

WWRP Project Agreement Outdoor Recreation Account

Project Sponsor: Mason County Parks & Recreation Department

Project Number: 12-1383D

Project Title: Mason County Recreation Area Infield Renovation

Approval Date: 7/1/2013

A. PARTIES OF THE AGREEMENT

This project grant Agreement (Agreement) is entered into between the State of Washington by and through the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and the Recreation and Conservation Office, P.O. Box 40917, Olympia, Washington 98504-0917 and Mason County by and through the Mason County (sponsor), 411 N 5th St, Shelton, WA 98584 and shall be binding on the agents and all persons acting by or through the parties.

B. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement sets out the terms and conditions by which a grant is made from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the State of Washington. The grant is administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to the sponsor for the project named above.

C. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Mason County will use this grant to renovate two in-fields that are primarily used for baseball and softball, at the Mason County Recreation Area Park (MCRA) near the City of Shelton. MCRA is a 30-acre sports complex with seven baseball/softball fields; this grant will renovate the in-fields on fields six and seven from dirt in-fields to synthetic turf. This project also improves the ADA access by renovating the pathways and dugout entrances in the park. Parking, restrooms and support facilities are already being provided on remaining acreage. The primary recreation opportunity provided by the project will be baseball and softball. Parking, restrooms and support facilities are already being provided on remaining acreage.

D. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The project reimbursement period shall begin on December 1, 2013 and end on July 31, 2016. No expenditure made before or after this period is eligible for reimbursement unless incorporated by written amendment into this Agreement or specifically provided for by RCFB and/or SRFB policy or WAC.

Requests for time extensions are to be made at least 60 days before the Agreement end date. If the request is made after the Agreement end date, the time extension may be denied.

The sponsor has obligations beyond this period of performance as described in Section E.

E. ON-GOING OBLIGATION

For development/renovation projects the project sponsor's on-going obligations shall be in perpetuity and shall survive the completion/termination of this project Agreement unless otherwise identified in the Agreement or as approved by the funding board. It is the intent of the funding board's conversion policy (see section 23) that all areas developed with funding assistance remain in the public domain in perpetuity.

F. PROJECT FUNDING

The total grant award provided by the funding board for this project shall not exceed \$285,000.00. The funding board shall not pay any amount beyond that approved for grant funding of the project and within the funding board's percentage as identified below. The sponsor shall be responsible for all total project costs that exceed this amount. The contribution by the sponsor toward work on this project at a minimum shall be as indicated below:

	Percentage	Dollar Amount
RCFB - WWRP - Local Parks	49.57%	\$285,000.00
Project Sponsor	50.43%	\$290,000.00
Total Project Cost	100.00%	\$575,000.00

MASON COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS GENDER EQUITY POLICY

1.0 Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Mason County Parks and Trails Department Non-Discrimination Policy is to help insure that the department's and third party sponsored athletics/sports programs and the department's facilities that support athletic/sports programs, provide equal opportunity and access for both boys and girls, and women and men.

The principles, goals, strategies, programming and facility accessibility, policy distribution, and policy administration will guide the department's actions with respect to gender.

1.1 Policy Intent

The intent of this policy is to achieve the following:

- a) expand and support equal participation in athletics/sports programs; and
- b) provide all athletics/sports programs equal access to facilities.

1.2 Background

Title IX bans discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that receives money from the federal government. The most prominent and well known application of this law has been in the arena of high school and college sports programs.

Outside of the formal structure of high school and collegiate sports programs, boys and girls participate in a variety of community, private-non-profit and private-for-profit athletic programs, and mostly utilizing public sector provided facilities. Generally, initiatives are underway within several states and municipalities to evaluate the state of gender equity regarding community based facility use and programming utilizing the standards that are typically applied to determine compliance with

- Title IX. These include for example, facility condition, equipment quality, practice and game scheduling comparability, and the experience level of coaches.

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recognized that parks and recreation agencies have an important role in promoting gender equity with respect to its members' facilities and recreation programs. In 2002, NRPA stated that it "...encourages park and recreation agencies to ensure that facilities are developed and programs are implemented so they meet male and female recreation needs." NRPA followed this up in 2007 with an "Advocacy Update." NRPA urged that policymakers "...provide facilities and services to achieve the statutory objectives of Title IX: providing both female and male athletes with equitable opportunities to participate and access to quality services and treatment."

