



LWCFCoalition.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 19, 2017

CONTACT: Justin Bartolomeo

(202) 789-4365

jbartolomeo@hdmk.org

LWCF Coalition Applauds Assistance Grants for Urban Parks

WASHINGTON, DC – The LWCF Coalition today applauded the announcement of grants made through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grant Program. These competitive grants are funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund – State and Local Assistance Program – and support outdoor recreation projects to create and improve local parks in underserved areas around the country.

“State and local assistance programs have always been a key component of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Today, more people reside in cities than ever before, and they want access to recreation close to home. Creating and fixing urban parks provides an enormous return on investment by bringing health and economic benefits back into the community,” said Kathy DeCoster, Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs for the Trust for Public Land and co-chair of the LWCF Coalition.

OLRP acquisition and development grants are used to support projects in cities that reinvigorate urban parks and other outdoor recreation spaces, with priority given to projects located in areas that are economically disadvantaged and lacking outdoor recreation resources.

ORLP grants announced by the Department of the Interior today will fund 22 park projects in cities across the country and utilize \$13.3 million of LWCF funds appropriated by Congress.

“We are grateful to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for supporting the competitive urban parks program, which is vital for improving access to the outdoors where people live, work and play,” said DeCoster. “We urge continued support for this important program as the FY 18 appropriations process continues.”

###

About the Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America’s most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction and activities and the continued historic preservation of our nation’s iconic landmarks from coast-to-coast.

LWCF does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 million jobs.

About the LWCF Coalition

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, outdoor recreationists and conservation organizations working to protect America’s public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will ensure the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, as well as state and local parks.

For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit www.lwcfcoalition.org