

Florida Boating Improvement Program

Annual Report 2009-2010



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

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Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

Submitted by
**Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
Boating and Waterways Section**

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Division of Law Enforcement
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FY 2009-10 Annual Report

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 Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). This report provides a brief description of the FBIP and outlines the status of the program as required by s. 206.606(3), F.S.

Overview of the Program

Funding Sources

The FBIP has three funding sources identified in Florida Statutes. Section 206.606(1)(b)1., F.S., provides the FBIP with \$1,250,000 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. Projects funded through the State Game Trust Fund are identified as Tier I of the FBIP. 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 Tier I grants.

Tier II of the FBIP is funded from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and has two sources of revenue. First, s. 206.606(1)(d), F.S., provides a portion of the moneys attributable to the sale of motor and diesel fuel at marinas. This funding may be used for construction and maintenance of publicly-owned boat ramps, piers, and docks; boater education; and economic development initiatives that promote boating. In addition, s. 328.72(15), F.S., provides the FWC with one dollar from each vessel registration fee collected in order to fund grants for public launching facilities, pursuant to s. 206.606, F.S. Also, as required in statute, applicants in counties with 35,000 or more registered vessels are given priority consideration for the funding provided pursuant to s. 328.72(15), F.S.

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 to review boating safety issues. 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 and Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management for environmental concerns.

The applications are then submitted to an Evaluation Committee appointed by the Director of FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. The Evaluation Committee is comprised of FWC staff and a representative from the Florida Boating Advisory Council. The Boating Advisory Council is an 18 member advisory group, with 11 members appointed by the Governor, and is comprised of representatives from state and local governments, the boating public, and boating-related industries. The purpose of the council is to make recommendations to the FWC and the Department of Community Affairs regarding issues affecting the boating community. Evaluation Committee members review and score each application based on criteria published in the Program Guidelines. Applications must receive a minimum score of 60% from the Evaluation Committee to be eligible for funding. This requirement helps ensure only those projects that best use state resources are funded.

Status of Program for Fiscal Year 2009-10

Application Period

The application period for the FBIP for Fiscal Year 2009-10 opened on February 2, 2009, and closed on April 2, 2009. During this time, the FWC received 99 eligible applications. This is the highest number of applications ever received in a single year.

Appropriation

Pursuant to s. 206.606(1)(b)1., F.S., FBIP Tier I is funded annually from a portion of fuel sales tax revenue deposited in the State Game Trust Fund. For Fiscal Year 2009-10, \$1,250,000 in funding was appropriated for Tier I (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: FBIP Appropriations by Tier

Program Tier / Trust Fund	
Tier I: State Game Trust Fund	\$ 1,250,000
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Total Appropriation	\$ 1,250,000

Due to State financial shortfalls there was no appropriation from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund for Tier II for Fiscal Year 2009-10. This represents a reduction of \$5,350,000 in total program funding from the previous fiscal year.

Federal Funding

Federal funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Sport Fish Restoration – Boat Access Program was used to offset the reduction in state funding for the FBIP. However, based on the restrictions on the use of these federal funds, the FBIP could not fund any applications for boater education projects. Therefore, the fourteen applications for boater education projects were returned to the applicants.

Grant Awards

The Evaluation Committee met on June 2, 2009 to review and score the remaining 85 applications eligible for funding after the applications for boater education projects were returned to the applicants. Based on the scores awarded, the Committee approved 21 grants which totaled \$3,594,631.

With the appropriation of \$1,250,000, and an additional \$197,615 from Fiscal Year 2008-09 returned from a declined grant award and projects that were completed under budget, the FBIP was able to fully fund 13 projects and partially fund 2 others. (See Table 2 for a list of funded projects.)

