

## **Open Space, Natural Lands and Urban Green Space Acquisition Guidelines**

### Purpose

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

### Eligible Entities

Entities eligible to receive funding include the following:

1. King County;
2. King County cities;
3. Metropolitan park districts geographically located in King County.

### Eligible Projects for King County

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

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

### Eligible Projects for King County cities and metropolitan park districts

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

1. Active recreational uses (e.g. athletic fields, sports courts, etc.) as long as a minimum of 20 percent of land acquired remains open space, natural lands or urban green space and available for passive recreational uses;
2. Passive recreational uses (e.g. hiking, mountain biking, bird-watching, etc.);
3. Local trails;
4. Open space lands except if the land is primarily an agricultural use; agriculture can be one of multiple uses allowed on lands funded by parks levy proceeds (e.g. community garden, pea patch), as long as the primary use allows public recreation and access.

Other requirements for all entities

Open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisitions funded by the parks levy proceeds must allow public access.

Approach

The Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) will develop a grant process and protocol for King County, King County cities and metropolitan park districts by March 1, 2020 for parks levy proceeds for open space, natural lands and urban green space acquisition. The overall approach is as follows:

1. Early each calendar year, the DNRP will set a proposed allocation for open space from levy funds for the following fiscal year which will allocate funding for the following:
  - a. King County
  - b. King County cities and metropolitan park districts
2. Final decisions on any funding recommendations, after process and protocol are developed, will be reviewed by the County Executive, and ultimately County Council, as part of the overall budget process for the following year.