

PARKS LEVY GRANTS GUIDELINES 2023



King County

PARKS



Contents

Click below to explore different sections of this guide.

The 2020-2025 Parks Levy **3**

The Levy Grant Programs **4**

Grant Eligibility **5**

Grant Program Summaries **6-13**

- [Aquatic Facilities](#)
- [Parks Capital and Open Space](#)
- [Open Space - River Corridors](#)
- [Healthy Communities and Parks Fund](#)

Applying for a Grant **14**

- 2023 Grant Timeline
- The Application Process

Grant Evaluation **15-16**

- The Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Criteria

Learn More **17**

- [Webinars](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

The 2020-2025 Parks Levy

King County Parks is largely funded through a property tax levy, which the voters of King County approved in August 2019 by more than 70 percent. The 2020 – 2025 King County Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy generates an estimated \$810 million over six years to pursue the following goals:

- 1** Take care of King County’s existing system of parks and trails, ensuring the system remains clean, safe, and open.
- 2** Grow and connect regional open space and natural lands to protect habitat important for fish and wildlife and to provide recreation opportunities.
- 3** Improve regional trails and mobility to ensure that essential connections are completed and existing trails are maintained.
- 4** Make parks, green spaces, and recreation opportunities more accessible for all King County residents to enjoy.

Equity in King County

King County Parks seeks to invest in projects that make parks, green spaces, and recreation opportunities more accessible for King County residents. Parks also aims to use a pro-equity lens in grantmaking to prioritize funding for projects that not only improve health outcomes and reduce disparities in underserved communities, but which are led by those communities being addressed.





The Levy Grant Programs

The 2020 – 2025 Parks levy allocates approximately \$110 million over six years to fund four grant programs that launched in 2021 and will continue through the life of this levy. Below is a general overview of each grant program. Please refer to the program summaries for specific details and requirements.

GRANT PROGRAMS	2023 FUNDING AVAILABLE	AWARD AMOUNTS	RFA	APPLICATION DUE DATE
Aquatic Facilities	\$12.4 million	Awards up to \$5,000,000	Biennial	March 15, 2023
Parks Capital and Open Space	\$9.9 million	Awards up to \$1,000,000	Biennial	March 15, 2023
Open Space - River Corridors	\$9.9 million	Awards up to \$1,000,000	Biennial	March 15, 2023
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (Tier 2)	\$1.2 million	Awards up to \$250,000	Annual	March 15, 2023
Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (Tier 1)	\$200,000	Awards up to \$15,000	Annual	Rolling basis, based on available funding. Priority deadlines: February 28, April 30, July 31

See [Community Partnerships & Grants](#) and [Youth & Amateur Sports Grants](#) for other funding opportunities.

Public Access Requirement

Public access or public benefit is a requirement. Grant award recipients are contractually obligated to ensure long-term public access or public benefit, as required by the King County Parks Open Space Levy.



Grant Eligibility

Eligible organizations and project types are different for each grant program. Please review the guidelines below and contact ParksGrants@kingcounty.gov with any eligibility questions.

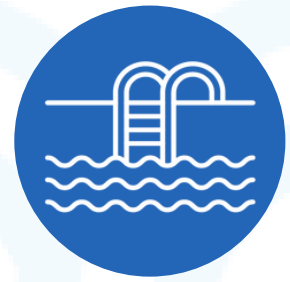
Aquatic Facilities	
Organizations	Project Types
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City or Town • School District • Park District • Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Feasibility Study • Planning and Design • Construction

Parks Capital and Open Spaces	
Organizations	Project Types
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City or Town • Park District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Feasibility Study • Planning and Design • Construction

Open Space - River Corridors	
Organizations	Project Types
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City or Town • King County Agency • Port, Flood, Conservation, or Diking and Drainage Districts • Salmon Recovery Forum • Nonprofit Organization • Tribal Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Feasibility Study • Planning and Design • Construction • Project-specific outreach and education

Healthy Communities and Parks Fund	
Organizations	Project Types
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City or Town • King County Agency • Nonprofit Organization • Tribal Organization • Fiscally-sponsored Organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Feasibility Study • Planning and Design • Construction • Programs • Capacity Building

Aquatic Facilities



Grant Purpose

The Aquatic Facilities grant program helps communities preserve and increase public access to public pools as our region grows and existing facilities become obsolete or reach capacity. This grant program funds activities related to the renovation or expansion of existing facilities, or construction of new aquatic facilities in King County.



