

North Carolina

#SaveLWCF

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

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 over \$246 million over the past five decades to protect North Carolina's iconic outdoor places, open access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, and to build close to home parks. From community playgrounds and ballfields to North Carolina's iconic national parks, wildlife refuges, and historic sites, LWCF has protected places like the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cape Lookout National Seashore, and the Blue Ridge Parkway through the federal programs, and places like the Whitehurst Forest, Camden Community Park, and Four Mile Creek Greenway in Mecklenburg County through the state and local programs.

North Carolina's \$28 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 260,000 jobs which generate \$8.3 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.3 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

The Blue Ridge Parkway is the nation's most visited National Park unit, welcoming nearly 16 million visitors last year. In the fall, motorists from around the world take in the views of mountains, waterfalls, thriving towns and valley settlements. According to Don Barger, Regional Director of the National Parks Conservation Association "The Parkway is not only America's favorite drive, it is an unparalleled economic engine. In 2016 visitors to the Parkway spent over nine hundred million dollars in communities near the park, supporting nearly 16,000 local jobs." The Land and Water Conservation Fund purchases tracts in the national forests through which the Parkway winds and also fills needs in making its trails and streams accessible to the public.



Fall foliage in the Blue Ridge Parkway

"LWCF is the key that cranks the economic engine in NC. We need to keep investing in our outdoor spaces so the next generation will enjoy paddling, camping, hiking and climbing the way my generation does. It's good business and it's good for the soul." –Ross Saldarini, President, Mountain Khakis

CATAWBA FALLS

Inaccessible to the public for decades, Catawba Falls is now one of the region's most popular attractions. In 2010 the US Forest Service purchased the access area to the falls from Foothills Conservancy who had prioritized opening a gateway to the stunning site for years. By enabling the acquisition of a parking area and entrance to the trail network, funds from LWCF kick-started an economic revival in an area of NC hard hit by the decline in manufacturing. Improved access has also reduced the cost of management for the local EMS by providing safe ingress and egress to a site that once was reachable only by helicopter.



Hikers enjoying Catawba Falls

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in North Carolina!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/