

Kentucky

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Kentucky

Federal Units

- Clarks River NWR
- Cumberland Gap NHP
- Daniel Boone NF
- George Washington and Jefferson NF
- Mammoth Cave NP
- Mill Springs Battlefield NM
- Ohio River Islands NWR

Federal Total \$39,424,429

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$13,185,636

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$2,902,095

American Battlefield Protection Program \$4,601,082

ORLP \$750,000

Stateside \$64,297,800

Total \$125,161,042

LWCF Success in Kentucky

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Kentucky's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Kentucky has received approximately \$125.2 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, Daniel Boone National Forest, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

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 Marrowbone Creek State Forest in Metcalfe County and Knobs State Forest and Wildlife Management Area in Bullitt 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 \$13.2 million in federal funds to invest in Kentucky'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 Kentucky's state and local parks including Yellow Creek Park in Daviess County, Barren River State Park in Barren County and Clear Creek Park in Shelby County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Bowling Green Riverwalk Park.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Kentucky's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$5.1 billion in value added to Kentucky's economy, 51,975 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.3 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Kentucky, contributing over \$1.9 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.





LWCF in Kentucky

Big Rivers Corridor Phase II

The #1 ranked FLP project in FY 2012, Big Rivers Corridor Phase II project used \$5.1 million in FLP funding leveraged by \$5.1 million in funding from other sources to protect 4,285 acres of nationally recognized hunting land. Public hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing was allowed on this land, where public access had previously been prohibited. Such opportunities are limited in Kentucky, as 94% of the land is privately owned. Public access to this property based on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey (2006) will generate an economic return to Kentucky of approximately \$500,000 dollars and create at least 5 new jobs annually.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Kentucky

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Clarks River NWR	\$1,000,000	McConnell, Paul/Comer

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](#)