



# Executive Proposal: 2026-2031 King County Parks Levy

February 2025

 King County

**PARKS**

Your Big Backyard

# Presentation Overview

- Context for a Parks Levy
- Proposal Goals
- Proposal Summary
- Proposed Investment Details
- Timeline



# (Recent) Parks History



# EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL

- **Generates ~\$1.5 billion over the next six years (2026-2031)**
- Household costs:
  - **24.43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value**  
(Current rate 19.54 cents)
  - **~\$17.18 per month** for a home valued at \$844,000 (median AV)
  - **~\$3.44 more per month** than residents currently pay
  - Just under 3% (average) of a total property tax bill



# Parks Levy Proposal

## Goals:

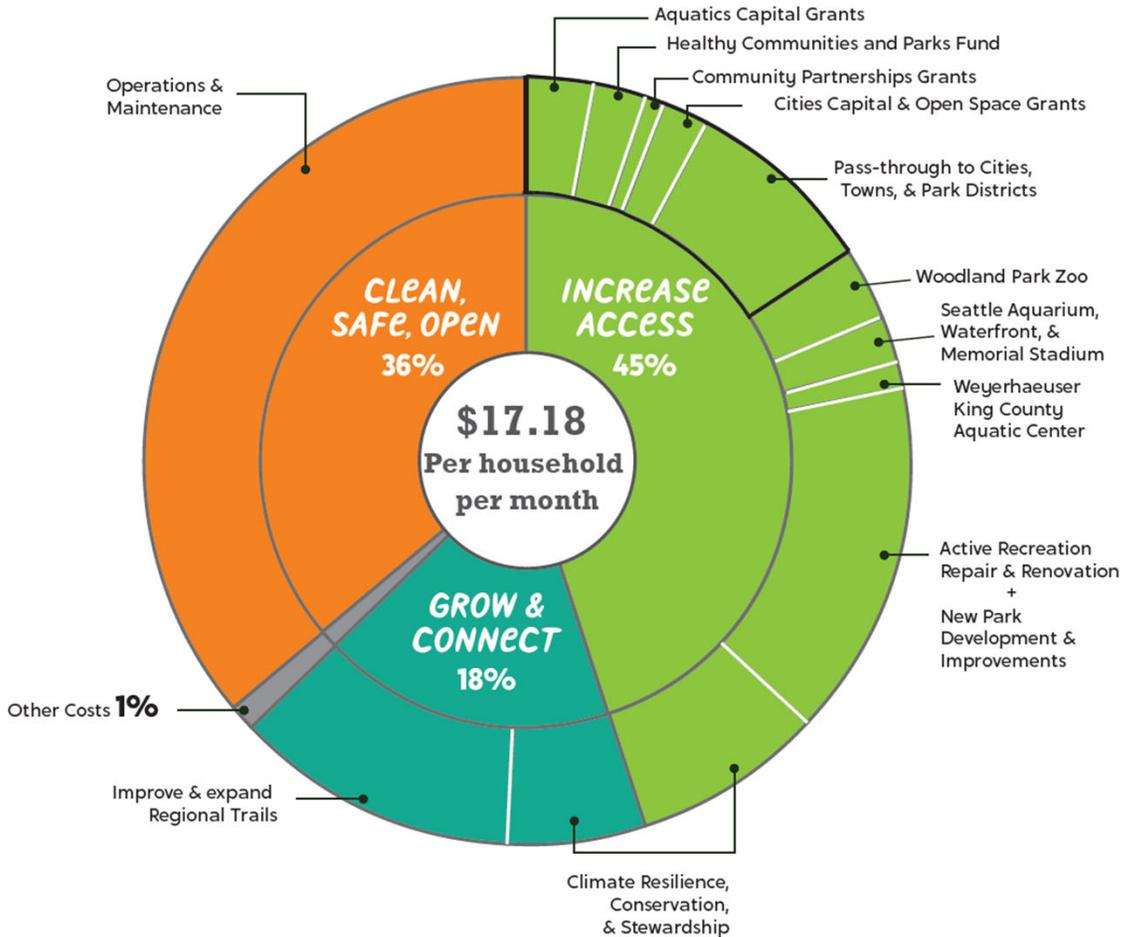
- Keep parks and trails clean, safe, and open
- Increase access to parks and recreation for all
- Grow and connect regional trails and open space

