Appendix I: State & Federal Parks & Recreation Funding Opportunities

Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
The Recreation and Conservation Office (formerly the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)) was created in 1964 as part of the Marine Recreation Land Act (Initiative 215). The RCO grants money to state and local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop, and enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Some money is also distributed for planning grants. RCO grant programs utilize funds from various sources.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)
This program, managed through the RCO, provides matching grants to state and local agencies to protect and enhance salmon habitat and to provide public access and recreation opportunities on aquatic lands. In 1998, DNR refocused the ALEA program to emphasize salmon habitat preservation and enhancement. However, the program is still open to traditional water access proposals. Any project must be located on navigable portions of waterways. ALEA funds are derived from the leasing of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of harvest rights for shellfish and other aquatic resources.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
The RCO is a state office that allocates funds to local and state agencies for the acquisition and development of wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation properties. Funding sources managed by the RCO include the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The WWRP is divided into Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts; these are further divided into several project categories. Cities, counties, and other local sponsors may apply for funding in urban wildlife habitat, local parks, trails, and water access categories. Certain state agencies may also apply for funding in natural areas, critical habitat, and state parks categories. Funds for local agencies are...
awarded on a matching basis. Grant applications are evaluated once each year. The State Legislature must authorize funding for the WWRP project lists.

Land and Water Conservation Fund
The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop outdoor facilities, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands, for the public. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of Federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources.

National Recreational Trails Program
The National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling, and snowmobiling. Eligible projects include the maintenance and re-routing of recreational trails, development of trail-side and trail-head facilities, and operation of environmental education and trail safety programs. A local match of 20% is required. This program is funded through Federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

Boating Facilities Program
The Boating Facilities Program (BFP) was created in 1965 by a voter-approved initiative. The program provides grants to acquire, develop, and renovate boating facilities, including launching ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities on both freshwater and saltwater. Local and tribal government grant recipients must provide at least 25% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. The program is funded from a portion of the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by boaters and not refunded as allowed by law and is only applicable toward trailerable boating.

Boating Infrastructure Grant
The Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program funds guest boating facilities for recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Grant recipients must provide at least 25% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. This program is funded from a portion of the federal Aquatic Resources Trust Fund as administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Youth Athletic Facilities
The Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program: provides grants to develop, equip, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities. Cities, counties, and qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding, and grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.
Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Grants
via the National Park Service

The Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was established in November 1978 to provide matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities for rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. Only cities and urban counties meeting established criteria are eligible for assistance. Three grant categories are available: rehabilitation (30% local match requirement), innovation (30% local match requirement), and planning (50% local match requirement). This grant program has been unfunded by Congress since 2002.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
via the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) provides landowners the opportunity to preserve, enhance, and restore wetlands and associated uplands. The program is voluntary and provides three enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year restoration cost-share agreements. In all cases, landowners retain the underlying ownership in the property and management responsibility. Land uses may be allowed that are compatible with the program goal of protecting and restoring the wetlands and associated uplands. The NRCS manages the program and may provide technical assistance.

Jobs for the Environment (JFE)
via the Washington State Department of Natural Resources

The JFE program was created by the state Legislature in 1993. The program promotes the long-term, stable employment of dislocated natural resource workers in the performance of watershed restoration activities. The program provides minimum funding commitments for salaries and benefits for displaced workers, and funding is also available for training. Since its inception, the program has completed many in-stream, riparian, and upland restoration projects. Entities eligible to apply for funding include state and local governments, tribes, and nonprofit organizations. Funding proposals will focus on limiting factors and recovery strategies within all or a portion of a Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA). Specific projects will then be identified, prepared, and approved for implementation over the life of the grant agreement.

Washington State Ecosystems Conservation Program (WSECP)
Via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This WSCEP was established in 1990 and is divided into federal- and state-managed components. The federal program focuses funds on projects that help restore habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species and, secondarily, for species of concern. In addition, the program attempts to concentrate funds within a limited number of watersheds to maximize program benefits. The program provides funds to cooperating agencies or organizations. These grants, in turn, can be distributed among project sites. The program requires a 50% cost-share from cooperating agencies, and individual landowners at project sites must enter into maintenance/management agreements that have a 10-year minimum duration.
Community Development Block Grants
Via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. Planning Grants and Economic Development grants are also part of this CDBG process.

Federal Appropriations

These funds are intended to be project specific and a limited or one-time occurrence. The term appropriation is the act of setting apart something for its application to a particular usage, to the exclusion of all other uses. Typically, it refers to the legislative designation of money for particular uses, in the context of a budget or spending bill.