

South Carolina

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 \$294 million to protect South Carolina'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 Congaree National Park, Fort Sumter National Monument, Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, Myrtle Beach State Park, and Jones Gap State Park.

South Carolina's \$16.3 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 151,000 jobs which generate \$4.6 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area

The Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area includes 13,000 acres of mountain woodlands and multiple state parks that LWCF has made possible, including Caesar's Head and Jones Gap State Park and protected areas, such as the Wildcat Wayside hiking trail between both parks. Caesar's Head and Jones Gap offer 60+ miles of hiking trails and access to multiple scenic waterfalls as well as camping and trout fishing in the Middle Saluda River, South Carolina's first designated scenic river. LWCF investments through the NPS State and Local Assistance Program helped to protect these places, including over \$1 million for trail development.



Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area, Jones Gap State Park, Credit: SC State Parks

"In 2004, with the help of LWCF, Greenville transformed its downtown with the creation of Falls Park and the construction of the Liberty Bridge. The pedestrian Liberty Bridge quickly became the iconic image of our city. We spent \$13 million on the park and within two years had over \$100 million in private investment including new residential, hotels, retail, and restaurants in downtown Greenville."

– Mayor Knox White of Greenville SC, Member of City Parks Alliance's Mayors for Parks

Congaree National Park

Congaree, the only National Park in South Carolina, is recognized as an International Biosphere Reserve, National Natural Landmark, Wilderness Area, and Globally Important Bird Area, and has received over \$94 million in LWCF investment. It offers public recreation opportunities with over 20 miles of hiking trails, backcountry camping, canoeing, birding, kayaking, picnicking, and fishing. Continued acquisition is important to buffer the park from encroaching timbering and other incompatible uses, and to provide new and diverse recreational and historical preservation opportunities to visitors while protecting significant natural resources.



Prothonotary Warbler, Congaree National Park, Credit: NPS

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in South Carolina!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/