National Program Goals
Reflecting the goals of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, the goals of the LWCF State Assistance Program are:

- Meet state and locally identified public outdoor recreation resources needs to strengthen the health and vitality of the American People.

- Increase the number of protected state and local outdoor recreation resources and ensure their availability for public use in perpetuity.

- Encourage sound planning and long-term partnerships to expand the quantity and ensure the quality of needed state and local outdoor recreation resources.
I am pleased to share this annual report of the Land and Water Conservation Fund's State Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2008. The program's accomplishments continue to reflect a high level of performance in providing millions of American families with everyday recreation opportunities which are conveniently located “close to home” in thousands of communities nationwide.

This program is not an effort by the National Park Service alone. For more than 43 years now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been working in partnership with states and communities to support, enhance and create public parks for the benefit and use of all. It is one of the best reflections of our goal to cooperate with partners in extending the benefits of outdoor recreation throughout our nation.

All of us in the Fund's State Assistance Program are proud to work with our partners all across America, especially with our state partners to reconnect people with parks and to strengthen and grow the capacity of our recreation facilities to serve them. This report shows our collective best for 2008. On behalf of all Americans, we pledge to do even more in the years ahead.

Lindi L. Harvey
Deputy Director, Support Services
National Park Service

COURT d'ALENE, IDAHO: Tubbs Hill Park
LWCF provided critical funding to help acquire and preserve this stunning urban forest. Today, a 2.2-mile loop trail provides spectacular scenic vistas of Lake Coeur d'Alene and unparalleled access to close to home recreation in the heart of Coeur d'Alene.

Image: John Schwandt

supporting recreation close to home

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Lindi L. Harvey
Deputy Director, Support Services
National Park Service
In 2008, the quality of life in more than 300 communities was enhanced by new parklands or improved facilities for outdoor recreation.

The Natural Playground at Thatcher Brook Primary School is an excellent example of an innovative built environment that fosters creative play among children. The project was a terrific community effort including many volunteer hours to create a kid’s paradise.

Steve Lotspeich, Community Planner
Town and Village of Waterbury
# LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACHIEVEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Dollars</td>
<td>$37,721,350*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matching Dollars Leveraged</td>
<td>$61,360,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Areas Funded</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Acres Permanently Protected</td>
<td>53,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*includes some prior year funds

---

**KANSAS:** Hillsdale State Park

“This park has quickly become a hub for toddlers and young adults, and the boardwalk/trail system offers a quiet relaxing stroll through northwest woodlands and along a salmon-bearing stream.”

Brian Meyer, Park Maintenance Supervisor, Woodinville, Washington

---

**CLOSE TO HOME RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS** to the 18-acre Rotary Community Park provide an inviting urban forest environment, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and a wide variety of active recreational opportunities. The heavily forested park, which features a half-mile trail along the creek was designed as an outdoor environmental classroom with interpretive facilities, salmon viewing platforms, wetland boardwalks and paths.

The park also features components designed to serve at-risk youth and support latch-key programs. These facilities include a concrete BMX/skatepark with a barrier-free events plaza, picnic tables, and a multi-purpose play court. In addition, there are trails, a playground, picnic shelter, and a pedestrian/bicycle path that connects the park to adjacent neighborhoods.

**WOODINVILLE, WASHINGTON:** Rotary Community Park
I know what a community can do when it bands together for a cause. This park has made intergenerational connections which have truly enhanced our community.

Heather L.V. Loney, Director
Ludington Community Development

No single perspective adequately tells the whole story of the Land and Water Conservation Fund’s impact, but collectively our performance measures provide a better picture of the program’s wide-ranging impacts:

DIRECT COMMUNITY IMPACT: In FY 2008, 47 states, the District of Columbia and Guam obligated $37.7 million dollars in LWCF federal grant monies to acquire recreation lands, and to develop new and upgrade outdoor recreation facilities. This much-needed assistance made a direct impact on park and recreation facilities in or near 305 local communities and helped “encourage active participation to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States (Public Law 88-578).”

NEW PARK LANDS PERMANENTLY PROTECTED: In FY 2008, a total of 7,937 new acres were made available for recreation use and enjoyment. In many communities, these acres mean brand new parks and recreation facilities. Examples are included in the Project Sites list at the end of this report.