\$44 Million

Total Funding
2020-2025



\$12.4 Million

Available Funding
in 2023



Up to \$5 million

Maximum
Award Amount



2023 & 2025

Biennial
Application

Award Details

- Planning or feasibility studies: Awards up to \$100,000
- Awards up to \$100,000 can cover the full cost of the project
- Awards between \$100,001 and \$2,000,000 are capped at 50% of a project's total cost
- Awards between \$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000 are capped at 25% of a project's total cost

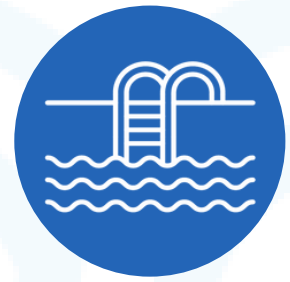
Eligible Applicants

- City or town
- School District
- Park District
- Other public entities that own public aquatic facilities

Eligible Project Types

- Acquisition
- Feasibility Study
- Planning and Design
- Construction

Aquatic Facilities



Examples of Possible Projects

Below are examples of projects that may be funded. This list is not all-inclusive. All grant applicants for this program must ensure that public access is provided.

- Development of a new aquatic facility
- Renovation or repair of an existing aquatic facility
- Expansion of an existing aquatic facility

Visit the [Levy Grants website](#) to view a list of previously awarded projects.

Projects Not Funded By This Program

Projects that do not align with the goals of this grant program may include, but are not limited to:

- Spray parks (funded under the Parks Capital and Open Space program)
- Public swim beaches
- Non-aquatic related infrastructure located within a multi-use community center
- Routine operation and maintenance costs



Parks Capital and Open Space



Grant Purpose

The Parks Capital and Open Space grant program supports a range of projects that expand and improve recreation opportunities for the region's growing population, including the development of active and passive recreation and trail facilities, and the acquisition of open space for future public parks.



\$25 Million
Total Funding
2020-2025



\$9.9 Million
Available Funding
in 2023



Up to \$1 million
Maximum
Award Amount



2023 & 2025
Biennial
Application

Eligible Applicants

- City or town
- Park District

Eligible Project Types

- Acquisition
- Feasibility Study
- Planning and Design
- Construction

Parks Capital and Open Space



Examples of Possible Projects

Below are examples of projects that may be funded. This list is not all-inclusive. All grant applicants for this program must ensure that public access is provided.

- Land acquisition
- Trails and paths (hard or soft surface) and related features such as
 - Habitat restoration
 - Paths, access roads, trails
 - Bridges and boardwalks
 - Interpretive kiosks, signs, wayfinding
 - Picnic shelters, restrooms, benches
- Indoor or outdoor sports and recreation spaces
 - Sports courts
 - Sports fields and lighting
 - Rowing facilities
 - Climbing structures
 - Playgrounds and spray parks
 - Community gardens

Visit the [Levy Grants website](#) to view a list of previously awarded projects.

Projects Not Funded By This Program

Projects that do not align with the goals of this grant program may include, but are not limited to:

- Concessionaire buildings
- Environmental cleanup of illegal activities (i.e., removal of derelict vessels, trash, methamphetamine labs, etc.)
- Properties acquired via condemnation action of any kind
- Specific projects or actions identified as mitigation
- Routine operation and maintenance costs



Open Space - River Corridors



Grant Purpose

The Open Space – River Corridors grant program supports projects that help restore the natural functions of rivers, create or restore public access, and/or increase public awareness of river corridors as valuable natural resources. This grant program incentivizes multi-benefit projects that integrate recreation and habitat restoration with larger floodplain management efforts.

