



**LWCFCoalition.org**

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## **Bipartisan Legislation Supports LWCF State Assistance Grants for Urban Parks**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The LWCF Coalition today applauded Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA-44) and Michael Turner (R-OH-10) for supporting access to America’s urban public parks through introduction of the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program Act (ORLP) – H.R. 2943. The ORLP Act creates a dedicated funding mechanism for outdoor recreation projects in underserved areas around the country.

“State and local assistance programs have always been a key component of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Today, more people reside in cities than ever before, and they want access to recreation close to home. Creating and fixing urban parks provides an enormous return on investment by bringing health and economic benefits back into the community,” said Kathy DeCoster, Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs for the Trust for Public Land and co-chair of the LWCF Coalition. “We applaud Representatives Barragán and Turner for their leadership in introducing this important legislation for public parks in cities across the country. This is another example of the broad, bipartisan support for parks and public lands that we count on in the United States Congress to counter misguided proposals to eliminate funding for outdoor recreation.”

ORLP acquisition and development grants are used to support projects in cities that reinvigorate urban parks and other outdoor recreation spaces, with priority given to projects located in areas that are economically disadvantaged and lacking outdoor recreation resources.

The Trump Administration budget targets essential investments in conservation and recreational access for elimination, which would have irreversible consequences. The proposed cuts to LWCF would essentially eliminate funding to protect national, state, and local parks and other natural, historic, and recreation areas, and would severely threaten public access for sportsmen and recreationists to public lands.

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### **About the Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is America’s most important conservation program, responsible for protecting parks, wildlife refuges and recreation areas at the federal, state and local level. For 50 years, it has provided critical funding for land and water conservation projects, recreational construction

and activities and the continued historic preservation of our nation's iconic landmarks from coast-to-coast.

LWCF does not use any taxpayer dollars – it is funded using a small portion of revenues from offshore oil and gas royalty payments. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 million jobs.

**About the LWCF Coalition**

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local land owners, small businesses, ranchers, sportsmen, veterans, outdoor recreationists and conservation organizations working to protect America's public lands and safeguard our shared outdoor heritage for future generations.

The Coalition is united in its advocacy for the reauthorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will ensure the continued conservation of our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness, civil war battlefields, as well as state and local parks.

For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org)