BUILDING AND UPGRADING PARKS: For most communities, meeting citizen needs for recreation and physical activity is a three-fold challenge: acquiring land for recreation, developing new recreation facilities and enhancing existing facilities. In FY 2008, 273 local park and recreation areas were enhanced with grants to develop new or rehabilitate existing outdoor recreation and support facilities. Almost 66% of these LWCF-assisted sites (180) benefited from entirely new recreation facilities, site improvements or enhancements.

PROTECTING PARKS FOREVER: Finally, beyond the program’s direct assistance to develop and enhance facilities, every assisted site is protected against conversion to non-recreation use to ensure the federal and state/local investment remains available, not just for today’s citizens, but for all future generations of Americans. In FY 2008, LWCF stewardship protection was expanded by a total of 53,060 acres and 155 park sites.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL PROGRAM GOAL</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE GOAL</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE MEASURE</th>
<th>SUCCESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Meet state and locally identified public outdoor recreation resources needs to strengthen the health and vitality of the American People.</td>
<td>1. Increase the quantity of outdoor recreation resources for public use and enjoyment.</td>
<td>• Number of new parks created for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment.</td>
<td>33 parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of new acres of land and water made available for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment.</td>
<td>7,937 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of parks where new outdoor recreation facilities were developed.</td>
<td>180 parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Enhance the quality of outdoor recreation resources for public use and enjoyment.</td>
<td>• Number of parks enhanced through new development or rehabilitation of outdoor recreation and support facilities.</td>
<td>273 parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Ensure close-to-home public outdoor recreation resources.</td>
<td>• Number of local jurisdictions where LWCF grant projects are located.</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Increase the number of acres of protected outdoor recreation resources for public use and enjoyment.</td>
<td>• Number of new acres protected.</td>
<td>53,060 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of new sites protected under the LWCF Program.</td>
<td>155 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Ensure that outdoor recreation resources funded through the LWCF Program are retained and used for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.</td>
<td>• Number of LWCF projects inspected and determined to be open for public outdoor recreation use.</td>
<td>4,569 projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Percent of inspected acres funded by the LWCF determined to be open for public outdoor recreation use.</td>
<td>100% of inspected acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Stimulate planning initiatives to help states identify outdoor recreation needs and establish the implementation strategies to meet those needs.</td>
<td>• Total number of approved SCORP plans.</td>
<td>54 plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Number of SCORP plans that were updated in 2008.</td>
<td>7 plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Leverage local and state matching investments that support outdoor recreation projects.</td>
<td>• Number of projects that exceed the 50% non-federal match.</td>
<td>51 projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE NATIONAL NEED FOR PARKS AND RECREATION: $27 BILLION IN 2008

To measure the national need for public outdoor recreation facilities and parkland acquisition at the state and local level, the National Park Service annually requests each state to estimate the total amount of requests for financial assistance that were not funded for the past fiscal year. With all fifty states responding, this chart demonstrates a consistent picture of increasing national demand for recreation facility development and parkland acquisition funding: 88% of the states reported that 95% of funding needs are unmet.

This year’s substantial increase in estimated unmet need from the 2007 report reflects our continuing efforts in working with states to formulate comprehensive estimates beyond their unfunded LWCF applications, to reflect a total estimated unmet need for outdoor recreation facilities, regardless of potential funding source. This year more States were able to add local unmet needs to their State park system needs. Both factors (going beyond unfunded LWCF requests and adding local needs) help account for the increase in numbers over 2007.

