

# U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund

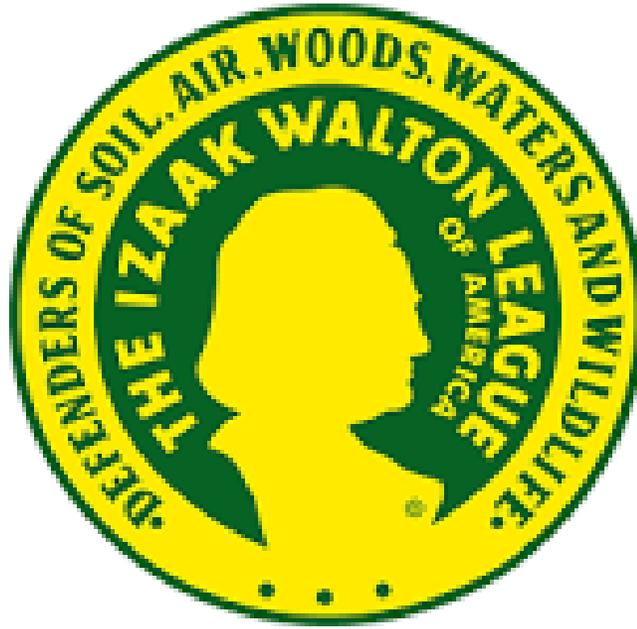
**Presentation to WRAC RECREATION FORUM**

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**IWLA is a national conservation organization dedicated to conserving, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use and enjoyment of America's natural resources.**

**[WWW. IWLA.org](http://WWW.IWLA.org)**

# Land and Water Conservation Fund

## – A Federal Program

The Izaak Walton League played a pivotal role in establishment by federal statute of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 1964.

This groundbreaking legislation was conceived and drafted by the League's legendary Conservation Director Joe Penfold as a result of his work on the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission.

**The primary mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is the acquisition of the land base for outdoor recreation and the preservation of our natural heritage.**

The LWCF is a mechanism through which local and state governments and federal agencies acquire and consolidate land for public use and benefit including recreation and the conservation of natural resources.

**The LWCF is funded through royalties and leases related to offshore publicly owned oil and gas.**

**The program is authorized to distribute up to \$900 million of those revenues to conservation and recreation infrastructure as a way to indirectly offset the impacts of the offshore oil and gas operations.**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States with matching funds. Initially authorized for a 25-year period, it was extended for another 25 years and expired September 30, 2015.

The fund was temporarily extended for 3 years in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, and expired September 30, 2018.

**On March 12, 2019, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was permanently reauthorized.**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected habitat and preserved access to outdoor recreation in all fifty states.

**Senate Bill 1081 and House Bill 3195 dedicates permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually.**

Without spending a dollar of taxpayer money, the LWCF has funded over 40,000 projects guaranteeing Americans a place to get outdoors.

**LWCF has funded** parks and ball fields in cities, rural wildlife refuges, public lands access projects, and **boat ramps in every state** and **acquisition of some 5 million acres** of land for recreation and conservation.

Since its inception, LWCF has only been funded at its fully authorized amount of \$900 million annually one time. The FY 2018 appropriation was \$270 million. The 2019/20 Administration's FY 2020 budget recommended no appropriation, but the House has approved over \$500M .

**Over 40,000 local projects have received over \$3 billion in LWCF funding. And nearly five million acres of public lands have been protected for public use with over \$16.7 billion of LWCF funding – with the strategic acquisition from willing sellers of private inholdings surrounded by or adjacent to federal public lands.**

The Department of Interior's Land and Recreation Grants staff administers **grants to state governments** through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for local projects. Eligible participants include all county governments, municipalities in Florida and other legally constituted local governmental entities with the responsibility for providing outdoor recreational sites and facilities for the general public.

The LWCF is also a federal competitive program that provides grants for acquisition, conservation easements or development of land for public outdoor recreation.

The maximum local grant request in 2017/18 was **\$200,000 from fund with local match of \$200,000.**

**Land and Water Conservation Fund supporters are urging members of Congress to cosponsor and approve the LWCF Permanent Funding Act, H.R.3195 and S.1081.**

These bills require annual appropriation of the full \$900 million authorized for the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** and are companion bills. **H.R.3195** now has 157 cosponsors. The companion Senate Bill **S.1081** is cosponsored by 48 Senators.

