



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 in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$71 million to protect Rhode Island's coastlines, historic sites, and increase recreation access. From national wildlife refuges and forests to community parks and beaches, LWCF has protected places like Block Island National Wildlife Refuge, Roger Williams National Memorial, Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Cliff Walk, and the Newport Beaches.

Rhode Island's \$4 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 37,000 jobs which generate \$1.2 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$293 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Cliff Walk
One of Newport's most popular tourist destination is Cliff Walk. Spanning from First Beach, along the magnificent Newport Mansions, and boasting stunning ocean views, Cliff Walk is a spectacular experience for visitors of all ages. Almost \$1 million in LWCF funding has gone to protecting this Newport treasure and guaranteeing access for public use. The north end of Cliff Walk is accessible and a very easy journey, making it a great family friendly activity. The path becomes more challenging as it progresses and turns into rugged New England shoreline. Whether in the heat of summer or during fall colors, Cliff Walk is always a fun experience and is protected thanks to LWCF.



Newport's Cliff Walk

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuges
There are five wildlife refuges in Rhode Island that have received over \$22 million in LWCF funding over the last 52 years. Block Island National Wildlife Refuge has received \$3.5 million in LWCF funding and is home to the federally endangered American burying beetle, hosts sea turtles and seals, contains pristine shrub and dune complexes, and offers excellent opportunities for wildlife watchers and anglers. Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge, which has had over \$1 million in LWCF funding, is the only undeveloped coastal salt pond in Rhode Island, making it even more valuable to wildlife. Approximately 300 bird species, more than 40 mammal species, and 20 species of reptiles and amphibians call Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuge home during the year.



Block Island NWR, Credit: USFWS

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Rhode Island!
www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/