



STATE OF WASHINGTON

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\$5 Million in Grants Approved, Projects in Six Counties Funded

OLYMPIA - Projects in six counties designed to improve aquatic lands and people's access to the water will receive state grants, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation announced today.

The grants range from \$87,000 to \$1 million and include activities from restoring beaches to building fishing docks to creating waterfront parks.

"Washington's aquatic lands are rich in natural resources and also have great commercial, recreational and aesthetic value," said Laura Johnson, director of the Interagency Committee, which manages the grant program. "These grants invest money today in improving and protecting our shorelines and giving people access to the water."

Projects in the following counties will receive funding:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Grays Harbor..... | \$246,244 | Pierce | \$685,887 |
| King..... | \$1,788,836 | Skagit | \$354,758 |
| Kitsap | \$1,348,775 | Whatcom..... | \$600,000 |

Click here to read descriptions of funded projects:
http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/Press_Releases/ALEA_project_list_fy2006.doc

Interagency Committee
ALEA Funding
May 17, 2005

The grant program, called the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), was created in 1984 by the Washington State Legislature to ensure that money generated from aquatic lands was used to protect and enhance those lands. Aquatic lands are lands that lie at the bottom of navigable water bodies, such as Puget Sound, and include the surrounding shore lands, harbor areas and tidelands.

The state Department of Natural Resources manages the state's 2.4 million acres of aquatic lands and raises revenue through activities such as leasing waterfront sites for marinas and selling harvest rights for geoduck clams. Part of that income is deposited into the enhancement account and then granted for projects that purchase, improve, protect or provide access to aquatic lands.

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation is responsible for evaluating grant applications and distributing the grants. This year, the Interagency Committee received 17 applications requesting more than \$6.4 million in funding. Five million is available.

The grant applications were reviewed and ranked in August 2004 by a 11-member evaluation team comprised of representatives of local governments, state natural resource agencies and the general public. Evaluators ranked projects based on numerous criteria including need for access, how well site restoration would be handled, the design, if they improved the public's access to the water and if the project had community support.

A summary of the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant program is available at the Interagency Committee Web site at: www.iac.wa.gov/iac/grants/alea.htm.

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation was established in 1964 to finance recreation and conservation projects throughout the state.

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NR-015



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Fiscal Year 2006 Funded Projects

Grays Harbor County

\$246,244

Providing for Shorebird Viewing at Bottle Beach in Grays Harbor Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission \$246,244

This grant will provide shorebird viewing and educational information at Bottle Beach State Park. Bottle Beach, one of the top fifty rated shorebird sites in the nation, is a popular area for bird watchers to see shorebirds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. The site has no facilities to support viewing or to meet ecotourism interests. Work will include building nearly 1 mile of trail, a trail head, a 19-space parking lot, a bus drop-off site and a small restroom. Interpretive signs and wildlife viewing platforms and blinds will help educate the public about wetland and coastal environments. These improvements will manage public access, provide educational opportunities and enhance wetlands while minimizing impacts to shorebird habitat. The Audubon Society has agreed to monitor the site. State Parks will contribute \$246,244 in funding and donated labor for this project. (04-1259D-FY06)

King County

\$1,788,836

Restoring a Floodplain King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks \$500,000

King County will use this grant to restore an active floodplain in the lower half-mile of the Tolt River by tearing down an existing levee and building one further back, allowing the river to meander through the restored floodplain. Chinook salmon spawn in the Tolt River in large numbers. The project takes place in Tolt MacDonald Park, a 530-acre regional park that attracts sports teams, campers, mountain bikers and users of the Snoqualmie Valley Regional Trail. The grant will restore side channel habitat and improve fish spawning and rearing habitat in the main channel. Work also may include placement of large, woody debris in the river to provide places for the salmon to rest and hide from predators, planting and construction of trails and interpretive materials. King County will contribute \$2 million in funding and another state grant toward this project. (04-1507R-FY06)

Restoring the Beach for Salmon in Myrtle Edwards Park Seattle Parks and Recreation Department \$500,000

