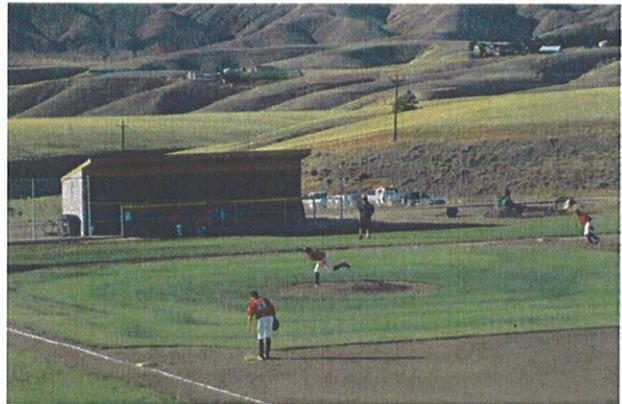




Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

Washingtonians are an active population. A 2000 survey revealed that nearly 45 percent of residents participated in outdoor team or individual sports. To provide facilities to meet that demand, the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program provides grants to acquire, develop, maintain, and improve youth and community athletic facilities.

Accomplishments
Since beginning in 1998, YAF has awarded nearly \$14 million in grants for 208 projects in 32 of the state's 39 counties. Grant recipients have contributed more than \$32 million in matching resources, bringing the total investment to nearly \$46 million.



Asotin County Little League used a 2001 YAF grant of \$147,000 to develop three baseball fields, a parking lot, and a building complete with restrooms, concessions, and office space.

How are Projects Selected?

A citizen advisory council, established by 1998 legislation, evaluates grant applications in an open, competitive process and recommends a ranked list of projects to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for approval and funding.

Funding Information

Washington voters approved the program as part of Referendum 48, which provided funding for the Seattle Seahawks stadium.

A Seattle Seahawks team affiliate contributed \$10 million in December 1998. When Seahawks stadium bonds are paid off, additional revenue will come from non-expended bonds.

Recreation and Conservation Funding

Board Members

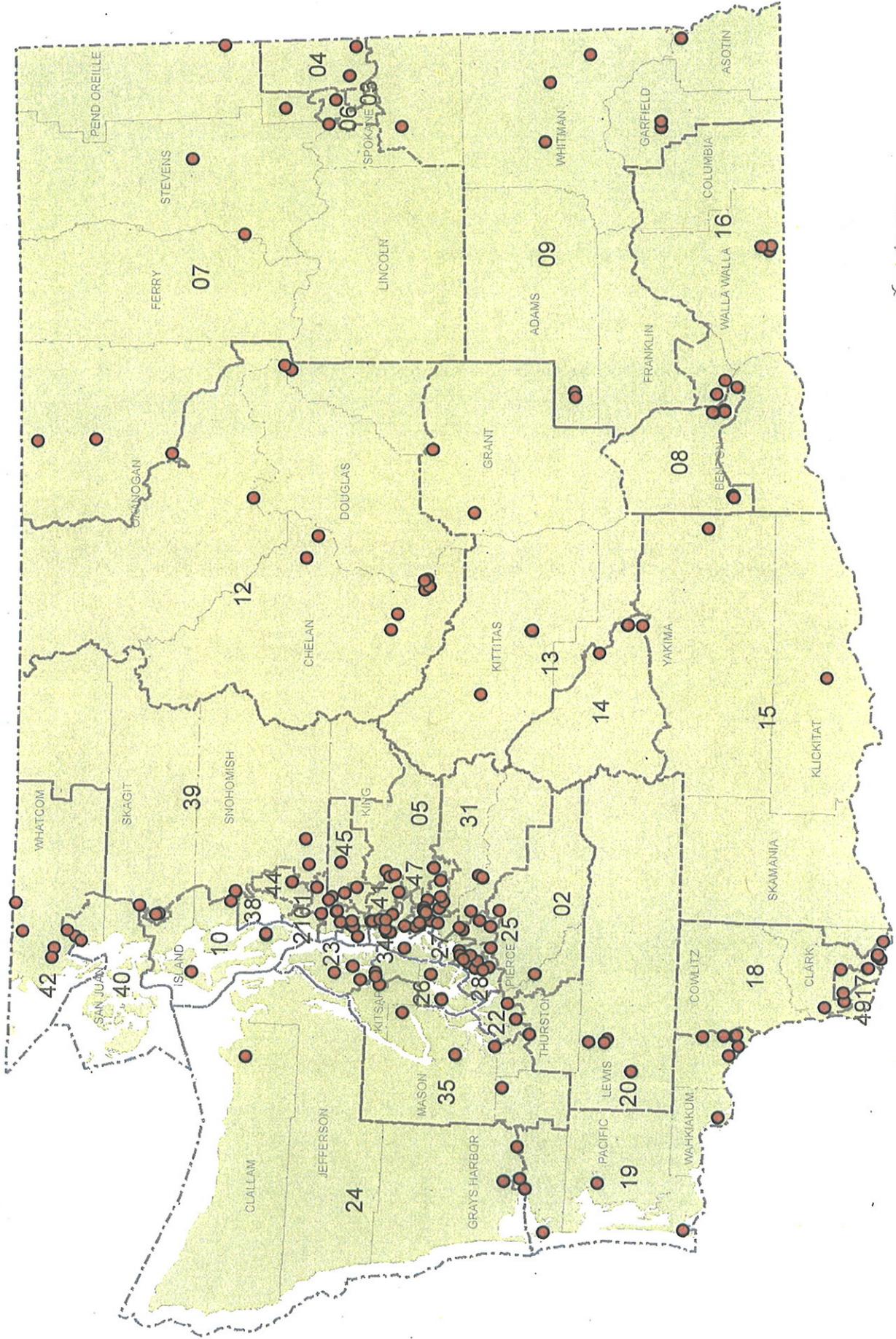
Val Ogden, Chair, Vancouver
Bill Chapman, Mercer Island
Karen Daubert, Seattle
Steven Drew, Olympia
Jeff Parsons, Leavenworth
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources
State Parks and Recreation Commission

