

Florida Boating Improvement Program Annual Report 2019-20



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) is a state financial assistance program that provides funding through competitive grants for boating access projects and boating-related activities on coastal and inland waters within the state. Eligible program participants include county governments, municipalities, and other governmental entities of the state of Florida. The program is administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section according to the Program Guidelines found in Chapter 68-1.003, Florida Administrative Code. This report provides a brief description of the FBIP and outlines the status of the program as required by section 206.606(1)(b), *Florida Statutes*.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FUNDING SOURCES - The FBIP has two funding sources identified in Florida Statutes:

- (1) Section 206.606(1)(b)1, *Florida Statutes*, provides the FBIP with a minimum of \$1,250,000 annually from a portion of the funds collected from fuel sales tax revenue that is deposited into the State Game Trust Fund. This funding may be used for: recreational channel marking and other uniform waterway markers; public boat ramps, lifts, and hoists, marine railways, and other public launching facilities; derelict vessel removal; and other local boating-related activities. Furthermore, as required in statute, applications for projects located in counties with a population of 100,000 or less and coastal counties with a high level of use by non-residents are given priority consideration for this funding.
- (2) The FBIP receives additional funding from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund. Section 328.72(15), *Florida Statutes*, provides FWC with one dollar from each recreational vessel registration fee collected to fund grants for public launching facilities, pursuant to s. 206.606, *Florida Statutes*. As required in statute, applicants in counties with more than 35,000 registered vessels are given priority consideration for this funding.

Also, Section 327.47, *Florida Statutes*, allows for moneys attributable to the sale of fuel at marinas (and transferred to FWC pursuant to s. 206.606(1)(d), *Florida Statutes*) to fund competitive grants for publicly-owned boat ramps, piers, and docks; boater education; and economic development initiatives that promote boating. The FBIP is the vehicle by which FWC accomplishes this but did not receive funding from marina fuel taxes for FY 2019-20.

APPLICATION PROCESS - The FBIP has an annual application period which usually opens in February and lasts for 60 days. Once the application period closes, all applications are sent to FWC's Division of Law Enforcement regional offices to review for potential boating safety issues. FWC, through the FBIP, will not fund a project that would cause a boating safety hazard. Applications are also reviewed by FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section for potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.



The applications are then submitted to an Evaluation Committee (Committee) appointed by the Director of FWC’s Division of Law Enforcement. The Committee for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 was comprised of FWC staff, including a representative from the Division of Fresh Water Fisheries Management, and three representatives from the Florida Boating Advisory Council.¹

Committee members review each application using the evaluation criteria in the Program Guidelines. The evaluation criteria include need, cost efficiency, and how much the project will enhance recreational boating and provide a benefit to boaters. The Committee members assign each application a score based on these criteria. Applications must receive a minimum score of 65 out of a possible 100 to be eligible for funding. This requirement helps ensure that only those projects that best use state resources are funded.

PROGRAM STATUS FY 2019-20

AVAILABLE FUNDING - For FY 2019-20, \$1,250,000 in funding was appropriated from the State Game Trust Fund as required in s. 206.606(1)(b)1, *Florida Statutes*. Additionally, there was an appropriation of \$592,600 from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund from recreational vessel registration fees, pursuant to s. 328.72(15), *Florida Statutes*.

Exhibit 1 FBIP Funding by Trust Fund for FY 2019-20

TRUST FUND	APPROPRIATION
State Game Trust Fund	\$ 1,250,000
Vessel Registration Fees (MRCTF)	\$ 592,600
Marina Fuel Taxes (MRCTF)	\$ 0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$ 1,842,600

APPLICATION PERIOD AND GRANT AWARDS - The application period for the FBIP for FY 2019-20 opened on February 1, 2019 and closed on April 2, 2019. During this time, FWC received 36 applications. One application was deemed ineligible for not providing access to the general public. On June 25, 2019, the Committee met to review and score the remaining 35 applications eligible for review.

Applications were then ranked by score from highest to lowest, and available funding was distributed

¹ The Boating Advisory Council is an 18-member advisory group, established pursuant to s. 327.803, *Florida Statutes*, is comprised of representatives from a variety of boating interests and organizations. The purpose of the Council is to make recommendations to FWC and the Department of Economic Opportunity regarding issues affecting the boating community.



starting with the highest scoring application. Based on the Committee’s scoring and the funding available, 13 applications were awarded a grant. (See Exhibit 2 for a list of projects awarded funding for FY 2019-20.) Seven of the projects that were awarded funding are in counties or communities designated by the Governor as a Rural Area of Opportunity pursuant to s. 288.0656(2)(d), Florida Statutes.