Seattle will use this grant to help create a pocket beach in Myrtle Edwards Park, providing the first section of natural shoreline that young salmon encounter as they leave the Duwamish River headed toward Puget Sound. Work will include removing the large rocks along the shore to make a natural beach, planting kelp and native plants and creating saltwater marsh habitats and rocky tide pools. This habitat restoration project on .64 acre of city parkland in downtown Seattle is a key element in the design of the Olympic Sculpture Park, a new 8.5-acre open space at the southern entrance of Myrtle Edwards Park. Trails, signs and benches will invite the public to visit this downtown shoreline. Seattle will contribute more than \$2 million in donations toward this project. (04-1266R-FY06)



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Fiscal Year 2006 Funded Projects

Developing a Riverfront Park and Boat Launch **\$498,836** **Kent Parks, Recreation and Community Services**

Kent will use this grant to develop a 15-acre waterfront park on the Green River. The park will include a car-top boat launch, accessible fishing area, picnic tables, salmon and wildlife restoration areas, a restroom, a picnic shelter, a 75-stall parking lot and trails. Creating public access to the Green River for fishing, boating, and walking trails is a high priority in Kent because few other opportunities exist. There is only one car-top boat launch along the river from Auburn to Tukwila. This project will double the recreation opportunities for boat launching, accessible fishing and bank fishing. It will add almost a half-mile of trail and enhance the area for wildlife and the habitat for fish. The Green River flows on the south and west sides of the park with the Green River Regional Trail on the east side of the park. Kent will contribute \$593,108 in funding and in donations of cash, labor and materials. (04-1249D-FY06)

Fixing up the Shilshole Bay Sailing Center **\$290,000** **Port of Seattle**

The Port of Seattle will use this grant to renovate and replace the 40-year-old sailing center on the north end of Shilshole Bay. Work includes building new docks and providing new floats for launching kayaks, dinghies, and small, hand-carried vessels and adding an overhead hoist for launching small sailboats. The port also will build a new promenade, including railings, lighting, benches, landscaping and signs. Completing this picture, local clubs will provide a public restroom, classrooms, storage lockers and a meeting space at the North End Sailing Center. Shilshole Bay Marina is a major public saltwater marina owned and operated by the Port of Seattle in the heavily populated central Puget Sound region. The sailing center serves thousands of users each year through classes, day-access and regattas. The Port of Seattle will contribute \$295,000 toward this project. (04-1462D-FY06)

Kitsap County **\$1,348,775**

Creating a Waterfront Park **\$1,000,000** **Kitsap County Department of Facilities, Parks and Recreation**

Kitsap County will use this grant to help buy 6.15 acres, including 420 feet of sandy waterfront on Puget Sound, in the center of the community of Hansville. The purchase will help remedy one of Kitsap County's greatest park and recreation needs - additional waterfront access. Only 5.6 percent of the county's 228 miles of saltwater shoreline is open to the public. The land serves as one end of the Hansville Greenway, which eventually will span the Kitsap Peninsula from Puget Sound to Hood Canal. More than 4 miles of trail now reach the site as part of that greenway. A stream and about an acre of associated wetlands run through the property and they would be restored. Kitsap County will contribute \$1,113,915 for this project. (04-1484A-FY06)



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Fiscal Year 2006 Funded Projects

Restoring Dogfish Creek Estuary **\$261,492** **City of Poulsbo**

Poulsbo will use this grant to help restore habitat necessary to the natural functioning of the Dogfish Creek estuary. Work will include planting native plants and building more than a third of a mile of looped trails, educational kiosks and an overlook along the creek. The estuary is designated as a shoreline conservancy area, and has been identified as a salmon-bearing stream including Chinook, coho and chum salmon, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout. This site includes at least three valuable wetlands and is host to many species of birds and wildlife. Poulsbo will contribute \$261,909 from another state grant and from donations of cash, equipment, labor and materials. (04-1450D-FY06)

Preserving the Pristine Union River Estuary Near Belfair **\$87,283** **Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife**