In September, 2004, California Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 2404. The legislation applies the gender equity principles (e.g. practice and game scheduling) within Title IX to the administration of municipal athletic programs.

In particular, section 1(f) reads, in part, that "it is the intent of the Legislature to expand and support female participation in youth athletics programs and activities, to provide female youth sports programs equal access to facilities administered by local governments..."

Within Washington State, several organizations have been active and supportive in advocating for sports gender equity within the parks and recreation industry. In addition to the Washington Recreation and Parks Association (WRPA), they have included the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, the Women's Sports Foundation, the Northwest Women's Law Center, the National Organization of Women of Washington and the Association of Washington Cities. And in the 2009 state legislative session, **Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5967** was passed and signed by Governor Gregoire. This legislation represents the state's policy interest in promoting gender equity related to community athletics programs.

1.3 References

Mason County Parks and Trails Department is committed to a) meeting community values; and b) supporting the need and desire for accessible parks, facilities and programs for people of all ages.

Mason County Parks and Trails Department's Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy, contained within the volunteer policies and procedures is this policy's second reference. It identifies that the Mason County is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free of discrimination and harassment.

The third reference for this policy is Washington State Law ESSB 5967 passed by the 2009 state legislature and signed into law by Washington Governor Gregoire on May 12, 2009. ESSB 5967 prohibits discrimination by all cities, towns, counties, metropolitan park districts, park and recreation service areas, park and recreation districts and third parties receiving leases or permits from cities, towns, counties or districts in the provision and/or leasing of facilities to accommodate community athletic programs as defined by this act of the state legislature.

2.0 Definitions

Word Definition

- Access Related to facility use: It is the opportunity to use a facility that supports the provision of community athletic/sports programs.

Administer/Administrating: The department's administrative process to manage and supervise the provision of community athletics/sports programs.

Adopt: The official act by the Mason County Commissioners, through a resolution, to vote to accept and formally place into effect, the department's Non-Discrimination Policy.

All: As related to athletic/sports programs and their use of facilities, it is the accommodation of the utmost possible number of athletic/sports programs based upon use criteria such as but not limited to a) safety; b) facility configuration; c) facility capacity by day/time of desired use; d) impact to equal participation by gender; e) relationship between recreational versus "select" participation; and f) the relationship between resident and non-resident participation.

Athletics Programs: Departmental or third party sponsored sports engaged in by athletes that require physical exercise and generally accepted rules and must include the following: a) participant registration; b) scheduled practices; and c) formal competition against other athletes during a defined season.

Conduct(ing): A synonym to “operate(ing), it is the department’s effort to direct or control the process of providing community athletics/sports programs.

Discrimination: The unequal treatment of persons, for a reason which does not have anything to do with peoples’ legal rights.

Equal: As related to participation in community athletic/sports programs, equal means either of the following: a) making available the same number of program participation slots to males and females, whereby in total, participation opportunity slots in department sponsored athletic/sports programs is identical; b) scheduling of facilities that affords males and females who participate in department programs, the same privileges and rights such as facility use by day, time of day and quality.

Expand: Department initiatives to increase an athletics/sports programs opportunity that increases the probability of equal participation by gender.

Disseminate: The department’s process to dispense knowledge and content of its Community Athletics Programs Non- Discrimination Policy.

Facilities: Any outdoor or indoor location that is scheduled to accommodate the provision of community athletic/sports programs, including athletic surfaces (e.g. fields, courts) park open space, gymnasiums, or halls.

Operate(ing): Any community athletic/sports program that the department runs or controls in order to insure that it functions in an effective manner.

Policy: As related to the department’s Community Athletics Programs Non-Discrimination Policy, it is generally the principles, goals, strategies, and procedures outlined to guide staff in determining present and future courses of action.

Publish: The process to make known to its staff and third party community athletic/sports program providers the department’s Community Athletics Programs Non- Discrimination Policy.

Sports Programs: Synonymous with “athletics programs” (see above).

Support: Department initiatives that promote the interests of equal participation in community athletic/sports programs. Initiatives can include, but may not be limited to advocacy, programming and facility use policy and financial aid.

