

# WaterWorks Grant Program

Sound investments in clean water and community



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Wastewater Treatment Division

Presentation to

**MWPAAC**

October 26, 2022

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Manager



# Today's Presentation

1. Overview of WaterWorks
2. How it works
3. Last grant cycle – 2021/22
4. Results
5. Next grant cycle – 2023/24
6. Q & A

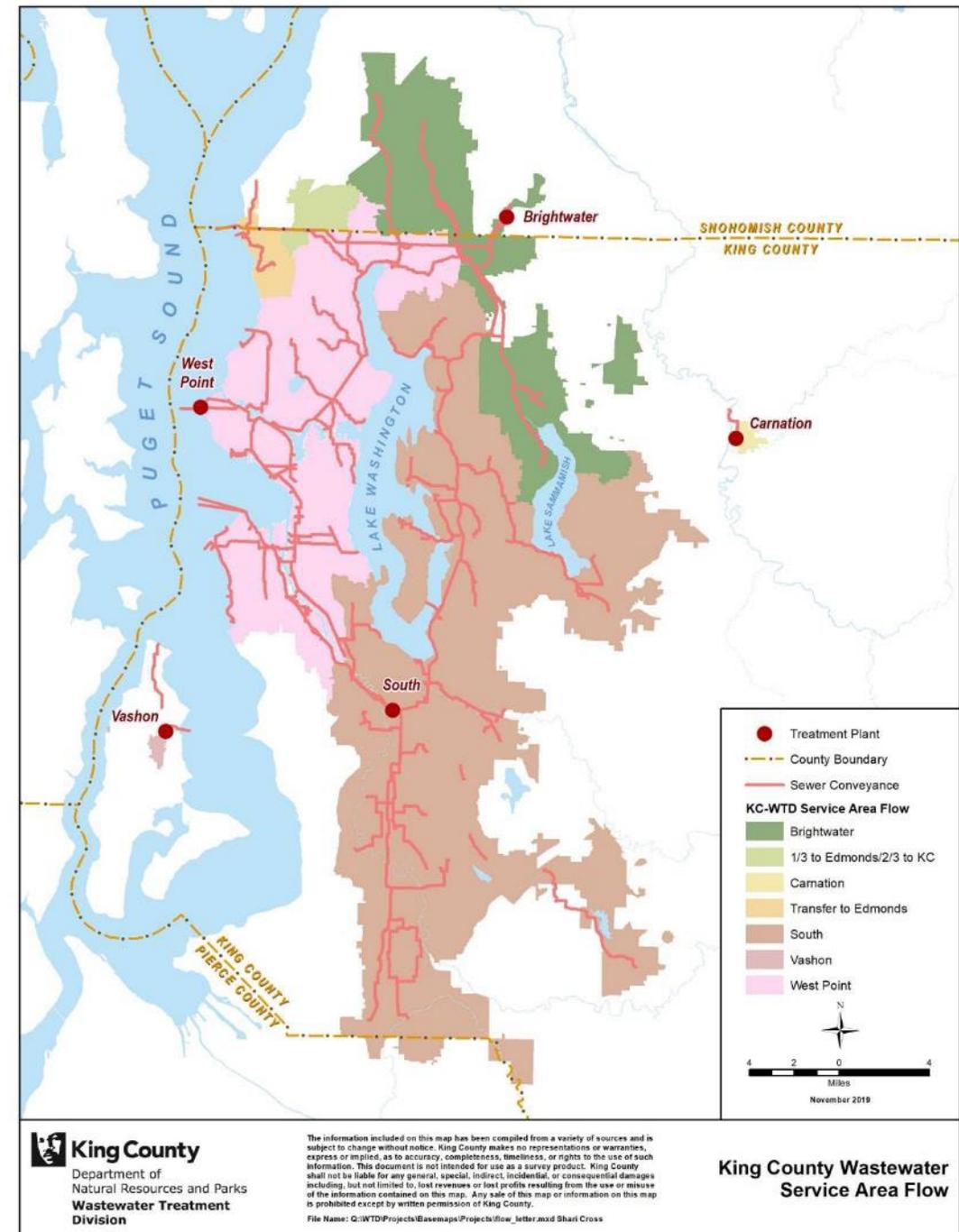


# WaterWorks Background

- Based on **FP-8 of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (1998)** KC code 28.86.160
  - Water quality improvement activities, programs and projects
  - Up to 1.5% of biennial operating budget
- Established by **Ordinance 18031 (2015)**
  - Award criteria, Administrative processes
  - WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee
- Amended by **Ordinance 18261 (2016)**
  - Revised committee structure (13 members)
  - Prioritization process
- **MWPAAC was involved in developing criteria for WaterWorks and has 3 seats on the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee**