Who Can Apply?

- Cities
- Counties
- Non-profit organizations involved in community athletic activities

Grant recipients must provide at least 50 percent in matching resources.

Youth Athletic Facilities Funded Projects by Legislative District and County



Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia WA 98501

PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917



(360) 902-3000
TTY (360) 902-1996
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

August 1, 2008

COPY

The Honorable Tracey Eide
Washington State Senate
Legislative Building Room 402
Post Office Box 40430
Olympia, WA 98504-0430

Dear Senator Eide:

Tracey

As chair of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, I am writing regarding the work of the Joint Task Force on Local Funding Options. Specifically, I am interested in the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant account, which is defined in the law as a recipient of tax revenues in excess of those needed to repay Qwest Field and Exhibition Center bonds. Proposals to divert the revenues (including the King County hotel/motel tax) designated for repayment of the bonds and delaying retirement of those bonds would reduce future funding for the Youth Athletic Facilities account.

Referendum 48, passed by the Legislature and voters statewide in 1997, provided for public financing of the Seahawks stadium through a combination of general obligation bond sales, user fees, lottery games, sales tax credits and deferrals, and King County's hotel/motel tax. In addition to providing stadium funding, the referendum established the Youth Athletic Facilities account and grant program. Funding for the YAF account was to be provided by an initial \$10 million donation from the team affiliate (Paul Allen) and future revenues in excess of what is needed for the Seahawks stadium bond repayment. Specifically, Section 214(c) of the referendum required that any balance remaining in the Stadium and Exhibition Center Account, after ensuring one year's payment on the principal and interest on the bonds and an identified reserve amount, be transferred to the YAF account.

The Youth Athletic Facilities program and its ability to help build and maintain soccer fields, Little League fields, and other youth sporting venues, was heavily used to promote the support of the referendum both with the Legislature and subsequently with the voters.

To date, the YAF account has received the original \$10 million private gift, but none of the projected excess revenues. Due to the lack of the 'trickle-down funding' originally anticipated, and to help support community needs statewide, the Legislature provided an additional \$2.5 million for this account in 2006.

