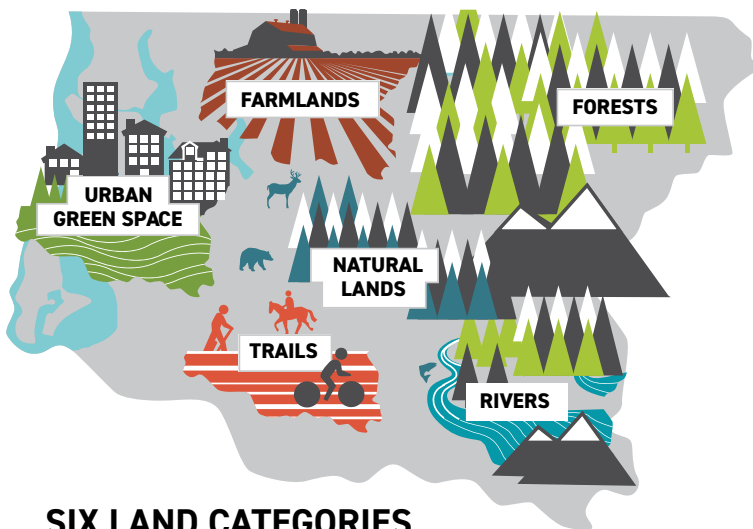


# Restoring King County's full potential to protect the last, best open spaces

Over the past 40 years, King County has protected more than 100,000 acres of open space – greenspace, parks, trails, farmland, forests, river corridors, and more – that contribute to the quality of life we enjoy today.



## 65,000 ACRES TO SUSTAIN US



### SIX LAND CATEGORIES

### THIS IS OUR GENERATION'S OPPORTUNITY TO FINISH THE JOB

We worked with cities, farmers, businesses, and environmental leaders to identify the last, best places to protect before they are lost forever. Together, we created the Land Conservation Initiative, a partnership to protect the remaining 65,000 acres of high conservation-value open space. We sought advice from the Open Space Equity Cabinet to ensure that our land conservation work contributes to equity and social justice.

We're off to a strong start, but to accomplish our vision we must accelerate our acquisitions now before the land is no longer affordable.

### The challenge

Land conservation in King County—and 13 other counties—is largely funded by the Conservation Futures Program that the state created 50 years ago. Unfortunately, the program today is generating about half the revenue it was originally designed to due to separate state legislation that limits annual property tax increases to 1 percent, far below the rate of inflation. As a result, the Conservation Futures tax rate has declined by almost 50 percent while property values have increased.

Conservation Futures can no longer keep the pace as property values of the last, best open spaces rise.

### The solution

King County voters can restore Conservation Futures back to the original 6.25 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value and restart the gradual decline. For about \$2 more per month for the average homeowner, we could double our ability to protect and restore the most important open spaces within a single generation.

# REALIZING OUR FULL POTENTIAL TO PROTECT THE LAST BEST PLACES

By realizing the full potential of state-authorized revenue, we can:

- Improve access to open space for the 500,000 people in King County who don't currently live near a greenspace, park, or trail.
- Protect mature forests that are absorbing the CO<sub>2</sub> that contributes to climate change.
- Restore riparian corridors for native salmon, providing more food for Puget Sound orcas.

Learn more: [www.kingcounty.gov/land-conservation](http://www.kingcounty.gov/land-conservation)

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Create equitable access to greenspace



Absorb and store CO<sub>2</sub>



Filter air and water pollution



Protect and restore habitat



Reduce flood risks



Increase recreational opportunities



Strengthen local food economy

