



WRPA Issue Paper: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (“ALEA”)

Please fund this at \$9.1 million, as listed in the Governor's Recommended Capital Budget

What is “ALEA”? – Grants through the ALEA – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account -- may be used for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes. The aim of the program is re- establish natural and self-sustaining waterfronts, provide or restore public access to waterways, and increase public awareness of aquatic lands as an important natural resource and part of our public heritage.

ALEA is administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). It is funded almost entirely by revenue generated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' management of state-owned aquatic lands – specifically aquatic lands leases with marinas and sales of harvest rights for geoduck clams. Local agencies, state agencies, and Tribes may apply for ALEA grants, and a 50 percent match is required. Grants of up to \$1 million (*acquisition, combination projects*) and \$500,000 (*restoration, improvement, development*) are awarded under this program.



WRPA’s Request – We are requesting full funding of the \$9.1 million proposed in the Governor's budget, which funds 18 projects across 12 legislative districts and leverages a three-fold increase in capital investments (\$28.7 million) across the state.

History

- In 1984, the Washington State Legislature created ALEA to ensure that money generated from aquatic lands was used to protect and enhance those lands.
- The 2017 legislature included \$1 million in dedicated funds and recommended back-bonding the rest to address a surge in school construction projects.
- In the 2018 Supplemental Capital Budget, the Legislature acted to re-activate monies for ALEA project applicants left without funding due to the 2017-19 Capital Budget outcome, funding ALEA at a record level of \$12.3 million.
- This 2021 funding level, right-sizes and stabilizes critical funding to protect Washington shorelines and water bodies.



There is a significant need for this program

- At a time when Washington’s population is well over 7 million and another two million people are expected by 2040, protecting our state’s waterfronts and public access is more critical than ever.
 - ALEA is about much more than Puget Sound and the Washington Coast – it serves the entire state. RCO lists some three- dozen navigable lakes and rivers eligible for, and benefitting from, this program.
- ALEA helps keep the waterfronts and public-access waterways we cherish in the hands of the public. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically illustrated the importance of providing trails and water access to people to keep them active, physically healthy, and mentally healthy.”

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, 2021-23



ALEA

								Grants Awarded at Different Legislative Funding Levels	
Rank	Project Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Leg. District	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Project Amount	Agency Request \$9.1 Million	Governor's Budget \$9.1 Million
1	20-1322C	Willow Creek at Marina Beach Park	Edmonds City of	21	\$500,000	\$4,115,549	\$4,615,549	\$500,000	\$500,000
2	20-1760D	American Lake Park Waterfront Access Upgrades	Lakewood City of	28	\$500,000	\$884,920	\$1,384,920	\$500,000	\$500,000
3	20-1725R	Little Squalicum Estuary	Bellingham City of	42	\$500,000	\$2,098,640	\$2,598,640	\$500,000	\$500,000
4	20-1709D	Fairhaven Small Watercraft Launch and Dock	Bellingham Port of	40	\$500,000	\$1,391,200	\$1,891,200	\$500,000	\$500,000
5	20-1653D	Kayak Point Waterfront Improvements, Phase 1	Snohomish County Parks Dept	10	\$500,000	\$2,505,971	\$3,005,971	\$500,000	\$500,000
6	20-1302D	Terry Pettus Park Renovation	Seattle Parks & Rec Dept	43	\$500,000	\$1,240,000	\$1,740,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
7	20-1557D	Nisqually State Park--Water Access	State Parks	2	\$500,000	\$2,197,772	\$2,697,772	\$500,000	\$500,000
8	20-1711D	Port of Illahee Waterfront Access Improvements	Illahee Port of	23	\$500,000	\$312,000	\$812,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
9	20-1841C	California Creek Estuary Park Phase 2	Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Rec	42	\$425,300	\$147,000	\$572,300	\$425,300	\$425,300
10	20-1474D	Liberty Lake Regional Park Phase 1 - Water Access	Spokane Co Parks, Rec & Golf	4	\$500,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,900,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
11	20-1672D	Ballinger Park Viewing Platform and Nature Trails	Mountlake Terrace City of	32	\$500,000	\$418,000	\$918,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
12	20-1483C	Manson Bay Old Swim Hole Acquisition & Development	Manson Park & Rec District	12	\$630,000	\$210,000	\$840,000	\$630,000	\$630,000
13	20-1751R	Marine Park Beach Naturalization	Blaine City of	42	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$800,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
14	20-1758D	David Brink Park Shoreline Renovation	Kirkland City of	48	\$500,000	\$811,600	\$1,311,600	\$500,000	\$500,000
14	20-1819D	Expand Silverdale Float Facilities & Enhance Beach	Silverdale Port of	23	\$500,000	\$571,181	\$1,071,181	\$500,000	\$500,000
16	20-1530D	Marymooor Park Dock Replacement	King County Parks & Rec	48	\$500,000	\$642,128	\$1,142,128	\$500,000	\$500,000
17	20-1736D	Guest Restroom Facility Replacement	Kingston Port of	23	\$172,200	\$57,400	\$229,600	\$172,200	\$172,200
18	20-1670D	Cap Sante Marina RV Park	Anacortes Port of	40	\$500,000	\$650,985	\$1,150,985	\$500,000	\$500,000
					\$8,727,500	\$19,954,346	\$28,681,846	\$8,727,500	\$8,727,500