

Ohio

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Ohio

Federal Units

- Cuyahoga Valley NP
- Fallen Timbers
- First Ladies NHS
- Hopewell Culture NHP
- James Garfield NHS
- Ottawa NWR
- Perry's Victory IPMem
- Wayne NF

Federal Total \$192,825,460

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$9,128,000
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$2,852,614
ORLP	\$1,225,000
Stateside	\$167,796,613

Total \$373,827,687

LWCF Success in Ohio

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Ohio's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Ohio has received approximately \$373.8 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Wayne National Forest, and the James Garfield National Historic Site.

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 Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest in Clinton, Vinson and Madison counties. The Forest Legacy Program 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 \$9.1 million in federal funds to invest in Ohio'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 Ohio's state and local parks including Chestnut Hills Trailhead in Portage County, City of Toronto War Memorial in Jefferson County and Middle Bass Island in Ottawa County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Manhattan Marsh Park and the Downtown Waterfront Metro Park in Toledo.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Ohio's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$17.2 billion in value added to Ohio's economy, 154,668 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.1% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 5 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Ohio, contributing over \$3.2 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Ohio

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Located between Cleveland and Akron, the 20,000-seat Richfield Coliseum was the home of the Cleveland Cavaliers professional basketball team for twenty years and hosted more than 200 events annually. When the arena closed in 1994, commercial developers expressed interest in building a mega-mall on the Coliseum's 327-acre site. At the request of local citizen groups and community leaders, The Trust for Public Land purchased the property, demolished the vacant arena, and transferred ownership of the land to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park using \$10 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. By returning the land back to its natural state, the project eased the imminent threat of sprawl that would have impacted the small Cuyahoga Valley National Park communities and the surrounding area.

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.

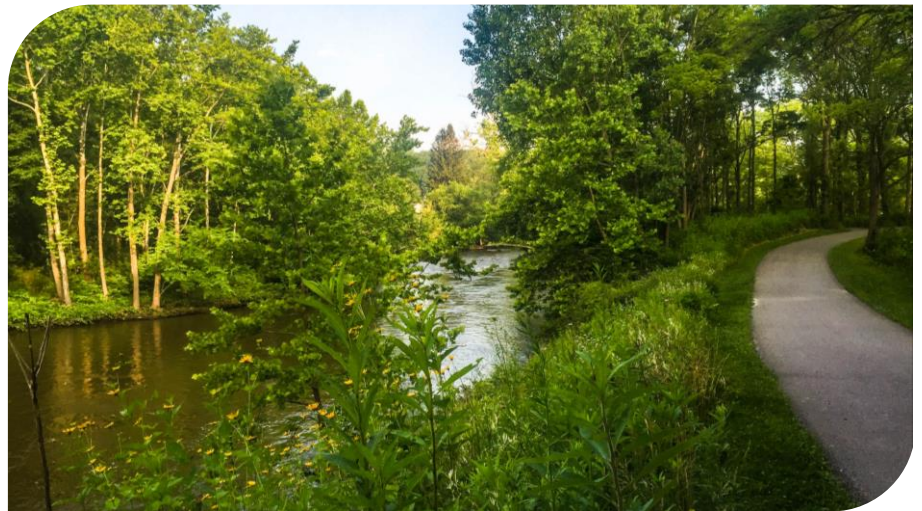
Unfortunately, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program.

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](#)