



Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917
Telephone: (360) 902-3000
Hearing Impaired, call 711
[Email: info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:info@rco.wa.gov)
Web: <https://rco.wa.gov/>

Staff Contact

Nick Norton, policy specialist
Nicholas.Norton@rco.wa.gov

Who May Apply?

- Cities, counties, towns
- Local government subdivisions authorized to own outdoor athletic facilities
- Native American Tribes
- Nonprofits
- Special purpose districts

Types of Projects

- Development
- Renovation
- Land acquisition

Funding Source

Funding comes from state bond revenues left when construction of Seattle's Lumen Field was completed.

Matching Resources

None required.

January 2024

Providing Places to Play Statewide

Washington State has many fantastic outdoor places to play, from neighborhood basketball courts to regional athletic complexes that host major tournaments, and everything in between.

Benefits of Outdoor Athletic Facilities

Nearly 50 percent of the state's population participates in ball sports, spending more than \$445 million annually on equipment and trip-related expenses and creating jobs across the state.¹

In addition to helping the economy, participating in sports can improve one's health, both physical and mental, improve academic achievements, and increase social behavior.

While Washington offers many athletic facilities, not everyone has equal access to them and the economic and health benefits they generate.

Purpose

To ensure that communities can offer safe and varied places to play, this grant program will help communities build outdoor athletic facilities and expand or renovate existing ones. Funding is allocated to five different regions across the state.

The grants will target communities that lack recreational opportunities, have underserved populations, and have limited financial resources. Underserved communities include people who face barriers to using facilities because of their geographic location, income, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, or special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, citizen status, or age).

¹Mojica, J., Fletcher, A., 2020. Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, 2020 Update. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA, p. 35.