

Massachusetts

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Massachusetts

Federal Units

- Adams NHP
- Appalachian NST
- Boston NHP
- Boston Harbor Islands NRA
- Cape Cod NS
- Frederick Law Olmsted NHS
- Great Meadows NWR
- Lowell NHP
- Mashpee NWR
- Massasoit NWR
- Minute Man NHP
- Monomoy NWR
- Oxbow NWR
- Parker River NWR
- Salem Maritime NHS
- Saugus Iron Works NHS
- Silvio Conte NFWR

Federal Total \$114,876,606

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$25,220,595

ORLP \$732,434

Stateside \$110,351,731

Total \$251,181,366

LWCF Success in Massachusetts

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Massachusetts' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Massachusetts has received approximately \$251.1 million over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Cape Cod National Seashore, Great Meadows and Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuges, Minute Man National Historical Park.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests. The FLP cost-share funding supports timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. For example, the FLP contributed to places such as the Southern Monadnock Plateau and Muschopauge Brook, both in Worcester County. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$25 million in federal funds to invest in Massachusetts' forests, while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests.

LWCF state assistance grants have further supported hundreds of projects across Massachusetts' state and local parks including trails and watershed lands along the Millers River in Ashburnham and scenic views from Mt. Watatic summit. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported the Clippership Connector at Mystic River Reservation.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Massachusetts' economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$11.8 billion in value added to Massachusetts' economy, 102,687 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.7% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.4 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Massachusetts, contributing over \$1.6 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Massachusetts

Cape Cod National Seashore

With over four million visitors a year, Cape Cod National Seashore is one of the most heavily visited units in the National Park system. The Seashore offers six swimming beaches, over 11 miles of self-guided nature trails, a variety of picnic areas, scenic overlooks, historic building tours, and many fishing opportunities. Due to the Seashore's tremendous popularity, privately owned land in this area faces significant development pressures. Recently, the owners of the 57-acre North of Highland Campground, a family-run private campground within the Seashore's boundary in Truro, sold an easement on the campground to the National Park Service. This easement allows the campground to remain open, serve the public, and provide recreational opportunities to visitors.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Massachusetts

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Silvio Conte NWR*	\$2,000,000	Warren, Markey/ McGovern, Neal, Trahan
USFWS	Great Thicket NWR*	\$1,500,000	Warren, Markey/Keating

LWCF is a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program.

The **Great American Outdoors Act** ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF's permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

LWCF supports the acquisition of land and conservation easements to **protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites**, grants funds to the states for local and state park needs, protects critical wildlife habitat, watersheds and recreational access, and conserves working farms, ranches and forestlands that enhance local economies.



www.lwcfcoalition.org



Status of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In August 2020, permanent, dedicated funding for LWCF was secured through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account is directed to conservation and recreation priorities; however, in FY24 Congress backtracked on that promise when they rescinded \$94 million of unobligated LWCF funding (\$89M from the NPS State & Local Assistance Program & \$5M from BLM). GAOA has not eliminated the backlog of LWCF priorities that are waiting in line as nearly all LWCF programs remain oversubscribed - each year the LWCF supplemental project list includes about \$200 million in urgent needs that are authorized to use this funding. To support these critical projects, unspent LWCF funding should be reallocated to the states by the Secretary of the Interior (per the LWCF Act) or reprogrammed by Congress to LWCF sub-programs with outstanding funding need. If funding is rescinded rather than reallocated or reprogrammed, landowners and communities miss out on LWCF funding, and these critical priorities could be lost forever.

FY25 Budget Update: The Biden Administration's FY25 budget proposal included detailed LWCF priority project lists and balanced program allocations, as well supplemental project lists over and above LWCF's current \$900 million funding level. [Click here to view a map of past LWCF projects](#)