



STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

MEETING DATE: November 2009 **ITEM NUMBER:** 10
TITLE: Land and Water Conservation Fund Program Grant Funding
PREPARED BY: Marguerite Austin, Recreation Section Manager
APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR:

Proposed Action: Decision

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) received twelve Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects to review for federal fiscal year 2009 funding consideration. The requests total more than \$2.3 million.

At the November 2009 Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting, staff will ask the board to approve the ranked list and funding for projects recommended by the LWCF Advisory Committee. This memorandum highlights the process used to assess these applications, the evaluation results, and funding recommendation.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the ranked list and funding for projects as shown in Table 1. Staff also requests delegation of authority to the RCO director to submit these projects to the National Park Service for final funding. Staff has provided Resolution #2009-33 for board consideration.

Program Description

The Land and Water Conservation Fund program provides financial assistance to the states for the acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities found to be in accord with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.



Program Policies

The federal LWCF program provides matching grants to states to preserve and develop quality outdoor recreation resources. Rules governing the program are in the federal *Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program Manual*. The program also is guided by policies outlined in board *Manual #15, Land and Water Conservation Fund: Policies and Project Selection*.

A prerequisite for a state's participation in this program is the adoption of a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) and development of an open project selection process. The board, Governor, and National Park Service all approved the current SCORP, *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation*, in 2008. The SCORP sets priorities for the LWCF policies and evaluation criteria that the board adopts. Key policies related to this program are as follows:

Eligible Applicants	State agencies, municipal governments, and Native American Tribes may apply.
Eligible Project Types	Acquisition, development, and renovation projects are eligible.
Match Requirements	A minimum 50% non-federal matching share is required.
Funding Limits	The minimum fund request is \$25,000 with a maximum request of \$500,000.
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants must establish planning eligibility.• Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.

Before issuing a project agreement, the National Park Service also requires applicants to:

- Address any outstanding conversions or other non-compliance issues;
- Possess any required Army Corp of Engineers permits;
- Complete required environmental and public reviews of the project; and
- Establish adequate control and tenure of property to be developed.

LWCF Allocation and Estimated Funds Available

Congress has approved the federal fiscal year 2009 LWCF regular apportionment. That amount has been augmented with funds authorized by Section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. The combined total is comparable to the regular stateside apportionment approved for federal fiscal year 2009. Currently, a total of \$460,573 is available for the projects in Table 1.

Evaluation Summary

On September 9, 2009, the LWCF Advisory Committee used board-adopted criteria to review and rank twelve projects for federal fiscal year 2009 funding consideration. The requests totaled more than \$2.3 million

The LWCF Advisory Committee includes representatives from municipal governments, state agencies, and citizens with expertise in park and recreation resource management. The members who served as evaluators this year included the following:

Evaluator	Organization	Position
Leslie Betlach	Renton Parks Department	Local Agency
Bruce Giddens	Clallam Co Park Fair & Bldg	Local agency
Randy Person	State Parks	State Agency
Dan Nelson		Citizen
Michael O'Malley	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	State Agency
Ferne Rosenblatt	Okanogan Valley Land Council	Citizen
David Schwab	Eastmont Parks & Recreation	Local Agency
Pene Speaks	Dept of Natural Resources	State Agency
Scott Thomas	City of Covington	Local Agency
Paul Whitemarsh		Citizen

The results of the evaluations are shown in *Table 1, LWCF Program Ranked List of Projects and Fund Recommendation, Federal Fiscal Year 2009*.

Attachments

Resolution #2009-33

Table 1 – *LWCF Program Ranked List of Projects and Fund Recommendation, Federal Fiscal Year 2009*

- A. LWCF Evaluation Criteria Summary
- B. LWCF Evaluation Scoring Summary
- C. LWCF Project Synopses in Ranked Order

RESOLUTION #2009-33

Land and Water Conservation Fund Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 Projects

WHEREAS, for federal fiscal year 2009, twelve Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program projects are eligible for funding; and

WHEREAS, these LWCF projects were evaluated using the National Park Service and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved and adopted open project selection process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all twelve LWCF program projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual 15: *Land and Water Conservation Fund Program: Policies and Project Selection*, thus supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has a federal apportionment for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program for federal fiscal year 2009, and

WHEREAS, the projects acquire and/or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list and funding of projects depicted in Table 1 -- *LWCF Program Ranked List of Projects and Fund Recommendation, Federal Fiscal Year 2009*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the director to submit application materials to the National Park Service and execute project agreements and amendments necessary to facilitate prompt project implementation using federal fiscal year 2009 funds upon notification of the federal apportionment for this program.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1
Land and Water Conservation Fund
State Fiscal Year 2010

