

LWCFCoalition.com

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LWCF Coalition Applauds Department of the Interior's Investment in Local Parks and Recreation

Washington, D.C. – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition is thrilled to applaud the Department of the Interior's announcement allocating \$21.9 million in funding to support the revitalization and creation of new local parks in five communities across the United States. Anchorage, Alaska; Moorhead, Minnesota; Greensboro, North Carolina; Buffalo, New York; and Norfolk, Virginia, are set to benefit from this substantial investment that will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. This commitment, made possible through the LWCF-funded Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, underscores the Department of the Interior's commitment to promoting community engagement with the great outdoors.

Additionally, the Department of the Interior has unveiled a funding opportunity that will make available more than \$224 million in grant funding for the upcoming year. These funds will further support local communities across the United States in creating new parks and trails or undertaking substantial renovations to existing parks. This announcement marks the most substantial grant funding opportunity since the inception of the ORLP program.

The Department also announced an upcoming nationwide tour, led by Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Shannon Estenoz, and Department leaders. The tour aims to directly engage with community members and encourage state participation in the ORLP program, emphasizing the vital need to connect communities with improved access to outdoor spaces and recreation opportunities.

Lesley Kane Szynal, Chair of the LWCF Coalition, expressed her enthusiasm for these transformative developments, saying, "We are immensely pleased to see the Department of the Interior taking such significant steps to improve access to greenspace in underserved communities. The LWCF Coalition applauds this investment in local parks and recreation through the LWCF-funded ORLP Program, which will make a real difference in the lives of residents in Anchorage, Moorhead, Greensboro, Buffalo, and Norfolk. This monumental funding, coupled with the nationwide tour, underscores the importance of community engagement, and the crucial role local parks play in building healthier and more vibrant communities. We look forward to continued collaboration and the positive impact this investment will have on our nation's well-being and environmental sustainability."

About the LWCF Coalition

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local landowners, 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. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit [LWCFCoalition.org](https://www.lwcfcoalition.org).