

Delaware

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Delaware

Federal Units

- Bombay Hook NWR
- Prime Hook NWR

Federal Total \$4,321,872

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$12,931,000

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$2,019,000

ORLP \$306,447

Stateside \$41,979,328

Total \$61,557,647

LWCF Success in Delaware

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Delaware's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Delaware has received approximately \$61.6 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge.

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 Green Horizons forest 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 \$12.9 million in federal funds to invest in Delaware'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 Delaware's state and local parks including Brandywine Creek and Fox Point State Parks. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Father Tucker Park Playground and Spray Pad in Wilmington.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Delaware's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$1.3 billion in value added to Delaware's economy, 15,401 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.5% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 460,000 people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Delaware, contributing over \$304 million in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Delaware

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Acres of freshwater marsh, tidal marsh, and open water where visitors enjoy solitude and the sights of rare birds make the Prime Hook NWR on the west shore of Delaware Bay an important piece of America's natural heritage. These marshes serve as critical breeding and wintering habitats for migratory wildfowl, and neighboring timber, brush, and grassland habitats provide a home to such wildlife species as the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. LWCF acquisitions protect valuable habitats and ensure ongoing recreation opportunities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, and bird watching.



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](#)