

Targeted Equity Grant Program Guidelines

Overview

Historically, many communities in King County have experienced unequal and limited regional investments in parks, open space, trails and recreation. There are an estimated 500,000 people in King County who live without proximity or access to nature, parks and open spaces. To help address these inequities, the parks levy includes funding for a targeted equity grant program.

Purpose

The purpose of the targeted equity grant program is to increase access to and the use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in underserved communities. This program is consistent with and builds upon the goal of investing in community partnership in the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by helping to build internal capacities of community-based partners.

Eligible Entities

Parks levy funding for the targeted equity grant program is intended to reach areas with the greatest need for access and recreation in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. This includes:

1. King County cities;
2. Tribes or tribal organizations serving residents of King County;
3. Non-profit organizations;
4. Small or emerging community organizations without a 501c3 status, through a partnership with a fiscal agent.

Eligible Geographic Areas

The targeted equity grant program will be eligible to entities that intend to increase access to and the use of parks, open space and public recreation facilities in equity areas as defined by King County Code 26.12.003.

Eligible Projects

The targeted equity grant program may be used to fund the following:

1. Build capacity, and/or partnerships to develop and plan successful parks, recreation, conservation and open space projects and programs;
2. Land acquisition for parks, open space and recreation purposes;
3. Capital projects and programs for parks, open space and recreation.

Other requirements for all entities

All acquisitions, projects and programs funded by the parks levy proceeds must allow public access.

Process and Protocol

The King County Parks and Recreation Division will develop a grant process and protocol by June 1, 2020 for the targeted equity grant program.