Providing Places for Washingtonians to Recreate

Washingtonians are an active population. A 2006 survey revealed that nearly 70 percent of residents participated in outdoor team or individual sports.

That participation can help Washington’s economy. A national report noted that active outdoor recreation contributes more than $11.7 billion annually to Washington’s economy, supports 115,000 jobs across the state, and generates $650 million in annual state tax revenue and $8.5 billion annually in retail sales and services across Washington.

In addition to helping the economy, participating in sports can improve one’s health, and potentially slow the rate of obesity in the state’s citizens.

Ensuring the Best Projects are Funded

To provide fields, sports courts, and other athletic facilities to meet the needs of Washingtonians, the Youth Athletic Facilities grant program was created to offer grants to acquire, develop, and improve community athletic facilities.

A citizen advisory council, established by the 1998 legislation, evaluates grant applications in an open, competitive process to ensure that the best projects receive funding. The council recommends a ranked list of projects to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for approval and funding.
Kent used a $300,000 Youth Athletic Facilities grant to help buy land for a youth sports complex.