



as basic as  
**land**  
and water

the Land and Water Conservation Fund is basic to America

As the premier state and federal partnership program for community recreation and open space, the Land and Water Conservation Fund responds to America's most fundamental needs. By providing matching grants to states for planning, acquiring and developing land and water for state and community parks, this program delivers tangible benefits supporting our health, our youth, smart growth, local economies, recreation, and conservation. Since 1964, it has helped conserve several million acres of open space, and has supported more than 38,000 state and local park and recreation projects.





helping to protect open space  
near metropolitan areas

growing

smarter

Acre by acre, year by year, we are converting many of our treasured open spaces to other urban and suburban uses. According to the National Growth Management Leadership Project, the New York metropolitan population grew by 8% over the last twenty years while the amount of urbanized land increased by 65%; similarly, Seattle has seen a population growth of 38% coupled with an 87% increase in urban land; in Denver, the twenty-year outlook is even

more dramatic, urbanized land is expected to almost double. By protecting strategically located metropolitan open space, the Land and Water Conservation Fund can be an effective smart growth tool.

**Clark Lake Park Expansion, Kent, Washington** – Protecting a fragile ecosystem and providing trails in this rapidly growing King County city

**Douglas Point-Potomac River Acquisition, Maryland** – Acquisition of one of the most ecologically significant areas remaining in the state of Maryland



# protecting our investment

Reduced state and local funding has significantly limited the capacity for maintaining and enhancing our existing park and recreation resources. Across the country, much of the park and recreation infrastructure was acquired and developed in the 1950-70 era: there is now a tremendous need to rebuild, renovate, and expand recreation facilities. When we consider the problems of young people at risk, of families and communities pulling apart, we should not lose sight of the immense value of state and local parks in helping to meet these challenges. The Land and Water Conservation Fund helps states and communities protect and maintain the value of our nation's recreation investment.

**Isle of Palms Park Redevelopment, South Carolina**

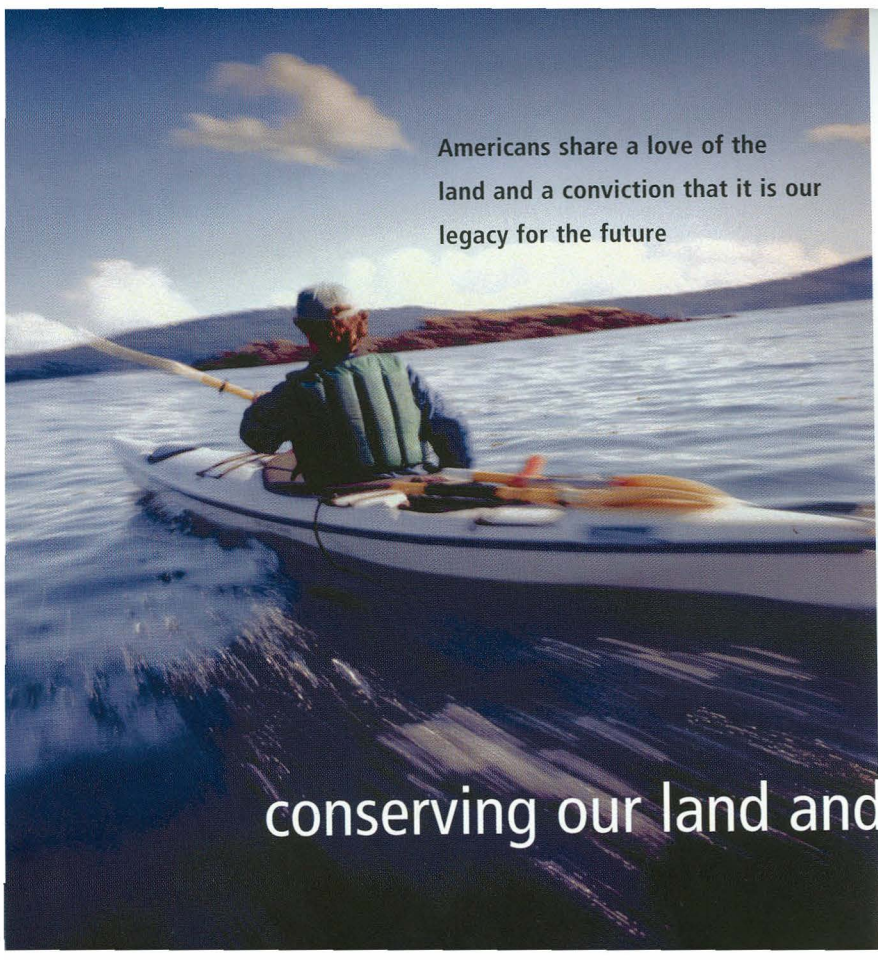
— Resurfacing of tennis courts, landscape improvements and modern lighting at the city's only play area