* Unmet needs shown are as reported by each applicable State.  
NR= Not Reporting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>2008 LWCF APPORTIONMENT</th>
<th>UNMET NEED*</th>
<th>% UNMET NEED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>$363,309</td>
<td>$52,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>$208,984</td>
<td>$5,066,831</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>$441,526</td>
<td>$45,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>$288,434</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$1,962,145</td>
<td>$2,270,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>$394,719</td>
<td>$454,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>$353,642</td>
<td>$89,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>$219,272</td>
<td>$16,525,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>$996,988</td>
<td>$8,237,806,653</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>$555,911</td>
<td>$9,000,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>$244,054</td>
<td>$23,230,946</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>$238,610</td>
<td>$9,824,200</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>$809,807</td>
<td>$1,105,000</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>$458,033</td>
<td>$469,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>$152,209</td>
<td>$1,407,169</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>$304,261</td>
<td>$41,900,900</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>$227,770</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>$387,192</td>
<td>$172,670,361</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>$278,014</td>
<td>$9,894,760</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>$446,608</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>$509,388</td>
<td>$72,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>$645,042</td>
<td>$71,662,658</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>$405,455</td>
<td>$70,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>$292,091</td>
<td>$50,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>$433,651</td>
<td>$63,844,830</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>$217,966</td>
<td>$347,639,013</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>$258,756</td>
<td>$95,225,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>$284,737</td>
<td>$8,033,424</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>$233,390</td>
<td>$8,033,424</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>$623,567</td>
<td>$399,697,536</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>$288,434</td>
<td>$23,614,434</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>$1,139,569</td>
<td>$1,351,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>$522,201</td>
<td>$1,351,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>$207,789</td>
<td>$4,031,019</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>$720,218</td>
<td>$14,886,825</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>$332,778</td>
<td>$5,009,795</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>$345,227</td>
<td>$14,629,830</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>$763,175</td>
<td>$51,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>$235,445</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>$351,584</td>
<td>$850,000,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>$211,498</td>
<td>$13,226,725</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>$428,050</td>
<td>$1,261,390,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>$1,203,151</td>
<td>$139,126,743</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>$254,867</td>
<td>$520,416,480</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>$203,190</td>
<td>$19,300,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>$508,218</td>
<td>$69,241,621</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>$469,285</td>
<td>$357,720,592</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>$250,309</td>
<td>$12,770,086</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>$421,445</td>
<td>$50,000,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>$203,057</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>$52,754</td>
<td>$18,500,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$1,670,000</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>$344,845</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin Islands</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$31,200,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Marianas</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$23,133,400</td>
<td>$27,045,958,906</td>
<td>99.9%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Unmet needs shown are as reported by each applicable State.  
NR= Not Reporting.
A CLOSER LOOK AT UNFUNDED REQUESTS IN 2008

In addition to estimating the unmet need for outdoor recreation facilities and park-land acquisition, the National Park Service asked each state to provide examples of unfunded projects. Here is a sampling of what we learned:

MISSOURI  In Missouri, where the unmet need was estimated at $64 million, there were more than 35 unfunded local community projects, including urgently needed park development and renovation in Browning, Sunset Hills and Wentzville. As in many other states, the number of local requests is not fully representative of need, but instead reflect diminished funding levels. The state park system has a backlog of more than 200 projects, including funding for major improvements and repairs on the popular 225-mile Katy Trail and campground facility renovations at Mark Twain State Park.

NEW HAMPSHIRE  Fourteen local projects were profiled in New Hampshire’s report on its $1 million total unmet need. Unfunded projects include a multi-use facility in Chester which would have provided facilities for organized athletics, walking and running trails, cross country ski and snowshoe trails, and beach area for swimming, fishing, and boating. In Goffstown, expansion of Barnard Park would have included upgrading the existing track and field venues to NHIAA Class L standards, improving and expanding the playground and renovating the pool. In Henniker, LWCF funding was sought to support land acquisition along the Contoocook River: more than a mile of river frontage would provide spectacular views of the river along with hiking, snowshoeing, and picnicking.

VIRGINIA  Virginia’s estimate of more than $69 million in unmet need highlights a rapidly growing demand for close to home recreation that is exemplified by projects for new community park facilities in Manassas and Hillsville, and a new sports complex in Gloucester County that would feature four regulation-sized softball

Our local, state, and national parks must be promoted and funded as the solution for the health, social, and environmental problems facing our nation today. Parks are places where children can play, people can exercise, families can bond, seniors can socialize, youth can be mentored, cultures can share and celebrate their differences, and everyone can connect with nature. Vibrant parks are a cost-effective means of creating humane, livable communities, and preserving the beauty of America for our future generations.

Sedrick V. Mitchell
Deputy Director, External Affairs,
California State Parks;
President,
National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers

MISSOURI: Katy Trail State Park
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA: Mint Springs Valley Recreation Area

DOVER, DELAWARE: Dover Park

COEUR d’ALENE, IDAHO: Winton Park

MUSKOGEE CITY, OKLAHOMA: Three Forks Harbor
fields and two soccer fields. The complex is a component of a master plan to create a regional park which also includes passive recreation, such as trail and environmental education areas.

UTAH  Projects identified for protecting and expanding Utah’s state park system are currently estimated at $180 million, which represents 35% of the state’s $520 million in overall unmet need. On the community level, the demand for parks, trails, and new ball fields continues to grow. Among communities along the Wasatch Front, there were $94.5 million in unfunded requests, including 9 new ball fields, 5 new parks, and 5 recreation trails, along with requests for park facility upgrades from more than twenty communities.