**Exhibit 2
 Projects Funded Through the FBIP for FY 2019-20**

APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	STATE FUNDS AWARDED	FEDERAL FUNDS AWARDED	ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST ²
Miami-Dade County	Marine Stadium Basin No-Wake Signs	\$13,440.00		\$26,880.00
St. Johns River Water Management District	Fellsmere Water Management Area Boat Ramp	\$421,274.00		\$842,548.00
Palm Beach County	John Prince Memorial Park	\$150,000.00		\$300,000.00
Taylor County ¹	Steinhatchee Boat Ramp Docks	\$333,480.00		\$450,497.40
Santa Rosa County	Archie Glover Boat Ramp	\$25,000.00		\$50,000.00
Gilchrist County ¹	Santa Fe River Boat Ramp	\$199,336.00		\$199,336.36
Martin County	Manatee Pocket Mooring Field	\$200,000.00		\$627,000.00
Santa Rosa County	Oriole Beach Boat Ramp	\$100,000.00		\$200,000.00
Hardee County ¹	Hardee Lakes Park	\$160,000.00		\$184,000.00
Town of Yankeetown ¹	Yankeetown Yacht Basin	\$189,086.00		\$198,976.00
City of Moore Haven ¹	Moore Haven Marina Seawall	\$75,300.00		\$85,300.00
Bradford County ¹	Lake Sampson Cypress Run Boat Ramp	\$58,000.00		\$59,000.00
Lafayette County ¹	Hal Adams Boat Ramp	\$76,097.00	\$231,291.00	\$308,388.00
TOTALS		\$2,001,013.00	\$231,291.00	\$3,531,925.76

¹ These projects are in a Rural Area of Opportunity.

² The estimated total project cost includes grant award plus applicant's share.



COUNTIES WITH UNMET NEEDS FROM FY 2018-19

UNMET NEEDS - As required by s. 206.606(1)(b), *Florida Statutes*, a list of counties whose needs are unmet due to insufficient financial resources from vessel registration fees retained each fiscal year is provided in Exhibit 3. The unmet need was determined by subtracting the total cost of projects requesting financial assistance through the FBIP from the amount of county retained vessel fees for each county in FY 2018-19. The project cost total includes requests for grants from municipalities within the county.

Exhibit 3

Counties with Unmet Needs Due to Insufficient Financial Resources from Vessel Registration Fees

COUNTY	FY 2018-19 COUNTY RETAINED VESSEL FEES ¹	TOTAL COST OF PROJECTS ²	UNMET NEED
Bradford	\$10,503.55	\$59,000.00	(\$48,496.45)
Columbia	\$21,913.85	\$475,339.94	(\$453,426.09)
Duval	\$158,230.90	\$1,000,000.00	(\$841,769.10)
Gilchrist	\$8,244.00	\$719,379.36	(\$711,135.36)
Glades	\$6,636.80	\$85,300.00	(\$78,663.20)
Hamilton	\$3,676.35	\$902,263.62	(\$898,587.27)
Hardee	\$7,458.60	\$184,000.00	(\$176,541.40)
Indian River	\$79,829.05	\$842,548.00	(\$762,718.95)
Lafayette	\$3,739.20	\$505,938.00	(\$502,198.80)
Lake	\$117,893.15	\$2,724,680.00	(\$2,606,786.85)
Levy	\$22,796.45	\$198,976.00	(\$176,179.55)
Liberty	\$3,946.30	\$1,357,532.25	(\$1,353,585.95)
Martin	\$186,618.65	\$627,000.00	(\$440,381.35)
Monroe	\$269,495.10	\$440,000.00	(\$170,504.90)
Okaloosa	\$136,756.30	\$250,000.00	(\$163,902.05)
Palm Beach	\$367,196.70	\$1,928,000.00	(\$1,560,803.30)
Putnam	\$39,058.40	\$208,000.00	(\$168,941.60)
Santa Rosa	\$86,097.95	\$250,000.00	(\$163,902.05)
Suwannee	\$14,818.85	\$261,000.00	(\$246,181.15)
Taylor	\$17,377.50	\$450,497.40	(\$433,119.90)
Wakulla	\$26,509.45	\$293,218.89	(\$266,709.44)
TOTAL	\$1,588,797.10	\$13,762,673.46	(\$12,173,876.36)

¹ The source for this information is the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

² Total includes requests for FBIP funding from municipalities within the county.

