Investing in Washington’s Outdoor Spaces

Having healthy, vibrant outdoor spaces plays a key role in ensuring that Washington remains a place where people want to live, where tourism thrives, and where businesses want to locate. Studies have shown that when cities have parks:

- Land values increase.
- City revenues increase.
- Retirees and employees want to live and work nearby.
- Homebuyers are attracted to buy homes.

Purpose

In 1965, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide money to states for outdoor recreation areas. Grants may be used to buy land and develop outdoor recreation facilities for the public, including parks and trails, and to conserve wildlife lands.

Ensuring the Best Projects are Funded

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts grant applications in even-numbered years. The grant process is open and competitive. A citizen committee made of up experts in recreation and conservation issues evaluates applications on their technical merits, public-private partnerships, and how well they address the local needs and priorities as well as a statewide outdoor recreation plan. The committee scores projects and submits a ranked list to the board for consideration. The board submits approved projects to the National Park Service for funding.

The National Park Service is the federal agency that ultimately receives and approves all funding for projects submitted by states.
Grant Recipients (1965-2015)

Aberdeen
Airway Heights
Albion
Algonia
Anacortes
Arlington
Assotin County
Auburn
Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
Battle Ground
Bellevue
Bellingham
Bothell
Bremerton
Burien
Camas
Cashmere
Cathlamet
Chelan
Chelan County
Cheney
Clallam County
Clark County
College Place
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Connel
Cosmopolis
Coulee City
Covington
Cowlitz County
Curlow School District
Dayton
Des Moines
Duval
Eastmont
Edmonds
Edmonds School District
Ellensburg
Ellensburg School District
Elma
Ephrata
Everett
Federal Way
Fife
Grandview
Harrah
Hoquiam
Ione
Island County
Issaquah
Kelso
Kenmore
Kennewick
Kent
King County
Kirkland
Kitsap County
Klickitat County
Lacey
Lake Stevens
Leavenworth
Lewis County
Longview
Lynnwood
Makah Tribe
Manson Parks and Recreation District
Marysville
Mason County
Medical Lake
Metaline
Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Moses Lake
Mossyrock
Mount Vernon
Mountlake Terrace
Naches Parks and Recreation District
Normandy Park
North Bend
Oakesdale
Odessa
Okanogan
Olympia
Omak
Onion Creek School District
Othello
Pasco
Pierce County
Port Angeles
Port of Kalama
Port of Klickitat
Port Townsend
Poulsbo
Prescott Park and Recreation District
Pullman
Puyallup
Quincy
Reardan School District
Redmond
Renton
Richland
Ridgefield
Rosalia
Ruedeen & Associates
Seattle
Selah
Shelton
Shoreline
Skagit County
Skamania County
Snohomish
Snohomish County
Spokane
Spokane County
Spokane Tribe of Indians
Stanwood
Steilacoom
Sunnyside
Suquamish Tribe
Swinomish Indian Tribe
Tacoma
Tenino
Thurston County
Toppenish
Trout Lake School District
Tukwila
Tumwater
Union Gap
University Place
Vancouver
Warden
Washougal
Wenatchee
Westport
Whatcom County
Whitman County
Woodinville
Yakima
Yakima County

State Organizations
Department of Enterprise Services
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources
State Parks and Recreation Commission
University of Washington

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