Table 2: FBIP Projects Funded with State Resources

Grantee			
Brevard County	Christenson's Landing	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Citrus County	Hernando and Inverness Signage Replacement	\$ 48,691.00	\$ 48,691.00
City of Bradenton Beach	Managed Anchorage & Mooring Field	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 60,255.00 ¹
City of Cedar Key	Cedar Key Marina Gulf Side Boat Ramp	\$ 559,300.00	\$ 134,825.00 ¹
City of Tavares	Wooton Park Marina Boat Ramp	\$ 138,000.00	\$ 138,000.00
City of Venice	Venice Public Mooring Field	\$ 117,205.00	\$ 117,205.00
City of Vero Beach	Marina South Complex Re-Rack	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Dixie County	Jena Boat Ramp Improvements	\$ 43,500.00	\$ 43,500.00
Dixie County	Demory Creek Boat Ramp Improvements	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00
Dixie County	Horseshoe Beach Boat Ramp Improvements	\$ 46,500.00	\$ 46,500.00
Madison County	North Mill Creek Boat Launching Facility	\$ 47,439.00	\$ 47,439.00
Palm Beach County	Waterway Park Boating Launching Facility	\$ 170,000.00	\$ 170,000.00
Suwannee County	Deese/Howard Boat Ramp	\$ 149,800.00	\$ 149,800.00
Taylor County	Keaton Beach Boat Ramp Parking Facility	\$ 32,400.00	\$ 32,400.00
Town of Worthington Springs	Seay Park Boat Ramp	\$ 198,000.00	\$ 198,000.00
Total of State Resources Awarded:			\$1,447,615.00 ²

¹Partially funded with federal resources.

²Includes \$222,405 from Fiscal Year 2008-09.

In addition to the state resources, \$2,147,016 in federal resources was used to fund the remainder of the two partially funded projects and fully fund six grant awards. (See Table 3 below.)

Table 3: FBIP Projects Funded with Federal Resources

Grantee			
City of Bradenton Beach	Managed Anchorage & Mooring Field	\$ 165,000.00	\$104,745.00 ¹
City of Cedar Key	Cedar Key Marina Gulf Side Boat Ramp	\$ 559,300.00	\$419,625.00 ¹
City of Chattahoochee	River Landing Park	\$ 296,533.00	\$ 296,533.00
City of Clearwater	Clearwater Beach Boat Ramp	\$ 565,699.00	\$ 565,699.00
City of Fernandina Beach	Fernandina Beach Ramp Construction	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
City of Lake Worth	Bryant Park Boat Ramp Improvements	\$ 165,440.00	\$ 165,440.00
City of St. Petersburg	Maximo Park Boat Ramp Improvements	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
City of Tampa	Ballast Point Park Boat Ramp	\$ 294,974.00	\$ 294,974.00
Total of Federal Resources Awarded:			\$2,147,016.00

¹ Partially funded with state resources.

A description of each of the projects funded is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

Nine of the projects awarded funding are located in counties or communities designated as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Orders 04-250, 06-34, and 08-132. There were 78 applications requesting a total of \$13,661,063 in funding that did not receive a grant.

Also, as required by section 206.606(1)(b)3., F.S., a list of counties whose needs are unmet due to insufficient financial resources from vessel registration fees is included in Appendix 2.

APPENDIX 1

Projects Awarded Grants through the Florida Boating Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Grantee: Brevard County

Project: Christenson's Landing (South County Boat Launch)

Construction of a new launching facility on the Indian River Lagoon. The facility will include four boat ramps, four boarding docks, a floating accessory dock, two staging docks, fifty trailer parking spaces, twelve car parking spaces, and restrooms.

Total project cost: \$ 2,771,000

Amount requested: \$ 200,000

Grant amount: \$ 200,000

Grantee: Citrus County

Project: Hernando and Inverness Signage Replacement

Project includes the replacement of all Idle Speed and Resume Normal Safe Operation signs in the Inverness and Hernando Pools of the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes.

Total project cost: \$ 52,549

Amount requested: \$ 48,691

Grant amount: \$ 48,691

Grantee: City of Bradenton Beach

Project: Managed Anchorage & Mooring Field

Project includes the design, planning and permitting of a managed anchorage and mooring field in Sarasota Bay adjacent to the Bradenton Beach municipal pier. Amenities for the managed anchorage and mooring field include a pump-out, laundry, office and overnight parking.

Total project cost: \$ 220,000

Amount requested: \$ 165,000

Grant amount: \$ 165,000

Grantee: City of Cedar Key

Project: Marina Gulf Side Boat Ramp

Project includes the expansion of the boat ramp on the gulf side of the Cedar Key marina from a one-lane boat ramp to a two-lane boat ramp with a boarding dock and additional parking.

Total project cost: \$ 559,500

Amount requested: \$ 559,300

Grant amount: \$ 554,450

Grantee: City of Chattahoochee

Project: River Landing Park

Project includes the replacement of one of the two boat ramps in the park on the Apalachicola River. The project also includes the installation of a boarding dock between the two boat ramps, increased parking, and improvements to the access road and public restroom facility.