In an effort to continue work to preserve and restore estuaries near Belfair, the Department of Fish and Wildlife will purchase three pristine parcels of estuarine salt marsh and shoreline. These parcels are next to publicly owned lands and provide an undisturbed pathway for young summer chum and Chinook salmon. These salmon spawn in the Union River and are dependent upon healthy shorelines for food and safety from predators. The department's goal is to create a trail along the shoreline that connects Theler Wetlands and a future Pacific Northwest Salmon Center with Belfair State Park. The department has ranked protection of high quality estuarine wetlands along the shoreline as a high priority for Hood Canal, which is home to two species of salmon that are federally listed as threatened with extinction. State and local governments have purchased much of the Union River estuary to help protect it. In addition, the Theler Wetlands in Belfair provide walking trails and outreach programs for the public. The department will contribute \$87,284 from a federal grant toward this project. (04-1427A-FY06)

Pierce County \$685,887

Helping Build a Waterfront Park **\$390,000** **Tacoma Public Works**

Tacoma will use this grant to help purchase 3.7 acres on the Thea Foss Waterway at East 21st Street as part of the city's Waterway Park project. Waterway Park is an important element of the revitalization of Tacoma's downtown waterfront. The city plans to build a shoreline esplanade, a non-motorized boat launch and float. The Thea Foss Waterway area serves thousands of visitors annually on Tacoma's waterfront. Tacoma will contribute \$390,000 toward this project. (04-1277A-FY06)

Working on Tacoma's Waterfront Chinese Garden **\$295,887** **City of Tacoma**

Tacoma will use this grant to build a shoreline trail, restore the shoreline to provide additional habitat and build an entrance gate and an intertidal grotto at the 4.5-acre Chinese Garden and Reconciliation Park on Commencement Bay. This



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Fiscal Year 2006 Funded Projects

project is on the southern end of Ruston Way, a 2.5-mile ribbon of parkland that wraps along the waterfront. This initial development will help prepare the park for additional buildings, a pond, a pagoda, and bridges that the Chinese Reconciliation Foundation is working to secure. Tacoma will contribute \$300,329 in funding, cash donations and funding from another state grant. (04-1374D-FY06)

Skagit County \$354,758

Adding to the Skagit Riverwalk South Gateway \$354,758
Skagit County Dike District #12

The dike district will use this grant to buy 4.56 acres along the Skagit River and Burlington and provide public access to the river's shore. The public uses this privately owned land, creating conflicts with landowners and the dike district as well as safety and ecological problems. The site is next to land already being purchased for public use. Future development plans call for parking on both sides of the setback levee so the land is accessible at all times, information kiosks, picnic tables and trail connections to the Burlington River Walk and Around Burlington Bicycle and Pedestrian Path. All facilities and the river shore will be accessible to people with disabilities. The project is a partnership between the City of Burlington and the Skagit County Dike District #12. The dike district will contribute \$354,758 toward this project. (04-1490A-FY06)

Whatcom County \$600,000

Creating the Longest, Wildest Public Shore in the Bellingham Area \$600,000
Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department

Bellingham will use this grant to buy 12.3 acres in Bellingham's Chuckanut Bay Greenway. The property has 1,800 feet of marine shore, 3.5 acres of tideland, and 8.7 acres of upland. When combined with other public land, this project creates the longest and wildest public shore in the area and enlarges an existing wildlife preserve. The project ties 88 acres of public tideland and salt marsh to its north (the Chuckanut Creek estuary) with a 14-acre public beach and rocky shore to its south. It also ties 67 acres of upland park on the north to 9-acre Teddy Bear Park to the south. It provides the nearest kayak and rowboat access to Chuckanut Rocks, Chuckanut Island and the scenic, rocky shores of Clark Point and inner Chuckanut Bay. The site will contain 2,400 feet of major trails connecting it with other public land, a nearby trail head parking lot and the regional Interurban/Coast Millennium Trail. The site includes the mouth of salmon-bearing Chuckanut Creek and part of the smaller Woodstock Creek as well as existing paths, dramatic views, wildlife observation points, a caretaker's cottage, boathouse and two prehistoric archaeological sites. Bellingham will contribute \$1.25 million from a voter-approved levy. (04-1504A-FY06)