

Missouri

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Missouri

Federal Units

- Big Muddy NFWR
- Clarence Cannon NWR
- Great River NWR
- Harry Truman NHS
- Loess Bluff's NWR
- Mark Twain NF
- Middle Mississippi River NWR
- Mingo NWR
- Neosho NFH
- Ozark Cavefish NWR
- Ozark NSR
- Wilsons Creek NB

Federal Total \$55,354,435

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$2,000,000
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$7,451,953
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$338,993
ORLP	\$873,000
Stateside	\$95,239,013

Total \$161,257,394

LWCF Success in Missouri

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Missouri's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Missouri has received approximately \$161.3 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Mark Twain National Forest, Ozark National Scenic River, Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

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 LaBarque Creek watershed in Jefferson 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 \$2 million in federal funds to invest in Missouri'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 Missouri's state and local parks including Tower Grove Park in St. Louis, Flat Branch Park in Columbia and a trail renovation in Parr Hill Park in Joplin. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Clary-Shy Park Urban Demonstration Farm and the Sparta Court Soccer Fields.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Missouri's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$8.8 billion in value added to Missouri's economy, 89,866 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.2% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 3.5 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Missouri, contributing over \$3.4 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Missouri

LaBarque Creek

Located at the edge of suburban St. Louis, the land around LaBarque Creek was experiencing rapid development and conversion of forest land to non-forest. This project used \$2 million in FLP funding, which was matched by \$2.76 million in funding from other, non-federal sources, to protect 583 acres of forest. There are three public drinking water supply intakes on the Meramec River downstream from LaBarque Creek, which serve over 200,000 people. Excellent water quality in LaBarque Creek helps ensure clean drinking water for metro St. Louis. This project helped to ensure sound, sustainable timber management by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The tracts had previously been privately owned and did not allow for public access. Upon purchase they became part of LaBarque Creek State Forest, which is open to the public. Due to their proximity to the 2.8 million residents of the St. Louis metro area, public lands in the area are in high demand for recreational activities. The addition of these tracts helped meet that demand.

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

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Missouri

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge	\$500,000	Hawley, Schmitt/Bush, Wagner, Luetkemeyer, Alford, Cleaver, Graves
USFWS	Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge*	\$975,000	Hawley, Schmitt/Bush, Wagner, Luetkemeyer, Smith
NPS	Ozark National Scenic Riverways	\$335,000	Hawley, Schmitt/Smith



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](#)