NEVADA  Nevada’s $8 million estimate in unmet needs represents critical projects at more than a dozen state parks, including Cave Lake, Fort Churchill, South Fork, Spring Valley, Ward Charcoal Ovens, Washoe Lake, and Wild Horse, for campground facilities, picnic areas, park roadway improvements and public access for fishing. Last year the state used $271,000 in LWCF funding for 4 projects.

Over the past 43 years, North Carolina has received almost $75 million in LWCF assistance for state and local parks and recreation projects. It continues to support our efforts today with funding for critical land acquisition at Mayo River and Haw River, two new state parks in the rapidly growing Piedmont area, where land conservation and recreational facilities are in high demand and development pressure is intense.

Lewis Ledford, Director
North Carolina Parks and Recreation
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR 2008 CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

At-Risk Species
Through this priority, the Department seeks to sustain biological communities by focusing on conserving the most imperiled components and improving the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources. For listed species, bureaus can identify priority opportunities to enhance the condition of private lands consistent with restoration activities identified by the FWS recovery plans. The Department and its bureaus should also support State Comprehensive Wildlife Plans to benefit both ESA listed and candidate species.

Wild Birds
The Wild Birds initiative is intended to conserve birds and their habitats to assure healthy and sustainable populations. Three outcomes are envisioned:

(1) conserve priority bird habitat;
(2) collect scientific data that support plans and guide management actions; and
(3) educate citizens to understand the needs and stressors of birds.

Healthy Habitats
The goal of this priority is to enhance habitat on federally-managed and adjoining lands. A prominent example of this priority being put into action is BLM’s Healthy Lands initiative. Outcomes envisioned by this priority include improving the condition of wildlife habitat, with a special emphasis on sage brush and sage grouse habitat, promoting the recovery of species, and helping assure continued access to and multiple-use of public lands while improving the ecological landscape. To achieve these outcomes, bureaus should continue to work with their Federal and non-Federal partners to address issues such as decreasing native vegetation for fish and wildlife, the influx of non-native species, and degraded water quality.

Post-Fire Restoration
Consistent with the National Fire Plan this conservation priority focuses on restoration and post-fire recovery of fire-prone and fire-adapted ecosystems. Goals under this banner include reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, improving forest and rangeland health, and restoring and recovering lands post-fire.

Coastal Habitat
This conservation priority is intended to promote policies and programs that engender responsible use and stewardship of U.S. coastal resources. The President’s Ocean Action Plan encompasses many of the concepts and goals of this priority. Strategies for success include effective management of coasts and their watersheds including coordination of bureau and agency activities; promotion of responsible and efficient use and conservation of ocean, coastal, and great lakes resources; and support for partnerships to develop and implement comprehensive management strategies.

Water
Achievement of natural resource conservation aims in the West depends heavily on reducing crises and conflict over water supply, and improving water supply and delivery. Efforts to improve water use efficiency through use of technology and alternative water use regimes will continue to be important. Water crises can be averted and mitigated by working with partners to settle water claims and manage or adjust water rights to achieve benefits to DOI trust resources in a mutually acceptable manner.

Note: For 2009, the following priority has been added: “Engage Today’s Youth in the Great Outdoors”
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

In 2008, the Department of the Interior (DOI) identified a set of conservation priorities around which coordination might occur. Designed as a non-prescriptive tool to maximize existing funds and achieve better conservation outcomes, the DOI priorities were shared with the States to consider in their project selection of public outdoor recreation projects as explicitly guided by each State’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

A national review conducted in cooperation with the States identified 41 projects funded in 2008 where projects selected according to State-specific SCORP goals converged with the goal of one or more of DOI conservation priorities. Here is a sampling:

PIKE LAKE ACQUISITION, MINNESOTA: The acquisition of 30 acres fronting Pike Lake creates significant connectivity for wildlife habitat and water quality because of its strategic location within a regional conservation context. This property is a high priority in-holding within an important wildlife habitat corridor that connects the community of Prior Lake with the Minnesota River. The natural area is the cornerstone of a larger conservation vision that directly connects two natural areas: an adjacent natural area to the south is currently being dedicated to the city and a YMCA Camp to the north.