All projects must be located within King County and be associated with one or more of the following rivers:

- Cedar
- Duwamish
- Green
- Raging
- Sammamish
- Snoqualmie
- South Fork Skykomish
- Tolt
- White



\$22 Million
Total Funding
2020-2025



\$9.9 Million
Available Funding
in 2023



Up to \$1 million
Maximum
Award Amount



2023 & 2025
Biennial
Application

Eligible Applicants

- City or town
- King County agency
- Port, Flood, Conservation, or Diking and Drainage Districts
- Salmon recovery forums
- Nonprofit organization
- Tribal organization

Eligible Project Types

- Acquisition
- Feasibility Study
- Planning and Design
- Construction
- Project-specific outreach and education

Open Space - River Corridors



Examples of Possible Projects

Below are examples of projects that may be funded. This list is not all-inclusive. All grant applicants for this program must ensure that public access is provided.

- Restoration of natural floodplain systems by removal or setback of flood protection features such as levees, revetments, etc.
- Development of passive recreation amenities along rivers, such as trails, viewpoints, interpretative signage, etc.
- Enhancement of ecological function through invasive species removal, native species revegetation, or the installation of critical habitat features
- Land acquisition for future natural areas or protect and restore habitat function
- Outreach and educational programs associated with capital projects to increase public awareness and local community engagement

Visit the Levy Grants website to view a list of previously awarded projects.

Projects Not Funded By This Program

Projects that do not align with the goals of this grant program may include, but are not limited to:

- Active recreation facilities such as play areas or ballfields
- Fish or wildlife production facilities
- Indoor facilities such as swimming pools, community centers, museums, interpretive and environmental centers
- Routine operation and maintenance costs
- Legally mandated clean-up or costs of required mitigation actions not associated with the approved project



Healthy Communities and Parks Fund



Grant Purpose

The Healthy Communities & Parks Fund (HCPF), part of the Targeted Equity Grant Program, supports projects that increase access to recreation and use of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities in underserved areas and communities. This grant program intends to reduce health disparities in various underserved communities and invest in their capacities to meet the unique needs of their residents.

Tier 1 offers awards up to \$15,000. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, based on available funding. Priority deadlines: February 28, April 30, July 31. Applications are evaluated by a Review Panel. Award recommendations do not require approval by the King County Executive or Council.

Tier 2 offers awards between \$15,000 and \$250,000. Applications are due on March 15, 2023. Applications are reviewed by an Advisory Committee and must be approved by the King County Executive and Council.



\$10 Million

Total Funding
2020-2025



\$1.4 Million

Available Funding
in 2023



Up to \$250,000

Maximum
Award Amount



2023, 2024, 2025

Annual
Application

Eligible Applicants

- City or Town
- King County Agency
- Nonprofit organization
- Tribal organization
- Fiscally-sponsored organization

Eligible Project Types

- Acquisition
- Feasibility Study
- Planning and Design
- Construction
- Programs
- Community Capacity Building

Healthy Communities and Parks Fund



Examples of Possible Projects

Below are examples of projects that may be funded. This list is not all-inclusive. All grant applicants for this program must ensure that public access is provided.

- Land acquisition located specifically within an Opportunity Area or that serves a community of need that will improve access to parks, open space, and recreation opportunities
- Development or renovation of recreational facilities to improve access and use by an underserved community
- Projects that provide or improve access to recreation, parks, or open spaces for people with disabilities
- Capacity building to engage community in outreach and planning around new or improved access to recreation, parks, and open/green spaces, in and for underserved communities
- Recreation activities and programs, such as:
 - Aquatics Programs
 - Exercise and Fitness Programs
 - Individual and Team Sports Programs
 - Camping and Outdoor Recreation Programs
 - Arts and Cultural Activities
 - Environmental Stewardship Programs
 - Park Activation and Events
 - Nutrition and Food Justice Programs

Visit the Levy Grants website to view a list of previously awarded projects.

