

Michigan

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Michigan

Federal Units

- Chequamegon-Nicolet NF
- Detroit River IWR
- Harbor Island NWR
- Hiawatha NF
- Huron-Manistee NFs
- Isle Royale NP
- Keweenaw NHP
- Kirtlands Warbler WMA
- Manistee NF
- Michigan Islands NWR
- North Country NST
- Ottawa NF
- Pictured Rocks NL
- Shiawassee NWR
- Sleeping Bear Dunes NL

Federal Total \$175,137,000

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$17,409,548

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$3,976,591

ORLP \$1,075,000

Stateside \$151,531,761

Total \$349,129,900

LWCF Success in Michigan

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Michigan's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Michigan has received approximately \$349.1 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Huron, Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests, and the North Country National Scenic Trail.

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 a working forest conservation easement over the 247,803-acre Northern Great Lakes Forest in the Upper Peninsula. 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 \$17.4 million in federal funds to invest in Michigan's 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 Michigan's state and local parks including Brighton State Recreation Area in Livingston County, Presque Isle Park in Marquette County, Proud Lake Recreation Area in Oakland County, Gallup Park in Washtenaw County and Lake Lansing Park in Ingham County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Belle Isle Park in Detroit.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Michigan's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$12.4 billion in value added to Michigan's economy, 118,993 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 4.9 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Michigan, contributing over \$5.1 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Michigan

Ottawa National Forest

The Ottawa National Forest is known in particular for its hardwood forests, bountiful streams, rivers, lakes, spectacular fall foliage, and heavy winter snowfall. The forest offers a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and provides habitat for a range of wildlife. The Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Area features the geologically unique Sturgeon River Gorge, where the river has carved falls, rapids, ponds, oxbows, and terraces. Its rugged terrain, mature forests, and remote location offer outstanding recreational opportunities including hiking, primitive camping, canoeing, whitewater kayaking, hunting, and fishing. It also hosts a variety of wildlife habitat, including a Lynx Analysis Unit, used to monitor potential habitat for the threatened Canada lynx. Federal acquisition of this land ensured the integrity of the wilderness experience and the protection of a truly unique natural resource area.



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](#)