



## **King County**

**Shannon Braddock**

King County Executive

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July 31, 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 a report from the King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee (committee) with recommended funding allocations for the coming year, as required by King County Code 26.12.010.C2. The committee's funding recommendations for parks and open space acquisitions will be incorporated into the Executive's proposed 2026-2027 budget later this year. Enclosed is a letter from Catherine Gockel, chair of the committee.

The committee reviewed applications from cities, King County, and eligible nonprofit organizations for Conservation Futures Tax levy funding, as well as applications from the County for King County Parks Levy open space acquisition funding. The report documents the committee's recommendations for the allocations of these two funding sources.

The report recommends funding for a variety of projects throughout King County to provide benefits, such as habitat protection, forest and farmland preservation, passive recreation opportunities, regional trail connections, and urban greenspaces. Many projects garnered community support letters and demonstrated community engagement. Ten projects are recommended for match waiver awards, as they provide open space to historically underserved communities.

The Conservation Futures and Parks Levy-funded open space acquisitions support the Strategic Climate Action Plan goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by preserving forests, farms, and open spaces throughout the county, providing restoration opportunities where additional trees may be planted toward the 3 million trees goal, and potentially protecting lands in relation to the County's new carbon credit program. The match waiver projects also help create additional open spaces serving populations that lack access to open space.

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Thank you for your consideration of this report. The important work discussed in the report will help achieve the many open space benefits discussed above, such as providing additional parks, open spaces, habitat restoration, and recreational opportunities.

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

Sincerely,



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

John Taylor, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, DNRP

Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), DNRP

Ingrid Lundin, Conservation Futures Program Manager, WLRD, DNRP