# Criteria - projects must:

- Create a benefit to or **improvement of water quality** within WTD's service area and benefit its ratepayers



# Examples of water quality benefits

- Addressing contaminants
- Protecting or improving watersheds, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and tidewaters in the service area
- Providing education, on the ground improvement projects, programs, research, technology development, or related ideas
- Building awareness of water quality and environmental protection and promotion of behavioral changes for improved water quality

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**green stormwater  
infrastructure  
(raingardens  
& cisterns)**



**education &  
community  
engagement**



**research &  
monitoring**

**stream &  
river bank  
restoration**



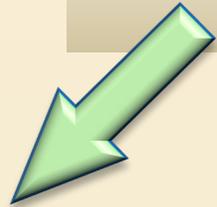
# Implementation Strength\*

- Leverage resources
- Build community involvement
- Have strong and diverse partnerships and community stewardship
- Have clear goals, outcomes



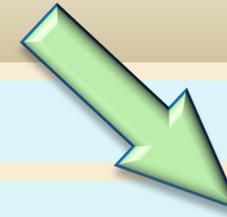
# Two Tracks of Funding

approximately \$2.4 M each/budget cycle



**SAME:** Criteria, Eligibility, Reporting

**DIFFERENT:** Application and review



## Competitive Track

Application Process – WTD

Review Process – Grant Ranking  
Committee

## Council-allocated funding Track

Application Process – King County  
Council

Review Process – King County Council

# 2015-2022, WaterWorks awarded:

**\$17.4 M** for **243**  
**Projects**

green stormwater  
infrastructure  
(raingardens  
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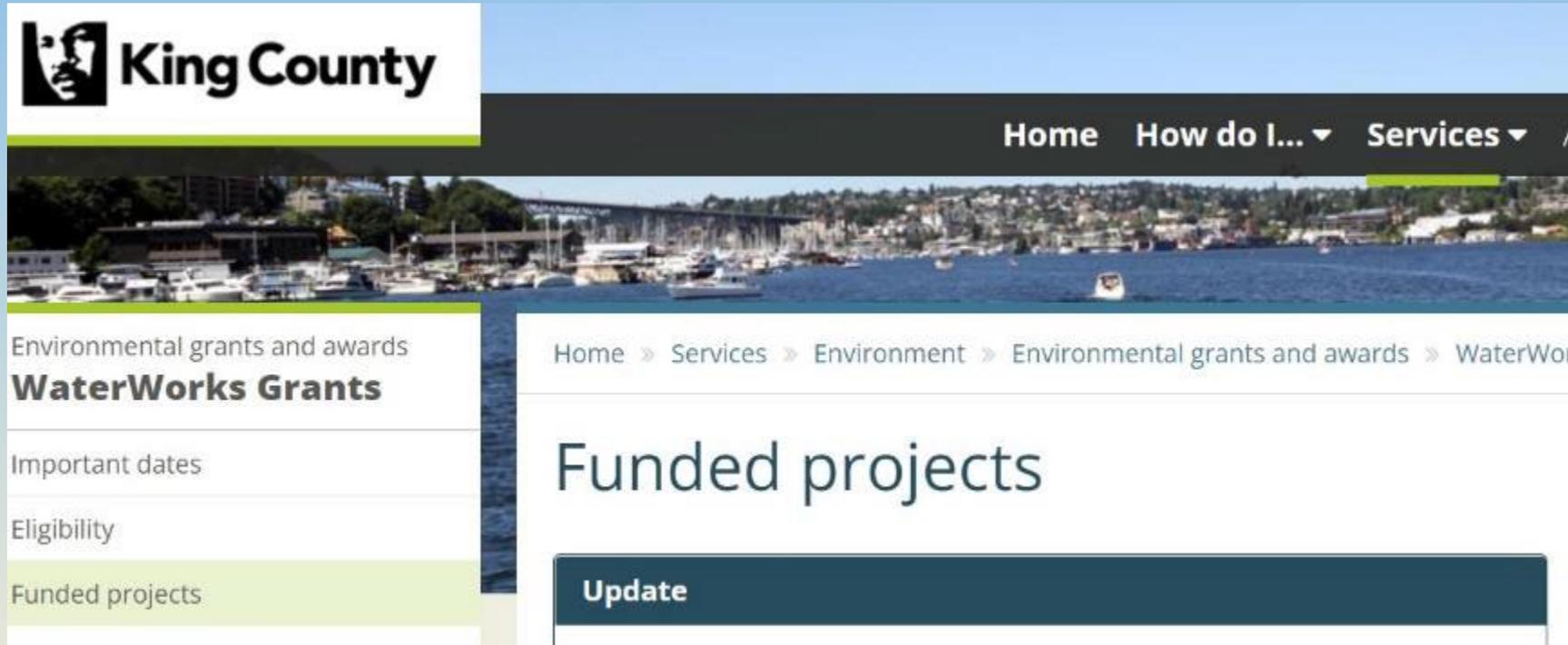
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# 2021-2022 cycle