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCO Amount	Sponsor Amount	Total Amount	Cumulative Amount	Staff Recommends
1 of 12	45.900	09-1351D	Diversifying Kiwanis: from Field to Park	Bremerton Parks & Rec Dept	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
2 of 12	43.700	09-1167C	Blackjack Creek / Mosquito Fleet Trail Connection	Port Orchard City of	\$60,000	\$84,622	\$144,622	\$460,000	\$60,000
3 of 12	40.200	09-1396D	Oakland Bay County Park Trails Development	Mason County	\$251,750	\$251,750	\$503,500	\$711,750	Alternate
4 of 12	39.900	09-1155D	Tanner Landing Park Public Access	King County DNR & Parks	\$75,700	\$75,700	\$151,400	\$787,450	Alternate
5 of 12	38.700	09-1110D	Badger Mountain Park- Spray Park	Richland Parks & Rec	\$190,087	\$190,088	\$380,175	\$977,537	Alternate
6 of 12	37.700	09-1265D	Kandle Park Aquatics Facility	Tacoma MPD	\$500,000	\$5,500,000	\$6,000,000	\$1,477,537	Alternate
7 of 12	37.000	09-1340D	Park Enhancement for Waterfront Access	Clarkston Port of	\$139,700	\$488,274	\$627,974	\$1,617,237	Alternate
8 of 12	36.800	09-1168D	Crow Butte Campground Improvements	Benton Port of	\$100,000	\$184,675	\$284,675	\$1,717,237	Alternate
9 of 12	34.200	09-1253D	Finch Spray Park 2009	Aberdeen Parks & Rec Dept	\$40,000	\$48,589	\$88,589	\$1,757,237	Alternate
10 of 12	33.900	09-1150A	Pacific Morgan's Retreat	Pacific City of	\$172,750	\$189,500	\$362,250	\$1,929,987	Alternate
11 of 12	32.300	09-1104D	Squaxin Island Skateboard Park-2009	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$94,900	\$95,057	\$189,957	\$2,024,887	Alternate
12 of 12	31.100	09-1365D	MCRA Ballfield Improvements	Mason County	\$320,000	\$328,500	\$648,500	\$2,344,887	Alternate
					\$2,344,887	\$7,836,755	\$10,181,642		

Note: Funds available after admin, \$460,573.

Prepared: 10/21/2009

ATTACHMENT A: LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND, EVALUATION CRITERIA SUMMARY

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federally funded grant program administered by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to assist in preserving and developing public outdoor recreation lands and facilities for the benefit of all citizens. (LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat 897)

LWCF – Priority Rating System					
Score	#	Title	Score and Multiplier	Maximum Points	Priority
Team	1	Consistency with SCORP	0-5 (x 3)	15	SCORP
Team	2	Need	0-5 (x 3)	15	SCORP
Team	3	Federal Grant Program Priorities	0-5 (x 2)	10	LWCF
Team	4	Readiness	0-5	5	LWCF
Team	5	Cost Efficiencies	0-5	5	LWCF
RCO Staff	6	Population Proximity	0-3	3	State law
RCO Staff	7	Applicant Compliance	0-5	5	NPS policy
Total Points Possible = 58					

KEY

- Team = Criterion scored by the evaluation team
- LWCF = Criterion a priority for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- SCORP = Criterion supported by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Team Scored

1. **Consistency with the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP).** To what extent does the project address one or more LWCF priorities identified in SCORP?
2. **Need.** What is the need for the project?
3. **Federal grant program goals.** How well does the proposed project meet Department of the Interior and National Park Service goals for grant programs?
4. **Readiness.** Is the project ready to proceed?
5. **Cost Efficiencies.** The extent that this project demonstrates efficiencies and/or reduces government costs through documented use of:
 - ▶ Volunteers
 - ▶ Donations
 - ▶ Innovative or sustainable design or construction resulting in long-term cost savings. Examples: Use of solar energy, integration of wetlands as “green infrastructure,” new materials or construction techniques with outstanding potential for long service life.
 - ▶ *Signed* cooperative agreements
 - ▶ Signed memoranda of understanding such as no-cost easements/leases, or similar cost savings.

Scored by RCO Staff

6. **Population Proximity.** Is the project in a populated area?
7. **Applicant compliance.** Has the sponsor demonstrated good grant stewardship?