Projects Not Funded By This Program

Projects that do not align with the goals of this grant program may include, but are not limited to:

- Lobbying and attempts to influence legislation.
- Removal of unauthorized encampments
- Properties acquired via condemnation action of any kind
- Specific projects or actions identified as mitigation as part of a habitat conservation plan approved by the federal government for incidental take of endangered or threatened species or other projects identified for habitat mitigation purposes



Applying for a Grant

2023 Grant Timeline

Below is the anticipated 2023 timeline for these grant programs*:

2023

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Applications open on Foundant		Review by Parks and Advisory Committees		Approval by DNRP, Executive, and King County Council				Contracting		

***Healthy Communities and Parks Fund (Tier I)** applications are accepted on a rolling basis, based on available funding. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications as early as possible. Applicants should anticipate a 6-week timeline from application submission to decision notification.

The Application Process

Applicants are encouraged to:

- 1** Sign up for the Parks Grants email list to stay up-to-date on Parks grants and other opportunities.
- 2** Attend a webinar to learn about each grant program and ask questions.
- 3** Connect with a Parks Grants Manager. Email ParksGrants@kingcounty.gov and identify the grant program(s) of interest.
- 4** Register with Foundant, the online grant portal where applicants submit grant application. Tutorials are available to guide applicants through the process.
- 5** Begin application after it opens on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.
- 6** Submit complete application by Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 5:00pm. Late applications will not be accepted.



Grant Evaluation

The Evaluation Process

There are three Advisory Committees that evaluate grant applications and make award recommendations. Advisory Committee members from a variety of organizations and agencies bring expertise and a diversity of perspectives to the evaluation process.

Aquatic Facilities + Parks Capital & Open Spaces Advisory Committee

Includes representatives from:

- City/Park Districts
- School Districts
- Nonprofit Organizations

Healthy Communities and Parks Fund Advisory Committee

Includes representatives from:

- City/Park Districts
- Open Space Equity Cabinet
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Community Organizations

Open Space - River Corridors Advisory Committee

Includes representatives from:

- Cities
- Tribal Organizations
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Special Districts (Flood, Diking Conservation)
- Community Organizations
- Salmon Recovery Forums



Grant Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria

The chart below details the criteria used to evaluate grant applications. The criteria reflect the grant application sections and content that will be scored. Content may vary by grant program and project type.

SECTIONS	SUMMARY	SCORING
Project Overview	Describe the proposed project, alignment with grant goals, and intended project outcomes. Illustrate the feasibility of project implementation if awarded.	50%
Equitable Access and Partnerships	Demonstrate how the project addresses disparities, improves access to underserved communities or areas, and engages with communities and partners.	30%
Budget and Resources	Provide project budget expenses, share any cost estimates, and/or clarify budget details.	20%



Learn More

Upcoming Webinars

King County Parks is hosting a series of 90-minute webinars to share details about these grant programs, procedures, and policies with prospective applicants and community partners. Recordings of the webinars will be available to view. [Sign up](#) to receive a registration link for these webinars in January 2023..

- Tuesday, January 31 (11 a.m.): [Parks Capital and Open Space](#)
- Wednesday, February 1 (11 a.m.): [Aquatic Facilities](#)
- Thursday, February 2 (11 a.m.): [Open Space – River Corridors](#)
- Friday, February 3 (11 a.m.): [Healthy Communities and Parks Fund](#)

Contact Parks

Parks staff are here for you! Please contact us if you need help understanding...

- Which grant to apply for
- Eligible organizations and projects
- Partnership opportunities
- The application questions
- Which documentation to submit
- How your proposal will be scored
- Technical assistance, translation, or accommodation options
- Any details of the grant programs or application process



ParksGrants@kingcounty.gov
(206) 848-0699