

# 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** \$ 214,500,000

**Forest Legacy Program** \$ 17,400,000

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

**American Battlefield Protection Program** \$ 42,600,000

**State & Local Program**  
Total State Grants \$90,100,000

**Total** \$ 368,500,000

\*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 \$368.5 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**

## 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.



Recreation at George Washington and Jefferson NF  
Credit: USFS

### 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

### 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](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)