

NEW YORK

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in New York

Federal Program

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Eleanor Roosevelt NHS
Finger Lakes NF
Fire Island NRA
*Gateway NRA
*Highlands Conservation Act
Home of FDR NHS
Martin Van Buren NHS
Montezuma NWR
Saratoga NHP
*Sterling Forest
Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural
Upper Delaware SRR
Wertheim NWR
Women's Rights NHP

Federal Total \$ 83,300,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 19,400,000

American Battlefield Protection Program

\$ 1,000,000

State & Local Program

Total State Grants \$ 232,400,000

Total \$ 336,100,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in New York

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New York's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New York has received approximately \$336 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Gateway National Recreation Area, Sterling Forest, and Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.

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 Adirondack Lakes in Hamilton County and Ticeteneyck Mountain in Ulster County. 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 \$19 million in federal funds to invest in New York's 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 New York's state and local parks from the Coney Island Boardwalk in Brooklyn to the Confluence Park and Chenango River Promenade in Binghamton.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the New York economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$41.8 billion annually in consumer spending to New York's economy, supports 313,000 jobs which generate \$14 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$3.6 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 4.6 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in New York contributing over \$4.5 billion to the state economy.



School Group at Women's Rights NHP Credit: NPS
Top: Sterling NF Credit: Open Space Institute

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

LWCF in New York

Sterling Forest

With funding from LWCF matched by significant funding from private sources as well as the states of New York and New Jersey, the 17,500 acre Sterling Forest tract was permanently protected – ensuring protection of the drinking water for over 2.5 million New Jersey residents and protecting a huge block of forested land less than an hour from New York City. Development of this critical tract would have created significantly higher water treatment costs for northern New Jersey communities; LWCF funding paired with non-federal contributions helped avoid those increased costs.

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, New York'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

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



Recreation at Fire Island NRA
Credit: NPS