



America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested over \$331 million over the past five decades to protect Georgia's iconic outdoor and historic places, open access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, and build close-to-home parks. From urban parks and ballfields to Georgia's national forests, wildlife refuges, parks and historic sites, LWCF has protected places like the Chattahoochee National Forest, Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield, Cumberland Island National Seashore, the Altamaha River Corridor, Panola State Park, and Main Street Park in Moultrie, among many areas treasured by Georgians and the state's many visitors.

Georgia's \$27.3 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 238,000 jobs which generate \$8.1 billion in wages and salaries and producing \$1.8 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

In 1978, the Chattahoochee River NRA was established to provide water-based recreation opportunities for the millions of citizens in the greater Atlanta area. This urban river provides 70% of metro Atlanta's drinking water. As the pace of urban development increased pressure on remaining open lands, local communities worked with NPS to design a linear park south of Lake Lanier to the City of Columbus. LWCF has protected thousands of acres along the Chattahoochee, resulting in permanent protection of 50 miles of river frontage to date and creating a park system that serves over 3.5 million people each year.



Kayaking at Chattahoochee River NRA (NPS)

“LWCF has been instrumental in protecting Civil War battlefields at the national, state and local level. In Georgia, hallowed ground at Andersonville National Historic Site and Kennesaw National Battlefield Park has been permanently saved due to investment from the federal side of the program, while Resaca, Rocky Face Ridge, Chickamauga and Lost Mountain have all received LWCF funding through grants from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. Some of these sites were at high risk of development. Without LWCF, they likely would have been lost to history forever.” –James Lighthizer, President, Civil War Trust

Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area

Federal, state, local and private partners recently celebrated the completion of this important habitat protection effort on Georgia's coastal plain. The Forest Legacy Program, funded by LWCF, helped protect nearly 20,000 acres and 12 miles of Altamaha River frontage, providing permanent public access for fishing, wildlife watching, canoeing, boating, and hunting for deer, turkey, and small game species. This mix of bottomland hardwood and pine forests supports a diverse ecosystem of native plant and animal species, critical to the region-wide restoration of the Southeast's iconic Longleaf ecosystem.



*Longleaf Pine in Sansavilla WMA
Photo courtesy of The Conservation Fund*

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Georgia!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/