

ILLINOIS

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Illinois

Federal Program

Chautauqua NWR
Crab Orchard NWR
Cypress Creek NWR
Emiquon NWR
Jefferson Expansion NMem
Kaskaskia NWR
Lewis and Clark NHT
Lincoln Home NHS
*Mark Twain NWR
Meredosia NWR
Midewin NTGP
Shawnee NF
*Upper Mississippi River NWR

Federal Total \$ 54,200,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 2,500,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$ 156,600,000

Total \$ 213,300,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in Illinois

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Illinois' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Illinois has received approximately \$213 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Shawnee National Forest and Cypress Creek and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuges.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests. The FLP cost-share funding supports timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. For example, the FLP contributed to places such as the Byron Rock River project in Ogle County and the Oblate/La Vista project in Madison and Jersey Counties. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$2.5 million in federal funds to invest in Illinois' forests, while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests.

LWCF state assistance grants have further supported hundreds of projects across Illinois' state and local parks including Indian Boundary Park in the West Ridge neighborhood of Chicago and Washington Park on the South Side of Chicago.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Illinois economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$25.8 billion in consumer spending in Illinois, 200,000 jobs which generate \$7.8 billion in wages and salaries, and produces nearly \$1.7 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 3.6 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Illinois, contributing \$2.4 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Tour at Lincoln Home NHS Credit: NPS
Top: Upper Mississippi NWR Credit: USFWS

SUPPORT PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

LWCF in Illinois

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

The Cypress Creek NWR provides resting, nesting, and feeding habitats for a variety of birds and other wildlife. The Cache River and Cypress Creek Wetlands includes 91 percent of Illinois' high-quality swamplands and some of the oldest trees east of the Mississippi River. LWCF funds aid in the efforts to preserve, restore and manage the wetlands and bottomland forest of the Refuge. Visitors to the Cypress Creek NWR can utilize the many recreational opportunities available, such as hiking, fishing, hunting, canoeing, wildlife watching, and environmental education.

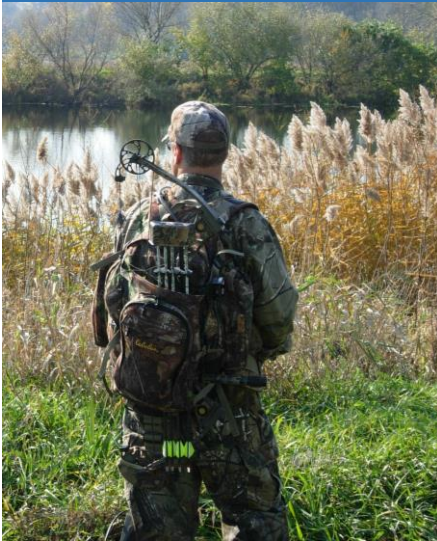
The Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget:

The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget proposal would gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reducing the program's budget by over 100% from enacted levels. Under this proposal, no projects would be funded for federal land conservation at America's National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and other public lands. State grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat, and other community conservation priorities would also be completely wiped out. Without robust LWCF funding in FY 2019, Illinois's conservation and outdoor recreation needs could be put on hold or lost forever.

FY18 Enacted vs. FY19 Budget Request Comparison

Agency/Program	FY18 Enacted Funding	FY19 President's Budget
National Park Service	\$46,935,000	- \$1,212,000*
Bureau of Land Management	\$24,916,000	- \$6,608,000*
U.S. Forest Service	\$64,337,000	- \$17,000,000*
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$53,839,000	\$6,953,000
Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation	\$19,638,000	\$0
Forest Legacy Program	\$67,025,000	- \$4,000,000*
Highlands Conservation Act	\$10,000,000	\$0
American Battlefield Protection	\$10,000,000	\$0
State & Local Assistance	\$124,006,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$425,000,000	- \$12,867,000*

*proposed rescission of already appropriated LWCF funds



Hunting at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Credit: USFS

LWCF is a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, the promise of LWCF has been broken. The program is authorized to receive up to \$900 million each year—but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. Now is the time to fix this and ensure that funds retained in the LWCF account are used for their intended conservation and recreation purposes.

LWCF supports the acquisition of land and conservation easements to protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites, grants funds to the states for local and state park needs, protects critical wildlife habitat, watersheds and recreational access, and conserves working farms, ranches and forestlands that enhance local economies.



www.lwcfcoalition.org

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Note - All approximate totals derived from appropriations bills
- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004