Boating Facilities Program

FACT SHEET

Providing Places for Boaters
Washington's waterways are a treasure, serving as a source of recreation, jobs, transportation, and beauty.

Ensuring that boaters have the facilities they need is essential to preserving recreational boating and protecting Washington's waterways.

There are more than 260,000 boats registered in Washington and countless smaller boats that aren't required to be registered.


Boaters Tax Themselves
To help meet the needs of boaters, voters created the Boating Facilities Program in 1964 by passing Initiative 215. The initiative was a way to create and permanently protect public boating sites.

Through this program, the Recreation and Conservation Funding board awards grants to projects that acquire, develop, plan, and renovate public boating facilities for motorized boats, including launch ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities.

Funding
Funding comes from the state gasoline tax paid by boaters and is divided equally between state and local agency projects.

Ensuring Only the Best Projects Receive Funding
The grant process is open and competitive, ensuring that only the best projects get funded. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications every two years, in even-numbered years. The board’s Boating Programs Advisory Committee, which is made up of boating representatives, evaluates applications and scores projects based on criteria established by the board. The advisory committee submits a ranked list to the board for funding consideration.

This program is one of the few in the state that funnels money directly to projects that help maintain the state's long boating history, and ensure that land for boating facilities is protected for future boaters.
**Grant Recipients (1965-2011)**

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