



**LWCFCoalition.com**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **LWCF Coalition Lauds Biden-Harris Administration Actions on Equitable Outdoor Access**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition today applauded the Administration’s [announcement](#) of \$192 million in [new grants](#) that will be available under the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, which uses LWCF funding to specifically target more investment in parks, trails, and open space in underserved communities. The Coalition also hailed committee passage of the Outdoors for All Act as part of the environmental justice bill approved by the House Natural Resources Committee in the following statement:

“LWCF grants to municipalities provide an enormous return on investment, bringing vital health and economic benefits into communities,” **said Lesley Kane Szynal, co-chair of the LWCF Coalition.** “We are thrilled to see the Administration provide increased flexibility to make this program even more inclusive, with smaller communities and larger projects now able to apply.” 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 Coalition also applauds Representatives Nanette Barragan (D-CA) and Michael Turner (R-OH) for their leadership, as well as the House Natural Resources Committee for passing the Outdoors for All Act through the committee this week as part of the Environmental Justice for All Act introduced by Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-NM) and Donald McEachin (D-VA),”

“The Outdoors for All Act is important legislation that will help more Americans from more communities enjoy the outdoors because it prioritizes equitable outdoor access in underserved communities by codifying the LWCF-funded ORLP Program. We are grateful for the bipartisan support to create outdoor spaces for those who need them most and for the inclusion of language that lowers the population threshold and allows Native American Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian communities to apply directly for this critical funding,” **said Kane Szynal.**

The Outdoors for All Act ([H.R. 5313](#) & [S. 2887](#)) was introduced by Representatives Barragán (D-CA-44) and Turner (R-OH-10), and Senator Padilla (D-CA) and Senator Collins (R-ME) in both the House and Senate on September 29, 2021.

### ***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 55 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 \$778 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 5.2 million jobs.

### ***About the LWCF Coalition***

The LWCF Coalition is the umbrella group of more than 1,000 state and local landowners, 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. For more information on LWCF and the places in each state that have been protected using LWCF funds, visit [www.lwcfcoalition.com](http://www.lwcfcoalition.com)

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