# MARYLAND





## LWCF Funded Units in Maryland

#### Federal Program

Antietam NB
Assateague Island NS
Blackwater NWR
Catoctin Mountain Park
C&O Canal NHP
Douglas Point
Greenbelt Park
Monocacy NB
Nanjemoy SRMA
Patuxent NWR
Piscataway Park
Potomac River
Thomas Stone NHS

**Federal Total** 

\$ 132,100,000

**Forest Legacy Program** 

\$ 4,600,000

American Battlefield Protection

**Program** \$ 3,000,000

**Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)** 

\$ 3,500,000

State Program

Total State Grants \$ 79,600,000

**Total** \$ 222,800,000



Tour of C&O Canal Credit: NPS Top: Antietam NB Credit: NPS

#### **LWCF Success in Maryland**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Maryland's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Maryland has received approximately \$223 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Assateaque Island National Seashore, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Monocacy National Battlefield and the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

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 Broad Creek in Dublin and the Coastal Bay project in Snow Hill. 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 \$4.6 million in federal funds to invest in Maryland'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 Maryland's state and local parks including Conquest Waterfront Preserve in Queen Anne's County and Seneca State Park in Montgomery County.

#### **Economic Benefits**

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Maryland economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation generates \$14 billion in consumer spending in Maryland, 109,000 jobs which generate \$4.4 billion in wages and salaries, and produces nearly \$951 million annually in state and local tax revenue. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year over 2.7 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Maryland, contributing over \$1.6 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.

Recreation at Patuxent NWR Credit: USFWS

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

### **LWCF** in Maryland

#### Piscataway Park - Mt. Vernon Viewshed

The view across the Potomac from Mount Vernon was first targeted for protection as a pilot project to protect parklands from suburban sprawl. Piscataway Park was conceived in 1952 to preserve the river view as it existed during George Washington's day. Since that time, numerous organizations have joined in partnership with the NPS to ensure the protection of the historic viewshed. Federal LWCF funding provided to Piscataway Park has allowed the NPS, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, private conservation groups, willing landowners, and other partners, to protect 232 acres of critical shoreline since 1995. Other area properties have been protected but several remain vulnerable to development or other view-spoiling uses.

#### Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Priority Project List for Maryland

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FWS	Blackwater NWR	\$1,000,000	Cardin, Van Hollen/Harris
NPS	Antietam National Battlefield	\$557,000	Cardin, Van Hollen/ Delaney
FLP	Elk Neck Peninsula	\$555,000	Cardin, Van Hollen/Harris

#### 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, Maryland'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