

# Georgia

## Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



### LWCF Funded Places in Georgia

#### Federal Units

- Andersonville NHS
- Banks Lake NWR
- Bond Swamp NWR
- Chattahoochee NF
- Chattahoochee-Oconee NF
- Chattahoochee River NRA
- Chattooga WSR
- Chickamaunga & Chattanooga NMP
- Cumberland Island NS
- Fort Frederica NM
- Harris Neck NWR
- Jimmy Carter NHS
- Kennesaw Mountain NBP
- Martin Luther King Jr. NHS
- Oconee NF
- Okefenokee NWR
- Savannah NWR
- Sumter NF
- Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery

**Federal Total \$211,569,949**

#### State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$47,896,502
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$19,952,702
American Battlefield Protection Program	\$4,406,464
ORLP	\$1,513,231
Stateside	\$99,823,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$385,162,148</b>

### LWCF Success in Georgia

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Georgia's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Georgia has received approximately \$385.2 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests and the Martin Luther King Jr. 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 Pine Mountain in Harris County and the Altamaha River Corridor near Jesup, Georgia. 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 \$47.9 million in federal funds to invest in Georgia'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 Georgia's state and local parks including Lazer Creek WMA in Talbot County, Main Street Park in Moultrie, Panola State Park in Rockdale County and Chattahoochee Bend State Park in Coweta County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Proctor Creek and Enota Park in Atlanta, and Athens Street Park in Hall County.

### Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Georgia's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$15.7 billion in value added to Georgia's economy, 160,871 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.1% 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 Georgia, contributing over \$3.5 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



## LWCF in Georgia

### Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

In 1978, the Chattahoochee River NRA was established to provide water-oriented recreation opportunities for the millions of citizens in the Atlanta metropolitan area. This urban river provides 70 percent of metro Atlanta’s drinking water. As the pace of urban development placed increasing pressure on remaining undeveloped lands, local communities along the river worked with the National Park Service to design a linear park south of Lake Lanier to the City of Columbus. LWCF has funded the protection of thousands of acres along the Chattahoochee and some 50 miles of river frontage are now protected; and a park system serving over 3.5 million people each year has been assembled.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Agency Priority Project List for Georgia

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Okefenokee NWR*	\$5,000,000	Ossoff, Warnock/Carter, Scott
NPS	Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park*	\$500,000	Ossoff, Warnock/Taylor Greene
USFS	Chattahoochee-Oconee NF	\$6,156,000	Ossoff, Warnock/Scott, Collins, Taylor Greene
FLP	Upatoi Ravines	\$13,500,000	Ossoff, Warnock/Bishop

**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](#)