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Manchester Receives Money for Boat Launch

By Chris Henry (Contact)
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What's this?

MANCHESTER

The Port of Manchester ranked third in a statewide competition for grant funding through Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office and is set to receive \$577,447 through the office's boating facility program.

The grant will be used to purchase property adjacent to the current boat launch and develop 16 parking spaces for boat trailers.

"I could not be more thrilled over this award, since the site is for sale and we have seen similar property quickly swept up by developing condominiums," said port Commissioner James Strode, who testified before state officials on the project.

The grant will pay for 75 percent of the costs, and the port will make up the rest out of its budget, with in-kind services and with loans.

A survey conducted by the port over the summer, with help from Manchester volunteers, showed 66 percent supported

expanded parking. Manchester business owners and civic groups have added their endorsement of the project.

The port's launch averages more than 73 uses on any given summer day, according to the survey. The facility attracts recreational boaters, anglers, crabbers and tourists from around the south Puget Sound region. The port's facility also provides access to 1 acre of tidelands, a dock, a picnic area and restroom.

Kathleen Byrne-Barrantes of Grant Solutions in Poulsbo developed the grant application. With Strode, she spoke on behalf of the port. Her son, Nick Barrantes, an engineering student at the University of Montana, did the design work through Byrne-Barrantes company.

Final approval is expected at the recreation office's Nov. 20-21 meeting, when funds will be released.



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