

# Ohio

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 \$330 million to protect Ohio's outdoor places, historic sites, increase sportsmen's access, and to build close to home parks. From national parks and forests to ball fields and community parks, LWCF has protected Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Dayton Aviation National Historical Park, Wayne National Forest, Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest, and Little Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River.

Ohio's \$24.3 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 215,000 jobs which generate \$7 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.5 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

## Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

The Hopewell Culture National Historical Park protects world-class cultural resources and ancient earthworks near Chillicothe, Ohio. Thanks in large part to LWCF, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park now includes a total of six earthwork complexes from Native American civilizations that flourished in the Midwest roughly 2,000 years ago. Over the years, LWCF has invested nearly \$3 million to protect more than 900 acres—roughly 75 percent of the Park. Once threatened by agricultural cultivation, residential development, and even a commercial gravel quarry, sites like the Hopewell Mound Group, High Bank Works, Seip Earthworks, and Hopeton Earthworks are now stewarded by the National Park Service and part of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks nomination for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



*Mound City Group in Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Credit: NPS*

**“In its first year of existence, The Archaeological Conservancy found itself in a position to purchase the Hopewell site, unquestionably one of the most significant prehistoric sites in the United States. The situation was critical: the owner was already parceling the property for residential building lots and the purchase price was challenging. Fortunately, the availability of LWCF allowed the National Park Service to promise to purchase the site and ensure its preservation. Since, The Archaeological Conservancy has become a significant force in cultural preservation, having acquired over 500 archaeological sites nationwide, including two additional sites that are now part of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park.” – Paul S. Gardner, Midwest Regional Director, The Archaeological Conservancy**

## Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Located between Cleveland and Akron, the 20,000-seat Richfield Coliseum was the home of the Cleveland Cavaliers professional basketball team for twenty years and hosted more than 200 events annually. When the arena closed in 1994, commercial developers expressed interest in building a megamall on the Coliseum's 327-acre site. At the request of local citizen groups and community leaders, The Trust for Public Land purchased the property, demolished the vacant arena, and transferred ownership of the land to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park using \$10 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. By returning the land back to its natural state, the project eased the imminent threat of sprawl that would have impacted the small Cuyahoga Valley National Park communities and the surrounding area.



*Towpath Trail Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Credit: NPS*

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

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