ARMSTRONG AND RANDALL COUNTIES, TEXAS: Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Gaynor Addition
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Discovery Park, Capehart Acquisition

DISCOVERY PARK ACQUISITION, WASHINGTON Located in Seattle, Washington, the 500+ acre site is managed as a natural area on the shores of Puget Sound, home to endangered fish and Orcas. Originally transferred to the City through the Federal Lands to Parks Program, the Navy retained an 18 acre inholding in the heart of the park which was transferred to a private developer in 2004. Acquisition of this inholding by the City will limit the potential for impacts to the park infrastructure and setting.

PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK ACQUISITION, TEXAS Commonly known as the “Grand Canyon of Texas,” the acquisition of 2,911 acres of native High Plains shortgrass prairie, and grassland-mesquite-Juniper habitats contiguous with Palo Duro Canyon State Park will result in permanent protection and management of ecologically significant habitats. Texas Parks and Wildlife ownership will not only protect the rim from development that would be extremely detrimental to the park, but also provide public recreational access for spectacular views not available from the canyon floor where state park facilities are currently concentrated.

GREAT SALT LAKE ACQUISITION (BLAIR DAHL PARK), UTAH The City of West Point in Davis County is acquiring 21 acres for the creation of Blair Dahl Park near Great Salt Lake. The City plans to enhance the birding habitat and to educate the public on the unique resources contained within the shores of the Great Salt Lake. The wetlands of the Great Salt Lake provide important nesting and foraging habitat for over 250 species of birds. The lake is a critical link in the Pacific Flyway between North and South America.

AVILA RANCH ACQUISITION, CALIFORNIA Acquisition of 2,355 acres near the City of Avila Beach will protect habitat and open space, and will create new outdoor recreation opportunities in an area threatened by residential development and habitat fragmentation. This acquisition supports a larger conservation vision of protected coastal landscapes by creating a corridor of connected lands that stretch from Avila Beach through the hills to Montana de Oro State Park and provide a 20 mile extension of the California Coastal Trail. It is one of the largest tracts of unprotected lands within the Irish Hills and its protection has been identified as a top priority by state agencies, local community members and conservation groups.
## 2008 LWCF STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROJECTS REFLECTING DOI CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State / Project *</th>
<th>LWCF Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALIFORNIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avila Ranch Acquisition</td>
<td>$876,346</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battle Creek Wildlife Area Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Little Basin Acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carpinteria Bluff Acquisition</td>
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<td>Oyster Bay Turf Project</td>
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<td>Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodbridge Ecological Reserve Development</td>
<td>$91,044</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FLORIDA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Keith Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neal Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>NW 170th Street Greenway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ormond Beachfront Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Pine Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sawallis Park Acquisition/Orange Lake Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GEORGIA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrollton Greenbelt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Creek Buffer Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pulaski County Riverfront Park</td>
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<td><strong>INDIANA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry R. Huston Sports Center &amp; Nature Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LOUISIANA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Salmen Nature Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutuken Park Improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desoto Veterans’ Memorial Park Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAINE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial Pemaquid Historic Site Acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferry Beach Nature Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moosehead Lake &amp; Carry Brook Inlet</td>
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<td><strong>MARYLAND</strong></td>
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<td>Hughes Farm Acquisition</td>
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<td><strong>MINNESOTA</strong></td>
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<td>Pike Lake Acquisition</td>
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<td>Morgan Mill Trailhead</td>
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<td><strong>NEW HAMPSHIRE</strong></td>
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<td>Hiking Trails For Little River Park</td>
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<td><strong>NEW JERSEY</strong></td>
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<td>Salem River Wildlife Management Area Acquisition</td>
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<td><strong>NORTH CAROLINA</strong></td>
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<td>Haw River State Park Land Acquisition</td>
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<td>Mount Ida Wilderness Area</td>
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<td><strong>OHIO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Loveland Nature Preserve</td>
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<td>Big Creek at Snake Hill</td>
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<td><strong>SOUTH CAROLINA</strong></td>
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<td>Lake Wateree Land Acquisition, Singleton Creek</td>
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<td>Caesars Head State Park Acquisition</td>
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<td><strong>TENNESSEE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paris Landing State Park</td>
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<td><strong>TEXAS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Gaynor Addition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UTAH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blair Dahl Park</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WASHINGTON</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery Park, Capehart Acquisition</td>
<td>$506,100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEST VIRGINIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ronceverte Island Park Improvements</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$11,199,619</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Some projects not listed may also have smaller components meeting a conservation priority.
PLANNING FOR CLOSE TO HOME RECREATION

To direct the investment of LWCF funds, each state is required to undertake a planning process every five years with public input to review statewide opportunities and challenges for public outdoor recreation. This effort culminates in a SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) and conveys state-specific policies and actions to support the overall goals of the LWCF program.

