



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 9, 2014**

**Motion 14254**

**Proposed No. 2014-0429.1**

**Sponsors McDermott**

1           A MOTION acknowledging receipt of a report related to  
2           the status of applications for the youth sports and facilities  
3           grant program and a recommendation on match  
4           requirements identified in Motion 13763.

5           WHEREAS, the youth sports facilities grant program has been funded through a  
6           sales and use tax on rental vehicles in King County, as well as from investment income  
7           on an endowment established with the proceeds from the sale of stadium properties, and

8           WHEREAS, since 1993, the youth sports facilities grant program has issued more  
9           than three hundred grants with funded projects including ball fields, sport courts,  
10          climbing walls, playgrounds, rowing facilities, skate parks, mountain biking courses,  
11          gymnasiums, swimming pools and weight rooms, and

12          WHEREAS, Motion 13763 states that the executive shall transmit a motion and  
13          report to the council regarding the status of applications to this program by September 15,  
14          2014, and

15          WHEREAS, the parks and recreation division of the department of natural  
16          resources and parks reviewed the required local match issues identified in Motion 13763,  
17          and

18          WHEREAS, the executive has transmitted to the council the requested report and  
19          a motion;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:  
21 Receipt of the report related to review of the status of applications for the youth  
22 sports and facilities grant program and match issues identified in Motion 13763, and  
23 submitted as Attachment A to this ordinance, is hereby acknowledged and satisfies  
24 Motion 13763.  
25

Motion 14254 was introduced on 10/27/2014 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/8/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,  
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr.  
Upthegrove  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

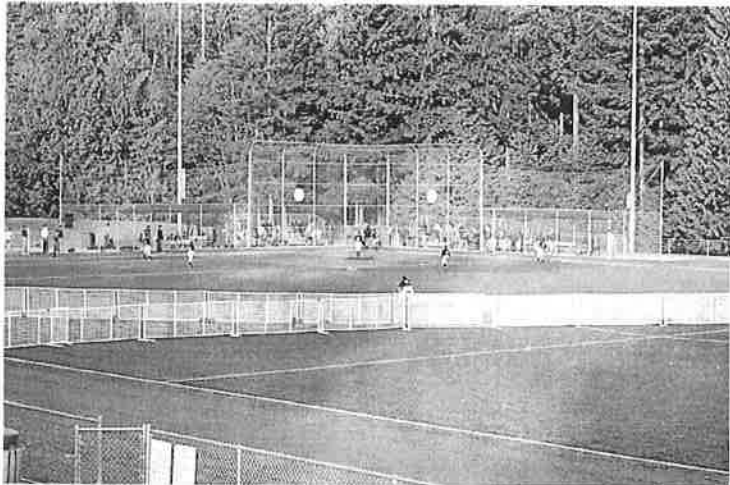
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program Motion 13763 Report

## Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program

### Motion 13763 Report

September 15, 2014



King County Parks **Your**  King County  
**Big Backyard**

**King County Parks and Recreation Division**

**Department of Natural Resources and Parks**

## **Introduction**

This report responds to the following requirement stated in Motion 13763 on the Youth Sports Facilities Grant program.

*“The executive shall transmit a motion and report to the council regarding the status of applications to this program by September 15, 2014. The report shall include the following information: a. The number of project applications during 2013 and 2014; b. Project funding amounts requested vs. amounts funded; c. Projects funded in low- and moderate-income communities; and d. Effects on applications attributable to lowered match requirement. The report shall also recommend whether the lowered match requirement should remain in force or be changed for future years.”*

## **History of the Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program (YSFG)**

For the past two decades, the YSFG program has worked with community partners to renovate or build more than three hundred youth sports amenities in communities across the County at minimal taxpayer expense. The YSFG program provides matching grant funds ranging from \$5,000 to \$75,000 to support youth recreation, creating more livable and healthy communities.

Past grants have been awarded for a variety of facilities, including athletic fields, skate parks, playgrounds, sport courts, and rowing facilities. Applications from qualified groups are reviewed annually and scored based on criteria designed to select the most viable projects that will best meet the needs of the community. Additional criteria include project management, sustainable design, matching funds, and sound budgets. Prior to 2013, applicants were required to provide a 50 percent match. In 2013, the match requirement changed to 25 percent per council Motion 13763. Prior to the change, a policy was in place to allow low- and moderate-income applicants the ability to request a reduced or waived community match.

Since its inception in 1993, the YSFG program has awarded \$12.5 million in grant funds benefiting youth athletics in King County. In 2013, the program funded 11 projects with approximately \$555,000 in grant awards.

## **Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program Application Status**

This attached table summarizes the status of the applications and funding, including:

- a. The number of project applications during 2013 and 2014;
- b. Project funding amounts requested vs. amounts funded; and
- c. Projects funded in low- and moderate-income communities.

Note that the final determination of 2014 funding is pending council adoption of the 2015 budget; as a result, some of the information provided in the table will not be finalized until the budget is adopted.

## **Effects on Applications Attributable to Lower Match Requirement**

In 2011 and 2012, the two years prior to the match requirement change, 21 percent of the applicants contributed a minimum match requirement of exactly 50 percent match and 79 percent contributed more than 50 percent match. In the two years following the policy change (2013 and 2014), 69 percent of applicants met or exceeded the 50 percent match. This change means proportionally less is contributed by the applicant and more by YSFG grant funds. As a result, one fewer project will be funded with more grant dollars generally allocated to each project. Thirty three applications were received in 2013-2014 compared to 30 received in 2011-2012. This suggests that the lower match requirement may not be significantly increasing the number of applications.

**Youth Sports Facilities Grant Program Data**

	2014		2013		2012		2011	
	Requested	Funded	Requested	Funded	Requested	Funded	Requested	Funded
Number of project applications	15	TBD	18	11	11	11	19	13
Project funding amounts	\$1,051,129	\$775,000*	\$1,189,444	\$555,000	\$658,404	\$530,075	\$1,143,697	\$685,165
Projects funded in low to moderate-income communities	4	TBD	4	2	7	7	4	4
Low- and moderate-income applications / Total applications	4/15 (27%)		4/18 (22%)		7/11 (64%)		4/19 (21%)	

*\*(Estimated final upon Council adoption of 2015 budget)*

**Recommendation for Match Requirements**

Given the effect on the program as noted above, and that a policy is in place to allow low- and moderate-income applicants the ability to request a reduced or waived community match, the Council may wish to consider reinstating the 50 percent match requirement. In discussions with some previous community partners who did not apply for grants this year, an overall lack of additional capital funds available to bring a project forward played a significant role in the decision not to apply for grant funds rather than simply an inability to meet matching requirements. At the same time, some partners may have taken advantage of the reduced match requirement despite being in a position to contribute more, and simply requested more grant funds to offset project costs. Finally, it should also be noted that a 50 percent match requirement is typical for grant programs including Washington State's Recreation and Conservation Office grant programs, so potential partners are accustomed to this requirement.