



March 13, 2019
SCA PIC Meeting

Item 10:
King County Parks Levy Renewal
UPDATE

SCA Staff Contact

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SCA Members of the Regional Policy Committee

Councilmember John Stokes (Caucus Chair), Bellevue; Mayor Dave Hill (Caucus Vice Chair), Algona; Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien; Council President Angela Birney, Redmond; Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell; Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn

Update

The current King County Parks Levy will expire on December 31, 2019 unless renewed by voters. PIC was briefed on proposals under consideration to be included in the levy at the January PIC meeting. On February 21, King County Executive Dow Constantine transmitted his levy renewal proposal to the County Council for placement on the August ballot.

At the March PIC meeting, members will be briefed on the latest information about the levy renewal and have the opportunity to provide feedback on the levy proposal.

Background

The current King County Parks Levy, approved by voters in 2013, is set to expire on December 31, 2019 unless renewed before the end of the year. On February 21, King County Executive Dow Constantine transmitted Proposed Ordinance 2019-0084, which would place a proposition on the August 6, 2019 ballot authorizing a six-year, \$738 million property tax levy to support parks and to acquire and maintain open space.

The Regional Policy Committee (RPC) is currently reviewing the proposal and will discuss the levy at its next meeting on March 13. In order to be placed on the August 6 ballot, the County Council must approve the proposition by the end of April 2019.

During 2018, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks staff met with cities, various community organizations, and stakeholders to solicit feedback on the levy and “enhancement options” under consideration at that time as compared to a “status quo” levy that would carry forward at the current rate. These options were also discussed at the January PIC meeting, and additional detail can be found in the [January 9, 2019 PIC packet](#).

Comparison of what was reviewed by PIC in January to what is in the current levy proposal is included in the levy highlights below.

Levy Highlights

Total levy and rate: The proposed levy rate is 16.82 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 2020 and would raise approximately \$738 million. In January, PIC reviewed “enhancement options” under consideration that would have raised the total levy rate to 18 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The current levy was approved at a rate of 18.77 cents per \$1,000 and has reduced due to the rise in assessed values to a rate of 12.68 cents per \$1,000 in 2019. For a home valued at \$700,000, the cost of the new levy would increase from approximately \$89 per year to \$118 per year, or an increase of \$29.

Land conservation: Total funding proposed in the levy for land conservation is proposed to increase from a status quo amount of \$63 million to \$131 million. The proposal reviewed in January would have increased the funds for land conservation to a total of nearly \$200 million over the six-year levy. Of the funds dedicated to conservation and open space, approximately \$35 million is earmarked for land acquisition within cities. Eligibility for these funds has been made more flexible to include local trails; passive recreational uses (hiking, mountain biking); and property acquired for active recreation as long as at least 20% of the property remains in open space or passive recreation. This is consistent with requests made by cities to make the funds more flexible to meet the needs of cities.

City passthrough: Total funding directly to cities would be increased from \$29 million in the current levy period to \$60 million for 2020-2025. In January, PIC reviewed a proposed status quo passthrough amount of \$36 million. Under the current levy, this funding is allocated via formula based 50% on population and 50% on assessed value. Under the proposed levy, the distribution methodology is proposed to change to provide at least \$25,000 per year for cities with populations below 4,000 and at least \$100,000 per year for cities with populations greater than 4,000. The remainder of the funds allocated to cities would continue to be distributed based on population and assessed values. Proposed passthrough allocations by city are included here in [Attachment A](#).

Overall funding highlights (compared to 2014-2019 totals):

- \$277 million for operations and maintenance of King County parks (increased from \$274 million).
- \$154 million for regional trails projects (increased from \$115), which includes:
 - Eastside Rail Corridor - \$50.5 million
 - East Lake Sammamish Trail - \$32 million
 - Lake to Sound Trail - \$16 million
 - Green to Cedar Rivers Trail Extension - \$6 million
 - Interurban Trail South - \$5.5 million
 - Foothills Trail - \$5 million
 - Redmond Light Rail Extension - \$4 million
 - Wayne Golf Course Trail Connector Improvements - \$2 million
- \$131 million for open space acquisition (increased from \$63 million)
- \$44 million for active recreation repair and renovation (increased from \$27 million)
- \$60 million for city passthrough (increased from \$29 million)

- \$36 million for the Woodland Park Zoo (increased from \$30 million)
- \$8 million for a Seattle Aquarium capital project (new for this levy period)

A complete high-level breakdown of levy spending categories is included here in [Attachment B](#). This listing shows the projected levy proceeds as compared to a status quo levy that would carryforward the existing levy rate.

