



King County

Dow Constantine

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February 23, 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 provide 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 park land, expand open space and trails, and renovate and build new park and aquatic facilities throughout the County.

The proposed legislation allocates Parks Levy funding for projects selected through the Parks Capital and Open Space, and Aquatic Facilities competitive grant programs. These projects enable local park agencies and school districts to submit proposals that enhance or create new parks and recreational opportunities. The projects will also leverage additional resources and complement DNRP's overall mission.

The proposed Ordinance would fund 40 projects for a total of \$21,285,061. The selected projects, consistent with Ordinance 19166 project eligibility, would help acquire land, construct trails, increase access to open space and park land, expand active and passive recreation facilities, including aquatic centers, and fund numerous feasibility studies to address the County's regional aquatic needs. Because these grant programs were funded in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget, the proposed Ordinance has no fiscal impact.

In accordance with Ordinance 19166, DNRP solicited applications from city park agencies, park districts, and school districts. The Parks Capital and Open Space, and Aquatic Facilities Grants Advisory Committee convened three times in 2021 to review and rank grant proposals based upon eligibility criteria and alignment with program, department, and County goals and objectives. Projects recommended for funding are listed in the proposed Ordinance and the memorandum attached to this letter.

The proposed legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan mobility goal to preserve and optimize the mobility system by investing in the County's trail network. It also supports the health and human services goal to improve the health and well-being of all people in our

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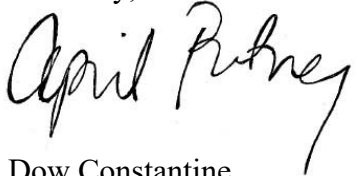
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community by improving and expanding the region's network of parks, trails, open space, and aquatic facilities. Lastly, the proposed legislation protects and supports healthy and productive farms, forests, and open spaces through habitat restoration and acquisitions of new park land. The proposed legislation furthers the King County Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) 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 will positively impact communities by protecting parks, trails, and open space, and expanding recreational and aquatic facilities.

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

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting 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, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

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

Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks Division, DNRP