



# R & E Grant Application 23-25 Biennium

Project #: 23-018

## *Vernonia Lake Fishing Docks*

### ***Project Information***

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**Requested Cycle:** 23-2  
**R&E Project Request:** \$186,318  
**Other Funding:** \$18,000  
**Total Project:** \$204,318  
**Spending Start Date:** 7/1/2023  
**Spending End Date:** 6/30/2025  
**Project Start Date:** 7/1/2023  
**Project End Date:** 6/30/2025  
**Organization:** City of Vernonia

### ***Applicant Information***

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**Name:** Josette Mitchell  
**Address:** 1001 Bridge Street  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
**Telephone:** 503-429-5291 x106  
**Email:** jmitchell@vernonia-or.gov

### ***Past Recommended or Completed Projects***

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This applicant has no previous projects that match criteria.

### ***Authorized Agent***

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**Name:** Josette Mitchell  
**Address:** 1001 Bridge Street  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
**Telephone:** 503-429-5291 x106  
**Email:** jmitchell@vernonia-or.gov

## **Location Information**

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### **Where is it?**

The project will occur on public land owned or managed by the applicant

### **Site Description**

*Street Address, nearest intersection, or other descriptive location.*

In between ODOT mile marker 62 and 61 on Hwy 47, entrance to Vernonia Lake is directly across from 952 E. Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.

*Directions to the site from the nearest highway junction.*

Entrance to Vernonia Lake is directly off Hwy 47 at approximately ODOT mile Marker 61.5 (Bridge Street, as it runs through the town of Vernonia).

*Following project completion, public anglers will be allowed the following level of access to the project site:*

Full access

*Please describe what leases, easements, agreements are in place to ensure angler access to the project site, and what is the length of each agreement.*

The City of Vernonia is the owner of the subject property. There are no leases, easements, or agreements that will restrict angler access to the project site.

*Dominant Land Use Type:*

Public Recreation

### **Project Location**

*General Project Location.*

**County:** Columbia  
**Town/City:** Vernonia  
**ODFW Dist:** North Coast  
**Stream/Lake/Estuary Name:** Nehalem  
**Sub-basin:** 12-171002020109  
**Tributary of:** Nehalem

*Specific Project Location.*

Latitude	Longitude
45.857151	-123.174392

## **Project Summary**

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### **Project Summary**

*Please provide a couple sentence summary of the proposal.*

The fishing docks at Vernonia Lake need to be replaced, they are nearly 25 years old, made of pressure treated wood, and over time have become waterlogged, the floats have started falling off, limiting the buoyancy.

### **Overall Project Goals**

*Describe the primary goals or outcomes of the entire project, including elements not requesting funding from R&E.*

To increase recreational fishing opportunities by replacing the two 20+ year-old public fishing docks at Vernonia Lake, and installing a walk-on dock for boat launching.

*Primary objectives of R&E funding*

*Please describe the measurable objectives for the R&E portion of the funding request.*

Replacement of dock platforms with aluminum frames and eco-grate decking. We intend to re-use existing aluminum railings. We have already have eco-grating on aluminum ramps.

*Current Situation/Justification*

*Please describe the current situation and explain why this funding is needed.*

The current fishing docks were installed over 20 years ago, with care they have lasted this long. However they are made with pressure treated wood, additionally the floats have absorbed water and fallen apart. We hired a diver to inspect the floats and dock structure, unfortunately the diver found that the wood is damaged underneath and the floats are missing in some sections, requiring new docks. Vernonia is a small rural town of 2,400 and our parks are solely funded through user fees and utility customer monthly fees, neither which bring in the funds necessary to replace the docks. We do not want to have to remove the docks and not be able to put replacements back in their place. We see the limited opportunities near the metro area for day-trip angling and would like to continue to be a place where families from metro can day-trip enjoy the outdoors and fishing with their families.

*Recreation and Commercial Benefit*

*This project will provide benefits to:*

Recreational fisheries

*Explain how this project will contribute to current (and/or potential) fishing opportunities, access, or fisheries management.*

The City of Vernonia has been putting effort into increasing recreational opportunities at Vernonia Lake. Nearly 25 years ago we installed two 50 ft. docks with the help of ODFW, Isaac Walton League, and the Vernonia Lions Club. We have seen the use of the docks increase each year. We have received a OPRD grant to design a campground adjacent to the lake, specifically for overnight camping and anglers access. The City is invested in keeping this angling opportunity available for all. Both of the current docks are accessible to those with mobility issues as the entire lake has a asphalt linear path, which is part of the Banks-Vernonia Linear Trail and now connects to the CZ Trail further into Columbia County. The condition of the current docks is a constant topic of discussion in Vernonia and on the Vernonia Community Bulletin Boards on Facebook. The City is motivated to see this replacement take place. Additionally in this application the City is asking to install a walk-on floating dock to be installed at the boat ramp to Vernonia Lake to encourage non-motorized angling from on the Lake as well.

