



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 \$145 million to protect Mississippi's outdoor places, increase sportsmen's access, and to build close to home parks. From national wildlife refuges and historic places to ballfields and city parks, LWCF has protected Delta National Forest, Gulf Island National Seashore, Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Biloxi's Popps Ferry Causeway Park, and Calling Panther Lake in Copiah County.

Mississippi's \$8 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 79,000 jobs which generate \$2.1 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$620 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Gulf Islands National Seashore

Spanning 160 miles and boasting snowy-white beaches, sparkling blue waters, fertile coastal marshes, and maritime forests, Gulf Islands National Seashore hosts 3.5 million visitors who come to experience its beauty every year. Recreational activities range from exploring 19th Century forts to hiking in the designated wilderness areas of Horn and Petit Bois Islands. The Gulf Islands National Seashore was originally protected in 1971. Since then, over \$26 million of LWCF investment has protected these fragile ecosystems so visitors and locals alike can continue to enjoy them for generations.



Gulf Island National Seashore, NPS

Vicksburg National Military Park

In 1863, after determining that acquiring Vicksburg was necessary to defeating the Confederacy, the Union Army made its way to this city, which is strategically located on the Mississippi River. After a 47-day siege on one of the most fortified cities in the South, the Union Army took Vicksburg, splitting the Eastern and Western Southern states and cutting off Confederate supplies. Vicksburg National Military Park has a deep tradition of preservation – after the siege ended, veterans on both sides were planning how to remember the sacrifices of the battle. There are over 1,300 monuments, tablets, and markers around Vicksburg NMP. Over \$350,000 of funds from LWCF's American Battlefield Protection Program and \$1.6 million of LWCF federal dollars have been used to protect those hallowed grounds so we may continue to remember this important part of American history.



Vicksburg National Military Park, NPS

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Mississippi!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/