

Evaluation Criteria for 2023 King County Parks Grants

Open Space – River Corridors

Program Goals: Restore the natural functions of rivers, create or restore public access, and/or increase public awareness of river corridors as valuable natural resources.

Evaluation and Award Process: King County Parks relies on the Open Space – River Corridors advisory committee to evaluate grant applications and make award recommendations for this grant program. Advisory committee members represent a variety of organizations, agencies, and community interests to bring their expertise and a diversity of perspectives to the evaluation process.

- Advisory committee members independently evaluate and score eligible applications on a scale based on the evaluation criteria below, with the highest scores reflecting the indicators of a competitive application.
- Each applicant's final score will be weighted as follows:
 - 50% Project Overview
 - 30% Equitable Access and Partnerships
 - 20% Budget and Resources
- Final scores will be a key factor in the advisory committee's decision-making process to develop award recommendations.

The Advisory Committee award recommendations must be approved by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), King County Executive, and King County Council. King County reserves the right to make award selections based on the best interests of King County, and as a result, may not select the highest scoring or lowest cost proposals for award. Upon Council approval and authorization of the grant awards, Parks will execute and manage contracts with the awarded organizations.

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Open Space – River Corridors Evaluation Criteria

APPLICATION QUESTIONS	INDICATORS OF A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION	MAXIMUM POINTS
Project Overview (50%)		
Project details	Project for this specific funding aligns with the goals of the grant program.	5
Outcomes	Project outcomes benefit the community.	5
Evaluation	Proposal identifies what success would look like for the project and how the project would measure success.	2
Project contingencies	Any potential contingencies or factors that could delay project implementation are anticipated and considered in project planning (if applicable).	1
Project implementation and funding ¹	There is a vision for how the eventual project will be implemented and funded, including timeline, funding sources, and (if applicable) long-term operations and maintenance.	1
Public access ²	Project site includes public access, and/or the project plans to develop/restore the project site to enhance public access.	2
Project sustainability ³	Long-term operations and management of the project/facility is being planned for and funded.	2
Project readiness ³	Proper steps have been completed and/or are anticipated to prepare for breaking ground.	2
Multiple benefits	Project integrates multiple benefits (i.e., habitat restoration, public recreation, and/or flood reduction) and balances the impact of potentially competing priorities.	5
Areas served: - Cities/towns - Unincorporated areas	Project serves areas of South King County that historically lack open space resources.	2
Equitable Access & Partnerships (30%)		
Populations of focus ⁴	Project is focused on underserved communities that experience inequitable access to open space.	2
Community engagement	The need for the project was identified and/or driven by underserved communities, and those community members play a meaningful and central role in key decisions affecting the project.	5
Collaborative partnerships	Project involves organizations that reflect the communities they serve and/or diverse organizational partnerships that strengthen the project.	2
Budget & Resources (20%)		
Budget template	Budget is complete, aligns with proposed activities, and is reasonable based on the scope of the project.	5
Budget narrative	Project leverages other funding or in-kind donations.	1

¹ Applies to Feasibility Study project type only

² Applies to Capital – Construction, Planning & Design, and Acquisition project types only

³ Applies to Capital – Construction and Planning & Design project types only

⁴ Applies to Program project type only