DNR RECREATIONAL BOATING FACILITIES GRANTS (RBF)

These grants may be used by counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and qualified lake associations for recreational boating facility projects.

Past projects have included ramps and service docks to gain access to the water, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, navigation aids and dredging waterway channels.

**FOR GRANT REQUESTS IN EXCESS OF $250,000:**Applications for recreational boating facilities grants exceeding $250,000 are encouraged to be submitted to your regional DNR grants specialists in time for the June 1st, or September 1st, application deadlines. These larger grant requests take extra processing time and therefore are highly recommended for earlier evaluation, in the first two quarters of the fiscal year. Contact your regional DNR grants specialist as soon as possible, if you have a larger project and you are planning to apply for a recreational boating facilities grant. DNR grants specialists can help with scheduling and grant processing.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply for funds.

DNR provides cost sharing of up to 50% for eligible costs.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

* **Channel dredging** - Dredging of inland water channels for recreational boating (not more than once in ten years).
  + [Wisconsin Waterways Commission Dredging Policy [PDF]](https://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/boats/ChannelDredgingPolicy_8_2021.pdf)
* **Construction projects**
  + Facilities such as ramps and boarding docks required to gain access to the water.
  + Harbors of refuge – structures such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions.
  + Dredging to provide safe water depths. Dredging of basins is an eligible activity only when it is associated with project development.
  + Support facilities include parking lots and signage, sanitary facilities, fencing and security lighting for the convenience of boaters.
* **Improvement and repair of locks** - Cost of improvement and repair of locks and facilities that provide access between waterways for operators of recreational watercrafts.
* **Navigation aids** - Cost of aids to navigation and regulatory markers including the cost of appropriate ground tackle.
* **Rehabilitation** - Rehabilitation of capital improvements that are related to recreational boating facilities.
* **Trash skimming equipment** - Acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris from a waterway.
* **Weed harvesting equipment** - Acquisition of equipment that is necessary to cut and remove aquatic plants.
* Applications are accepted at any time.
* A five-member Waterways Commission, appointed by the governor, reviews, and recommends projects for funding. Deadlines are established quarterly.
* TENTATIVE APPLICATION AND WWC MEETING SCHEDULE

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| **Fiscal Year Application Deadlines** | **WWC Meeting Dates (subject to change)** |
| June 1 | 2nd Tuesday in August |
| September 1 | 2nd Tuesday in November |
| November 1 | 2nd Tuesday in January |
| February 1 | 2nd Tuesday in April |

Grant is good 2 years, 30+ acres to be harvested. DNR Waterway Commission would prefer harvester to have stainless hull

**Email from Gina Keenan**

Dear Gina Keenan, Oct. 28, 2021 My name is David Derenne I’m a member of the Goose Lake water shed association in Adams County. We have been performing our own weed harvesting for about 10 years. Our machine is approximately 45 years old and will need to be replaced or have major repairs will be needed. At the last Goose Lake association meeting we decided to form a committee to investigate our options. I understand that the State of Wisconsin has grant money to help with the purchasing of a new weed harvesting machine. Could you please advise us if there is a deadline to apply for a grant and would you be able to provide the correct form needed.

Sincerely

David Derenne

David,Oct. 29, 2021There are grants under the Recreational Boating Facilities (RBF) program for weed harvesters.  You mention in your email the Goose Lake Watershed Association and a Goose Lake Association.  Lake associations are eligible to apply for RBF grants, however, the Goose Lake Watershed Association is not an eligible entity. The next application deadline is November 1st. Application deadlines are ever 3 months after that; Feb 1st, June 1st and Sept 1st.  Grants are matched at 50%.

Here is the link with the information you will need to apply:  <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/RBF.html>

Look this over and then call or email me with any questions.

Thanks. Gina Keenan Phone: (715) 492-1626 cell [gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov)

David, 11/5/2021 Thanks for following up.  Yes, because you are a district and have the ability to tax and collect tax, you are considered a local unit of government, so therefore you would be eligible.

My apologies for not getting back to you right away.

Thanks Gina Keenan Phone: (715) 492-1626 cell NEW [gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov)

Gina, 11/9/2021 Several questions came up at the Goose Lake meeting last Sunday. I hope you can help me answer them. When we decide to purchase a weed harvester machine, would the trailer that is used to haul and remove the harvester from the lake and also would be used to haul away the weeds that have been harvested, also be eligible for grants under the Recreational Boating Facilities program. Second would a used harvester machine qualifly for the grant program?

Thank you for your help,

David Derenne

David, 11/9/2021

 Yes the trailer to haul weeds and remove the harvester from the lake is also eligible under RBF.  RBF pays out grants at 50%.  So if the trailer is $20,000; you would have to match $10,000 and the grant would pay $10,000.

 Thanks.

.Gina Keenan

Phone: (715) 492-1626 cell NEW

[gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov)

11/9/2021

Thanks Gina, for getting back to me. One of members on the committee asked if we could purchase a used machine and would be eligible under RBF grant. I’m not sure why we would do this but I have to ask.

Sincerely

David Derenne

David, 11/10/2021

 A used weed harvester or cost for refurbishing a weed harvester are both eligible costs for a grant under RBF.

Gina Keenan

Phone: (715) 492-1626 cell NEW

[gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gina.keenan@wisconsin.gov)

**Email from Nick Ward**

I have also included all of the information on the WWC grant program/application, along with informational materials on the state loan program. Just an FYI, the grant program intends to award up to a 50% cost share for the harvesting equipment. There are 4 meetings each year with this year’s meeting occurring on:

June 1st Deadline à August 10th Grant Award Meeting September 1st Deadline à November 9th Grant Award Meeting November 1st Deadline à January 11th Grant Award Meeting February 1st Deadline à April 12th Grant Award Meeting (Deadlines typically stay the same throughout the years, the meetings may change by date, but typically stay in the same week year to year).



