



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

Washington's aquatic lands are rich in natural resources and also have great commercial, recreational, and aesthetic value. Aquatic lands lie at the bottom of navigable water bodies, such as Puget Sound, and include the surrounding shore lands, harbor areas, and tidelands.

In 1984, the Washington legislature created the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account to ensure that money generated from aquatic lands was used to protect and enhance those lands.

ALEA grants may be used for acquiring, restoring, or improving aquatic lands for public purposes, and for providing and

improving interpretation and public access to those lands and associated waters.

Accomplishments

In 2003, management of the grant program was transferred from the Department of Natural Resources to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Since then, the board has awarded more than \$16 million in grants for 39 projects in 15 counties. Grant recipients have contributed more than \$24 million in matching resources, bringing the total investment to more than \$40 million.

How are Projects Selected?

The board evaluates applications in an open, competitive process every two years. It then submits a prioritized list of projects to the Governor and legislature for approval.



Burien is using a \$500,000 grant to improve access to Puget Sound. It plans to create a shoreline trail, bathroom, and parking accessible to people with disabilities, as well as to make other improvements at Seahurst Park.

Funding Information

The state Department of Natural Resources manages the state's 2.4 million acres of aquatic lands and raises revenue for ALEA through activities such as leasing waterfront sites for marinas and selling harvest rights for geoduck clams.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members

Val Ogden, chair, Vancouver
 Bill Chapman, Mercer Island
 Karen Daubert, Seattle
 Steven Drew, Olympia
 Jeff Parsons, Leavenworth
 Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Department of Natural Resources
 State Parks and Recreation Commission

Who Can Apply?

- Local governments
- State agencies
- Tribes

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent in matching resources.

Grant Recipients (2003-2008)

Bainbridge Island
Bellingham
Bremerton
Burien
Castle Rock
Clallam County
Clark County
Elwha Klallam Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
King County
King County Conservation District
Kitsap County
Mercer Island
Mount Vernon
Mukilteo
Olympia
Pend Oreille Conservation District
Port of Anacortes
Port of Seattle
Port Townsend
Poulsbo
Seattle
Skagit County Dike District #12
Tacoma
Tukwilla
Tulalip Tribes
Washington Department of Fish and
Wildlife
Washington State Parks and Recreation
Commission



The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is using a \$246,000 grant to provide trails, viewing platforms, interpretive signs, parking, and a restroom at Bottle Beach State Park, in Grays Harbor County. The park is one of the top 50 shorebird viewing areas in the U.S.



Poulsbo is using a \$261,000 grant to restore habitat along Dogfish Creek, at the north end of Liberty Bay on Puget Sound. Dogfish Creek estuary is home to Chinook, coho, and chum salmon; steelhead; and sea-run cutthroat trout. Work includes planting native plants, building trails and overlooks, and installing educational kiosks.