## Through this proposal, we will also:

- Keep pace with regional growth and demand
- Improve climate resilience
- Support clean water and healthy habitat
- Build equity and opportunity



# Proposal Outcomes



<b>Keep parks and trails clean, safe, open</b>	<b>\$551 M</b>
Operations & Maintenance	\$551 M
<b>Increase access to parks and recreation</b>	<b>\$676 M</b>
<b>Grants and Partnerships</b>	<b>\$117 M</b>
Aquatics Facilities	\$46 M
Parks Capital and Open Space	\$30 M
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund	\$30 M
Community Partnerships and Grants	\$11 M
<b>Pass-Through</b>	<b>\$187 M</b>
Cities, Towns, Park Districts	\$119 M
Woodland Park Zoo	\$42 M
Seattle Aquarium, Waterfront, Memorial Stadium	\$26 M
<b>King County Parks</b>	<b>\$372 M</b>
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center	\$22 M
Active Recreation Repair	\$177 M
New Park Development and Improvements	\$51 M
Climate Resilience and Stewardship	\$122 M
<b>Grow and connect regional open space and trails</b>	<b>\$275 M</b>
Conservation (Open Space Acquisition)	\$96 M
Regional Trails	\$179 M
<b>Other costs</b>	<b>\$20 M</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1.5 B</b>

# Keep parks safe, clean, open (\$551M)

- Increasing capacity to keep parks and trails clean, safe, and open
- Program delivery, internal supports
- Property management:
  - Parks Ranger Program
  - Asset Management
  - Land Use Stewardship & Encroachments
- New and expanded programs:
  - Youth Conservation Corps
  - Jobs & Housing
  - Tribal, Indigenous, and Historic Interpretation





## Make parks, green space, recreation more accessible

### Grants and Community Partnerships (\$117M)

#### **Community Partnerships and Grants: \$11M**

For partners to design, build, or program new and enhanced public recreation facilities on County or city-owned lands  
(Current Levy: \$9.6M)

#### **Healthy Communities and Parks Fund: \$30M (Tripled!)**

To increase access to and use of recreation facilities in traditionally underserved communities or for people with disabilities  
(Current Levy: \$10M)

#### **Parks Capital and Open Space: \$30M**

For town, city, and park district capital improvements and land acquisition  
(Current Levy: \$25M)

#### **Aquatic Facilities: \$46M**

For capital needs at new or existing aquatic facilities  
(Current Levy: \$36M)

# Make parks, green space, recreation more accessible

## Cities, Towns, and Park Districts (\$119M)

- Pass-through essential to KC jurisdictions
- Doubles current levy (\$60M → \$119M)
- Distribution:
  - \$100,000/yr to all cities, towns, parks districts with largely unincorporated service areas
  - Additional annual distribution to cities/towns based on formula combining assessed value and population
- Also eligible for Parks Levy grant programs



# Make parks, green space, recreation more accessible

## Educational and Civic Venues (\$68.5M)

- **Woodland Park Zoo: \$42M**  
Environmental education; conservation programs; horticulture and maintenance of buildings and grounds (*Current Levy ~\$36M*)
- **Seattle Aquarium: \$15M**  
Environmental education; conservation programs; maintenance of buildings and grounds (*Current Levy ~\$8M*)
- **Seattle Waterfront Park: \$9M**  
Arts, culture, wellness, and recreation programs; inclusive community partnerships; maintenance of facilities and grounds (*New*)
- **Memorial Stadium Project: \$2.5M**  
Transformational renovation of a multi-purpose venue for sports, community events (Bumbershoot), and other programming (*New*)



# Make parks, green space, recreation more accessible

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center (\$22M) *(Current Levy \$8M)*

- **Renovation and repair**

- Facility-wide HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, and Competition systems replacement
- Parking Lot Improvements
- Accessibility Improvements

