

Kansas

#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 more than \$57 million to protect Kansas' outdoor places, historic sites, sportsmen access, and to build close to home parks. From national wildlife refuges and national grasslands to ballfields and city parks, LWCF has protected places like Cimarron National Grassland, Fort Larned National Historic Site, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, Crawford State Park, and El Dorado State Park.

Kansas' \$7.3 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 71,000 jobs which generate \$1.8 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$481 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site

In 1954, the historic Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision determined that the segregation of schools was unconstitutional. Monroe Elementary School, one of four African American segregated schools in Topeka and where Linda Brown, the daughter of one of the plaintiffs was a student, was closed in 1975 due to declining enrollment. Local and national advocates banded together to save the school and it was subsequently designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991 and established as a National Historic Site in 1992. The National Park Service used LWCF funds to purchase the school and now administers it as an interpretive center illustrating the integral role that the Brown v. Board of Education decision played in the civil rights movement.



Monroe Elementary, the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site Credit: NPS

“In addition to helping protect some of Kansas’ most unique outdoor and recreation areas, LWCF funds were leveraged to save one of our nation’s most significant Civil Rights sites. The preservation and restoration of Monroe School allows all Americans the opportunity to understand the struggle for equality at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site and to use the injustice and inequality that characterized our past as a launching pad to seek change and achieve betterment for all people today.”

-Vance Kelley, Principal and Historic Preservation Architect with TreanorHL in Topeka, Kansas, and Advisor for the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

Over 95 percent of the historic tallgrass prairie in the U.S. has been lost, but nearly 4 million acres of Flint Hills tallgrass prairie remain. This is the only remaining expanse of tallgrass habitat large enough to support all of its ecological functions. LWCF is essential in the effort to protect this irreplaceable natural treasure. To date, \$2.8 million of LWCF funding has helped to purchase Flint Hills conservation easements, and these funds have generated many millions more conservation dollars from other sources. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has worked with landowners and other partners in Kansas to protect the area, safeguarding the world's last remaining landscape expression of tallgrass prairie.



Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, TNC Volunteer Amy Lyons Langvardt

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Kansas!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/