Use of Washington's outdoor spaces is at a record high. State residents raced for outdoor spaces to have safe, healthy fun during the COVID-19 pandemic. With demand for outdoor recreation rising and state population continuing to grow, acquiring new spaces and increasing services and maintenance is critical to keep them safe and well maintained.

The legislature allocated an ALL-TIME high of $120 million to the WWRP this year!

Planning for parks and recreation projects can be a complicated, confusing, and time-intensive process. That means it is especially challenging for smaller and under-resourced communities, including communities of color and rural communities, to plan for recreation and conservation projects.

The legislature allocated an additional $5 million in funds to the crucial Planning for Recreation Access Grants.
Ecological Integrity Monitoring & Impacts of Recreation

- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and State Parks are proposing to collaborate in addressing impacts to public lands from recreation and stressors, such as climate change.
- The goal is developing and applying Ecological Integrity Monitoring (EIM) methodology. EIM methods measure the current ecological integrity of a site through standardized and repeatable assessments.
- The legislature allocated partial funding towards all the State Agencies in order to work on this important project.

Funded Partially

RCO DEI, Tribal, and Data positions

- The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is requesting funding for several full-time positions:
  - One to act as the agency’s tribal liaison.
  - One to coordinate and help implement internal and external equity work.
  - One position plus some funding for contracting to create better data and improve access to data as it pertains to trails, recreational access, and public lands ownership.
- The legislature funded the tribal liaison position and DEIJ coordinator position this biennium.

2 of 3 positions funded

Trust Land Transfer (TLT)

- This request is to provide funding and legislation to transform the Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program based on a report and recommendations by a DNR and external stakeholder workgroup.
- Legislation was passed this year and 6 of 10 TLT projects were funded.

6 of 10 projects funded
Other Outdoor Grant Programs

- **No Child Left Inside (NCLI)** provides under-served youth with opportunities to experience the outdoors, often at WWRP-funded parks. With $12 million in grant requests there is demand for additional funding beyond the $4.5 million carry over.
  - The Legislature allocated an additional **$2.5 million** to the NCLI grant program

- **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)** provides funds for the acquisition, development, and/or renovation of outdoor athletic facilities for youth competitive sports.
  - The Legislature funded YAF at **$10.44 million**

- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)** provides funds for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands and waterfront access for public purposes.
  - The legislature funded ALEA at **$5.858 million**

- **Farmland Protection and Land Access Program (FPLA)** provides funds for **agricultural conservation easement funding** to permanently protect farm and remove speculative development value
  - The legislature funded FPLA at **$4 million**

7 Million Total in Funding

$10.44 Million in Funding

$5.858 Million in Funding

$4 Million in Funding
State Agency DEI Staffing & Investments

- **State Parks** is requesting **$3 million** for staff to expand work on equity and inclusion efforts at the agency.
- The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** is requesting **$5.26 million** to create the Office of Equity and Environmental Justice within the agency and to expand its Tribal Affairs Department.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is requesting **$696 thousand** for their Pro-Equity and Anti-Racism (PEAR) Investments.
- Partial funding was allocated towards the State Agency requests for these investments.

Local Park Agency M&O Funding - COVID-19 Relief

- **Provides local parks agencies** with funding to address pressing maintenance and operations (M&O) backlog issues across the state.
- Will help address the significant COVID-related budget impacts felt by local parks agencies and the corollary sharp increase in use of local parks facilities, WRPA conducted an extensive survey to quantify a collective M&O backlog that exceeds $700 million statewide.
- The Legislature allocated **$5 million** in funds to be distributed by the Recreation and Conservation Office in grants limited to $100,000 per organization.

Parks RX Pilot Programs

- Metro Parks Tacoma, with support of WRPA, is seeking a directive that the Department of Health establish three (3) or more pilot "Parks Rx" programs in the Puget Sound, Eastern Washington, and SW Washington. This requests builds from a just-completed DOH study indicating that Parks Rx programs would add **health care and quality of life** value to Washingtonians, particularly those from lower-income and historically disadvantaged communities.
- Unfortunately **SB 5095** was not passed this year.