Total project cost: \$ 399,533

Amount requested: \$ 296,533

Grant amount: \$ 296,533

Grantee: City of Clearwater

Project: Clearwater Beach Boat Ramp

This project will replace the existing boat ramp on the Bay Esplanade on Clearwater Beach. In addition, the project includes the replacement of the seawall and relocation of the floating dock to the south.

Total project cost: \$ 754,266

Amount requested: \$ 565,699

Grant amount: \$ 565,699

Grantee: City of Fernandina Beach

Project: Fernandina Harbor Marina Boat Ramp

This project will provide engineering, design, and permitting to replace the existing boat ramp at the Fernandina Harbor Marina with a new ramp.

Total project cost: \$ 212,000

Amount requested: \$ 100,000

Grant amount: \$ 100,000

Grantee: City of Lake Worth

Project: Bryant Park Boat Ramp Improvements

This project will provide planning and engineering for improvements to the Bryant Park Boat Ramp which will include replacement of the four-lane boat ramp with a one-lane boat ramp and a two-lane boat ramp, a staging area, and replacement of the fixed docks with floating docks.

Total project cost: \$ 427,140

Amount requested: \$ 165,440

Grant amount: \$ 165,440

Grantee: City of St. Petersburg

Project: Maximo Park Boat Ramp Improvements

This project will provide funding for the construction of a new concrete three-lane boat ramp and a four-lane boat ramp along Frenchman's Creek. The project will also extend and modify the docks to make them ADA compliant.

Total project cost: \$ 700,000

Amount requested: \$ 200,000

Grant amount: \$ 200,000

Grantee: City of Tampa

Project: Ballast Point Park Boat Ramp

This project will provide for repairs to the Ballast Point Park Boat Ramp on Hillsborough Bay to include extending the ramp 31 feet, installing rip rap, and constructing a new dock and platform.

Total project cost: \$ 398,383

Amount requested: \$ 294,974

Grant amount: \$ 294,974

Grantee: City of Tavares

Project: Wooton Park Marina Boat Ramp

This project will provide funding for engineering and permitting necessary for proposed dredging and construction of a two-lane boat ramp on Lake Dora.

Total project cost: \$ 276,770

Amount requested: \$ 138,000

Grant amount: \$ 138,000

Grantee: City of Venice

Project: Venice Public Mooring Field

This project will provide funding to install seventeen mooring areas and a dinghy dock in Roberts Bay.

Total project cost: \$ 142,205

Amount requested: \$ 117,205

Grant amount: \$ 117,205

Grantee: City of Vero Beach

Project: Marina South Complex Re-Rack

This project provides funding to replace thirty year old painted steel dry storage racks with a new galvanized rack system that will require less maintenance and accommodate a greater variety of hull sizes.

Total project cost: \$ 87,000

Amount requested: \$ 30,000

Grant amount: \$ 30,000

Grantee: City of Worthington Springs

Project: Seay Park Boat Ramp

This project will construct a new concrete boat ramp, paved access road, asphalt turn around area, gravel parking area for twenty trailers, and a wooden floating dock on the upper Santa Fe River.

Total project cost: \$ 200,000

Amount requested: \$ 198,000

Grant amount: \$ 198,000

Grantee: Dixie County

Project: Demory Creek Boat Ramp Improvements

This project will provide funding for the engineering and planning to expand the existing boat ramp, add a floating dock and additional parking.

Total project cost: \$ 35,000

Amount requested: \$ 31,000

Grant amount: \$ 31,000

Grantee: Dixie County

Project: Horseshoe Beach Boat Ramp Improvements

This project will provide funding for the engineering and planning to widen the existing one-lane boat ramp into two lanes, add a floating dock, resurface the access road and improve the parking.

Total project cost: \$ 48,000
Amount requested: \$ 46,500
Grant amount: \$ 46,500

Grantee: Dixie County

Project: Jena Boat Ramp Improvements

This project will provide funding for the engineering and planning to widen the existing one-lane boat ramp into two lanes, add a floating dock and improve the parking.

