's population and 50% allocated in proportion to each town or city's assessed
10. \$35,000 to be allocated to Duvall Park.
11. \$250,000 to be allocated for parks purposes to a new community center in Fall City.

1 **Aquatic Centers Grant Program Guidelines**

2  
3 Overview

4 For more than 50 years, King County communities have built public pools and aquatic  
5 centers to improve access for residents to recreation, competition and education  
6 opportunities. This grant program is intended to assist communities across all of King  
7 County as our region grows and existing facilities become obsolete or reach capacity.  
8 The Aquatic Centers grant program will provide funding opportunities for construction,  
9 repair or expansion of new or existing aquatic centers in King County.

10  
11 Eligible Entities

12 Parks levy funding for the Aquatic Centers Grant Program is intended to preserve or  
13 increase public access to aquatic centers in King County. Eligible entities include:

- 14 1. King County towns and cities;  
15 2. Metropolitan Parks Districts;  
16 3. School Districts;  
17 4. Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities.  
18

19 Eligible Projects

20 The Aquatic Centers grant program will fund projects necessary to the operation and  
21 construction of aquatic centers. The grant program will make funds available for the  
22 following expenses:

- 23 1. Planning or feasibility studies related to development of a publicly-owned aquatic  
24 facility;  
25 2. Land purchase;  
26 3. Pre-construction;  
27 4. Design;  
28 5. Construction;  
29 6. Renovation;  
30 7. Repair;  
31 8. Expansion;  
32 9. Other capital costs associated with the construction or continued function of an  
33 aquatic center.  
34

35 Other Guidelines for all entities

36 All facilities receiving funding from the Aquatic Centers grant program must allow  
37 regular public access. There is no minimum for capital requests. Capital grants for new  
38 aquatic centers are capped at \$5,000,000 or 25% of a facility's total cost, whichever is  
39 lower. Capital grants for existing facilities are capped at \$5,000,000 and grants from \$1  
40 - \$100,000 can provide up to 100% of a projects total cost, grants from \$100,001 -  
41 \$2,000,000 can provide no more than 50% of a project's total cost and grants from

42 \$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000 can provide no more than 25% of a projects total cost. If a  
43 facility serves multiple purposes, to calculate project cost, only infrastructure necessary  
44 for an aquatic center may be included.

45 Grants up to \$100,000 may be awarded to support planning or feasibility studies related  
46 to development of a publicly-owned aquatic facility.

47 To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to  
48 enter into contracts with King County.

49 All grant awards should make clear that King County assumes no role or funding  
50 obligation for the ongoing operations, maintenance or completion of aquatic facilities.

1 **Open Space – River Corridors Grant Program**

2  
3 Overview

4 A grant program designed to provide funding for habitat restoration, open space and recreation in river  
5 corridors. The purpose is to incentivize projects that will integrate multiple attributes of projects inside  
6 river corridors such as flood control, habitat, passive recreation and trails.

7  
8 Eligible Entities

9 Parks levy funding for the Open Space – River Corridors grant program is intended to reach areas with the  
10 greatest need for habitat restoration and/or recreation within river corridors in King County. Eligible  
11 entities shall include:

- 12 1. King County towns and cities;
- 13 2. Tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County;
- 14 3. Port districts;
- 15 4. Flood control zone districts;
- 16 5. Flood control and diking and drainage districts;
- 17 6. Conservation districts;
- 18 7. Non-profit organizations; and,
- 19 8. Salmon recovery forums (i.e., WRIAs 7, 8, 9, 10).

20  
21 Eligible Projects

22 An Open Space – River Corridors grant program will fund as elements of flood hazard reduction  
23 projects: open space acquisition, ecosystem restoration and/or recreation projects.

24 Eligible activities for the grant program include:

- 25 1. Pre-construction (e.g., planning);
- 26 2. Feasibility and design;
- 27 3. Construction;
- 28 4. Design and construction combined;
- 29 5. Land acquisition (purchase or easement);
- 30 6. Project specific outreach and education.

31  
32 Other Guidelines for all entities

33 All acquisitions, capital projects and programming funded by the parks levy proceeds must allow public  
34 access. To receive parks levy funds for eligible projects, the eligible entities will be required to enter into  
35 contracts with King County.

36 Funding shall not be provided to fund environmental mitigation required by law or by permit or to  
37 supplant open space acquisition, habitat restoration or recreation already budgeted for by the grant  
38 applicant.

39 A priority shall be placed on river corridors with threatened or endangered species and/or where  
40 improvements contribute to Puget Sound Orca recovery.