

Texas

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Texas

Federal Units

- Alibates Flint Quarries NM
- Amistad NRA
- Anahuac NWR
- Angelina NF
- Aransas NWR
- Atwater Prairie Chicken NWR
- Balcones Canyonlands NWR
- Big Bend NP
- Big Boggy NWR
- Big Thicket Npres
- Brazoria NWR
- Fort Davis NHS
- Grulla NWR
- Guadalupe Mountains NP
- Laguna Atascosa NWR
- Lower Rio Grande NWR
- Lyndon Johnson NHP
- Muleshoe NWR
- Neches River NWR
- Padre Island NS
- Palo Alto Battlefield NHS
- Sabine NF
- Sam Houston NF
- San Antonio Missions NHP
- San Bernard NWR
- Santa Ana NWR
- Texas Point NWR
- Trinity River NWR
- Uvalde NFH

Federal Total \$307,731,752

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$10,895,875
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$52,474,831
ORLP	\$1,500,000
Stateside	\$210,679,646

Total \$583,282,104

LWCF Success in Texas

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Texas' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Texas has received approximately \$583.3 million in LWCF funding over the past four decades, protecting places such as Big Thicket National Preserve, San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, Padre Islands National Seashore and Balcones Canyonlands and Lower Rio Grande national wildlife refuges.

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 Turkey Creek Project in Tyler and Hardin County and Burleson Wetland Project in Smith 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 Texas' 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 Texas' state and local parks including Palo Duro Canyon State Park in Armstrong County, Bastrop State Park in Bastrop County, Big Bend Ranch State Park in Presidio County and McKinney Falls State Park in Travis County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Edward Rendon Sr Metro Park in Austin and Buffalo Bend Hidalgo Park Greenway in Houston.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Texas' economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$47.6 billion in value added to Texas' economy, 387,951 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2 of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 7.1 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Texas, contributing over \$9.2 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



LWCF in Texas

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

Consisting of approximately 19,000 acres, Balcones Canyonlands NWR plays a significant role in habitat protection in the Southwest, supporting at least 375 species of birds, at least 1,500 plant species, over 120 native tree species, 55 species of mammals, 70 species of reptiles, and 80 species of fish. A boom in population and significant growth in commercial and residential development threatens privately held lands within refuge boundaries. Appropriations received over the last several years have protected these vital endangered species habitat lands and consolidated refuge inholdings. Completing the acquisition of these lands ensures the continued protection of this valuable area.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Texas

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FLP	Scrappin' Valley (Supplemental List)	\$815,000	Cornyn, Cruz/Babin



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](#)