**Webb Park Renovation, Oak Grove, Missouri** — Playground and

landscape improvements at an urban park originally acquired and developed in the 1970s





A photograph of a person in a kayak on a body of water. The person is wearing a green life vest and a grey cap, and is paddling. The water is blue and has a wake behind the kayak. In the background, there are mountains under a blue sky with some clouds.

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Americans today share a love of the land and a conviction that it is our legacy for the future. Our love is growing: the number of visits to our parks and open spaces is simply exploding. The U.S. Forest Service projects an additional 400 million recreation trips per year by the year 2040. However, fragmentation, overuse and loss of natural areas has diminished our ability to enjoy the outdoors and has threatened wildlife and plant resources in every corner of the country. Since areas supported by the program must be maintained for recreation use in perpetuity, the Land and Water Conservation Fund helps states and communities preserve important recreation opportunities and protect environmentally sensitive areas now and for the future.

**Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Acquisition, Alaska** – New addition to the preserve supports conservation and protection of this critical wildlife habitat

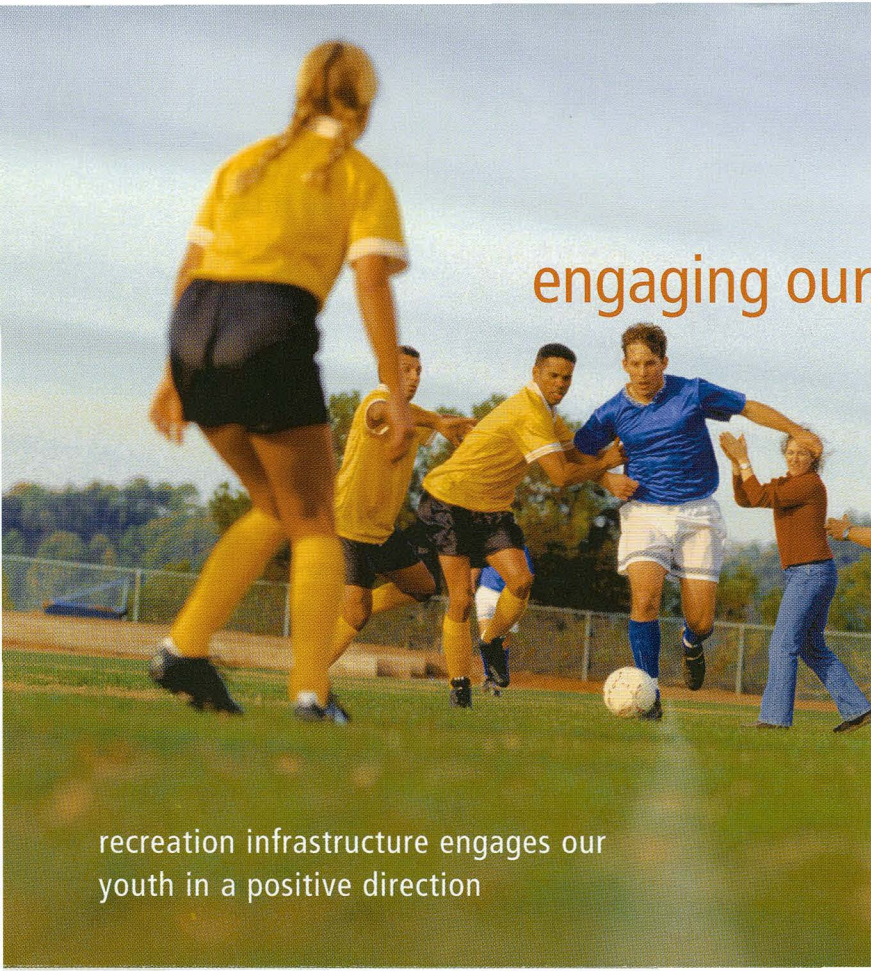
**Whalen Island Acquisition, Tillamook County Oregon** – One of the last unspoiled treasures of the Oregon Coast and first new state park in more than twenty years

