



King County

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

206-296-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

June 30, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

This letter transmits the 30-Year Forest Plan in response to Ordinance 19881, Section 377, which adopts the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan Update and a proposed Motion that would, if approved, acknowledge receipt of the report.

Although finalized in 2021, the Forest Plan is being transmitted now as called for in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. Developed to implement the 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP), the Forest Plan responded to SCAP directives to plant at least one million trees by 2020 and to create a 30-year strategy for expanding tree canopy in urban and rural areas while supporting growth, agriculture, wildfire resilience, and working forests. A new SCAP has since been transmitted to the Council, and the Forest Plan's objectives remain aligned with the updated SCAP.

The 30-Year Forest Plan was developed by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) with input from King County staff, nonprofits, municipalities, tribes, forestland owners and managers, and community members. Outreach was conducted between July 2019 and March 2020 through one-on-one meetings, workshops, community events, and email correspondence, as well as an online public input survey that was shared through social media, partner newsletters, and direct emails. The plan is a synthesis of that input and outlines priorities and goals to be met by King County and the many partners whose work is critical to the health and longevity of the region's forests. The seven priority areas identified are climate, forest health, urban forest canopy, human health, salmon habitat, water quality and quantity, and sustainable timber.

The 30-Year Forest Plan provides a shared county-wide vision, while providing a roadmap for DNRP to better manage our forests by identifying priority goals, strategies, and actions. This

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allows us to better strategize our tree planting, forest restoration, and forest protection efforts so that they meet priorities and goals that were identified through DNRP outreach.

Thank you for your consideration of the 30-Year Forest Plan. The priorities and goals identified provide us with strong guidance and direction for the work of effectively managing King County's forests over the next three decades.

If your staff have questions, please contact Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-9440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Braddock".

for

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Lauren Smith, Director, Office of Regional Planning

Chris Jensen, Comprehensive Planning Manager, Office of Regional Planning

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Josh Baldi, Director, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division