

# Maryland

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in Maryland

### Federal Units

- Antietam NB
- Appalachian NST
- Assateague Island NS
- Blackwater NWR
- Catoctin Mountain Park
- C&O Canal NHP
- George Washington Parkway
- Hampton NHS
- Monocacy NB
- National Capital Parks
- Patuxent NWR
- Piscataway Park
- Thomas Stone NHS

**Federal Total \$143,909,766**

### State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$3,255,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$3,471,470

American Battlefield Protection Program \$3,647,145

ORLP \$750,000

Stateside \$94,486,978

**Total \$249,520,359**

## LWCF Success in Maryland

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Maryland's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Maryland has received approximately \$249.5 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Assateague Island National Seashore, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Monocacy National Battlefield and the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

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 Broad Creek in Dublin and the Coastal Bay project in Snow Hill. 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 \$3.25 million in federal funds to invest in Maryland'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 Maryland's state and local parks including Conquest Waterfront Preserve in Queen Anne's County and Seneca State Park in Montgomery County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported the Baltimore Recreation and Parks System and Gwynns Falls Leakin Park.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Maryland's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$8.3 billion in value added to Maryland's economy, 80,391 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.7% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Maryland, contributing over \$1.6 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





## LWCF in Maryland

### Piscataway Park - Mt. Vernon Viewshed

The view across the Potomac from Mount Vernon was first targeted for protection as a pilot project to protect parklands from suburban sprawl. Piscataway Park was conceived in 1952 to preserve the river view as it existed during George Washington's day. Since that time, numerous organizations have joined in partnership with the NPS to ensure the protection of the historic viewshed. Federal LWCF funding provided to Piscataway Park has allowed the NPS, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, private conservation groups, willing landowners, and other partners, to protect 232 acres of critical shoreline since 1995. Other area properties have been protected but several remain vulnerable to development or other view-spoiling uses.

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

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Blackwater NWR	\$750,000	Cardin, Van Hollen/Harris
NPS	Historical Preservation Training Center	\$1,100,000	Cardin, Van Hollen/Trone
NPS	Catoctin Mountain Park	\$300,000	Cardin, Van Hollen/Raskin



**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)

## 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](#)