

NEWS RELEASE

January 20, 2009

**MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS
411 NORTH 5TH 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.

RE: Mason County Parks and Trails Department offered grant to develop areas for motorized recreational boating facilities.

Mason County Parks and Trails Department has been awarded a grant of \$740,000 from the Boating Facilities Program, Local category. The grant was awarded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB), and will be used for the following:

Mason County will use this grant to renovate the boat launch at Mason Lake County Park. The County will renovate an existing lane and the boat launch ramp; replace the dock; improve the entry road; restroom, grounds; and expand the parking area. Mason Lake County Park was developed in the 1970's and has not had any significant upgrades since that time. Mason Lake is the largest natural lake in the County at 998 surface acres and more than five miles long. The lake is used by local residents and visitors, many of whom come in the spring, summer, and fall. The launch at Mason Lake Park is the only public access on the lake. The County will contribute \$284,607 in cash, equipment, and staff support. This grant is from the Boating Facilities Program.

There were eleven applications submitted for consideration in the Boating Facilities Program, Local Category. Each project went through an evaluation process prior to being recommended for funding. The RCFB Board approved funding for the projects on Thursday, November 20, 2008.

Funding for the Boating Facilities Program, Local Category comes from a portion of the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by boaters and not refunded by law. Mason County will leverage local contributions totaling \$284,607 with grant funding to implement the project. The County funds come from Real Estate Excise Tax (REET II) funds and can only be used for park improvement and development projects. Total estimated project cost is \$1,024,607. If you have any questions about the RCFB Grant please contact John Keates at Mason County Parks, 427-9670, ext. 669 or Myra Barker, RCFB Grants Manager at (360) 902-2976.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS

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