

Wisconsin

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Wisconsin

Federal Units

- Apostle Islands NL
- Chequamegon NF
- Chequamegon-Nicolet NF
- Columbia Country WPA
- Fox River NWR
- Horicon NWR
- Ice Age NST
- Iron River NFH
- Lower Saint Croix NSR
- Necedah NWR & WMA
- North Country NST
- Saint Croix NSR
- Sauk Country WPA
- Trempealeau NWR
- Upper Mississippi River NWR
- Whittlesey Creek NWR

Federal Total \$111,154,075

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$22,482,680
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$7,245,024
ORLP	\$1,820,583
Stateside	\$85,665,023

Total \$228,367,385

LWCF Success in Wisconsin

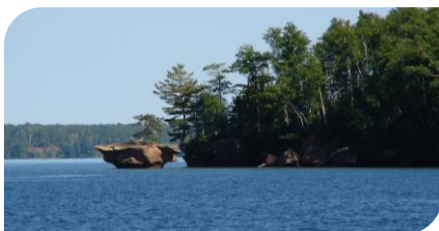
The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Wisconsin's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Wisconsin has received approximately \$228.4 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails, St. Croix National Scenic River and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

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 Chippewa Flowage in Sawyer County and the Wolf River Watershed in Langlade County. 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 \$22.5 million in federal funds to invest in Wisconsin'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 Wisconsin's state and local parks including Lake Kegonsa State Park in Dane County, Devil's Lake State Park in Sauk County and High Cliff State Park in Calumet County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Central Park - Skate park in Madison and Burnham Park, Galena Park, and Modrzejewski Playfield in Milwaukee.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Wisconsin's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$9.8 billion in value added to Wisconsin's economy, 94,042 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.5% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.9 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Wisconsin, contributing over \$3.9 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Wisconsin

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a dynamic public/private partnership among the National Park Service, the State of Wisconsin, local governments, and the nonprofit Ice Age Trail Alliance. During the past decade more than \$12 million of LWCF money has been matched by \$22 million of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund and local money to preserve 57 additional miles of the Ice Age Trail. This partnership is prepared to continue this important conservation work in America’s heartland if LWCF money continues to be provided by Congress. There are still more than 500 miles of unmarked connecting routes linking the blazed segments that need to be protected in order to complete the Ice Age Trail, which is nearly half of the 1200-mile trail.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Wisconsin

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Hackmatack NWR*	\$3,290,000	Johnson, Baldwin/Steil



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](#)