A countywide map of projects to be funded by the levy by type is included here in [Attachment C](#).

Next Steps

The Regional Policy Committee will discuss the proposed levy at its meeting on March 13 and is expected to take initial action prior to the end of March. In order to be placed on the August 6 ballot, the County Council must approve the proposition by the end of April 2019. Questions or feedback can be provided to SCA Senior Policy Analyst Brian Parry at brian@soundcities.org or 206-499-4159.

Attachments

- A. [Parks Levy City Allocations](#)
- B. [Levy Spending Plan](#)
- C. [Map of Proposed Projects](#)
- D. [Regional Trail System Funding](#)

Parks Levy Estimated City Pass-Through Funding
 Attachment A to the March 28, 2019 PIC Agenda Item 10
Comparison of 2020-2025 & 2014-2019 Parks Levy

City	2020-2025 Pass-Through Funds ¹	2014-2019 Pass-Through Funds ²
Algona	\$250,000	\$40,000
Auburn	\$1,700,000	\$820,000
Beaux Arts Village	\$160,000	\$7,400
Bellevue	\$4,400,000	\$2,750,000
Black Diamond	\$700,000	\$58,000
Bothell	\$1,100,000	\$356,000
Burien	\$1,400,000	\$582,000
Carnation	\$180,000	\$23,000
Clyde Hill	\$250,000	\$100,000
Covington	\$900,000	\$224,000
Des Moines	\$1,100,000	\$349,000
Duvall	\$700,000	\$95,000
Enumclaw	\$800,000	\$133,000
Federal Way	\$2,000,000	\$1,060,000
Hunts Point	\$250,000	\$38,000
Issaquah	\$1,400,000	\$567,000
Kenmore	\$1,000,000	\$304,000
Kent	\$2,700,000	\$1,550,000
Kirkland	\$2,500,000	\$1,410,000
Lake Forest Park	\$900,000	\$191,000
Maple Valley	\$1,000,000	\$305,000
Medina	\$350,000	\$148,000
Mercer Island	\$1,400,000	\$592,000
Milton	\$170,000	\$12,000
Newcastle	\$900,000	\$179,000
Normandy Park	\$700,000	\$100,000
North Bend	\$700,000	\$91,000
Pacific	\$700,000	\$71,000
Redmond	\$2,100,000	\$1,109,000
Renton	\$2,400,000	\$1,303,000
Sammamish	\$1,900,000	\$904,000
SeaTac	\$1,200,000	\$406,000
Seattle	\$16,800,000	\$11,440,000
Shoreline	\$1,600,000	\$737,000
Skykomish	\$153,000	\$2,300
Snoqualmie	\$900,000	\$192,000
Tukwila	\$1,100,000	\$357,000
Woodinville	\$900,000	\$206,000
Yarrow Point	\$250,000	\$45,000
Total	\$60,000,000	\$29,000,000

Figures do not sum precisely due to rounding.

Note:

1. 2020-2025 levy: Of the total pass-through funding \$150,000 is distributed to each city over the six-years, and an additional \$450,000 for cities with a population greater than 4,000 (total \$600,000 over the six-years). The remainder of pass-through funding is based 50% on the city's assessed value and 50% on the city's population.
2. 2014-2019 levy: Total pass-through funding is based 50% on the city's assessed value and 50% on the city's population.

