

CONNECTICUT

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Connecticut

Federal Program

*Highlands Conservation Act

*Silvio Conte NFWR

Stewart McKinney NWR

Weir Farm NHS

Federal Total \$ 45,100,000

Forest Legacy Program

\$ 12,300,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$64,200,000

Total \$121,600,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in Connecticut

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Connecticut's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Connecticut has received approximately \$122 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and Weir Farm 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 Skiff Mountain in Kent and Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk. 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 \$12 million in federal funds to invest in Connecticut'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 Connecticut's state and local parks including Waterfront Park in Bridgeport, Riverside Park in Hartford, Cockaponset State Park and Mill River Park in Stamford.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Connecticut economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$9 billion annually in consumer spending to Connecticut's economy, supports 69,000 jobs which generate \$2.9 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$734 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 1.5 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Connecticut contributing \$873 million to the state economy.



Stewart McKinney NWR Credit: USFWS
Top: Silvio Conte NFWR Credit USFWS

**SUPPORT PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION AND FULL FUNDING FOR
THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**



Visitors at Weir Farm NHS
Credit: NPS

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, the promise of LWCF has been broken. The program is authorized to receive up to \$900 million each year—but most of these funds have been diverted elsewhere. Now is the time to fix this and ensure that funds retained in the LWCF account are used for their intended conservation and recreation purposes.

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

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LWCF Connecticut

Stewart McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect migratory bird habitat along Long Island Sound. Given its importance to water and habitat conservation in Connecticut, units of the refuge now extend along 60 miles of Connecticut's coastline on the Sound. In addition to the increase in habitat protection over the years, the refuge now provides opportunities for scientific research, environmental education, and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation. With the large population along the coast and the pressures from development, funds provided by LWCF are critical to the refuge's conservation efforts.

Fiscal Year 201 Agency Priority Project List for Connecticut

Agency	State	Project	Amount	Delegation
FLP	CT	Ashford Woodlands Project	\$1,450,000	Blumenthal, Murphy/Courtney
FWS	CT/MA	Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge	\$1,000,000	Blumenthal, Murphy/ Larson, Etsy, DeLauro, Courtney

The Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget:

The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget proposal would gut the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reducing the program's budget by over 100% from enacted levels. Under this proposal, no projects would be funded for federal land conservation at America's National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and other public lands. State grant programs to support local recreation facilities, state parks, wildlife habitat, and other community conservation priorities would also be completely wiped out. Without robust LWCF funding in FY 2019, Connecticut's conservation and outdoor recreation needs could be put on hold or lost forever.

FY18 Enacted vs. FY19 Budget Request Comparison

Agency/Program	FY18 Enacted Funding	FY19 President's Budget
National Park Service	\$46,935,000	- \$1,212,000*
Bureau of Land Management	\$24,916,000	- \$6,608,000*
U.S. Forest Service	\$64,337,000	- \$17,000,000*
Fish and Wildlife Service	\$53,839,000	\$6,953,000
Sec. 6 Habitat Conservation	\$19,638,000	\$0
Forest Legacy Program	\$67,025,000	- \$4,000,000*
Highlands Conservation Act	\$10,000,000	\$0
American Battlefield Protection	\$10,000,000	\$0
State & Local Assistance	\$124,006,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$425,000,000	- \$12,867,000*

*proposed rescission of already appropriated LWCF funds

Note - All approximate totals derived from appropriations bills
- Forest Legacy Program & Sec. 6 funded from LWCF starting in 2004