

Federal Boating Access Program

Updated on January 11, 2024

Background

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (the Department) invites local jurisdictions to participate in the federal Sport Fish Restoration – Boating Access (BA) Program in order to provide access to and from the water for recreational, trailered, motorboats.

Approved projects receive up to 75% BA funding. The match (minimum 25%) must be provided by state, local, or a combination of state/local funding. Under the BA Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the "Grantor," the Department is the "Grantee," and the local jurisdiction is the "Sub-Grantee." In other words, federal funding is passed through the Department to the local jurisdiction along with all the requirements of the Program.

Projects eligible for BA funding

The BA Program funds various recreational boating access projects including but not limited to the design and construction of public boat ramps with the associated parking lots, access roads, bulkheads, breakwaters, and piers. Check out the detailed [eligible list](#).

In Maryland, due to the limited apportionment, the federal BA funds are primarily used for constructing and/or renovating public boat ramps, trailer parking areas, and other associated amenities. Even though many other activities are eligible for BA funding, the priority remains to fund the new construction or improvement of the **public boat ramps** for recreational trailered motorboats. The Department will determine which project is most appropriate for BA funding.

When and where to apply

The BA Program is open year round.

Contact **Celeste McCloskey Anderson at 410.260.8452 or celeste.anderson@maryland.gov** if you are interested in pursuing federal BA grant to construct or renovate a public boat ramp for recreational boaters.

What to expect

- After a preliminary discussion to see if your project is a good fit, we will work with you on preparing the federal grant application package. The core of the application package is a "Project Statement" that contains detailed information about the proposed project including a justification and scope of work.
- Once USFWS approves the grant, the Department and the local jurisdiction enter into both a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which establishes a mechanism for the Department to pass through the federal funds; and a Land Control Agreement (LCA), which basically ensures that the local jurisdiction will comply with all federal/state requirements during the construction of the project and for its "useful life" (typically 20 – 40 years as determined by a Professional Engineer).
- BA grants provide reimbursements for eligible expenses. **With the exception of approved pre-agreement costs, if any, no expense may be incurred and no expense is reimbursable until both the MOU and LCA are fully executed.**

Both the MOU and LCA are legally binding contracts and ALL items in the contracts are important. A few highlights are:

- 1) The local jurisdiction is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits.
- 2) The local jurisdiction must submit the project plans and specifications to the Department for review and approval.
- 3) The local jurisdiction must advertise the project for bid, submit the bid tabulations and the recommended award for the Department's approval before awarding the contract.
- 4) The facility must be reasonably available to the public (via physical access, equitable fees, and open periods). ADA accessibility guidelines must be applied and appropriate signage must be posted.
- 5) Any fees must be both approved by the Department and must not discriminate against any user. All users (including boaters from out-of-state) must be charged the same.
- 6) If a fee is charged, it must be kept in a separate account and used to offset the cost of operating and maintaining the facility.
- 7) The local jurisdiction must maintain the facility for the useful life of the project.
- 8) Activities that interfere with the purpose of the public boating access facility are prohibited.
- 9) If the local jurisdiction ceases to maintain the facility as described in the contract, the local jurisdiction must reimburse ALL federal/state dollars to the Department (with no proration).

Below are the projects which have received federal BA funding:

# In descending order	Project Description	Jurisdiction	Status
39	Four Locks Boating Access Facility Renovation	C&O Canal - National Historical Park	In Progress
38	Jackson's Landing Boating Access Facility Renovation	Prince George's	In Progress
37	Water Street Boating Access Facility - New Construction	Havre de Grace	Completed
36	Merritt Point Park Boating Access Facility Renovation	Baltimore County	Completed
35	Choptank Marina Boating Access Facility Renovation	Caroline County	Completed
34	Town of Vienna Boating Access Facility Renovation	Town of Vienna	Completed
33	Selby's Landing Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Prince George's	Completed
32	Mardela Springs Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Town of Mardela Spring, Wicomico	Completed
31	Solomons Boating Access Facility – Renovation	Calvert	Completed
30	Ft. Smallwood Park Boating Access Facility – New Construction	Anne Arundel	Completed
29	Coulbourne Creek Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Somerset	Completed
28	Friendship Farm Park/Landing Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Charles	Completed

27	Broad Creek Landing Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Harford	Completed
26	Oak Creek Landing Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Talbot	Completed
25	West Ocean City Harbor Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Worcester	Completed
24	Lapidum Boating Access Facility – Renovation	DNR	Completed
23	Wye Landing Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Talbot	Completed
22	Elk River Park Boating Access Facility – New Construction	Cecil	Completed
21	Truxtun Park Boating Access Facility - Renovation	City of Annapolis	Completed
20	Wilson Point Park Boating Access Facility – New Construction	Baltimore Co.	Completed
19	Brunswick Boating Access Facility - Renovation	C&O Canal National Historical Park	Completed
18	Fifteen Mile Creek Boating Access Facility - Renovation	C&O Canal National Historical Park	Completed
17	Point of Rocks Public Boating Access Facility - Renovation	C&O Canal National Historical Park	Completed
16	Franklin Street Boating Access Facility - Renovation	City of Cambridge	Completed
15	Flying Point Park Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Harford	Completed
14	Hallowing Point Boating Access Facility - Renovation of Two Parking Lots	DNR	Completed
13	Rocky Point Park Boating Access Facility – Replacement of Two Catwalks and Creation of Tie-up Area	Baltimore Co.	Completed

12	Cherry Beach Park Boating Access Facility – Construction of Stone Revetment	Town of Sharptown	Completed
11	Fort Armistead Park Boating Access Facility – Resurface of Existing Ramp & Construction of Timber Breakwater	Baltimore City	Completed
10	Deep Creek Lake State Park Boating Access Facility – Replacement of Floating Dock	DNR	Completed
9	Madison and Taylor's Island Boating Access Facilities – Parking Lot Improvements	Dorchester	Completed
8	Bellevue Boating Access Facility – Renovation	Talbot	Completed
7	Neavitt Boating Access Facility – Renovation	Talbot	Completed
6	Stemmers Run Boating Access Facility – New Construction	Cecil	Completed
5	New Bridge Landing Boating Access Facility - Renovation	Talbot	Completed
4	Piney Point Boating Access Facility - Renovation	St. Mary's	Completed
3	Jennings Randolph Lake Boating Access Facility – New Construction	DNR	Completed
2	Point Lookout State Park – Construction of Comfort Station and Parking Lot	DNR	Completed
1	Snyders Landings & Taylors Landings Boating Access Facilities – Parking Lot Upgrades	C&O Canal National Historical Park	Completed