

Missouri

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 \$140 million to protect Missouri's open spaces, historic sites, and increase recreation access. From national wildlife refuges and national forests to ballfields and community parks, LWCF has protected places like Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Harry Truman National Historic Site, Mark Twain National Forest, Ozark National Scenic River, Wilsons Creek National Battlefield, Tower Grove Park in St. Louis, and Flat Branch Park in Columbia.

Missouri's \$14.9 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 133,000 jobs which generate \$4.6 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$889 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Mark Twain National Forest

The sizable Mark Twain National Forest stretches across 29 counties and encompasses 1.5 million acres of beautiful wilderness areas, working forests, caves, and 350 miles of streams. As Missouri's only National Forest, the area features over 750 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and motorized use. LWCF has been essential to expanding recreational access throughout the Forest, most recently in the protection of nearly three miles of frontage along the Current River and 229 acres near Shell Knob that will provide an ideal site for a new, safer trailhead and added parking for hikers, horseback riders, hunters, photographers, and other outdoor enthusiasts visiting the Piney Creek Wilderness.



Mark Twain National Forest, Credit: TCF/Justin Baillie

“With tourism a major source of revenue and jobs for the communities bordering Mark Twain National Forest, full and permanent funding for LWCF is essential to ensure and improve public access to a wide array of recreational activities available here and across Missouri.”

– Clint Miller, Midwest Project Director, The Conservation Fund

LaBarque Creek Forest Legacy Project

Located at the edge of suburban St. Louis, the land around LaBarque Creek was experiencing rapid development and conversion of forest land to nonforest. Using \$2 million in Forest Legacy Program funding, matched by \$2.76 million in funding from other non-federal sources, 583 acres of forest was protected. There are three public drinking water supply intakes on the Meramec River downstream from LaBarque Creek, which serve over 200,000 people. Excellent water quality in LaBarque Creek helps guarantee clean drinking water for St. Louis. This project also helped to ensure sound, sustainable timber management by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The tracts had previously been privately owned and did not allow for public access. Upon purchase they became part of LaBarque Creek State Forest, which is open to the public and provides access to the 2.8 million residents of the St. Louis metro area, helping to meet and spread out the high demand for recreation activities on public land.



Wood Thrush, LaBarque Creek Credit: MDC

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in Missouri!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/