For more information about the Land and Water Conservation Fund, including state program contacts, please visit us on the web at [www.nps.gov/lwcf](http://www.nps.gov/lwcf)

conserving our land and

# water





recreation infrastructure engages our youth in a positive direction

engaging our

# youth

There is widespread awareness of the efficacy of recreation facilities and organized sports programs in providing role models and in building self-esteem for young people. Police chiefs, elected officials, parole officers and social workers

**Roberto Clemente State Park, Bronx, New York**

– New lighting will extend the use of a baseball field for night play at this popular urban state park

**Shiloh Park, Brandon, Mississippi** – Recreational

expansion for baseball/softball fields, a playground, a walking nature trail, and a picnic area

are increasingly outspoken in support for greater access to parks and open space opportunities. In Florida, juvenile arrests have dropped 28% since 1990, when Fort Myers began its STARS program (Success Through Academics and Recreational Support) for adolescents. In Arizona, reports of juvenile crime dropped 55% when recreation facilities and services in Phoenix were kept open until 2 a.m. Land and Water Conservation Fund projects support the basic recreation infrastructure that engages our youth in a positive direction.



# basic economics

Recreation is a significant contributor to the economy of many communities. New or renovated parks and trails are a proven catalyst to community revitalization and

can attract tourist dollars. Proximity to parks, open spaces and recreation facilities also increases real estate values. Relocation decisions by many businesses and families are partly based on the availability of park and recreation facilities. By providing matching funding for both open space acquisition and recreation development at the local and state level, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is an essential factor in the local economic equation.

**Gateway Park, Franklin, New Hampshire**

– A vacant site will now provide boat access and an attractive city gateway

**Riverfront Park, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania** – An abandoned parking lot is now a new green space in Sewickley Borough

new parks are a proven catalyst to community revitalization





a prescription for healthy

communities

## the most cost-effective building blocks of the new wellness revolution

The United States spends more for health care than any other nation on earth, an estimated 14% of our gross national product. In the 21st century, effective health care strategies must emphasize prevention, which means regular exercise and moderate diet. The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides an essential part of this prescription in the form of enhanced opportunities for regular, accessible recreation. Parks, trails and swimming areas are among the most cost-effective building blocks of the new wellness revolution.

**Bear Creek Trail, Morrison, Colorado** – A new multi-use trail for hiking, biking and exercise in metropolitan Denver

**Ohio & Erie Canal Canal Reservation, Cleveland, Ohio** – Cleveland Metroparks will develop new recreation trails and support facilities along the canal



It is no surprise that the most popular recreation in America – walking, bicycling and picnicking – are also "close to home" activities. More than forty years ago, the visionary Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission recommended creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in response to the fundamental need for local recreation. Current trends in our nation's lifestyles and demographics suggest that the demand for close to home recreation facilities will only intensify: working Americans have less discretionary time than a decade ago and many families favor shorter trips. Providing for local recreation is at the heart of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

**East Coast Greenway Trail, Daytona Beach, Florida**

– A new extension to this popular multi-use trail will include restrooms, security lighting and landscaping

**Rio Grande Regional Park, El Paso, Texas** – Development of a regional riverfront park with hiking, biking and exercise trails

# closer to home

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

"As a former state park director, I know how valuable places for 'close-to-home' recreation are to a community's health and economy. Through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we can help states and communities create an outdoor recreation network – a seamless park system accessible to all."

~ Fran Mainella, Director, National Park Service