By design, the SCORP requirements for a five-year review and for seeking public input ensures that these plans reflect and respond to changing trends and needs in outdoor recreation. Currently, SCORPs are reporting a nationwide desire for locating and renovating public park and recreation facilities within easy access, preferably by walking or bicycling, to where people live. Health professionals are also advocating the benefits of local outdoor recreation areas, both for physical health and for boosting a sense of well-being. An accessible park is a healthy alternative to sitting in front of televisions and computer screens, is fuel efficient, allows more time to interact with family and friends, and nurtures a sense of spirit and pride for the community. A sampling of recent SCORPs reveal the following:

CALIFORNIA In one California SCORP survey, 65 percent of the youth respondents said that “providing more recreation areas closer to their home, such as sports fields, skateboard parks, and open space areas” would help them participate in outdoor activities more often. Further, the SCORP concluded that providing more accessible and safer park settings promotes inspiration, discovery, and learning, and encourages outside activities, active living, and a healthy lifestyle for all Californians.

ILLINOIS The Illinois SCORP recognizes that it is an individual choice whether to be active or sedentary, but the way communities design their environment for physical activity can encourage or impede that choice. Lack of access to convenient outdoor recreation opportunities is commonly cited as a major barrier to regular physical activity. Providing recreation facilities that are easily accessible and close-to-home makes it convenient for people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives.

NEW MEXICO Urban dwellers in New Mexico are demanding more recreational opportunities located in closer proximity to their homes. The rural areas also need close-to-home outdoor recreation options; however the lack of fiscal as well as human resources makes the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities challenging. For these communities, the LWCF is one of few known funding sources for outdoor recreation investments, according to the SCORP.

NEW YORK In discussing the links between health and outdoor recreation, the New York SCORP observes that health professionals realize that to make physical activity easier, the environment must be conducive to physical activity such as

Visit us at nps.gov/lwcf

The LWCF website provides current program information, including announcements on state apportionments, LWCF project highlights, program contacts, the LWCF grants manual, and all federal forms needed for a LWCF project. The website also provides a link to a comprehensive listing of all funded projects to date. The list includes summary reports by year and by state as well as listings by state and county.
making sure that people have easy access to trails, parks, and recreation facilities, especially located close to where people live and work for use several times a week.

**VIRGINIA** The SCORP explores the links between health and wellness and outdoor recreation. It states that the lack of parks and recreation close to home, hectic schedules, high-fat foods, automobile-oriented development and expanding forms of electronic leisure contribute to obesity which results in significant health-care costs. The increase in the diagnosis and treatment of some forms of mental illness is a parallel trend that may be related to the lack of time spent in outdoor play.

**WASHINGTON** The SCORP states that work schedules and family obligations as well as lack of facilities close to home are often identified as barriers to recreation participation, and that an urban park’s proximity to residential areas has a direct impact on actual use. Ideally, sites and facilities would be close to where people live, and would be accessible by public transportation, foot, or bicycle.
Projects listed by county; number in parentheses indicates congressional district.
The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a visionary program established by Congress in 1965 to preserve, develop and assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources for active participation in recreation and “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States (Public Law 88-578).”

Projects are listed by county with congressional districts in parentheses. Images featured in this section highlight current and recently completed LWCF projects. A State may not be represented in this park list – an occurrence due most frequently to a decision to combine its apportionment from successive years in order to have sufficient funds for a desired project(s). States have three years to obligate funds to new projects once made available to them.