- 68 projects – 24 competitive and 44 council-allocated
- \$5,071,262
- Ordinance 19353 (2021)



The screenshot shows the King County website's navigation and content for WaterWorks Grants. The King County logo is in the top left. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'How do I...', 'Services', and 'A'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home » Services » Environment » Environmental grants and awards » WaterWork'. The page title is 'Funded projects', and there is an 'Update' button below it. A sidebar on the left lists 'Environmental grants and awards', 'WaterWorks Grants', 'Important dates', 'Eligibility', and 'Funded projects'.

Visit [www.kingcounty.gov/waterworks-grants](http://www.kingcounty.gov/waterworks-grants)

# Funded projects – 2021/22 cycle

- **Black Star Farmers– \$200,000**
  - *Rainier Valley Water Resilience Project*
- **City of Woodinville– \$30,000**
  - *Lake Leota Water Quality Monitoring and Watershed Stewardship Program*
- **Friends of Paramount– \$20,000**
  - *Conifer Capacity: Establishing Urban Evergreen Forests to Increase Rainfall Interception*
- **Seattle Good Business Network– \$124,798**
  - *Bridging Youth Workforce Development with Green Career and Water Quality Management Pathways*

# Funded projects - 2021/22 cycle

- **City of Issaquah – \$40,000**
  - *Issaquah Creek Watershed Bacteria Study*
- **Mini Mart City Park- \$73,000**
  - *Stormwater Infrastructure & Youth Training Program*
- **Refuge Federation Service Center– \$146,580**
  - *Refugee/Immigrant Communities Water Quality Education and Fish Sampling Project*
- **UW Green Futures Lab– \$161,000**
  - *Sweetgrass Marine Living Shoreline Demonstration and Research Prototypes*

# Grant Management

WaterWorks staff (2) administer all the grants

- Approx. 100-120 active projects at any time
- Review quarterly reports and authorize payments
- Outreach
- Give guidance to grant applicants & grant recipients
- Facilitate the review process and manage Grant Ranking Committee
- Report out, share results

**Previously-funded projects**

**Results!**

# Mini Mart City Park—\$100,000

## Green Stormwater Infrastructure at Mini Mart City Park



Former Brownfields site

Match = \$80,000

Volunteer hours = 1000

Area managed by GSI = 5300 sq feet

green stormwater  
infrastructure  
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# Kent Meridian High School—\$35,000

