

KING COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Shannon Braddock
King County Executive
Chinook Building
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, Washington 98104-1818

Dear Executive Braddock,

On behalf of the King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (committee), enclosed is our annual recommendation report for the allocation of 2026 King County Conservation Futures tax levy (CFT) and King County Parks Levy county open space acquisition funds (PL).

The committee received requests for \$137 million in funding across 64 projects. Of the total request, \$132 million was requested for property acquisition, and \$5 million was requested for site stabilization costs.

The committee is pleased to recommend a total of \$108.7 million in funding, including \$104.2 million for acquisition and \$4.5 million for site stabilization costs. Recommendations include \$94.9 million in CFT dollars (\$44.9 million in annual dollars, \$50 million in bond dollars) and \$13.8 million in PL dollars (which are dependent on the passage of the proposed 2026-2031 King County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Levy, Proposition 1 on the August 5, 2025 ballot). We are grateful for the continued use of Land Conservation Initiative financial tools such as bond funding to accelerate the pace of conservation and respond to the high demand for project funding.

This year's funding recommendations include a range of projects that help advance Land Conservation Initiative, Clean Water Healthy Habitat, and Local Food Initiative goals. Projects range from urban greenspace to rural forests, farmland to trails, opportunity area parks to salmon habitat. Signature projects this year include saltwater shoreline protection in Normandy Park; creation of the first waterfront park on the west side of Lake Sammamish; preservation of botanical gardens in Auburn and Federal Way; creative partnerships with State Department of Natural Resources to preserve long-sought inholdings in public land networks; numerous match waiver projects to further social equity goals; and the county's work to preserve large tracts of forests, wetlands, rivers and streams across several watersheds to further ecological conservation, restoration, and public access.

I invite you to see the full report for highlights and detailed descriptions of each of the committee's recommendations for individual projects. Tables on the final pages provide summaries of our funding recommendations. As always, I'd like to commend the excellent work of King County Conservation Futures program staff in support of our committee review process. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know and I will be happy to discuss them with you or your staff. I may be reached by e-mail at catherinekilbane@gmail.com.

We would again like to thank you for giving us the chance to contribute to this important work for our region, and for your consideration of our recommendations. It is truly a privilege.

Sincerely,



Catherine Kilbane Gockel, Chair
King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee