

**NEWS RELEASE**

**August 2, 2011**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS  
411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
SHELTON, WA 98584  
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419**

**TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN, TACOMA MORNING NEWS TRIBUNE, NORTH MASON LIFE.**

Mason County Parks Department Offered Grants To Develop Plans And Areas For Motorized Recreational Boating Facilities And To Develop Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

Mason County Parks Department was recently awarded two Boating facilities grants and one grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account, Local parks Category. The grants were awarded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) in the following amounts:

MCRA Infield Renovation Project, WWRP Local Parks \$275,500  
Union Boat Ramp Planning, Boating Facilities Program \$61,250  
Latimers Landing Parking Expansion, Boating Facilities Program \$400,000

Project Information is as follows:

**MCRA Infield Project:**

Mason County will use this grant to renovate two infields at MCRA Park near Shelton. The 30 acre sports park has seven baseball and softball fields and is used by multiple youth leagues, the Shelton School District, the City of Shelton in addition to multiple tournaments. The County will replace the dirt infields on fields #2 and #3 with synthetic turf and the outfields will remain grass. This project will improve field playability and reduce maintenance costs, rainouts, and the amount of water used at the park. The County will also make facilities accessible to people with disabilities by paving park pathways and access to bleachers and dugouts. The County will contribute \$275,660 in cash, equipment, staff labor and donations of equipment and labor.

**Union Boat Ramp Planning:**

Mason County will use this grant to develop plans, specifications, and obtain permits to renovate the Union boat ramp on Hood Canal. Mason County developed the boat ramp in the 1970's and it has not had any improvements since. The County plans to renovate the launch, add a dock, and improve the parking area. The County will contribute \$23,750. Grant is from the Boating Facilities Program.

**Latimers Landing Parking Expansion:**

Mason County will use this grant to develop 2.4 acres of parking for boats and trailers next to Latimers Landing County Park. The park has extremely limited parking now and the new project will add room for up to 30 vehicles and trailers. The County will also add new walkways that provide access to picnic and viewing areas overlooking Pickering Passage. Currently, vehicles and trailers line the narrow county road or park at an adjacent parking area causing visitors to have to walk long distances to park their vehicles. The County will contribute \$140,900 in cash, labor, and donations of equipment and labor. This grant is also from the Boating Facilities Program.

Funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Local Parks category comes from the sale of state general obligation bonds. Funding for the Boating Facilities Program - local category comes from a portion of the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by boaters and not refunded as allowed by law.

For any further information about any of these three grant projects contact John Keates (360) 427-9670 #669 at Mason County Parks or Sarah Thirtyacre (360) 902-0243 at the Recreation and Conservation Office.

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS**

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