

Pennsylvania

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 \$309 million to protect Pennsylvania's open spaces, historic sites and battlefields, and increase recreation access. From national wildlife refuges and national forests to ballfields and community parks, LWCF has protected places like Independence National Historical Park, Flight 93 National Memorial, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Gettysburg National Military Park, Michaux State Forest, Ricketts Glen State Park, Delaware State Forest, and Mt. Pisgah State Park.

Pennsylvania's \$29.1 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 251,000 jobs which generate \$8.6 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.9 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

History Preserved in Pennsylvania

LWCF funding has been used across Pennsylvania to protect important historic sites from Fort Necessity National Battlefield in the western part of the state to Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. Valley Forge National Historical Park has received over \$24 million in LWCF funding, protecting the site where the Continental Army spent the harrowing winter of 1777-1778. Gettysburg National Military Park, identified by many as the turning point of the Civil War, has been protected with \$19 million in LWCF investment. Recently, LWCF funding was used for the Flight 93 National Memorial, a tragic piece of the September 11th story now preserved for future generations. LWCF has been critical to protecting these pieces of our past, and will remain critical for future needs since America's history is far from over.



Flight 93 National Memorial, Credit: NPS

“LWCF is the most important federal conservation program for protecting open spaces in Pennsylvania, including outstanding landscapes like the Highlands, the Appalachian Trail, and the Delaware River watershed. Allowing the program to expire would put an immediate hold on conservation efforts across these landscapes.”

-Mark Zakutansky, Director of Conservation Policy Engagement, Appalachian Mountain Club

Upper Delaware River Valley

With 2018 marking the 50-year anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, we remember the importance of this law in protecting the Delaware River and surrounding region. As the last major undammed river in the eastern U.S., the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River provides a natural beauty that brings anglers, wildlife enthusiasts, and hikers to explore its depths. The river, which straddles New York and Pennsylvania, has received \$2 million in LWCF, which has been complemented by other LWCF projects in the area. The Northeast Connection Forest Legacy Program received over \$5 million in funding under LWCF to acquire conservation easements to protect well managed forests high water quality for future generations. The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area has received a total of \$36 million in LWCF funding, used in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



Northeast Connection Forest Legacy Project, Credit: Delaware Highlands Conservancy

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Pennsylvania!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/