

Tennessee

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Tennessee

Federal Units

- Big South Fork NRR
- Chattahoochee NF
- Cherokee NF
- Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP
- Chickasaw NWR
- Cumberland Gap NHP
- Fort Donelson NB
- Great Smoky Mountains NP
- Lower Hatchie NWR
- Nantahala NF
- Natchez Trace Parkway
- Obed WSR
- Pisgah NF
- Reelfoot NWR
- Shiloh NMP
- Stones River NB
- Tennessee NWR

Federal Total \$104,847,566

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program \$22,672,613

Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6) \$7,253,051

American Battlefield Protection Program \$5,722,369

ORLP \$485,000

Stateside \$85,956,268

Total \$226,936,867

LWCF Success in Tennessee

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Tennessee's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Tennessee has received approximately \$226.9 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, Cherokee National Forest, Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge and Shiloh National Military 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 Cumberland Mountain in Franklin County and Chickamauga Creek in Marion County. The FLP matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$22.7 million in federal funds to invest in Tennessee'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 Tennessee's state and local parks including Big Hill Pond State Park in McNairy County, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Panther Creek State Park in Hamblen County and Roan Mountain State Park in Carter County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), which funds city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas, supported Douglass Park in Memphis.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Tennessee's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$11.9 billion in value added to Tennessee's economy, 109,657 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 2.4% of the state's economy. Further, the U.S. Census reports that each year 2.8 million people hunt, fish, or enjoy wildlife-watching in Tennessee, contributing over \$2.3 billion in wildlife recreation spending to the state economy.



LWCF in Tennessee

Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park

Created at the request of Civil War veterans in 1890, this park protects important Civil War sites in and around Chattanooga, including Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Moccasin Bend, and the Chickamauga Battlefield. LWCF investments of more than \$10 million - through National Park Service land acquisitions inside the park and using American Battlefield Protection Program grants outside the park boundaries - have ensured the permanent protection of important historic sites that are also part of Chattanooga’s network of open space. Protected lands that have benefited from LWCF funds include the sites of several key battles fought during a pivotal period in late 1863: Billy Goat Hill, where Union General William T. Sherman camped before the Battle of Missionary Ridge; a portion of the Wauhatchie Battlefield; and multiple properties on Lookout Mountain, site of the famed “Battle Above the Clouds.”

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Tennessee

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
NPS	Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park*	\$500,000	Blackburn, Hagerty/Fleischmann



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](#)