



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
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June 2, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that, if enacted, would approve grant funding project allocations for the King County Parks Levy Grant Program managed by the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). These grants will help acquire open space, restore habitat, reduce flood hazards, and provide recreational opportunities in river corridors throughout the County.

The proposed Ordinance would approve \$5,042,847 of funding for 14 projects selected through the Open Space River Corridors competitive grant program. These projects enable local public and non-profit organizations to submit proposals that integrate multiple attributes inside river corridors, such as flood hazard reduction, healthy habitat for fish and wildlife, and passive recreation. The projects will also leverage additional resources and complement DNRP's overall mission to provide parks and trails and protect the region's water, air, land, and natural habitats.

The selected projects, consistent with Ordinance 19166 project eligibility, would help restore habitat, acquire open space, provide recreational opportunities associated with integrated floodplain management capital improvement projects, and support outreach and education related to the benefits of integrated floodplain management projects. The program has sufficient appropriation authority, and no additional budget is needed.

In accordance with Ordinance 19166, DNRP solicited applications from cities, park districts, tribal organizations, port districts, flood control districts, diking and drainage districts, conservation districts, King County, non-profit organizations, and salmon recovery forums. The Open Space River Corridors Grant Advisory Committee convened five times in 2021/22 to review and rank grant proposals based upon eligibility criteria and alignment with program, DNRP, and County goals and objectives. Projects recommended for funding are listed in the proposed Ordinance and the memorandum attached to this letter.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

June 2, 2022

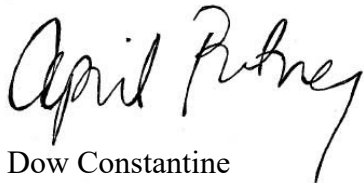
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The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan healthy environment goal to preserve open space while addressing climate change by protecting healthy and productive forests, and open spaces through habitat restoration and acquisition of key conservation lands. The proposed legislation furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative through investments in partnerships that allow the County to apply early, upstream, and preventative solutions to public health.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. This important legislation would help King County residents and positively impact communities by restoring habitat, acquiring open space, providing recreational opportunities associated with integrated floodplain management capital improvement projects, and supporting outreach and education related to the benefits of integrated floodplain management projects.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Warren Jimenez, Division Director of the Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-477-4525.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

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

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

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