

Iowa

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Iowa

Federal Units

- Desoto NWR
- Driftless Area NWR
- Effigy Mounds NM
- Emmet Country Waterfowl Production Area
- Herbert Hoover NHS
- Neal Smith NWR
- Northern Tallgrass Prairie
- Port Louisa NWR
- Upper Mississippi River NWR

Federal Total \$14,626,854

State Programs

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Forest Legacy Program | \$965,775 |
| Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) | \$2,579,303 |
| ORLP | \$508,000 |
| Stateside | \$59,720,740 |

Total \$78,400,672

LWCF Success in Iowa

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Iowa's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Iowa has received approximately \$78.4 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Effigy Mounds National Monument, Neal Smith and Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuges and Herbert Hoover 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 Preparation Canyon in Monona County, Saylorville Greenbelt in Boone County and Northeast Upper Bluffs in Allamakee 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 \$1 million in federal funds to invest in Iowa'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 Iowa's state and local parks including City Park Playground in Rockwell City, Clinton Bike Path Recreational Trail and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Monona County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Comiskey Park in Dubuque.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Iowa's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$4.6 billion in value added to Iowa's economy, 43,902 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 1.9% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 1.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Iowa, contributing over \$1 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





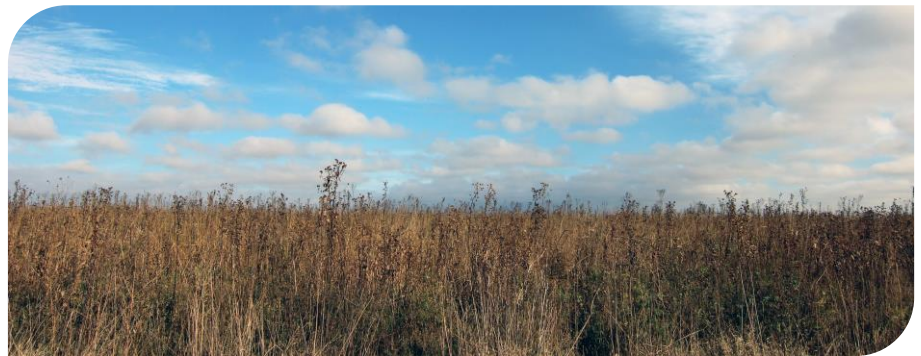
LWCF in Iowa

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

The Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was created in 1990 with the purpose of restoring and reconstructing the native tallgrass prairie and savanna habitats. The refuge includes a wide array of recreational opportunities, including an 800-acre drive through bison enclosure, birding, hiking, biking, and wildlife watching. LWCF funds have been used to restore and protect this native landscape and to provide education to the public of the prairie and savanna habitats.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Iowa

| Agency | Project | Amount | Delegation |
|--------|--|-------------|--|
| USFWS | Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR* | \$750,000 | Grassley, Ernst/Miller-Meeks, Hinson, Nunn, Feenstra |
| FLP | Catfish Creek Headwaters | \$1,975,000 | Grassley, Ernst/Hinson |
| FLP | Catfish Creek Headwaters (Supplemental List) | \$1,360,000 | Grassley, Ernst/Hinson |



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](#)