

# Virginia

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



## LWCF Funded Places in Virginia

### Federal Units

- Appalachian NST
- Appomattox Court House NHP
- Assateague Island NS
- Back Bay NWR
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Booker T. Washington NM
- Capt. John Smith NHT
- Cedar Creek Belle Grove NHP
- Cherokee NF
- Colonial NHP
- Cumberland Gap NHP
- Eastern Shore NWR
- Featherstone NWR
- Fredericksburg Spotsylvania NMP
- George Washington & Jefferson NP
- George Washington Birthplace
- George Washington MP
- Great Dismal Swamp NWR
- Harpers Ferry NHP
- Harrison Lake NFH
- James River NWR
- Mackay Island NWR
- Maggie L. Walker NHS
- Manassas NBP
- Mason Neck NWR
- Petersburg NB
- Plum Tree Island NWR
- Prince William Forest Park
- Rappahannock River NWR
- Richmond NBP
- Shenandoah NP
- Shenandoah Battlefields
- Wolf Trap NPPA

**Federal Total \$265,591,932**

### State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$18,827,750
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$4,354,981
Am. Battlefield Protection Program	\$42,580,631
Stateside	\$92,572,644

**Total \$423,927,938**

## LWCF Success in Virginia

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Virginia's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Virginia has received approximately \$423.9 million in LWCF funding over the past four decades, protecting places such as the Rappahannock River Valley and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuges, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Historic District, and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail as well as sites funded under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program.

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 New River Corridor in Grayson County and Nottoway River Pinelands 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 \$18.8 million in federal funds to invest in Virginia'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 Virginia's state and local parks including Lake Lawson in Virginia Beach, Belle Isle State Park Environmental Center in Lancaster County and the Field of Dreams Sports Complex in Craig County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), has annual funding opportunities for city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas.

## Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Virginia's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$11.3 billion in value added to Virginia's economy, 124,908 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.7% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 3.3 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Virginia, contributing over \$2.4 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



## LWCF in Virginia

### Collaborative Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Region

Chesapeake Bay is North America’s largest estuary, rich in both natural and cultural resources. The Bay is a recreation destination for the region, drawing sportsmen, boaters, swimmers, and hikers to its waters and surrounding lands. It also faces enormous challenges, supporting a human population of over 14 million, and absorbing nutrient- and sediment-laden runoff from the 150 rivers and streams that flow into the Bay. In response, governments at all levels are joined with non-profit organizations to permanently conserve open space and fish and wildlife habitat, to improve and preserve water quality, and to protect iconic historic and cultural sites that tell the story of this land and its people. LWCF is the lifeline through which federal land management agencies fulfill their share of the commitment to sustain the Bay that sustains us.

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

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Rappahannock River Valley NWR	\$1,000,000	Warner, Kaine/Wittman, Spanberger



**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](#)