

VIRGINIA

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Virginia

Federal Program

- *Appalachian Trail
- Appomattox Court House NHP
- Back Bay NWR
- *Blue Ridge Parkway
- Capt. John Smith NHT
- Chincoteague NWR
- Colonial NHP
- Eastern Shore NWR
- Featherstone NWR
- Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NMP
- George Washington Birthplace
- George Washington Parkway
- Great Dismal Swamp NWR
- Harrison Lake NFH
- James River NWR
- Jefferson/GW NF
- Manassas NBP
- Mason Neck NWR
- Meadowood SRMA
- Mount Rogers NRA
- *Palmyra Atoll
- Petersburg NB
- Prince William Forest Park
- Rappahannock River NWR
- Richmond NBP
- Shenandoah Battlefields
- Wolf Trap NPPA

Federal Total \$ 210,900,000

Forest Legacy Program \$ 17,400,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$ 3,900,000

American Battlefield Protection Program \$ 40,700,000

State & Local Program
Total State Grants \$ 87,800,000

Total \$ 360,800,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in Virginia

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Virginia's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Virginia has received approximately \$360.8 million in LWCF funding over the past four decades, protecting places such as the Rappahannock River Valley and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuges, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Historic District, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail as well as sites funded under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program.

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 New River Corridor in Grayson County and Nottoway River Pinelands in Sussex 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 \$17 million in federal funds to invest in Virginia'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 Virginia's state and local parks including Lake Lawson in Virginia Beach, Belle Isle State Park Environmental Center in Lancaster County and the Field of Dreams Sports Complex in Craig County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Virginia economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$21.9 billion in consumer spending in Virginia, 197,000 jobs which generate \$6.5 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$1.2 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 3.3 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife watching in Virginia, contributing \$2.4 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Tour at Manassas NBP Credit: NPS
Top: Back Bay NWR Credit: USFWS

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



Recreation at George Washington and Jefferson NF
Credit: USFS

LWCF in Virginia

Collaborative Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Region

Chesapeake Bay is North America's largest estuary, rich in both natural and cultural resources. The Bay is a recreation destination for the region, drawing sportsmen, boaters, swimmers, and hikers to its waters and surrounding lands. It also faces enormous challenges, supporting a human population of over 14 million, and absorbing nutrient- and sediment-laden runoff from the 150 rivers and streams that flow into the Bay. In response, governments at all levels are joined with non-profit organizations to permanently conserve open space and fish and wildlife habitat, to improve and preserve water quality, and to protect iconic historic and cultural sites that tell the story of this land and its people. LWCF is the lifeline through which federal land management agencies fulfill their share of the commitment to sustain the Bay that sustains us.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Virginia

Agency	State	Project	Amount	Delegation
NPS	VA	Petersburg National Battlefield	\$2,417,811	Warner, Kaine/ McEachin
NPS	MD/VA	George Washington Memorial Parkway	\$1,054,000	Warner, Kaine/Beyer
FS	VA/WV	George Washington and Jefferson National Forest	\$920,000	Kaine, Warner/Griffith, Cline
FLP	VA	Roanoke River Working Forest	\$3,000,000	Warner, Kaine/Riggelman

The Fiscal Year 2020 President's Budget:

The President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget proposal would gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reducing the program's budget by over 105% 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 2020, Virginia's conservation and outdoor recreation needs could be put on hold or lost forever.

FY19 Enacted vs. FY20 Budget Request Comparison

Agency/Program	FY19 Enacted Funding	FY20 President's Budget
National Park Service	\$34,438,000	-\$172,000*
Bureau of Land Management	\$28,316,000	- \$10,000,000*
U.S. Forest Service	\$72,564,000	\$0
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$45,189,000	\$4,540,000
Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation	\$30,800,000	-\$31,008,000*
Forest Legacy Program	\$63,990,000	\$0
Highlands Conservation Act	\$20,000,000	\$0
American Battlefield Protection	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000
State & Local Assistance	\$124,006,000	\$0
Appraisal and Valuation Services Office	\$9,000,000	\$8,190,000
TOTAL	\$435,000,000	- \$23,450,000*

*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

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