- **Energy efficiency**

- Energy efficiency & fossil fuel reduction is incorporated in all projects



# Make parks, green space, recreation more accessible

Active Recreation Repair and Renovation (\$177M) *(Current Levy \$42M)*

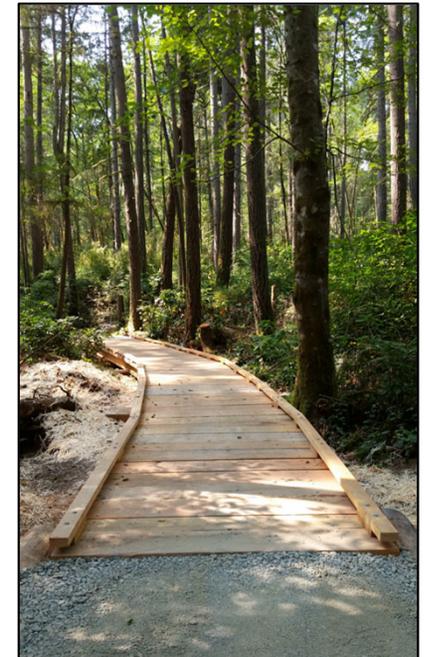
- Major maintenance of existing infrastructure  
*E.g.,: Play areas, buildings, docks, synthetic turf, field and court rehab, backcountry trails, utilities, amenities*
- ADA and accessibility rehabilitation  
*E.g., Accessible pathways, tables, restrooms*
- Regional Trails rehabilitation  
*E.g.,: Bridges, trestles, pavement, signage, safety updates*
- Marymoor Park rehabilitation  
*E.g., Critical utilities, concert venue, velodrome, pedestrian facilities, building systems, roadways, signage*
- Sunset Park renovation and repair  
*E.g., Fields, courts, parking improvements, signage, restrooms*



# Make parks, green space, recreation more accessible

## New Park Development and Improvements (\$51M)

- Lakeland Park North –  
New development
- South County Ballfields turf  
conversion and lighting
- Skyway Park Planning &  
Community Center
- New amenities
  - Backcountry trails
  - Dog parks
  - Ballfields and sport courts





## Make parks, green space, recreation more accessible

### Climate Resilience, Conservation, Stewardship (\$122M)

#### **Environmental Stewardship**

- Maintenance facilities
- Securing sites and demolitions
- Natural resource and site planning
- Fish Passage
- Remediation
- Multi-benefit river corridor projects

#### **Climate Resilience**

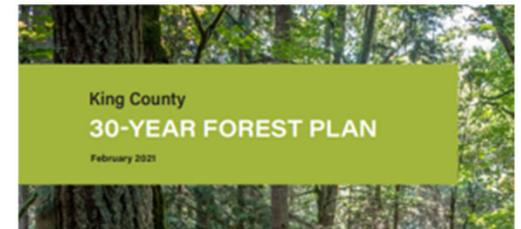
- Forest stewardship program
- Stormwater park pilot project(s)
- Climate response fund: splash pads, EV chargers, etc.

**+ Conservation →**

# Grow and Connect Regional Parks and Trails

## Open Space Acquisition & Conservation (\$96M) *(Same as Current Levy)*

- Advances county-wide efforts →
- Same amount as current levy, but:
  - Will leverage **3x** the Conservation Futures funds due to reduced match requirements
  - New eligible costs include demolitions
- Opportunity Area investments improve equitable access to parks and recreation





## Grow and Connect Regional Parks and Trails Regional and Other Public Trails (\$179M)

- **Eastrail: \$65M** (*Current Levy \$55.5M*)
- **Lake to Sound Trail: \$55M** (*Current Levy \$16M*)
- **Green River Trail Extension – North: \$6M** (*Current Levy \$6M*)
- **Interurban Trail South: \$8M** (*Current Levy \$5.5M*)
- **Soos Creek Trail: \$7M** (*Current Levy \$4M*)
- **Other New Regional Trails: \$38M**

# Process & Timeline

February 2025	Executive proposal transmitted to King County Council (KCC) Dual committee referral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Regional Policy Committee</li><li>- Budget &amp; Fiscal Management Committee</li></ul>
February / March	Council committees
April	KCC action anticipated to adopt Parks Levy ballot measure
Early May 2025	Deadline to submit ballot measure ordinance to Elections
August 5, 2025	Election date