



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 one week, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$336 million to protect New York's forests, wildlife refuges, and increase recreation access. From backcountry trails to community parks, LWCF has protected places like Gateway National Recreation Area, Sterling Forest, Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, Adirondack Lakes in Hamilton County, and Coney Island Boardwalk in Brooklyn to the Confluence Park.

New York's \$41.8 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 313,000 jobs which generate \$14 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$3.6 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

Sterling Forest State Park

With funding from LWCF matched by significant funding from private sources as well as the states of New York and New Jersey, the 17,500 acre Sterling Forest tract was permanently protected – ensuring protection of the drinking water for over 2.5 million New Jersey residents and protecting a huge block of forested land less than an hour from New York City. Recreation in the forest includes fishing, hunting, hiking, snow shoeing, and biking. Development of this critical tract would have created significantly higher water treatment costs for northern New Jersey communities; LWCF funding paired with non-federal contributions helped avoid those increased costs.



Sterling Forest State Park, Credit: Greg Miller, AMC

“The Rensselaer Plateau’s intact forests are a remarkable resource supporting sustainable forestry, abundant wildlife, watershed protection, outstanding recreation opportunities, scenic views, and more. The Rensselaer Plateau Forest Legacy initiative funded by LWCF allowed our partnership to work with private land owners to conserve these natural assets that will secure an ecological and economic legacy for our community that will benefit many people for generations to come.” - Jim Bonesteel, Executive Director of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park

Thought of by many as the turning point of the Revolutionary War, the 1777 Battle of Saratoga gave a crucial win for the Americans over the British and convinced the French to join the Americans as allies. Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park preserves this momentous site that was a key moment in our nation's history, and today visitors can go to learn about this iconic battle by visiting the home of General Philip Schuyler, the Saratoga Monument, and enjoy hiking and biking opportunities. A \$740,000 grant from LWCF in 2016 allowed for the protection of a key 170-acre parcel in Stillwater that was at risk of being developed. This property includes terrain that soldiers traversed during the battle, a road that was blocked by hilltop fortification, and a cemetery dating back to the 18th century.



Saratoga Battlefield NHP, Credit: NPS

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in New York!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/