*Percent benefit split between Commercial and Recreational anglers:*

0 % Commercial

100 % Recreational

*Please explain, or justify, how the percentage split was determined:*

The Vernonia Lake is primarily used for recreational (sport) angling. No commercial angling takes place at Vernonia Lake.

*This project has been identified as an ODFW priority for:*  
Local/watershed

*Does this project directly support implementation of the ODFW Strategic Plan and/or current Fish Division priorities?*  
Unknown

*Please briefly explain when this was identified as a priority and what process or workgroup was used to identified this as an ODFW priority.*

The docks at Vernonia Lake are heavily used by the public, many weekends the parking lot is full. Vernonia Lake is regularly stocked by ODFW which attracts many anglers to our lake. Vernonia Lake attracts many anglers from the metro area.

*Identify any plan or other document that identifies this priority.*

The docks were initially identified in our City of Vernonia Master Parks Plan 20+ years ago when they were first installed, the wood construction has deteriorated over time.

*Is this project part of an approved Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) activity?*  
No

*This project is intended to benefit the following species:*

Largemouth Bass  
Yellow Perch  
Other Species  
Bluegill, Croppie, Bullhead Catfish  
Winter Steelhead  
Rainbow Trout

*This project will benefit anglers or fishery by providing:*  
Angler Access

### Angler Access

*This project will:*

Improve access to existing angling opportunities  
Reduce barriers to fishing participation (i.e. ADA access, more parking, family friendly)

*Choose the following that best describes the angling access provided by the project:*  
Dock

*Do similar access sites, facilities, or fisheries exist within 10 miles of the project site?*  
No

## ***Project Description***

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### Schedule

Activity	Date	RE Funding
RFB open for dock platform design/construction companies	Jan 2024	Yes
Plan for removal of docks, plan for un-installing existing aluminum handrails to be re-used	March 2024	No
Engage with company to construct dock platforms/float mechanisms	March 2024	Yes
Construction of docks completed	July 2024	Yes
Removal of existing docks/ un-install existing aluminum handrails to be re-used	August 2024	No
Installation of dock platforms/walk-on dock	August 2024	Yes

## Permits

Permit	Secured?	Date Expected
The City does not need permit to remove or install dock as we are not impacting the watershed or riparian.	No	N/A

## Project Design and Description

*Please describe in detail the methods or approach that will be used to achieve the project objectives.*

Alternatives: Remove docks until funding can be found or collected over time. The City is able to set aside a small amount of the Parks funding to reserves but currently our parks reserves have 1/5 of the project cost total.

Design: the proposed design and materials we believe will last much longer than our current wood docks, we are interested in moving towards a sustainable dock with environmentally sound materials.

Methods: If not able to be funded we can add additional floats, which could temporarily solve the safety issue, but will not sustain us long term. We have been investigating options to keep the docks functioning.

R&E Elements: The funding requested will specifically fund the dock platform, floats, eco-grate decking; other elements i.e. removal of docks, re-installing of railing, etc will be done by local groups and City staff with funds, donations, or City reserves.

## Engineering

*Does the project involve capital improvement, engineering, site grading or other construction?*

No

## Project Management and Maintenance

*What is the life expectancy of R&E funded construction, structures, equipment, supplies, data or fishery?*

We anticipate with regular maintenance by the City of Vernonia that the new aluminum docks could last 35+ years. By installing docks made with sustainable long lasting materials we anticipate the longevity of the docks to outlast the current wood docks lifespan by 10-15 years at minimum.

*Who is responsible for long term management, maintenance, and oversight of the project beyond what is funded by R&E.*

Vernonia Lake is a property within the City of Vernonia parks system. Vernonia Lake is maintained and inspected on a weekly basis by City staff. Vernonia Lake also has a resident park host who is responsible for visual inspection and reporting to City Staff any necessary repairs. The funds for repairs are collected via fees, and necessary repairs or upgrades are determined annually through the City budget process. The City of Vernonia has a Parks Committee of 7 appointed citizens who meet monthly to discuss necessary repairs and maintenance of Vernonia city owned parks and facilities.

*Will the project require ongoing maintenance?*

Yes

As stated above weekly/monthly inspection and repair requests are made by the staff, park host, and park committee members. Maintenance will be surface for the first year, and potentially every five years paying to have a underwater inspection of the dock/floats system.

*Is there a plan to collect baseline data and to conduct monitoring efforts to measure the effectiveness*

of the project?  
No

## ***Project Funding***

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### ***Funding***

Have you applied for OWEB funding for this project?  
No

Has this proposal, or similar proposal for this project location, previously been denied by OWEB or other funding source?  
No

Other Funding Source	Type	Secured	Dollar Value	Comments
Local organization assistance in removing current docks once new docks have been constructed.	In-Kind	Pending	10000	Once we are funded, organizations that have expressed interest in assisting will be contacted.
City staff preparation of RFB. administrative management, follow through construction, placement.	In-Kind	Pending	8000	The City staff have successfully completed and are currently administering grant projects.
		Total	18000	