3.0 Principles

- 3.1 Mason County Parks and Trails Department will operate its community athletics/sports facilities in a manner that demonstrates a good faith effort to achieve its non-discrimination policy goals over time.

- 3.2 Mason County Parks and Trails Department will develop, implement and maintain community athletic/sports facilities that helps meet the recreational needs of females and males.
- 3.3 The application of the department's Community Athletics Facilities Non-Discrimination Policy is prioritized as follows: support Mason County based community athletics/sports opportunities for recreational programs first, followed by outside Mason County community athletics/sports opportunities for recreational programs.
- 3.4 Mason County Parks and Trails Department is committed to assisting public school districts comply with their federal Title IX requirements when the districts request use of departmental facilities.
- 3.5 Mason County Parks and Trails Department will consider school districts' requests in light of the department's community athletic/sports facilities, obligations, vision and mission statements, finances, facilities and consistency with this non-discrimination policy.
- 3.6 All Mason County Parks and Trails Department employees and volunteers are committed to cooperate in fulfilling the intent of the Community Athletics Facilities Non-Discrimination Policy.

4.0 Goals and Objectives

Mason County Parks and Trails Department Community Athletics Facilities Non-Discrimination includes a series of goals and objectives. The goals establish the broad based intended outcomes that are envisioned through implementation of this policy. Each of the goals has one or more objectives. The purpose of the objectives is to identify measurable actions, milestones and/or metrics to help the county's parks and trails department determine if it is making progress in achieving the stated goals.

4.1 Goal Number One

The parks and trails department will operate and conduct community athletics/sports facilities in a manner that helps to expand and support equal participation in athletics/sports programs.

- **4.1.a Objective Number One**

Improve the representation of females in community athletics/sports facilities where they are not adequately represented.

- **4.1.b Objective Number Two**

On an annual basis, discuss with third party facility users the status of their athletics/sports programs related to administration of the County's Community Athletics Programs Non-Discrimination Policy.

- **4.2 Goal Number Two**

The parks and trails department will operate and conduct community athletics/sports facilities in a manner that provides all athletics/sports programs equal access to facilities.

- **4.2.a Objective Number One**

The parks and trails department will keep track of general participation levels at facilities of males and females by sport on an annual basis.

- **4.2.b Objective Number Two**

On an as needed basis, develop additional facility capacity (e.g. scheduling, turf surface, and/or surface square footage) over time to help insure that equal access opportunities exist for athletics/sports programs.

4.3 Goal Number Three

Undertake measures to encourage females to participate in community athletics/sports facilities by providing additional opportunities for participation.

4.3.a Objective Number One

The parks and trails department will seek to increase the number of female based teams using the facilities annually.

4.3.b Objective Number Two

The department will include advocacy and promotion strategies to be employed in order to increase opportunities for female participation.

- **5.0 Program Accessibility**

Any third party organization utilizing County Community Athletic Facilities shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults.

6.0 Facility Accessibility

All Mason County Parks and Trails Department facilities will be accessible to all citizens or park visitors.

7.0 Policy Distribution

A variety of media will be used to publish and disseminate Mason County's Community Athletics Facilities Non-Discrimination Policy. In some media, the policy will be referenced with respect to its applicability and availability; in other media, the policy will be included in athletics/sports programs information "packets." The media to be employed will be the following:

7.1 Publications related to the departments and third party sponsored community athletic/sports facilities (policy reference)

7.2 Applications for scheduled facility use (policy included)

7.3 Mason County Parks and Trails Web Site (policy included)

7.4 Information flyers, notices, advertisements (policy reference)

8.0 Policy Administration

Mason County Parks and Trails Department will administer the Mason County Community Athletic Facilities Non Discrimination Policy at all Mason County Athletic Facilities to discourage discriminate against any person on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults.

4.1 Implementation

This policy will become effective on January 1, 2010 and will remain in effect thereafter. Mason County Parks and Trails Department Staff will be responsible for communicating this policy to all community athletic organizations utilizing county athletic facilities.

4.2 Monitoring

Mason County Parks and Trails Department staff will at least on an annual basis, at the conclusion of any recognized sports program, contact league officials using Mason County facilities and request information on steps taken to comply with this policy.

4.3 Responsible Official

The person responsible for this policy shall be the Mason County Parks and Trails Department Director, or his / her designee.