2020-2025 Parks Levy Funding Development

Option: 16.82 Cents

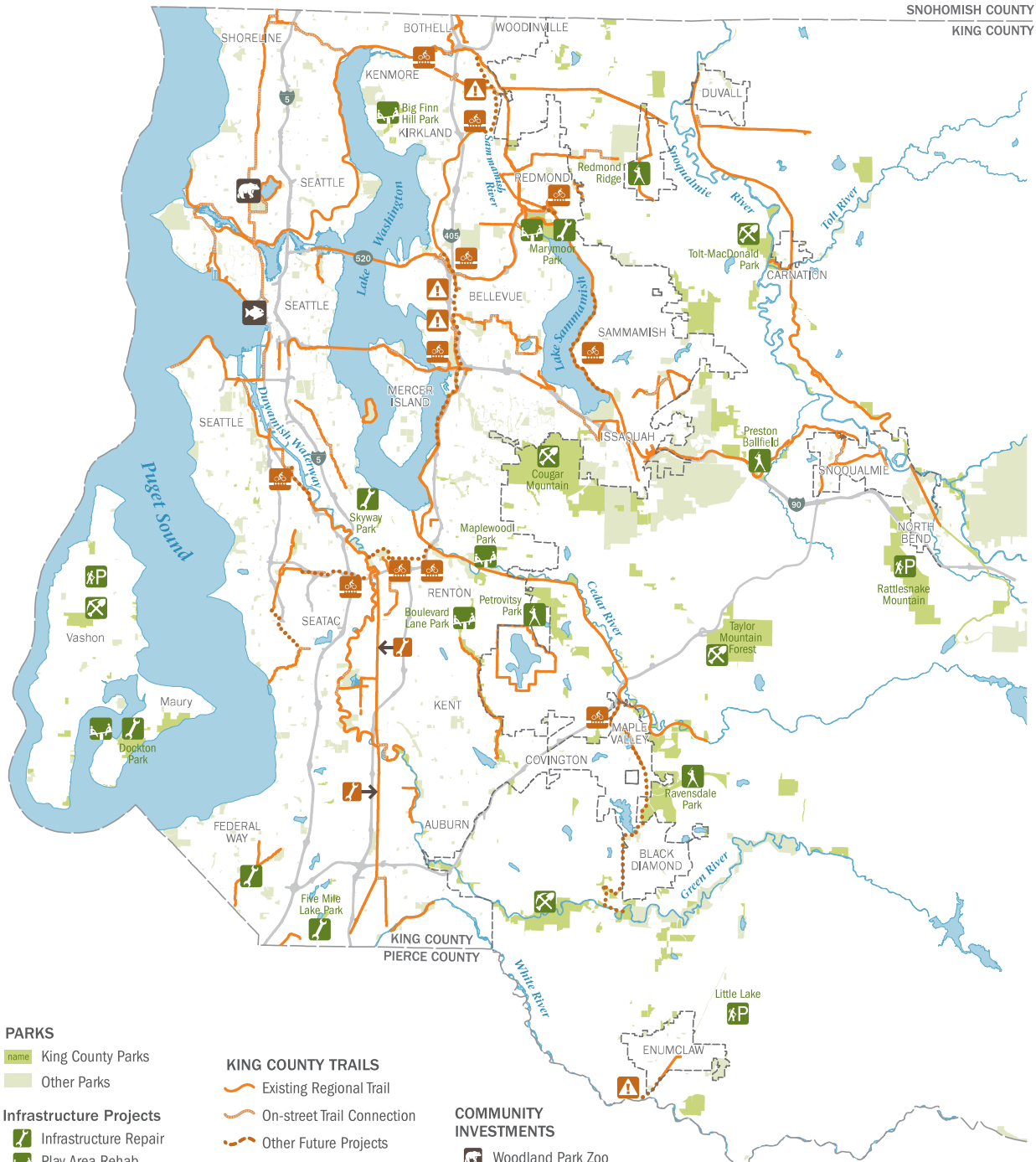
To Be Funded with Levy Proceeds (rounded):