A legion of environmental organizations are encouraging all Representatives and Senators to join their colleagues in cosponsoring these major environmental bills.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was permanently reauthorized as part of the bipartisan [John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#), signed into law on March 12, 2019 which requires at least 40% of funds to be used by federal agencies and at least 40% to be allocated to the states.

The House passed a FY 2020 Interior Appropriations Bill in mid-June, appropriating \$524 million in funding for the land managing agencies and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The approved bill provides the highest funding level since 2003.

The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is continuing to work on its version of the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior and Related Agencies funding bill.



A coalition of over a 100 organizations supporting the LWCF program  
For more information, check out [www.lwcfcoalition.org](http://www.lwcfcoalition.org) or contact LWCF Coalition staffer Caleb Abbott at [cabbott@outdoorsamerica.org](mailto:cabbott@outdoorsamerica.org).

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Federal program supports the protection of federal public lands and waters – including [national parks](#), [forests](#), [wildlife refuges](#), and [recreation areas](#) – and voluntary conservation on private land. LWCF investments secure public access, improve recreational opportunities, and preserve ecosystem benefits for local communities.

### **LWCF State Grants program**

Provides matching grants to state and tribal governments for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites. Grants have funded projects in every county in the country, over 40,000 projects since 1965. Number of projects = 41,999. Federal funding provided = \$3.9 billion over 50 years.

# **Questions about Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCFP)**

## **- This is the state grant program administered by DEP**

### **Q. What is the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program?**

A. The LWCF Program is a Florida program that provides grants for acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation use.

### **Q. How is LWCF Administered?**

A. **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) administers the program** on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The program is governed according to Florida Statutes, Administrative Code and the LWCF Grants Manual. **For 2017/18 Florida received almost \$4 million dollars.**

### **Q. Who May Apply for LWCF Funds?**

A. All local governmental entities with the legal responsibility for the provision of outdoor recreational sites and facilities for the use and benefit of the public.

### **Q. How Do I Apply?**

A. Applicants must submit a completed LWCF grant application during an announced submission period. Applicants may submit only one application during the submission period. Applications must involve only one project site except for acquisition or development of sandy beach access.

### **Q. How are LWCF Grants Awarded?**

A. Each application is reviewed to determine eligibility. DEP staff evaluates each eligible application according to the Florida Administrative Code and the LWCF Manual, and assigns a final score. Based on the scores, the bureau prepares and submits a recommended priority list to the Secretary of DEP for approval. State approved projects are then submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service for final review and award.

### **Q. If an applicant is awarded LWCF funds, what are the major requirements?**

A.

Project Agreement: DEP and the grantee will enter into an agreement setting forth conditions consistent with DEP policy, the Florida Administrative Code and the LWCF Manual.

Completion Time: Grantees may be allowed up to three years from the effective date of the agreement to complete development projects, and one year for acquisition projects.

Payment Schedule: Grantees will receive LWCF funds on a reimbursement basis.

Project Plans: Development projects shall have final plans prepared and certified by an engineer or architect registered in the state of Florida.

Project Accessibility: A recipient of federal funding may not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, on the grounds of age, race, color, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, deny an individual any service or benefit that could otherwise be reasonably provided.

Site Dedication: LWCF assisted park land must be dedicated as a public outdoor recreation area in perpetuity.

Grantees must commit to operate and maintain LWCF assisted public recreation facilities in reasonable repair for a minimum of 25 years after completion of construction to prevent undue deterioration.

**Q. What is the Maximum Grant Amount?**

A. The maximum grant amount will be announced prior to the submission period. Last cycle was \$200,000.

**Q. What is the LWCF Matching Ratio?**

A. The matching ratio is one applicant dollar value to one federal dollar for all LWCF grant awards (50% / 50%).

**Q. What Can Be Used For Match for a LWCF Local Project Grant?**

A. Cash; In-kind services; Value of donated real property owned by applicant (must be pre-approved by DEP).

**Q. What may LWCF Funds be used for?**

A.

Development: Outdoor recreation areas and facilities such as boat ramps, beaches, picnic areas, trails, ball fields, and playgrounds along with associated support facilities such as lighting, parking, restrooms and landscaping.

Not for enclosed buildings and structures (except restrooms, restroom/concession buildings and bathhouses).

Acquisition: Land for outdoor recreation purposes.

