

Rhode Island

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Rhode Island

Federal Units

- Block Island NWR
- John Chafee NWR
- Ninigret NWR
- Rhode Island NWRs
- Trustom Pond NWR

Federal Total \$23,730,702

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$4,374,000

ORLP \$375,000

Stateside \$43,607,060

Total \$72,086,762

LWCF Success in Rhode Island

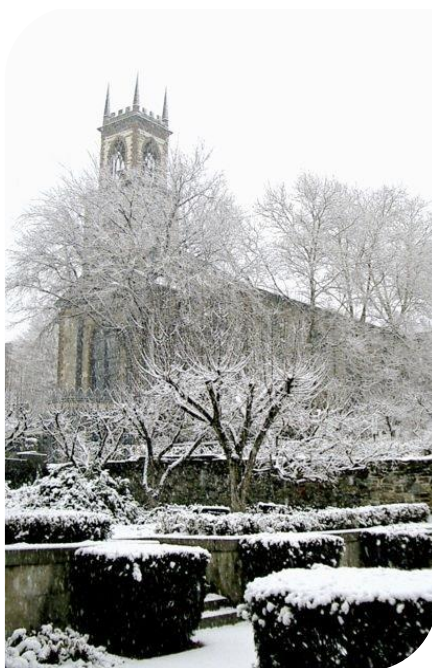
The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Rhode Island's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Rhode Island has received approximately \$72 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Block Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Roger Williams National Memorial.

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 Tillinghast Pong Management Area in West Greenwich, Yawgoo Pond in South Kingstown and Canonchet Brook Preserve in Hopkinton. The Forest Legacy Program 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 \$4.3 million in federal funds to invest in Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island's state and local parks including Roger Williams Park in Providence and Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Middletown. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Woonasquatucket River Adventure Park in Providence.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Rhode Island's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$1.7 billion in value added to Rhode Island's economy, 18,213 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.3% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 600,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Rhode Island, contributing over \$381 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Rhode Island

John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge (RI)

The John H. Chafee NWR makes up 550 acres in Pettaquamscutt Cove on the coast of Rhode Island and has received nearly \$1 million from LWCF. The refuge is made up of expansive saltmarsh habitat that provides a barrier between the ocean and local communities. These wetlands are critical for climate adaptation -- protecting from sea-level rises and storm surges. The porous refuge can absorb sea water and tolerate extended periods of flooding as it acts as important infrastructure to protect coastal towns. During Hurricane Sandy the marshes were instrumental in saving homes and other buildings from the large storm surge and damaging waves.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Rhode Island

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Great Thicket NWR*	\$1,500,000	Reed, Whitehouse/ Magaziner



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](#)