

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

AMERICA DEPENDS ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Established by Congress in 2014 and administered through the National Park Service, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) is funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This grant program helps communities address outdoor recreation deficits by supporting projects in cities and urbanized areas that create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate already existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors.

ORLP is the only federal program focused exclusively on supporting parks and outdoor recreation opportunities in cities and underserved communities. The program provides grants directly to cities and localities, giving easier access to necessary funding and bypassing the state granting process. Grants are matched at a minimum 1:1 ratio, at least doubling the impact of the federal investment in these communities, with a priority given to projects located in economically disadvantaged areas and places lacking in outdoor recreation opportunities. Requested grants for project proposals have range in size from \$300,000 to \$10,000,000. The grant is open to state and local government agencies and federally recognized Tribes. Since 2014, \$186 million in federal funds have supported 115 ORLP projects, while leveraging more than \$200 million in non-federal funds.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

LWCF is a simple idea: to invest a small portion of federal offshore drilling fees towards protecting important land, water and recreation areas for all Americans. LWCF is paid for using a very small percentage of offshore oil and gas drilling receipts. These are not taxpayer dollars. Unfortunately, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program. Enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act in August 2020 ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF's permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

Despite chronic underfunding, LWCF has had positive conservation and recreation impacts throughout the country, supporting public land protection and outdoor recreation opportunities at the federal, state and local levels. These investments also provide significant boosts to tourism, jobs and local economies. As open space continues to shrink, LWCF investments become even more critical to providing the outdoor opportunities for all future generations.



Benefits of ORLP funding:

- Creating and improving local parks in economically disadvantaged areas and places lacking in outdoor recreation.
- City parks are an essential component to attracting and retaining a strong workforce and spurring local investment.
- Conserves natural areas, wildlife habitat and open space in urban parks.
- Promotes active, healthy lifestyles and gets kids and families outdoors.
- Supports recreational access sites and open spaces in denser urban areas.
- Promotes the development of new or enhanced partnerships in urban communities across the nation.



www.lwcfcoalition.org

Distribution of ORLP Funds

Currently, six sets of ORLP funding awards have been distributed to communities hoping to improve close-to-home access to the outdoors. The most recent round of grants, awarded in March 2024, awarded \$58.3 million to fourteen park projects in twelve states. These grants support projects that plan, build, and enhance parks and other outdoor recreation facilities in underserved communities. Below is a table of the 6th round of ORLP grants:

ORLP Grants Awarded in 2024

| State | Project Title | Recipient | LWCF Funding |
|----------------|--|---|--------------|
| California | Reimagining South City Park | City of Redding | \$3,500,000 |
| California | Buchanan Street Mall Renovations | City and County of San Francisco | \$8,124,800 |
| California | Tozer Park Construction Grant | California Department of Parks and Recreation | \$659,640 |
| Connecticut | The Sliver by the River Development Project, Phase 1 | City of Bridgeport | \$1,062,454 |
| Indiana | Kennedy Park Rehabilitation Project | South Bend Venues Parks and Arts | \$7,500,000 |
| Kentucky | Waterfront Park Phase IV | Waterfront Development Corporation | \$10,000,000 |
| Michigan | Patton Park Cohesion and Enhancement | City of Detroit | \$1,300,000 |
| New Jersey | Westside Park | City of Paterson | \$4,900,000 |
| New York | Spring Creek Park Revitalization | New York City | \$6,000,000 |
| North Carolina | Walnut Creek Park -Bailey Gateway Project | City of Raleigh | \$845,258 |
| Pennsylvania | Friendship Park Rehabilitation | City of Bethlehem | \$747,966 |
| South Carolina | Levy Park Renovation | City of Florence | \$8,927,097 |
| Texas | City of Laredo | City of Laredo | \$3,799,966 |
| Virginia | City of Richmond | City of Richmond | \$1,000,000 |