



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 \$201 million over the past five decades to protect Indiana's outdoor places, open access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, and to build close to home parks. From wildlife refuges to local parks, LWCF has protected places like Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and State Park, Patoka National Wildlife Refuge, Hoosier National Forest, Potato Creek State Park, Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis, and recreation access at Shawnee Hills.

Indiana's \$15.7 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 143,000 jobs which generate \$4.3 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore & State Park

Only an hour from Chicago, Indiana Dunes State Park consists of 2,182 acres of primitive, beautiful, historic, and unique Hoosier landscape, including more than three miles of beach along Lake Michigan's southern shore. Large sand dunes, which formed over thousands of years, tower nearly 200 feet above Lake Michigan. Visitors can fish and swim in Lake Michigan, hike along nine miles of trails, and picnic. The state park, which has received more than half a million dollars in investment from the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program, is surrounded by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, much of which has also been protected through LWCF funding for National Park Service acquisitions. These two amazing places provide outdoor recreational opportunities for millions of residents in the Midwest, and are another example of the synergy between federal- and state-level LWCF investments to achieve broad conservation goals.



Hiking Mount Baldy Credit: NPS

"Carmel has greatly benefited in part from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It was funding from this program which allowed us to make this parkland more accessible to the public through the addition of trails, bridges and parking. This transformed an Artesian Well into the Flowing Well Park, with more than a mile of trail through a heavily wooded section of our city."

–Mayor Jim Brainard (R-Carmel), a member of the City Parks Alliance's Mayors for Parks Coalition

Community Parks in Indiana

As our cities continue to grow, access to open spaces is critical for urban residents' health and quality of life, as well as for cities' economic vitality. Indiana mayors have prioritized urban park development, utilizing LWCF funding to guarantee locals have green spaces to play. Flowing Well Park in Carmel received \$75,000 in LWCF funds to protect this natural spring which residents use as a water source and recreation space. Indianapolis' Eagle Creek Park, one of the largest city parks in the nation, has used LWCF to provide spaces for outdoor activities such as kayaking, hiking, and swimming, for playgrounds, and for environmental education. Riverside Park, another in Indianapolis that has received LWCF funding, is a hub of Indy Parks activity with a golf course, aquatic center, fitness center, and event spaces availability to host community activities.



Eagle Creek Park Credit: City of Indianapolis

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Indiana!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/