

Kansas

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Kansas

Federal Units

- Brown vs. Board of Education NHS
- Cimarron Nat Grassland
- Fort Larned NHS
- Great Plains Nature Center
- Marais Des Cygnes NWR

Federal Total \$4,295,081

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$499,000

American Battlefield Protection Program

Stateside \$57,946,415

Total \$62,780,496

LWCF Success in Kansas

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Kansas' most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Kansas has received approximately \$62.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Flint Hills Conservation Area, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge and Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site.

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 Baldwin Woods project. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easements and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$499,000 in federal funds to invest in Kansas' 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 Kansas' state and local parks including El Dorado State Park Campground in Chautauqua County and Crawford State Park. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), has annual funding opportunities for city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Kansas' economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$3.9 billion in value added to Kansas' economy, 36,663 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.9% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1.3 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Kansas, contributing over \$839 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Kansas

Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

Located in eastern Kansas, the Conservation Area is part of a landscape-scale, strategic habitat conservation effort to protect a unique, highly diverse, and largely unfragmented area of tallgrass prairie. Using conservation easements, important habitat for a diverse array of grassland-dependent species has been protected. The Flint Hills are particularly important for grassland birds, serve as a staging area for numerous raptors, and comprise North America's only north-south tallgrass prairie corridor used extensively by migrants. Landowners who protect their lands from future development with conservation easements gain meaningful income and ensure that the land will remain in agriculture production. While landowners with a conservation easement still control access to their private property, preservation of the Flint Hills ensures that wildlife and clean water will be plentiful for generations to come, which translates into enhanced future recreational opportunities.

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.



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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](#)