



# Unincorporated King County Investments

King County is the local service provider for approximately 250,000 people in the unincorporated areas. The Department of Local Services (DLS), in existence since January 2019, provides an additional point of accessibility and accountability for residents of unincorporated King County to help ensure they get the County services they need and their voices are heard.

## BACKGROUND

Unincorporated King County includes seven [community service areas](#) (CSAs). The West King County CSA is divided into five [urban potential annexation areas](#) (PAAs), each with distinct population characteristics.

### Community Services Areas

Community Service Area	Population	BIPOC* %	Median Household Income	Households
Bear Creek/Sammamish	44,361	28.0%	\$136,105	16,090
Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County	47,070	17.1%	\$115,735	17,039
Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain	22,334	24.2%	\$107,155	8,026
Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River	25,694	16.1%	\$99,305	9,352
Southeast King County	36,311	17.8%	\$89,160	13,459
Vashon/Maury Island	9,635	8.2%	\$78,155	4,407

*\*Black, Indigenous, and people of color*

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2014-2018*

### Potential Annexation Areas of West King County CSA

Potential Annexation Area	Population	BIPOC %	Median Household Income	Households
North Highline (White Center)	23,410	63.2%	\$47,220	8,782
Skyway-West Hill	18,074	73.4%	\$68,050	6,308
Fairwood	22,394	41.1%	\$92,845	8,159
East Renton	8,737	33.6%	\$103,635	3,030
East Federal Way	29,805	36.2%	\$74,460	10,332

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2014-2018*



## King County

2021-2022 Proposed Budget

### 2021-2022 PRIORITIES

King County is prioritizing community-driven input into the biennial budgeting process for residents of the unincorporated area by expanding community participation and decision-making to improve County services, programs, and facilities.

Priorities in 2021-2022 will include working with the community to implement a participatory, socially and racially just, and equitable system that responds to community needs, including:

- Expanding subarea plans, which will include additional non-land use policies to help communities achieve their 20-year vision. The Skyway-West Hill and North Highline plans will be submitted to Council in December 2021 and will be adopted by June 2022. The Snoqualmie Valley plan will be submitted in December 2022 and will be adopted by June 2023.
- Increasing coordination and focusing County efforts on being transparent and responsive to community priorities.
- Improving communications and updates to communities on County engagement activities, status of community needs list items, and the County's work program.
- Developing innovative funding solutions for the Road Services Division to address the looming structural revenue issue.
- Evolving and growing the economic development function for unincorporated King County.
- Leveraging the use of technology in the Permitting process to improve customer service. Permitting continues to face financial challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession.

### KEY INVESTMENTS

Key investments in the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget include:

#### Operating Investments

- Diverting \$1.8 million in marijuana retail sales tax funding from the Sheriff's budget to ensure that more tax revenue from marijuana retail sales is reinvested in the communities in which the stores are located.
- \$6 million in Metro Transit's budget for new flexible transit service in Skyway to be co-created with the community.
- Partnering with community members and the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) to co-create and implement a new community-driven safety model in urban unincorporated King County, which will be funded through a \$750,000 reserve in the General Fund. This may involve hiring behavioral health professionals to partner with Sheriff's Office Deputies and divert cases from criminal courts and jails. The goal is to design the program in 2021 and implement it no later than 2022.
- Continued funding for:
  - A position to support the Green Building Program to improve building efficiency, reduce water use, and reduce construction waste.
  - The Road Rangers program, which allows the County to respond to community concerns and extend the life of roadways through timely repairs.



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- The Conservation Corps litter removal program.
- DCHS and Local Services anti-displacement feasibility and legal analysis work in Skyway-West Hill and North Highline.
- The Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Community Driven Behavioral Health Grants to catalyze small-scale and time-sensitive community behavioral health interventions that address wellness, substance use, and/or mental health needs of immigrant, refugee and indigenous communities, as well as other communities of color in King County.
- First Steps (Maternity Support Services and Infant Case Management) and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services at the Cynthia A. Green Family Center in Skyway, first launched in September 2020.

### Capital Investments

#### Department of Local Services:

- \$20 million in unincorporated King County capital projects to support community needs through a participatory budgeting process, which includes \$10 million to explore options for a community center in Skyway.
- Pedestrian safety improvements in the commercially zoned area of White Center along 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW.
- Intersection safety improvements in the Skyway-West Hill and East Federal Way communities.
- Funding the construction phase of four bridges in the Bridge Safety Program, initiated in the last biennium.
- Initiating a bridge load upgrade program to retrofit bridges with truck weight restrictions.
- Improving sidewalk and walkway conditions for people with disabilities.
- Improving pavement surface condition on higher-volume roads, including roads in historically underserved communities.

#### Department of Natural Resources and Parks:

- \$20.2 million for conservation of open space through acquisition and \$5.4 million for conservation through easement acquisition.
- \$1.1 million for multiple improvements in Skyway Park, including installing a new mini open play soccer arena, ballfield improvements, and site preparation for a new playground.
- \$2 million for emergency repairs and renovations to the dock at Dockton Park.
- \$200,000 for remediation in the Maury Island Natural Area of former mining activities and maintenance of 16 acres of native planting restoration.
- \$700,000 to rehabilitate the play area at Jim Ellis Memorial Park in Preston and replace the existing play structures at a variety of other parks in the unincorporated area, including Boulevard Lane Park and Maplewood Park.
- \$1.4 million to remove and replace the existing synthetic turf soccer practice fields at Jim Ellis Memorial Park, and planning/design for future replacements at Ravensdale Park and Petrovitsky Park.
- Funding the conversion to synthetic turf at Mel Olson Stadium in Steve Cox Memorial Park through the \$2.9 million Community Partnership and Grants program.



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- \$1.8 million for the Fall City Restoration project, including removal of a portion of the Barfuse levee on Haffner revetment on the Snoqualmie River, to restore 150 acres of floodplain for salmon and wildlife habitat.
- \$1.1 million in initial funding for the Madsen Basin Retrofit to purchase land in the Fairwood community in order to design, permit, and construct a stormwater facility that will provide flow control for stormwater.
- \$6 million to continue the fish passage program and capital investments restoring salmon access to stream habitat.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Local Services has significantly increased the County's presence and services in unincorporated King County, bringing County staff to the community through office hours, participation in community-led meetings, and town halls. This engagement led to the development of the following innovative services:

- Conservation Corps litter removal in Skyway, White Center, and now Fall City.
- A community van in Vashon to provide direct transportation services.
- Small business grants to respond to COVID-19.
- Deployment of the Health Ambassador Program to communities in the unincorporated area.
- The presence of On-site Sewage System program staff at Permitting's offices to streamline customer service.
- A new approach to public outreach in unincorporated King County, offering regular weekly "field office" hours in each of the community service areas.
- New and improved town hall meetings in each community service area.
- An economic development program for unincorporated King County.

As the County agency tasked with increasing transparency and accountability for unincorporated areas, DLS expects to continue to adjust its work and implement new programs in response to community needs.

With Council input, DLS will also work with community members to develop a catalog of requests for services and investments, and evaluate the feasibility of the requests. Those items that are prioritized by the community and deemed feasible will be used by County agencies to inform 2023-2024 budget proposals.

The investments listed here do not comprise an exhaustive list. For additional projects and ongoing work please see the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget.