

RHODE ISLAND

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Rhode Island

Federal Program

Block Island NWR
Great Salt Pond NWR
John Chafee NWR
Pettaquamscutt Cove NWR
Rhode Island NWRs
Roger Williams NMem
Trustum Pond NWR

Federal Total \$ 23,000,000

Forest Legacy Program
\$ 8,100,000

State & Local Program

Total State Grants \$ 41,900,000

Total \$ 72,900,000

*multistate project

LWCF Success in Rhode Island

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Rhode Island's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Rhode Island has received approximately \$72.9 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Great Salt Pond National Wildlife Refuge and the Roger Williams National Memorial.

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 Big River Forest in West Greenwich, Yawgoo Pond in South Kingstown and Canonchet Forest in Hopkinton. The Forest Legacy Program 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 \$8 million in federal funds to invest in Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island's state and local parks including Roger Williams Park in Providence and Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Middletown.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of the Rhode Island economy. The Outdoor Industry Association has found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$4 billion annually in consumer spending to Rhode Island's economy, supports 37,000 jobs which generate \$1.2 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$293 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year roughly 600,000 people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Rhode Island, contributing \$381 million to the state economy.



Sachuest Point NWR Credit: Allison Springer
Top: Block Island NWR Credit: USFWS

SUPPORT PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

LWCF in Rhode Island

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge

The Block Island National Wildlife Refuge, supported by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, is home to the federally endangered American burying beetle, hosts sea turtles and seals, contains pristine shrub and dune complexes, and offers excellent opportunities for wildlife watchers and anglers. Each year, the refuge hosts over seventy species of migratory songbirds and is internationally recognized as one of the most important migratory bird habitats on the east coast. With full and dedicated LWCF funding, the natural resources at the refuge could be further protected, and the recreational and economic opportunities it offers will be greatly enhanced.

Fiscal Year 2019 Agency Priority Project List for Rhode Island

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
FLP	Scituate Reservoir Watershed	\$2,905,000	Reed, Whitehouse/ Langevin

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, Rhode Island'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



Roger Williams NMEm
Credit: NPS

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.



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