## Budget

Item	Unit Number	Unit Cost	In-kind or non-cash contributions	Funding from other sources	R&E Funds	Total Costs
PROJECT MANAGEMENT						
City Staff Administration (RFB for construction/grant admin)	50	40.00	2000	0	0	2000
		SUBTOTAL	2000	0	0	2000
IN-HOUSE PERSONNEL						
Public Works Staff to assist with removal/install railings	55	40.00	2500	0	0	2500
		SUBTOTAL	2500	0	0	2500
CONTRACTED SERVICES						
Local Organization to assist with removal	1	1.00	0	10000	0	10000
		SUBTOTAL	0	10000	0	10000
TRAVEL						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
EDUCATION/OUTREACH						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT						
Aluminum Docks 8x50 Aluminum / Walk-on dock 4x30	1	1.00	0	0	186318	186318
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	186318	186318
FISCAL ADMINISTRATION						
City Financial Service for grant draw requests requirements	70	50.00	3500	0	0	3500
		SUBTOTAL	3500	0	0	3500
		BUDGET TOTAL	8000	10000	186318	204318

## ***Internal Review Results***

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**Review Score:** 2.1 out of 3

(0 = Do Not Fund, 1 = Strengthen Proposal, 2 = Recommend, 3 = Strongly Recommend)

### ***Summary of Review Team Comments***

Review team was supportive of the project, but would like to see the applicant bring additional funding sources to the table.

### ***Specific Review Team Comments***

- Project addresses a safety concern, as well as angler opportunity.
- I like that they are seeking to develop camping and angling access with other funding sources as well. I think it is a good project providing access for anglers and some R & E funding should be put towards the project. However, the applicants should secure funding from the Marine Board for the boat dock. They can fund non-motorized boat launches and it can be combined with angling access as was done at Yellowjacket Lake in Harney County.
- Good Non-ODFW project for RE, suggest having Bryce Hansen / Engineering staff review to see if there are any less expensive alternatives.
- The railings to be re-used looked fine in the picture, but just wanted to be sure they meet today's safety/ADA standards.
- Vernonia Pond is very heavily fished and is a popular destination for locals and many folks from out of the area (mainly Portland metro). Dock floats were repaired a few years ago (R&E grant) but based on the photos it appears there is now a need to replace.
- There is some access around the pond, but the docks provide some of the best fishing access.

### ***Specific Review Team Questions***

*Will the float dock be used for angling also? Or restricted to boat use only? If boat only could OSMB funds be sought?*

The floating walk-on dock will be for boat use only, we are currently preparing a grant application to OSMB for assistance in funding the floating walk-on dock however the funding cycle for OSMB Grant Cycle 2 does not allow for submittal until October 2, 2023. At that time we will submit an application for the funds or any portion of the funds not awarded through ODFW R&E.

*Do you need the topper?*

I could not find a reference to the topper in my application.

*There are no units in the Budget table. That tilting float looks like an accident waiting to happen. The photos looked like just one of the floats...is the other's condition just like it? Engineering Work Order is blank.*

I have input units, for hourly rates and estimated hours it will take. For the cost of docks I input a unit for the total cost, additionally for the local group removal of existing I input a unit for the total cost. There is just one float section that has fallen away, although all of them are deteriorated. The other dock has some tilt but not as extreme as the one pictured. Engineering will be supplied by the company supplying the dock systems, ODFW may want to review engineering from supplier prior to construction of docks at supplier.

*How was the cost of new docks and installation determined?*



We have discussed our project with two companies that construct dock platforms, the estimate we included was the cheaper of the two, however with the project being as large of an expenditure we will need to go out for bid and follow all of our procurement regulations. Minimum of three bids or attempts to secure bids will be required.

*Will these docks be ADA compliant?*

Yes, the new docks will be ADA complaint, the grating that decks the proposed docks is ADA compliant, with proper flotation the grade meets ADA regulations.

*What other fund sources are being pursued?*

We will be submitting a grant application to OSMB for additional funding of the walk-on dock. Additionally we are open to preparing a grant application for these items to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund grant process, however the next opening for proposals does not open until January 30, 2024.

## ***Additional Files***

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### **Budget Information**

[Preliminary Cost Estimate](#)

*Dock Cost Estimate*

[Preliminary Cost Estimate Walk-on dock](#)

*Walk-on Dock Cost Estimate*

### **Maps**

[Vernonia Lake Docks Map](#)

*Map*

[Vernonia Lake Docks Map w/Details](#)

*Map with project details*

### **Photos**

[Family Fishing Event 2015](#)

*Photo*

[Family Fishing Event 2018](#)

*Photo*

[Family Fishing Event 2023](#)

*Photo of dock with tipping*

### **Design Information**

[ODFW Engineering Work Order](#)

*ODFW Engineering Request*

### **Management Plans and Supporting Documents**

[Signature Authorization Page](#)

*Signature Authorization Page*

[Tax Exempt Status](#)

*Tax Exempt Status*

### **Permits and Reviews**

### **Partnerships**

### **Public Comment**

[Letter of Support Isaac Walton League](#)

*Letter of Support*

### **Administrative Documents**

## ***Completion Report***

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A completion report has not been submitted for this project.