

New Jersey

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in New Jersey

Federal Units

- Appalachian NST
- Cape May NWR
- Delaware Water Gap NRA
- Edwin Forsythe NWR
- Great Swamp NWR
- Morristown NHP
- Supawna Meadows NWR
- Thomas Edison NHS
- Wallkill River NWR

Federal Total \$157,387,972

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$12,516,477
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$2,641,300
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$197,500
ORLP	\$1,500,000
Highlands	\$10,050,590
Stateside	\$120,511,691
Total	\$304,805,530

LWCF Success in New Jersey

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of New Jersey's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. New Jersey has received approximately \$304.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Garden State's five national wildlife refuges, the Highlands Region, Morristown National Historic Park, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

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 Raritan River Watershed in Hunterdon and Morris Counties and Upper Delaware River Watershed in Sussex 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 \$12.5 million in federal funds to invest in New Jersey'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 New Jersey's state and local parks including the Old Bridge Waterfront Park, and Salem River Wildlife Management Area. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported North Camden Waterfront Park and Jesse Allen Park in Newark.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of New Jersey's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$12.6 billion in value added to New Jersey's economy, 122,048 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.7% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.4 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in New Jersey, contributing over \$1.7 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in New Jersey

Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Located ten miles north of Atlantic City, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge covers approximately 46,000 acres of pristine wildlife habitat. The refuge includes birds of prey such as peregrine falcons, bald eagles and osprey, and is visited by thousands of birds in the spring and fall on their long migrations. In the summer months, the Forsythe NWR draws tens of thousands of visitors and seasonal residents who are attracted to its ample recreational opportunities. The refuge faces dangers from development that threaten to undermine its ecological integrity. Several regional organizations, the State of New Jersey and local towns are committed to protecting lands critical to the refuge.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for New Jersey

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
NPS	Statue of Liberty NM*	\$5,000,000	Menendez, Booker/Menendez



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

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](#)