*2 grants: rain garden & cistern*

## Student-led project

Cistern= 2,500 gallon

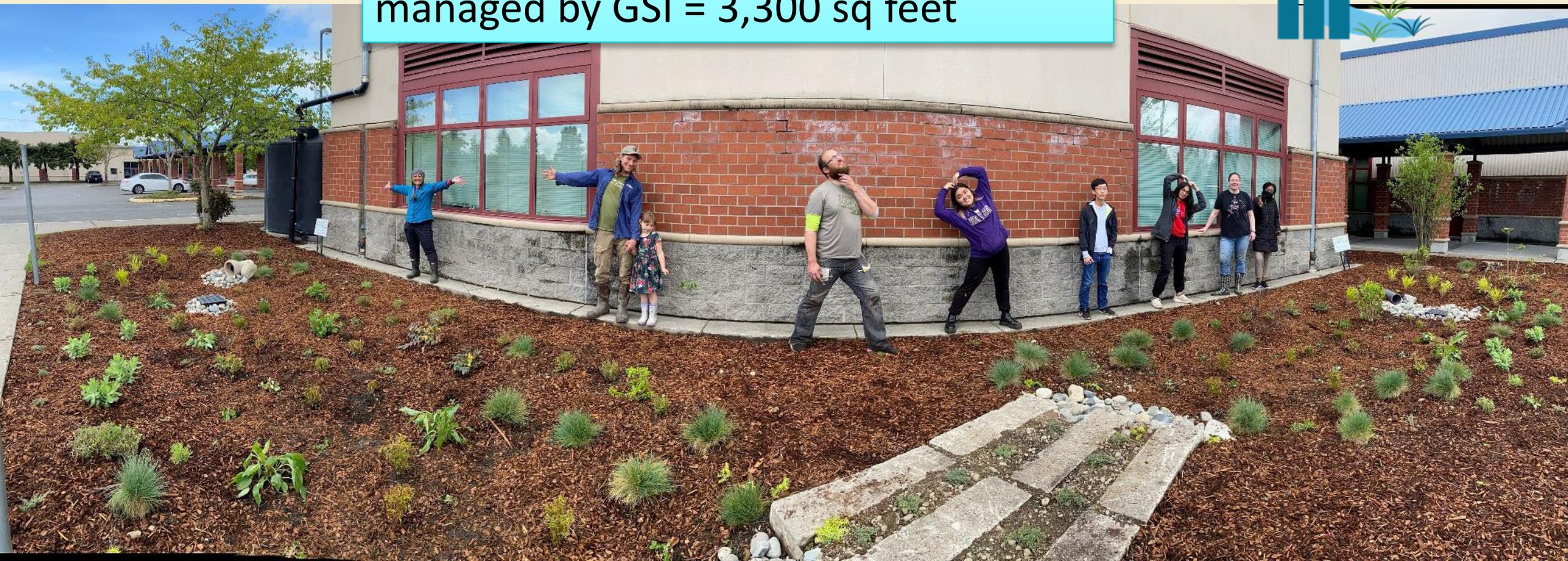
Raingardens area

managed by GSI = 3,300 sq feet

green stormwater  
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education &  
community  
engagement



# Restoration: Work parties are back!

**Totals for 2021, all projects**  
2,692 trees planted  
5,496 other plants  
11,809 volunteer hours



# Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

**Totals for 2021, all projects**

4 Rain gardens installed

29 cisterns installed

15,055 gallons detained by cisterns



**Interim CDA, Danny Woo Rainwater Harvesting**



**Stewardship Partners, GSI mini-grants**

# Impact



## Seed Funding

**Seattle Parks Foundation, Gateway Park N,**  
\$65,000

>>SDOT \$1.75M to continue the work



## Snowball effect:

Groups working on  
community science/water quality monitoring

- Sno-King Watershed Council
- Thornton Creek Alliance
- Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
- Unleash the Brilliance
- International Rescue Committee
- Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association

# Leveraging Resources

- Part of Implementation Guidelines
- **Match requirement** – 10% cash or in-kind
- Waiver option for ESJ purposes
- Considered in evaluation



- 2021 grants - \$5M awarded, **\$6M in match**
- 2021 restoration projects – reported 11,809 volunteer hours → \$236, 180 (@\$20/hour)
- Brings attention and focus to water quality issues and solutions



# Benefits of the WaterWorks Grant Program

- Has a tangible outcome – protection of the environment
- Delivers or expedites projects that wouldn't otherwise happen
- Reduces the burden of local agencies
- Offsets the costs of projects



# Draft Timeline 2023/24 (competitive track)

Early 2023	Request for Proposals released Deadline for letters of intent ( <b>LOI's</b> )
Spring	Review and selection of LOIs
Late Spring	Deadline for <b>full application</b>
Spring/Summer	Review and selection of applications
Fall 2023/Winter 2024	Authorization by County Executive and King County Council
Winter/Spring 2024	<b>Projects Begin</b>



# Questions?

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[www.kingcounty.gov/waterworks-grants](http://www.kingcounty.gov/waterworks-grants)**