

Pennsylvania

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Pennsylvania

Federal Units

- Allegheny NF
- Allegheny Portage NHS
- Appalachian NST
- Cherry Valley NWR
- Delaware Water Gap NRA
- Eisenhower NHS
- Flight 93 NMem
- Fort Necessity NB
- Friendship Hill NHS
- Gettysburg NMP
- Grey Towers NHS
- Independence NHP
- John Heinz Tinicum NWR
- Johnstown Flood Nmem
- Ohio River Islands NWR
- Upper Delaware SRR
- Valley Forge NHP

Federal Total \$160,289,413

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$10,848,833
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$262,500
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$4,442,093
Highlands	\$5,709,385
ORLP	\$750,000
Stateside	\$192,723,852
Total	\$375,026,076

LWCF Success in Pennsylvania

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Pennsylvania's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Pennsylvania has received approximately \$375 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Flight 93 National Memorial, Gettysburg National Military Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Allegheny National Forest. Recently, LWCF funds were also used to help found the Cherry Valley 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 Tree Farm at Michaux State Forest in Adams County and the Birdsboro Waters project in Berks 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 \$10.9 million in federal funds to invest in Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania's state and local parks including the Mt. Pisgah State Park, Ricketts Glen State Park, and the Delaware State Forest. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Mifflin Square Park in Philadelphia.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Pennsylvania's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$16.9 billion in value added to Pennsylvania's economy, 164,344 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.8% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 5.4 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Pennsylvania, contributing over \$5.4 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



LWCF in Pennsylvania

Flight 93 National Memorial

On the morning of September 11, after hearing word about the hijacking of other planes and the horrific destruction in New York City and the Pentagon, the passengers and crew of Flight 93 made a collective and daring decision to take action. Working together, they fought for control of the plane, ultimately crashing it in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania and thereby thwarting an attack on the U.S. Capitol building - its intended target. All aboard including 37 passengers and 7 crew members died bravely to save lives and prevent another deadly attack. Honoring the passengers and crew and marking their place in history has been essential for our collective healing, remembrance and inspiration. LWCF contributed \$10 million to the acquisition of the property on which the Memorial is located and scenic easements in the surrounding 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.

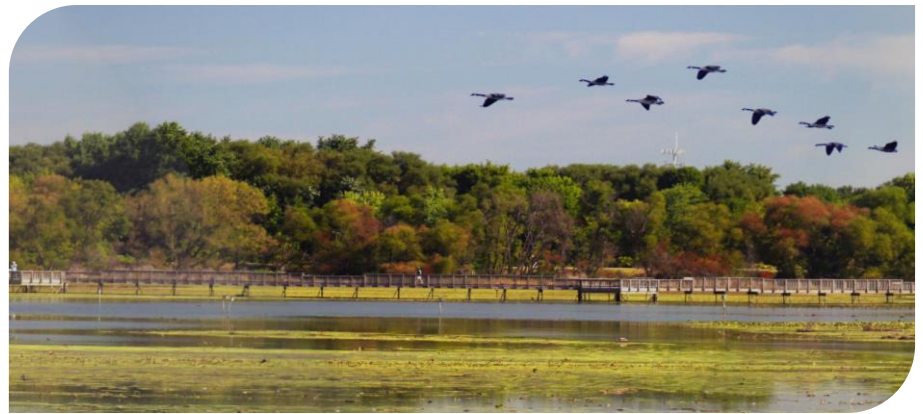
Unfortunately, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program.

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](#)