La Sierra Park (44)
Lake Perris State Recreation Area (45)

Sacramento
Earl Warren Park (5)
Hinkle Creek Nature Area (3)
Southside Park (5)

San Diego
Linda Vista Community Park (53)

San Joaquin
Valverde Park (18)
Woodbridge Ecological Reserve (11)

San Luis Obispo
Avila Ranch (23)
San Simeon State Park (23)

Santa Barbara
Carpinteria Bluff Nature Preserve (23)
Carpinteria State Beach (23)
El Capitan State Beach (23)

Santa Cruz
Big Basin Redwoods State Park (14)

Shasta
Battle Creek Wildlife Area (2)

Tulare
Lindsay City Park (21)

Yolo
Playfields Park (1)
Putah Creek (1)

Colorado

Boulder
Heil/Lyons Connector Trail (2)

Clear Creek
Summit Lake Park (2)

Larimer
Lory State Park (4)

Connecticut

Middlesex
Sunrise Park (2)

Delaware

Sussex
Delaware Seashore State Park (1)

Florida

Brevard
Southeast Community Park (15)

Broward
Bill Keith Preserve (20)
John E. Mullin Park (23)
Pioneer Park (22)

Dade
98th Street Park (20)
NW 170th Street Greenway (21)

Lake
Wooton Park (8)

Lee
Prairie Pine Preserve (14)

Manatee
Neal Preserve (13)

Marion
Sawallis Park/Orange Lake Overview (5)

Palm Beach
Anchorage Park (22)
PGA National Park and Linear Passive Area (22)

Pinellas
Lake Belleview (9)

Saint Lucie
Jetty Park (16)

Seminole
Fort Mellon Park (3)

Volusia
Ormond Beachfront Park (7)
As a young child with a mobility disability, I was excluded from participation in the very basics of play with my peers as I could not maneuver my wheelchair over the grassy and uneven terrain. Now as a mother it is incredibly important to me that I share in my daughter’s playground experience and Dell Holmes Park offers such an experience. I would like to express my appreciation and admiration to the City of St. Petersburg for creating not only a beautiful, but a fully accessible park.

Barbara Page
Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.
St. Petersburg, Florida

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA: Dell Holmes Park

Projects listed by county; number in parentheses indicates congressional district.
It took about $370,000 to develop Soroptimist Park, with funding from the State of Michigan through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan and the Association for Retarded Citizens for Western Wayne County. CVS provided more than $40,000 in donations as well as volunteers to help during the community build that took place in June. The Wayne Rotary was at the forefront of the charitable efforts, too.

Mayor Al Haidous
Wayne, Michigan
Lincoln
Autumn Winds Park (2)
Spring Valley State Park (1)

Lyon
Out of Town Park (2)

New Hampshire
Cheshire
Water Street Outdoor Basketball Park (2)

Coes
Lancaster Skate Park (2)

Rockingham
Exeter Skate Park (1)
George B. White Basketball Court (1)

Strafford
Little River Park (1)

New Jersey
Salem
Salem River Wildlife Management Area (2)

New Mexico
Dona Ana
Seldon Canyon Recreation Area (2)

New York
Niagara
Fort Niagara State Park (28)

Wyoming
Letchworth State Park (26)

North Carolina
Chatham
Pittsboro Recreation Complex (4)

Franklin
Bill & Angie Luddy Recreation Park (2)
Pilot Lions Community Park (2)

Guilford
Haw River State Park (5)

McDowell
Mount Ida Wilderness Area (11)

Wake
Main Street Park (4)

Wilson
Burt Gillette Athletic Complex (1)

North Dakota
Burke
Lignite City Park (1)

Burleigh
New Generations Playground (1)

Hettinger
New England Park (1)

Nelson
Aneta City Park (1)

Ransom
Fort Ransom State Park (1)

Sargent
Klefstad Memorial Swimming Pool (1)

Ohio
Ashtabula
Village Square (14)

Carroll
Bicentennial Park (18)

Cuyahoga
Big Creek Park (10)
West Creek Greenway (10)

Franklin
Minerva Park (12)

Hocking
Mingo Park (18)

Huron
Mill Pond Park (5)

Jefferson
War Memorial Park (6)

Licking
Hannah’s Memorial Park (12)

Madison
Fairfield Memorial Park (15)

Mercer
Mendon Park (5)
Nature Park (8)

Morrow
Heimlick Park (4)

Ottawa
Meadowbrook Marsh (9)

Paulding
Paulding Ball Diamond Complex (5)

Perry
Roseville Municipal Swimming Pool (7)

Pickaway
Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Community Park (7)

Pike
Village Community Park (2)

Shelby
Anna Park (4)

Summit
Ricks-WTRP Park (14)

Van Wert
Willshire Park (5)
Projects listed by county; number in parentheses indicates congressional district.

