

# Indiana

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in Indiana

### Federal Units

- Hoosier NF
- Indiana Dunes NP
- Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
- Patoka River NWR

**Federal Total \$115,383,626**

### State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$3,781,200

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$949,233

ORLP \$750,000

Stateside \$94,534,487

**Total \$215,398,546**

## LWCF Success in Indiana

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Indiana's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Indiana has received approximately \$215.4 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Hoosier National Forest and the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge.

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 Shawnee Hills around Indianapolis, the Land Bridge project in Brown and Monroe Counties and Luke's Run in Owen 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 \$3.8 million in federal funds to invest in Indiana'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 Indiana's state and local parks including Indiana Dunes State Park in Porter County, Potato Creek State Park in St. Joseph County and the Trine State Recreation Area in Steuben County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Rev. Charles Williams Park in Indianapolis.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Indiana's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$16 billion in value added to Indiana's economy, 111,982 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 3.4% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.8 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Indiana, contributing over \$2.2 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





## LWCF in Indiana

### Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is approximately 15,000 acres of beach and other lands on the shores of Lake Michigan. Located about an hour outside of Chicago, Indiana Dunes receives around 2 million annual visitors and is one of the most popular lakeshores on Lake Michigan. Recreational activities at the lakeshore include wildlife watching, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, swimming, fishing and boating in the summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. The lakeshore also contains five houses from the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Indiana

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Patoka River NWR	\$1,000,000	Young, Braun/Bucshon



### Status of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In August 2020, permanent, dedicated funding for LWCF was secured through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account is directed to conservation and recreation priorities; however, in FY24 Congress backtracked on that promise when they rescinded \$94 million of unobligated LWCF funding (\$89M from the NPS State & Local Assistance Program & \$5M from BLM). GAOA has not eliminated the backlog of LWCF priorities that are waiting in line as nearly all LWCF programs remain oversubscribed - each year the LWCF supplemental project list includes about \$200 million in urgent needs that are authorized to use this funding. To support these critical projects, unspent LWCF funding should be reallocated to the states by the Secretary of the Interior (per the LWCF Act) or reprogrammed by Congress to LWCF sub-programs with outstanding funding need. If funding is rescinded rather than reallocated or reprogrammed, landowners and communities miss out on LWCF funding, and these critical priorities could be lost forever.

**FY25 Budget Update:** The Biden Administration’s FY25 budget proposal included detailed LWCF priority project lists and balanced program allocations, as well supplemental project lists over and above LWCF’s current \$900 million funding level. [Click here to view a map of past LWCF projects](#)

**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, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program.

The **Great American Outdoors Act** ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF’s permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

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)