Total project cost: \$ 45,000
Amount requested: \$ 43,500
Grant amount: \$ 43,500

Grantee: Madison County

Project: North Mill Creek Boat Launch Facility

This project will provide designing and engineering for the construction of a new boat ramp, paved access road, turn around area, and additional parking at the North Mill Creek Boat Launch on the Suwannee River.

Total project cost: \$ 67,450
Amount requested: \$ 47,439
Grant amount: \$ 47,439

Grantee: Palm Beach County

Project: Waterway Park Boat Launching Facility

This project provides funding for the engineering, design and permitting for a proposed new public launching facility on the Intracoastal Waterway which will include a three-lane boat ramp, floating boarding docks, staging dock and parking area.

Total project cost: \$ 340,000
Amount requested: \$ 170,000
Grant amount: \$ 170,000

Grantee: Suwannee County

Project: Deese/Howard Boat Ramp

This project will replace the damaged existing boat ramp and extend the length of the ramp, remove and replace the seawall, resurface the parking area to increase access and provide additional parking and add a public restroom facility.

Total project cost: \$ 175,300

Amount requested: \$ 149,800

Grant amount: \$ 149,800

Grantee: Taylor County

Project: Keaton Beach Boat Ramp Parking Facility

This project provides funding for the engineering and permitting for a proposed parking area to accommodate fifty trailer parking spaces adjacent to an existing boat ramp in Keaton Beach.

Total project cost: \$ 36,000

Amount requested: \$ 32,400

Grant amount: \$ 32,400

APPENDIX 2

**Counties Whose Needs Are Unmet Due To Insufficient
Financial Resources From Vessel Registration Fees**

County	County Retained Fees		
Alachua County	\$ 52,172.17	\$ 64,000.00	\$ (11,827.83)
Bay County	\$ 96,746.68	\$ 284,758.00	\$ (188,011.32)
Brevard County		\$ 473,704.00	\$ (236,909.31)
Broward County	\$ 452,541.20	\$ 665,173.00	\$ (212,631.80)
Calhoun County	\$ 3,428.52	\$ 395,595.00	\$ (392,166.48)
DeSoto County	\$ 12,010.62	\$ 959,000.00	\$ (946,989.38)
Dixie County	\$ 11,108.70	\$ 121,000.00	\$ (109,891.30)
Flagler County	\$ 35,140.64	\$ 70,000.00	\$ (34,859.36)
Franklin County	\$ 14,303.75	\$ 810,000.00	\$ (795,696.25)
Gadsden County	\$ 9,754.93	\$ 296,533.00	\$ (286,778.07)
Gulf County	\$ 12,153.84	\$ 546,711.00	\$ (534,557.16)
Hardee County	\$ 8,805.85	\$ 120,000.00	\$ (111,194.15)
Hillsborough County	\$ 357,378.00	\$ 454,974.00	\$ (97,596.00)
Jackson County	\$ 15,322.42	\$ 516,950.00	\$ (501,627.58)
Lake County	\$ 106,095.35	\$ 138,000.00	\$ (31,904.65)
Levy County	\$ 17,906.80	\$ 559,300.00	\$ (541,393.20)
Liberty County	\$ 2,318.96	\$ 763,800.00	\$ (761,481.04)
Madison County	\$ 2,536.79	\$ 99,572.00	\$ (97,035.21)
Manatee County	\$ 133,014.00	\$ 262,750.00	\$ (129,736.00)
Nassau County	\$ 30,470.94	\$ 272,334.00	\$ (241,863.06)
Palm Beach County	\$ 400,464.75	\$ 1,535,440.00	\$ (1,134,975.25)
Pinellas County	\$ 409,677.50	\$ 1,818,399.00	\$ (1,408,721.50)
Seminole County	\$ 89,781.03	\$ 175,000.00	\$ (85,218.97)
St. Lucie County	\$ 85,563.08	\$ 400,025.00	\$ (314,461.92)
Suwannee County	\$ 11,468.25	\$ 747,200.00	\$ (735,731.75)
Taylor County	\$ 16,624.21	\$ 32,400.00	\$ (15,775.79)
Union County	\$ 3,121.19	\$ 198,000.00	\$ (194,878.81)
Wakulla County	\$ 19,892.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ (220,108.00)
Walton County	\$ 25,839.21	\$ 150,000.00	\$ (124,160.79)
TOTALS	\$ 2,672,436.07	\$ 13,170,616.00	\$ (10,498,179.93)