**Q. Must an applicant own the project site?**

A. For development projects, the applicant must own the project site or lease it from a public agency by the closing date of the application submission period. Land owned or leased by the applicant must be dedicated in perpetuity as a public outdoor recreation area.

## Other Programs which are part of LWCF

### Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

Grants provide funds to states and territories to work with private landowners, conservation organizations, and other partners to protect and conserve the habitat of threatened and endangered species. Number of grants = 246. Funding provided = \$394 million over 50 years.

### Forest Legacy Program - administered by U.S. Forest Service

Provides grants for easements through state partners to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands while maintaining private ownership and working forests. Total acres protected = 2.37 million. Funding provided = \$1.4 billion over 50 years.

# Q. Who Do I Call for More Information?

Department of Environmental Protection

Land and Recreation Grants

Phone 850-245-2501

Fax 850-245-3038

<https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/lwcf-assistance>

[Linda Reeves](#), Manager

**Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)**

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Consultants by County

[Angie Bright](#)

Baker, Bay, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Highlands, Jackson, Lafayette, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Monroe, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, St. Lucie, Sumter, Volusia, Walton

[LaShae Grice](#)

Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Holmes, Liberty, Okaloosa, St. Johns, Union, Washington

[Tamika Bass](#)

Alachua, Citrus, Collier, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Indian River, Jefferson, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Martin, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, Seminole, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla



**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND  
APPLICATION PRIORITY LIST  
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

**PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE** \$ 4,330,428.00

**ACQUISITION CATEGORY** \$ 200,000.00

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT	COUNTY	TIE	SCORE	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED	AMOUNT REMAINING
1	Oakland Park, City of	Park Land Acquisition Project	Broward	0	71	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$0.00
Acquisition Total:							\$ 200,000.00	

**DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY** \$ 4,130,428.00

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT	COUNTY	TIE	SCORE	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED	AMOUNT REMAINING
1	Seminole County	Spring Hammock Preserve	Seminole	0	167	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 3,930,428.00
2	Casselberry, City of	Secret Lake Park Redevelopment Project	Seminole	0	137	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 3,730,428.00
3	North Palm Beach, Village of	Anchorage Park	Palm Beach	0	136	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 3,530,428.00
4	Oldsmar, City of	Cypress Forest Park Renovation	Pinellas	0	135	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 3,330,428.00
5	High Springs, City of	Memorial Park Expansion	Alachua	0	131	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 3,130,428.00
6	Pinecrest, Village of	Pinecrest Gardens Complex Improvements	Miami-Dade	1	125	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 2,930,428.00
7	Coconut Creek, City of	Sabal Pines Park	Broward	2	125	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 2,730,428.00
8	Margate, City of	Southgate Park	Broward	1	124	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 2,530,428.00
9	Pinellas County	Wall Springs Coastal Additions	Pinellas	2	124	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 2,330,428.00
10	Riviera Beach, City of	Dan Calloway Park	Palm Beach	0	118	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 2,130,428.00
11	Indian River County	Hallstrom Farmstead conservation Area	Indian River	0	117	\$ 148,500.00	\$ 148,500.00	\$ 1,981,928.00
12	Santa Rosa County	Fidelis Park Improvements	Santa Rosa	0	114	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,781,928.00
13	Hialeah Gardens, City of	Bernie Wilson Park Improvements	Miami-Dade	0	113	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,581,928.00
14	Homestead, City of	Losner Park	Miami-Dade	0	112	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,381,928.00
15	Sunrise, City of	Sunrise Athletic Complex	Broward	0	110	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,181,928.00
16	Indian Trails Improvement District	Acreage Community Park	Palm Beach	0	108	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$981,928.00
17	Pompano, City of	Kester Park	Broward	0	106	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$781,928.00
18	Palatka, City of	Booker Park	Putnam	1	99	\$ 199,548.00	\$ 199,548.00	\$582,380.00
19	Miami Beach, City of	Flamingo Park Baseball Field Renovations	Miami-Dade	2	99	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$382,380.00
<b>Development Total:</b>							\$ 3,748,048.00	

Total Funds \$ 3,948,048.00

**TOTAL FUNDED: \$ 3,948,048.00**

Remaining Balance will rollover to next year funding: \$ 382,380.00

  
 David Clark, Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation  
 Date 7/11/18



# Discussion



<https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/lwcf-assistance>

<https://www.lwcfcoalition.com/get-involved>

<https://www.iwla.org/>