

Oklahoma

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

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 more than \$66 million over the past five decades to protect Oklahoma's 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 Oklahoma's wildlife refuges and historic sites, LWCF has protected places like Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge, and Wichita National Environmental Center.

Oklahoma's \$10.6 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 97,000 jobs which generate \$3.1 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$663 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

LWCF's Role in "This City Is Going On A Diet"

When Oklahoma City appeared on a list of the nation's most obese cities, Mayor Mick Cornett created "This City is Going on A Diet," a public awareness campaign challenging the citizens of Oklahoma City to lose one million pounds. More than 48,000 residents participated in the challenge and lost a cumulative one million pounds. More importantly, the campaign started a citywide conversation on health and wellness and how the built environment— better urban design including streetscapes, trails and sidewalks, wellness centers and public parks— could nudge residents toward a healthier and more active lifestyle. Oklahoma City has received more than \$4 million in LWCF grants. These funds have helped create Stars and Stripes Park on the shores of Lake Hefner, Schilling Park and Oklahoma City Youth Park, a former gravel mine that now offers hiking, biking, swimming, playgrounds, soccer, softball and baseball.



Stars and Stripes Park
Credit: City Parks Alliance

"Urban parks nudge residents toward healthier and more active lifestyles. They also create a healthier environment by improving air and water quality. There are few investments a city can make with a better return than an urban park. LWCF is a critical tool for helping us make these investments. I now ask Congress to permanently reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund." – Mayor Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City

Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Located on almost 10,000 acres in south central Oklahoma, the Chickasaw NRA hosts roughly 1.3 million visitors per year. Chickasaw protects the area's natural resources while providing visitors with exceptional recreational and cultural opportunities. The area is divided into two parts: the Platt Historic District and the Lake of the Arbuckles. The Platt Historic District housed a Civilian Conservation Corps camp which focused on masonry, forestry, and landscaping work. Today, guests can visit many remodeled houses from this camp. Lake of the Arbuckles provides diverse recreational opportunities, including boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, hiking, and bicycling. LWCF funds were instrumental in providing the balance between conservation and recreation found in Chickasaw NRA.



Junior Rangers, Chickasaw NRA
Credit: NPS

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Oklahoma!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/