	2020-2025 Total	2020 Levy Rate (¢) ²	Status Quo Total	Status Quo Levy Rate (¢) ²
King County Operations & Maintenance	\$277,000,000	6.31	\$275,000,000	6.24
Community and Equity Grants (County/City)	\$15,000,000	0.34	\$6,000,000	0.15
<i>Community Partnerships and Grants</i>	\$9,000,000		\$6,000,000	
<i>Equity Grants</i>	\$6,000,000		-	
Regional Trails System	\$154,000,000	3.51	\$115,000,000	2.61
<i>Eastside Rail Corridor (Bellevue, Woodinville, Kirkland)</i>	\$50,500,000		\$42,000,000	
<i>East Lake Sammamish Trail</i>	\$32,000,000		\$32,000,000	
<i>Capital Improvements to Existing Regional Trails System</i>	\$18,000,000		\$18,000,000	
<i>Lake to Sound Trail (Renton, Tukwila)</i>	\$16,000,000		\$11,000,000	
<i>Green to Cedar Rivers Trail - North A (Maple Valley)</i>	\$9,000,000		-	
<i>Green River Trail Extension - North (Seattle)</i>	\$6,000,000		-	
<i>Regional Trails Acquisition</i>	\$6,000,000		\$3,000,000	
<i>Interurban Trail South investments (Kent, Auburn)</i>	\$5,500,000		-	
<i>Foothills Trail (Enumclaw)</i>	\$5,000,000		\$5,000,000	
<i>ELST - Redmond Light Rail Extension</i>	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	
<i>Wayne Golf Course Trail Connector Improvements</i>	\$2,000,000			
Open Space Acquisition/Land Conservation	\$131,000,000	2.99	\$63,000,000	1.43
<i>King County Open Space (w/ Equity Lands)</i>	\$78,000,000		\$63,000,000	
<i>Cities Open Space (w/ Equity Lands)</i>	\$35,000,000		-	
<i>Stewardship of Lands Acquired (O&M)</i>	\$18,000,000		-	
Active Recreation Repair and Renovation	\$44,000,000	1.00	\$27,000,000	0.61
<i>Infrastructure Investments at Five Heavily-Used Sites</i>	\$15,000,000		\$11,000,000	
<i>Ballfield Turf Replacement</i>	\$12,500,000		\$12,500,000	
<i>Play Area Rehabilitation</i>	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	
<i>Trailhead Access Improvement</i>	\$3,500,000		\$1,000,000	
<i>Backcountry Trail Rehabilitation</i>	\$5,500,000		-	
<i>Other Sport Court and Ballfields Rehabilitation</i>	\$5,000,000		-	
King County Cities¹	\$60,000,000	1.37	\$36,000,000	0.82
<i>Status quo pass-through funding</i>	\$36,000,000		\$36,000,000	
<i>Additional pass-through funding</i>	\$24,000,000		-	
Woodland Park Zoo	\$36,000,000	0.82	\$36,000,000	0.82
Seattle Aquarium	\$8,000,000	0.18	-	-
Additional Costs to Include	\$13,000,000	0.30	-	-
<i>Reimbursement of Election Costs</i>	\$3,000,000			
<i>Fixed Income Exemption^{3,4}</i>	\$3,000,000			
<i>1% Levy Undercollection Assumption⁴</i>	\$7,000,000			
Total	\$738,000,000	16.82	\$558,000,000	12.68

Footnotes:

1. This is flexible funding for city parks' operational or capital needs including pools, play areas, and ballfields. The additional pass-through funding provides a minimum \$25,000 to each city and an additional \$75,000 for cities with more than 4,000 residents.
2. Effective levy rates assume a six-year levy lid lift with a growth limit factor of local inflation + population growth for 2020-2025.
3. State law now allows counties to exempt people with qualifying fixed incomes from additional levy lid lifts. The qualifications are spelled out in RCW 84.36.381 and include people who are retired and veterans with a service-connected disability.
4. The fixed income exemption and the 1% levy undercollection assumptions are displayed here as expenditures but will be realized as an absence of revenue in implementation.

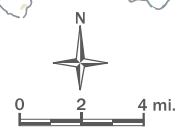
PARKS & TRAILS PROJECTS



- PARKS**
- King County Parks
 - Other Parks
- Infrastructure Projects**
- Infrastructure Repair
 - Play Area Rehab
 - Trailhead Parking Improvement
 - Ballfield Replacement
 - Backcountry Trail Rehab

- KING COUNTY TRAILS**
- Existing Regional Trail
 - On-street Trail Connection
 - Other Future Projects
- Trails Projects**
- Regional Trail Connection
 - Critical Crossing
 - Trail Improvements

- COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS**
- Woodland Park Zoo
 - Seattle Aquarium
- Urban Growth Area Boundary



Proposed Projects	design or construct 11 regional trail connections design or construct 4 critical crossings	Improve parking at 3 trailheads	Backcountry trail rehab at 5+ sites	replace 11 ball-fields	rehab 6 play areas
	repair or replace facilities 5 sites				

King County Regional Trail System 2014-2019 Funding and 2020-2025 Proposed Funding

