

NEWS RELEASE

August 24, 2010

**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 public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Mason County Parks and Trails Department has been awarded a grant of \$251,750 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. 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 improve Oakland Bay County Park by developing trails and amenities. The park is mostly undeveloped, except for an 1890's home, fruit orchard, and entry road. The site provides great views of Oakland Bay. Crews will improve the existing entry road and parking, add two vault toilets, install gates, picnic facilities, signs, and other amenities. The County has partnered with the Capitol Land Trust, Mason Conservation District, Mason County 4-H, Shelton School District, Pioneer School District, Squaxin Island Tribe, Cascade Land Conservancy, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and the currently forming Friends of Oakland Bay County Park. Mason County will contribute \$251,750 in cash, equipment use, staff labor, and donated labor and materials. This grant is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Each project selected for funding went through a competitive evaluation process prior to being recommended for funding.

Funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program comes from leaseholders of federal offshore oil and gas resources, federal recreation fees, sales of federal surplus property, and federal motorboat fuel taxes. Mason County will leverage local contributions totaling \$251,750 to implement the project. The County funds come from Real Estate Excise Tax (REET II) Parks Capital funds, donated labor, donated materials, staff contributions and use of county equipment. Total estimated project cost is \$503,500. If you have any questions about the RCFB Grant please contact John Keates at Mason County Parks, 427-9670, ext. 669 or Sarah Thirtyacre, RCFB Grants Manager at (360) 902-0243.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISISONERS

Ross Gallagher
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Commissioner

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