

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Established by Congress in 2014 and administered through the National Park Service, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) is funded by the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program. This grant program helps urban communities address outdoor recreation deficits by supporting projects in cities and urbanized areas that create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate already existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors.

ORLP is the only federal program focused exclusively on supporting parks and outdoor recreation opportunities in cities. The program provides grants directly to cities and localities, giving easier access to necessary funding and bypassing the state granting process. Grants are matched at a minimum 1:1 ratio, at least doubling the impact of the federal investment in these communities, with a priority given to projects located in economically disadvantaged areas and places lacking in outdoor recreation opportunities. Requested grants for project proposals have range in size from \$300,000 to \$5,000,000. The grant is open to state and local government agencies and federally recognized Tribes. Since 2014, \$106 million in federal funds have supported 96 ORLP projects, while leveraging more than \$137 million in non-federal funds.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a simple idea: to invest a small portion of federal offshore drilling fees towards protecting important land, water and recreation areas for all Americans. LWCF is paid for using a very small percentage of offshore oil and gas drilling receipts. These are not taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program. Enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act in August 2020 ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF's permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

Despite chronic underfunding, LWCF has had positive conservation and recreation impacts throughout the country, supporting public land protection and outdoor recreation opportunities at the federal, state and local levels. These investments also provide significant boosts to tourism, jobs and local economies. As open space continues to shrink, LWCF investments become even more critical to providing the outdoor opportunities for all future generations.



Left: Montbello Open Space Park in Denver, CO, Credit: TPL Archive

Right: Cully Park
Credit: Ben Brink

Top Photo: Urban park in Georgia
Credit: Goingstuckey , Wikimedia Commons

Benefits of ORLP funding:

- Creating and improving local parks in economically disadvantaged areas and places lacking in outdoor recreation.
- City parks are an essential component to attracting and retaining a strong workforce and spurring local investment.
- Conserves natural areas, wildlife habitat and open space in urban parks.
- Promotes active, healthy lifestyles and gets kids and families outdoors.
- Supports recreational access sites and open spaces in denser urban areas.
- Promotes the development of new or enhanced partnerships in urban communities across the nation.



www.lwcfcoalition.org

Distribution of ORLP Funds

Currently, five sets of ORLP funding awards have been distributed to communities hoping to improve close-to-home access to the outdoors. The most recent round of grants, awarded in May 2022, awarded \$61.1 million to twenty-seven park projects in twenty-six communities. These grants support projects that plan, build, and enhance parks and other outdoor recreation facilities in underserved communities. Below is a table of the fifth round of ORLP grants:

ORLP Grants Awarded in 2022

State	Project Title	Federal Amount
Arkansas	Establish New Park in Northeast Jonesboro	\$1,000,000
California	Beyer Park Development	\$5,000,000
California	Bowtie Park Development Project	\$5,000,000
California	Buchanan Street Mall – Phase III	\$3,900,000
California	Sweetwater Park Development	\$5,000,000
Colorado	Violet Park Neighborhood Park Development	\$750,000
Connecticut	Bocuzzi Park	\$1,811,075
Maine	North Deering Park Project	\$400,000
Massachusetts	Congressman Richard E. Neal Indian Orchard Community Park Revitalization	\$1,500,000
Michigan	Camelot Park Improvements	\$479,600
Michigan	Heilmann Park Renovations	\$900,000
Minnesota	North End Community Center Project	\$2,409,625
Minnesota	Soldiers Field Park Improvement	\$5,000,000
Minnesota	Secure Public Parkland and Invest in Recreation: Willard Park	\$1,300,000
New Jersey	North Pulaski Park Renovation	\$3,349,369
New Mexico	Officer Daniel Webster Park Improvements	\$858,893
New York	Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park Play Garden Development	\$2,000,000
Ohio	Beulah Park-Euclid Beach Connector Trail Phase I	\$1,731,463
Ohio	Campana Park Revitalization Project	\$1,647,292
Pennsylvania	Connell Park Revitalization	\$381,594
South Carolina	Armory Park Redevelopment	\$1,106,497
Texas	Montopolis Neighborhood Park Pool Replacement	\$3,125,000
Washington	Be'er Sheva Park Improvements	\$491,446
Washington	Garfield Super Block	\$2,170,902
Washington	Lakeland North Urban Park (Park Name TBD)	\$3,612,027
Wisconsin	Lincoln Playfield Nature-Based Recreational Improvements	\$1,194,250
Wisconsin	Shipyards Phase 2 Park Improvements	\$5,000,000