

What is “YAF”? – The Youth Athletic Facilities grant program, administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), provides funds to build, renovate, replace, or acquire land for outdoor athletic facilities such as ball fields, courts, swimming pools, tennis courts, BMX tracks, field lighting, and skate parks. The program focuses on serve youth through age 18 – but with a strong encouragement that fields and facilities serve all ages and multiple activities.

Cities, counties, Metropolitan Park Districts, Parks Districts, Tribes, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for these grants, up to a maximum of \$350,000, and a 50 percent match is required for applicants. Additionally, RCO runs a small grants program for applicants within cities of fewer than 10,000 population and counties of fewer than 60,000 people.

WRPA’s Request – We are requesting at least a \$12 million investment in the 2019-21 Capital Budget to help fund a ranked and evaluated grant list comprised of more than 60 project applicants who sought over \$16 million. An RCO staff recommendation was for \$14 million in funding, and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) formally recommend a \$12 million funding level. *However, Governor Inslee’s proposed Capital Budget included only \$5.035 million, which would fund less than one-third of the level of funding for which applicants sought grants. See Attached List of Projects that would go from ‘funded’ to ‘unfunded’ with Governor’s budget vis-à-vis RCO-recommended level.*



History

- November 1998 – Washington voters approved Referendum 48, which provided funding for what is now known as the CenturyLink Stadium. As part of that ballot measure, the YAF program was established and \$10 million was provided to the program. This initial funding was provided to many jurisdictions, and ran out after the 2006 grant round. The program remained dormant until 2013, when the Legislature renewed funding for it and re-established the RCO grant-funding process.
- Blue Ribbon Task Force on Outdoor Recreation – During the summer and fall of 2014, this 17-member, Governor-appointed task force met to develop recommendations to help boost outdoor recreation in Washington State. One of those recommendations was providing competitive funding for the YAF program at a \$12 million level.



There is a significant need for this program

- An increasing population has brought higher demand in traditional sports (examples: soccer, baseball), as well as interest and popularity in newer sports (examples: lacrosse, Frisbee, cricket).
- Funds allow local agencies and non-profit organizations to build, improve, or replace fields that enable communities across the state to have year-round playable surfaces – even in our “wet weather” state.
- Maintaining and upgrading these facilities helps promote a healthy and active lifestyle for both children and adults within their communities.
- Modernized field facilities attract regional and national tournaments, bringing in thousands of visitors to Washington who stay in hotels and shop in our stores, thus helping boost the state’s economy.
- These projects have significant costs associated with them, so YAF grants are a crucial piece in the funding puzzle to ensure completion of these field facilities.

YAF Project Awards and Funding – Projects Funded Under RCO-Recommended (\$12M) but not under Governor’s Proposed (\$5.035M)

Project	Agency Applicant	LEG District	RCO-Rec’d \$	Governor’s Proposed
Harbor Heights Land Acquisition	Oak Harbor	10 th (Bailey, Smith, Paul)	\$350,000	Alternate
Heritage Park ballfield renovation	Stanwood	10 th (Bailey, Smith, Paul)	\$350,000	Alternate
Lions Park infield & restrooms	Othello	9 th (Schoesler, Schmick, Dye)	\$347,000	Alternate
Winnie House Park	Sedro Woolley	39 th (Wagoner, Eslick, Sutherland)	\$297,000	Alternate
YNHA Apas Goudy Youth Facility	Yakama Nation	15 th (Honeyford, Chandler, Dufault)	\$133,812	Alternate
Sehmel Homestead Park Turf Lights	Peninsula MPD	26 th (Randall, Young, Caldier)	\$350,000	Alternate
Chehalis Recreation Park Ballfields	Chehalis	20 th (Braun, DeBolt, Orcutt)	\$350,000	Alternate
Cheney Park field lighting	South Bend	19 th (Takko, Blake, Walsh)	\$270,000	Alternate
East Field Turf Conversion	King’s Way Christian Schools	49 th (Cleveland, Wylie, Stonier)	\$350,000	Alternate
Squalicum Creek Park Phase 4	Bellingham	42 nd (Ericksen, Shewmake, Van Weurven)	\$350,000	Alternate
Forest Park Sport Court renovation	Everett	38 th (McCoy, Sells, Robinson)	\$126,546	Alternate
South Lynnwood Park Athletic Field	Lynnwood	32 nd (Salomon, Davis, Ryu)	\$326,500	Alternate
George Schmid Field #3 & Ballpark lighting	Washougal	18 th (Rivers, Vick, Hoff)	\$350,000	Alternate
South Park Playfield turf conversion/lights	Seattle	11 th (Hasegawa, Hudgins, Bergquist)	\$350,000	Alternate
Whitehorse Community Park	Snohomish County	39 th (Wagoner, Eslick, Sutherland)	\$25,000	Alternate
Wilburton Park Synthetic Sports Fields	Bellevue	41 st (Wellman, Senn, Thai)	\$265,000	Alternate
MCRA Irrigation	Mason County	35 th (Sheldon, Griffey, MacEwen)	\$325,000	Alternate
A Street Sports Complex – Ph 1	Pasco	16 th (Walsh, Jenkin, Rude)	\$350,000	Alternate
Des Moines Field House Park	Des Moines	33 rd (Keiser, Orwall, Gregerson)	\$107,202	Alternate
LWSC Ski Hill Youth Facility	Leavenworth Winter Sports Club	12 th (Hawkins, Steele, Goehner)	\$74,880	Alternate
Howarth Park Sport Court	Everett	38 th (McCoy, Sells, Robinson)	\$52,828	Alternate
Skagit Valley Playfields artificial turf	Skagit County	40 th (Open, Lekanoff, Morris)	\$270,000	Alternate
Legion Park sport court renovation	Everett	38 th (McCoy, Sells, Robinson)	\$93,491	Alternate
Service Club Park Drainage	Kent	47 th (Das, Sullivan, Entenman)	\$95,500	Alternate
Lower Woodland Park Playfield #2 Turf improve	Seattle	43 rd (Pedersen, Chopp, Macri)	\$350,000	Alternate
Cedar Field turf & lighting	Marysville	38 th (McCoy, Sells, Robinson)	\$305,649	Alternate