Evaluation Summary
Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Fiscal Year 2010

Rank	Number	Name and Sponsor	Question and Question Number							Total
			SCORP Consistency 1	Need 2	Fed. Grant Program Priorities 3	Readiness 4	Cost Efficiencies 5	Pop. Proximity 6	Compliance 7	
1	09-1351D	Diversifying Kiwanis: from Field to Park, Bremerton Parks & Rec Dept	10.800	12.600	6.800	4.100	3.600	3.000	5.000	45.900
2	09-1167C	Blackjack Creek / Mosquito Fleet Trail Connection, Port Orchard City of	11.400	11.400	7.000	2.800	3.100	3.000	5.000	43.700
3	09-1396D	Oakland Bay County Park Trails Development, Mason County	9.300	11.400	7.600	3.500	3.400	-	5.000	40.200
4	09-1155D	Tanner Landing Park Public Access, King County DNR & Parks	11.400	11.700	6.400	4.600	3.300	1.500	1.000	39.900
5	09-1110D	Badger Mountain Park- Spray Park, Richland Parks & Rec	10.200	11.700	3.800	4.000	2.500	1.500	5.000	38.700
6	09-1265D	Kandle Park Aquatics Facility, Tacoma MPD	8.700	10.500	4.600	3.500	2.400	3.000	5.000	37.700
7	09-1340D	Park Enhancement for Waterfront Access, Clarkston Port of	9.900	8.400	4.800	4.300	3.100	1.500	5.000	37.000
8	09-1168D	Crow Butte Campground Improvements, Benton Port of	9.600	10.800	5.600	4.300	1.500	-	5.000	36.800
9	09-1253D	Finch Spray Park 2009, Aberdeen Parks & Rec Dept	7.800	9.000	3.000	4.800	3.100	1.500	5.000	34.200
10	09-1150A	Pacific Morgan's Retreat, Pacific City of	7.800	6.600	4.800	4.300	2.400	3.000	5.000	33.900
11	09-1104D	Squaxin Island Skateboard Park-2009, Squaxin Island Tribe	8.400	9.300	3.000	4.500	2.100	-	5.000	32.300
12	09-1365D	MCRA Ballfield Improvements, Mason County	6.300	9.000	4.200	3.300	1.800	1.500	5.000	31.100

Evaluation Team Score Questions: 1-5

RCO Staff Scored Questions: 6-7



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND 2009 FUNDED PROJECTS

GRANT APPLICANT

GRANT AWARDED

Bremerton **\$400,000**

Diversifying Kiwanis Field

The Bremerton Parks & Recreation Department will use this grant to diversify the 4-acre Kiwanis Field from a park with a focus on team sports to a place for individual, active recreation. The city will develop walking trails, a meadow for informal games, a playground, and a picnic shelter to serve the community year-round. Located in a low-income, ethnically diverse neighborhood, Kiwanis Field is surrounded by chainlink fence, up to 15 feet in height. The park has two levels separated by a 20-foot slope. Only the upper level, which has a soccer field, is used; the lower level contains caged tennis courts and an undersized softball field that is regularly flooded. The renovations will enable the park to serve as an open green space in a neighborhood that is lacking safe, close-to-home places to play. The improvements will pay homage to the site's historic past as the site of Bremerton's first high school. The City will contribute \$400,000 in cash, labor, a federal grant, and donations of cash and labor. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1351)

Port Orchard **\$60,000**

Connecting Blackjack Creek and Mosquito Fleet Trails

Port Orchard will use this grant to acquire rights to about 4 acres and begin developing the Blackjack Creek Wilderness Trail, which will connect the existing Kendall Street cross-connection trail to the Mosquito Fleet Trail. Crews will install a wheelchair-accessible path to viewing areas and a trail along the creek. The City will contribute \$84,622 equipment, labor, and donations of labor and materials. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1167)

Mason County **\$251,750**

Developing Oakland Bay County Park Trails

Mason County will use this grant to improve Oakland Bay County Park by developing trails and amenities. The park is mostly undeveloped, except for an 1890's home, fruit orchard, and entry road. The park provides great views of Oakland Bay. Crews will improve the entry road and parking, add vault toilets, and install gates, picnic sites, signs, and other amenities. The County has partnered with the Capital Land Trust, Mason Conservation District, Mason County 4-H, Shelton and Pioneer School Districts, Squaxin Island Tribe, Cascade Land Conservancy, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, and the Audubon Society. Mason County will contribute \$251,750 in cash, equipment, labor, and donations of labor and materials. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1396)

King County **\$75,700**

Creating a Whitewater River Staging Area at Tanner Landing Park

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to develop a whitewater staging area, river access trails, and amenities along the middle fork of the Snoqualmie River. The County has identified the 40-acre Tanner Landing Park as a key component for public access and whitewater staging along a 20-mile stretch of the river. Crews

