

# Virginia

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 \$344 million to protect Virginia's open spaces, historic sites and battlefields, and increase recreation access. From national wildlife refuges and national forests to soccer fields and community parks, LWCF has protected places like, Captain John Smith National Historic Trail, Great Dismal Swamp National Recreation Area, Jefferson and George Washington National Forests, Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge, Belle Island State Park, and working forests in Nottoway River Pinelands and New River Corridor.

Virginia's \$21.9 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 197,000 jobs which generate \$6.5 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.2 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park preserves four Civil War battlefields situated between Washington, DC and Richmond, VA. The park has received nearly \$36 million from LWCF, protecting and enhancing interpretation at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House battlefields. In the late 1990s, the National Park Service (NPS) owned less than 1,700 acres at Chancellorsville, a battleground where General Robert E. Lee achieved one of his greatest victories but also lost one of his two corps commanders, General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. Due to intense development pressures, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed Chancellorsville Battlefield among America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 1998. In the twenty years since, the NPS, national partners like the Civil War Trust, and local partners like the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust have used LWCF to purchase and protect hundreds of additional acres in and around Chancellorsville, including the location of Jackson's famous flank attack.



*Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, NPS*

**"No single historic site in our nation captures the evolution of American Civil War armies during the war as well as the places and spaces encompassed in Virginia's Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Between 1862 and 1864, American armies suffered more than 100,000 casualties on the four primary battlegrounds of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House and thousands of soldiers lay forever buried within the park boundary today. Sustaining these precious sites is not only important; it is critical to preserving our collective, American story. LWCF makes the preservation of these places and stories possible."**

**-Dr. Barton A. Myers, Associate Professor of Civil War History, Washington and Lee University**

## Collaborative Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Region

At 64,000 square miles, Chesapeake Bay is North America's largest estuary, rich in both natural and cultural resources. The Bay is a recreation destination for the region, drawing sportsmen, boaters, swimmers, and hikers to its waters and surrounding lands. It also faces enormous challenges, supporting a human population of over 14 million, and absorbing nutrient- and sediment-laden runoff from the 150 rivers and streams that flow into the Bay. In response, governments at all levels are joined with non-profit organizations to permanently conserve open space and fish and wildlife habitat, to improve and preserve water quality, and to protect iconic historic and cultural sites that tell the story of this land and its people. LWCF is the lifeline through which federal land management agencies fulfill their share of the commitment to sustain the Bay that sustains us.



*Fones Cliff, Chesapeake Conservancy*

**#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Virginia!**

[www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/)