

## LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

**Authorization:** 16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4601-11, 78 Stat. 897 (also known as Public Law 88-578, approved September 3, 1964)

**Budget:** Dependent upon annual availability of federal funds. In 2002, the budget was \$2.5 million.

**Objective:** To encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality, outdoor recreational opportunities. The program funds both state and local outdoor recreation projects.

**Eligibility:** Counties, cities, villages, towns, school districts, and Indian tribes with approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans.

**Level of Assistance:** Up to 50% matching grants from the fund are available to state and local units of government.

**Priorities:** Acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreational land exists. Projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for outdoor recreation.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Acquisition of land for public outdoor recreational areas and preservation of water frontage and open space. Development of public outdoor park and recreational areas and their support facilities.

**Applications:** From DNR regional Community Service Specialist. Completed applications are due to the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

**History:** The program was established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. From parks to playgrounds, wilderness to wetlands, bicycle paths to hiking trails, LWCF has helped communities nationwide acquire nearly seven million acres of parkland, water resources, and open space. LWCF has also underwritten the development of more than 37,000 state and local park and recreation projects.

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