GRANT APPLICANT

GRANT AWARDED

will install restrooms, traffic controls, park furniture, and signs at the park. King County will contribute \$75,700. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1155)

Richland **\$190,087**
Building a Spray Park in Badger Mountain Park

The Richland Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a 5,950-square-foot, water spray park in Badger Mountain Park, providing the only free, aquatic facility for 18,000 residents. Badger Mountain Park is an 80-acre community park with 40-acres dedicated mostly to youth activities. The facility will be completely accessible to people with disabilities. The water park will adjacent to an existing playground, picnic shelters, and paved parking lot. The City will contribute \$190,088 in cash and cash donations. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1110)

Tacoma Metropolitan Park District **\$500,000**
Updating the Kandle Park Aquatics Facility

The Tacoma Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to renovate the 10.6-acre Kandle Park and pool, which have not been updated since they were developed in 1961. Crews will renovate the playfields, install new irrigation, redevelop community gardens, and add a 7,500-square-foot pool with bathhouse and parking. The park district will contribute \$5.5 million in voter-approved bonds. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1265)

Port of Clarkston **\$139,700**
Enhancing Granite Lake Park

The Port of Clarkston will use this grant to improve Granite Lake Park, providing greater access to the river for walkers, boaters, bicyclists, and others. Established in 1988, Granite Lake Park is the only public park in Clarkston right on the Snake River. Crews will build trails, viewing platforms, a dock, a parking lot, and an outdoor environmental classroom, amphitheater-style, facing the river. They also will install interpretive signs and lights throughout the park. The Port of Clarkston will contribute \$488,274 in cash, labor, a state grant, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1340)

Port of Benton **\$100,000**
Improving Crow Butte Park

The Port of Benton will use this grant to improve the 275-acre Crow Butte Park by adding a nearly 3,000-square-foot playground in the day-use area and a restroom in the group camp. Crews will pave pathways to connect handicapped parking to the playground, and to connect the main campground to the group campground. There currently is no play equipment in the park. The new equipment will include a 17-piece play structure complete with swings, slides, and places to climb. The Port of Benton will contribute \$184,675. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1168)

Aberdeen **\$40,000**
Adding a Sea Serpent to the Finch Playfield Spray Park

The Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to complete the Finch Playfield Spray Park. The grant will help pay for a sitting wall that is designed to look and act like a sea serpent, wind and shade screens, a walking path, and benches. Aberdeen recently

GRANT APPLICANT

GRANT AWARDED

finished renovating this community park by installing new play equipment, a ball field backstop, picnic shelter, restroom, paths, landscaping, and parking. The Aberdeen Young Mothers Club has raised \$8,000 for this project. Aberdeen will contribute \$48,589 in cash, labor, materials, and donations of cash and labor. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1253)

Pacific **\$172,750**
Creating Pacific's Retreat

Pacific will use this grant to buy 2.42 acres with access to Trout Lake to provide a retreat setting and educational opportunities for community groups. There are no other public open spaces nearby that offer access to the lake. With this grant, the city will be able to buy the wooded property and lake access as well as establish and restore walking trails and future camping sites. The city is partnering with King County and the Boys Scouts of America for the long-term development that will transform the area into a usable park with a non-motorized boat launch and a community meeting center. Pacific will contribute \$189,500 in conservation futures¹ and donated land. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1150)

Squaxin Island Tribe **\$94,900**
Building a Skateboard Park

The Squaxin Island Tribe will use this grant to develop a 4,000-square-foot skate park in the rural community of Kamilche, between Shelton and Olympia. The park will be built in front of Tu Ha'buts Learning Center. With most skaters being too young to drive, they find it difficult to use skate parks in Shelton and Olympia, which are 9-14 miles from the Squaxin Island Reservation. The tribe will contribute \$95,057 in cash, a private grant, and cash donations. (09-1104)

Mason County **\$320,000**
Improving Mason County Ball Fields

Mason County will use this grant to renovate much of the Mason County Recreation Area Park, near Shelton. The 30-acre sports complex has seven baseball and softball fields and is used by Shelton, youth leagues, the Shelton School District, various tournaments, and the Mason County Youth Soccer Association. Crews will pave gravel areas to improved access for people with disabilities, improve existing paths, renovate two infields by laying synthetic turf and improving the irrigation, and replace the bleachers. Mason County will contribute \$328,500 in cash, equipment, and labor. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. (09-1365)

¹ Conservation futures are property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.