**Warren**
Loveland Nature Preserve (2)

**Oklahoma**

**Beckham**
Sayre City Park (3)

**Comanche**
Chattanooga Downtown Park (5)

**Creek**
Hollier Park (3)

**McCurtain**
Bill Watts Community Park (2)

**Payne**
Oklahoma Territorial Plaza (3)

**Sequoyah**
Vian Park (2)

**Oregon**

**Clackamas**
Patterson Memorial Park (5)

**Multnomah**
East Delta Park (3)

**Washington**
Shute Park (1)

**Yamhill**
Courthouse Square Park (1)

**Pennsylvania**

**Cumberland**
Adams-Ricci Community Park (19)

**Dauphin**
Middletown Municipal Pool (17)

**Tioga**
Island Park (10)

**South Carolina**

**Abbeville**
Upper Abbeville County Sports Complex (3)

**Greenville**
Caesars Head State Park (4)

**Kershaw**
Lake Wateree Park at Singleton Creek (5)

**South Dakota**

**Brookings**
Lake Poinsett Recreation Area (1)
Oakwood Lakes State Park (1)

**Brown**
Frontier Park (1)

**Charles Mix**
John Stekly Memorial Park (1)

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**LEFT AND OPPOSITE**

**LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA:** Pine Knob Park

The Pine Knob project was an acquisition/development project assisted by a $200,000 LWCF grant. The project included the construction of accessible trails and boardwalks through woodlands and wetlands and features a 3-D archery course which has attracted large numbers of area sportsmen along with 4-H Shooting Sports, Boy Scouts, school groups and families.

“Pine Knob has attracted a whole new group of park patrons and supporters. It is rewarding to see parents participating in archery and other outdoor activities with their children. We’re starting to see many repeat visitors among the kids and families who visit Pine Knob.”

Mike Metz, LaGrange County Park Director

**LAKE CITY, MINNESOTA:** Whitewater State Park

“Project Get Outdoors” links youth and caring adult mentors to exploration, play and reflection in nature near local communities so youth will be healthy and comfortable in the outdoors and knowledgeable and passionate about their land and community throughout their lives. The project currently operates under the sponsorship of the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota.
LWCF funding provides jobs, protects our natural resources, and builds parks, trails and other places for kids and adults to play and stay healthy. It is vital to keeping Washington a great place to live and work.

Kleen Cottingham, Director
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE: Trap Pond State Park

Projects listed by county; number in parentheses indicates congressional district.
**Washington**

King
- Boeing Creek Park (7)
- Bridle Trails State Park (8)
- Discovery Park (7)

**West Virginia**

Brooke
- 3rd Street Park (1)

Greenbrier
- Ronceverte Island Park (3)

Kanawha
- Belle Community Park (2)

Wetzel
- Bruce Park (1)

Wood
- Williamstown Complex Pool (1)

**Wisconsin**

Ashland
- Copper Falls State Park (7)

Buffalo
- Merrick State Park (3)

Calumet
- High Cliff State Park (6)

Chippewa
- Brunet Island State Park (7)

Dane
- Governor Nelson State Park (2)
- Lake Kegonsa State Park (2)

Lafayette
- Yellowstone Lake State Park (3)

Vernon
- Wildcat Mountain State Park (3)

**Wyoming**

Big Horn
- North East Park (1)

Hot Springs
- Hot Springs State Park (1)
- Legend Rock State Historical Site (1)

Natrona
- Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park (1)

**Guam**

Multi-Park Signage Project (25 Sites)

**District of Columbia**

Hearst Park

**I have been riding mountain bikes for 25 years in states from Texas to Utah and I have to say you got this one right. The trails are fantastic for riders of all skill levels and use the existing terrain beautifully. Keep up the good work and I look forward to more trail expansion.**

Rick Parish, Director, Cheyenne Parks and Recreation

**CHEYENNE, WYOMING:** Curt Gowdy State Park

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

Governor Joe Manchin
West Virginia

Independence Rock State Park (1)

Sheridan
- Conner Battlefield State Historic Site (1)
- West Brundage Lane Pathway (1)

A state may not be represented in the above park list – an occurrence due most frequently to a decision to combine its apportionment from successive years in order to have sufficient funds for a desired project(s). States have three years to obligate funds to new projects once made available to them.
ARMSTRONG AND RANDALL COUNTIES, TEXAS: Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Gaynor Addition
For more information about the Land and Water Conservation Fund, including state program contacts, please visit us at www.nps.gov/lwcf