

National Park Service Northeast Region



Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF)



L&WCF QUICK FACTS:

- ♦ Enacted by Congress in 1965 to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities.
- ♦ Requires 50-50 match from state and local governments.
- ♦ Provides technical assistance with planning, grants and follow-up.
- ♦ Protects the funded area from being converted to non-recreational use.
- ♦ National web site: www.nps.gov/lwcf

National Park Service
Programs in the Northeast
Region

Mary A. Bomar
Acting Regional Director

A FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIP SINCE 1965

The L&WCF program provides matching grants to States and local governments to acquire and develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is creating and maintaining a nationwide network of high quality recreation areas and facilities. L&WCF also stimulates non-federal investments in the protection of recreation resources across the United States.

The National Park Service administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund cooperatively with the States. The governor of each state designates one or more State Liaison Officers to work with the National Park Service to manage the state side of the L&WCF program. These designees and their staffs are the primary channels between the states, NPS, and local governments.

NPS ROLE SPANS PROJECT LIFE AND BEYOND

States work closely with NPS to analyze recreation needs, set priorities for



Photo: Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks

funding and select the projects. States submit project proposals to NPS based on their Open Project Selection System that is part of their Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). NPS conducts a final review and approval for grants and oversees project implementation and post-completion stewardship activity.

Over the past 40 years more than \$936 million in Federal funds have been apportioned to the 13 states of the Northeast Region and District of Columbia to acquire and develop land for parks and open space. The investment on the part of the federal government was matched by at least an equal amount from state and local governments for a total commitment worth over \$2 billion to parks, open space and recreation in the Northeast.

A PROGRAM THAT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Americans in states and communities across the nation continue to take stock of the environment where they live and where their children and grandchildren are being raised. Urban sprawl has become a critical issue. With each passing year, the opportunity to find and preserve land for parks, open space,

and recreation becomes increasingly limited as once available lands are more scarce and expensive.

The L&WCF program serves us into the future. Land acquired and/or developed with Fund assistance must be protected in perpetuity for parks and recreation. Use of parkland for purposes other than recreation is viewed as a conversion. Converted park property must be replaced with land of at least equal appraised value and equivalent recreation usefulness.

L&WCF Funding has touched communities throughout the Northeast Region. Here is a small sample of recent projects.

- **Maryland:** L&WCF funding helped acquire a 510-acre site at Douglas Point, along the Potomac River in Charles County. It will preserve wetlands, forests, open spaces and shoreline. Additionally, it will help protect the largest collection of scuttled ships in the western hemisphere. This project is part of an overall conservation strategy which is using over \$1.7 million in L&WCF assistance to leverage \$16.5 million to acquire 5500 acres along the lower Potomac River.
- **New Jersey:** In 2002, the program awarded funds to acquire more than 3,800 acres to preserve open space, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, and birding, and to preserve Pinelands resources such as Oak Pine forest, and wetlands. Upcoming projects include a boat launch and picnic area on Raritan Bay, the rehabilitation of six parks in Essex County to improve playgrounds and playing fields, and the rehabilitation of seven parks in Hudson County to improve tennis and handball courts, soccer fields, restrooms and lighting.
- **New York:** Located on Long Island, Jones Beach is one of New York's premier state parks. The state has used over \$12.4 million in L&WCF assistance to improve the beach areas, shoreline protection, the bathhouses, boardwalks, ball fields, picnic areas, nature center, comfort stations, accessibility upgrades, lighting, utilities and many other recreation facilities.
- **Pennsylvania:** Lancaster Co. is using \$74,000 from L&WCF as part of a \$148,000 project to acquire over 25 acres of wooded property adjacent to Money Rocks County Park. This acquisition bridges a gap between two parcels already owned by the county. It preserves one continuous area of forest for open space on Welsh Mountain, a site that contains the headwaters of four streams in three watersheds.
- **Rhode Island:** The state used a \$200,012 L&WCF grant to restore World War II Memorial State Park in the City of Woonsocket, RI. This urban park offers a wide range of recreational experiences, including freshwater swimming, ice skating, and many sports activities. The L&WCF assistance was used for a new comfort station, a bathhouse, a pavilion, improvements to the water filtration system, and utilities.



For more information on the Land and Water Conservation Fund please call or email the Project Manager for your State.

STATE PROJECT MANAGERS:

Delaware, Massachusetts,
Pennsylvania

Mary Vavra
215-597-9175
Mary_Vavra@nps.gov

Connecticut, New York, and
Rhode Island

Jean Sokolowski
215-597-1158
Jean_Sokolowski@nps.gov

Maryland and West Virginia
William Sharp

215-597-1655
William_Sharp@nps.gov

New Hampshire, New Jersey,
District of Columbia, Virginia

Roy Cortez
215-597-5134
Roy_Cortez@nps.gov

Maine and Vermont

Michael Louie
215-597-4056
Michael_T_Louie@nps.gov

You may also contact:

Jack Howard
Program Manager, Conservation
Assistance
National Park Service
200 Chestnut Street, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-597-1565
Jack_Howard@nps.gov

www.nps.gov/lwcf
www.nps.gov/nero

All photos NPS unless noted; March 2005