

Michigan

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$329 million to protect Michigan's forests, wildlife refuges, lakeshores, and to increase recreation access. From backcountry trails and boat launches to rivers and community parks, LWCF has protected places like Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Hiawatha National Forest, Keweenaw National Historical Park, North Country National Scenic Trail, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Pilgrim River Forest, and Sleepy Hollow State Park.

Michigan's \$26.6 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 232,000 jobs which generate \$7.5 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$2.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Located in the top left corner of the mitten, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is a one-of-a-kind experience. The towering 400-foot dunes that rise over Lake Michigan have trails and overlooks to take in the 65-mile shoreline of the park. In addition to its namesake, the park has a variety of terrain including forests, wetlands, meadows, and streams. There has been over \$96 million in LWCF in Sleeping Bear Dunes, protecting fully 85% of its land – one of the largest LWCF investments in the country. Thanks to LWCF, incompatible development has not hindered the natural beauty of the park for visitors enjoying its hiking trails, swimming spots, kayaking and canoeing, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. Sleeping Bear Dunes is truly Pure Michigan.



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Credit: NPS

“Celebrating public lands is an everyday, every season event in the State of Michigan for hunters and anglers and those that bike and hike. From Sleeping Bear Dunes on the shores of Lake Michigan to close to home parks like Belle Isle in Detroit, LWCF has touched every corner of the great state of Michigan. In particular, LWCF has been critical to protecting our great sportsmen heritage by protecting hunting and fishing access at some of Michigan's treasures like Ottawa National Forest in the UP and the Pilgrim River in Houghton. Sportsmen and women have LWCF to thank for opening access to ample game on our public lands and abundant fish in our rivers.”

– Dawn Levey, Former Board President, Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Belle Isle Park

For Detroiters, Belle Isle is the city's top recreation destination. There are trails, kayaking, an aquarium, a nature center, a Great Lakes museum, fishing spots, playgrounds, and a golf range. The park's unique location, in the Detroit River, also makes it an attractive venue for local events, school trips, and a great place to take a break from city life. Belle Isle has received over a million dollars in LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program funding for renovations to the athletic complex and the multi-use looped trail. This funding will allow the park to continue to thrive as a local park for city residents and visitors to the Motor City.



Recreation at Belle Isle Park, Credit: Michigan Economic Development Corporation

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Michigan!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/