

New Jersey

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$346 million to protect New Jersey's open spaces, historic sites, and increase recreation access. From national wildlife refuges and forests to ballfields and community parks, LWCF has protected places like the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Morristown National Historical Park, Pinelands National Reserve, Jesse Allen Park in Newark, and Salem River Wildlife Management Area.

New Jersey's \$18.9 billion outdoor recreation industry is an economic powerhouse – supporting 143,000 jobs which generate \$5.9 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$1.2 billion annually in state and local tax revenue.

The Highlands Conservation Act in New Jersey

The New Jersey Highlands protect the drinking water supply of nearly two-thirds of New Jersey's population, which is over 6 million people. LWCF targets funding to this critical region via the Highlands Conservation Act. One example: an addition to Rockaway River Wildlife Management Area that connects to 3,000 acres of preserved lands owned by the State of New Jersey, Morris County, and the Township of Jefferson. This unique property flows into both the Musconetcong and Rockaway River Watersheds and has a direct influence over water quality in both Lake Shawnee and Lake Hopatcong as well as being a major aquifer recharge area for the Township's water system.



*"Foggy Marsh, Sparta Mountains", taken at the headwaters of the Rockaway River
Credit: Dwight Hiscano*

"The New Jersey Pine Barrens are more than just an ecological treasure, they are a million-acre oasis in our highly urbanized state for people to get outside and recreate. Paddlers, hikers and campers flock to the Pinelands National Reserve, contributing to a thriving outdoor economy of outfitters, rental companies and guides. As our population continues to grow, we need more access to public lands so that everyone can enjoy these opportunities—and LWCF is critical to that effort." – Rob Ferber, Pinelands Adventures

Jesse Allen Park in Newark

Out of the 100 most populated cities in America, Newark's Park Score ranks 73rd in terms of meeting resident's park needs--often, residents lack access to quality parks and green spaces. The Trust for Public Land and the City of Newark, however, are working to change that. Jesse Allen Park will be Newark's second-largest city-owned park and is considered the primary recreational space for many in the community, especially for the nearly 13,700 residents living within a 10-minute walk of the park. A grant from LWCF will continue to revitalize Jesse Allen Park into a vibrant space for community gatherings, recreation, and athletics residents of the Springfield/Belmont neighborhood.



*Kids playing basketball at Jesse Allen Park
Credit: Trust for Public Land*

#SaveLWCF to save the places we love in New Jersey!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/