

New York

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in New York

Federal Units

- Appalachian NST
- Eleanor Roosevelt NHS
- Finger Lakes NF
- Fire Island NS
- Green Mountain and Finger Lakes NF
- Harriet Tubman NHP
- Home of FDR NHS
- Martin Van Buren NHS
- Sagamore NHP
- Sterling Forest
- Theodore Roosevelt NHS
- Upper Delaware SRR
- Wertheim NWR
- Women's Rights NHP

Federal Total \$73,346,432

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$9,400,000

Endangered Species (Sec. 6) \$557,381

Highlands \$10,305,982

American Battlefield Protection Program \$1,011,856

Stateside \$269,740,474

Total \$364,362,125

LWCF Success in New York

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New York's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New York has received approximately \$364.3 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Gateway National Recreation Area, Sterling Forest, and Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.

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 Adirondack Lakes in Hamilton County and Ticeteneyck Mountain in Ulster 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 \$9.4 million in federal funds to invest in New York'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 New York's state and local parks from the Coney Island Boardwalk in Brooklyn to the Confluence Park and Chenango River Promenade in Binghamton. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), has annual funding opportunities for city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of New York's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$31.2 billion in value added to New York's economy, 256,975 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.5% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 4.6 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in New York, contributing over \$4.5 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in New York

Sterling Forest

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. 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.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for New York

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Great Thicket NWR*	\$1,500,000	Schumer, Gillibrand/Ryan
NPS	Statue of Liberty National Monument*	\$5,000,000	Schumer, Gillibrand/Goldman

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](#)