

MICHIGAN

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Michigan

Federal Program

Au Sable Nat River
Detroit River IWR
*Great Lakes Northwoods
Harbor Island NWR
Hiawatha NF
Huron NF
Huron-Manistee NFs
Huron/Ottawa NFs
Keweenaw NHP
Kirtlands Warbler WMA
Manistee NF
Manistee WSR
Michigan NFs
North Country NST
Ottawa NF
Pere Marquette WSR
Pictured Rocks NL
Shiawassee NWR
Sleeping Bear Dunes NL
Walkinshaw Wetlands

Federal Total \$ 185,700,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 15,900,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)

\$ 2,700,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$137,000,000

Total \$342,400,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in Michigan

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Michigan's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Michigan has received approximately \$342.4 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Huron, Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests, and the North Country National Scenic Trail.

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 a working forest conservation easement over the 247,803-acre Northern Great Lakes Forest in the Upper Peninsula. 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 \$16 million in federal funds to invest in Michigan'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 Michigan's state and local parks including Brighton State Recreation Area in Livingston County, Presque Isle Park in Marquette County, Proud Lake Recreation Area in Oakland County, Gallup Park in Washtenaw County and Lake Lansing Park in Ingham County.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Michigan economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$26.6 billion in consumer spending in Michigan, 232,000 jobs which generate \$7.5 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$2.1 billion annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 4.9 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Michigan, contributing over \$5.1 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



Recreation at Hiawatha NF Credit: USFS
Top: Huron-Manistee NFs Credit: USFS

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



School group at Sleeping Bear Dunes NL
Credit: NPS

LWCF in Michigan

Ottawa National Forest

The Ottawa National Forest is known in particular for its hardwood forests, bountiful streams, rivers, lakes, spectacular fall foliage, and heavy winter snowfall. The forest offers a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and provides habitat for a range of wildlife. The Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Area features the geologically unique Sturgeon River Gorge, where the river has carved falls, rapids, ponds, oxbows, and terraces. Its rugged terrain, mature forests, and remote location offer outstanding recreational opportunities including hiking, primitive camping, canoeing, whitewater kayaking, hunting, and fishing. It also hosts a variety of wildlife habitat, including a Lynx Analysis Unit, used to monitor potential habitat for the threatened Canada lynx. Federal acquisition of this land ensured the integrity of the wilderness experience and the protection of a truly unique natural resource area.

Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Priority Project List for Michigan

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FS	West Branch of the Ontonagon; Ottawa	\$2,000,000	Stabenow, Peters/Bergman

Status of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In 2019, permanent authorization of LWCF was secured as part of S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. Passage of the Dingell Act ensures that LWCF no longer faces the uncertainty of potential expiration, and that the unique structure and inflow of funds to LWCF is protected. The focus is now on permanent full funding for LWCF – ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account actually goes towards conservation and recreation priorities. Over the 55 years of the program, over \$22 billion has been diverted from LWCF to other, unknown purposes. That means that our public lands, waters, and historic sites have been put in peril. As open space continues to shrink, LWCF investments become even more critical to providing the outdoor opportunities for all future generations

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act – S. 1081 and H.R. 3195 – have passed through their respective committees and are ready for floor votes in both chambers.

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

LWCF Appropriations FY2000-FY2020

