

CONNECTICUT

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Need for LWCF State Assistance in Connecticut

Presidential outdoor recreation studies under three different administrations in 1964, 1986 and 2010, as well as an independent report by a non partisan Outdoor Recreation Resources Group in 2009 have all documented the importance and need for the LWCF. And underscored the benefits to the nation by providing close to home places for outdoor recreation.

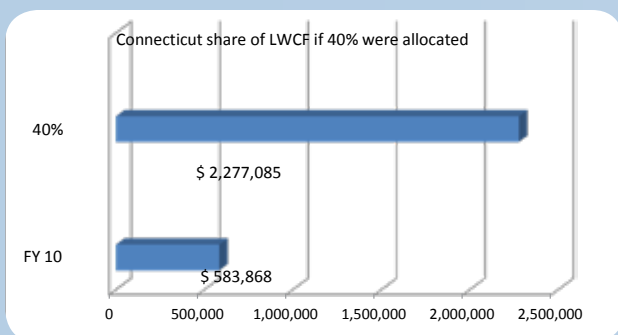
LWCF State Assistance Program in Connecticut

Connecticut has grown in recent years and so has the need for outdoor recreation resources. The National Park Service reported the average annual need for recreational facilities development in Connecticut over the last three fiscal years was \$90,333,333. One of the primary reasons for the size of this need has been the lack of equity in the distribution of the LWCF to the states which led to reduced State Assistance appropriations. In FY 2010 the LWCF distribution to Connecticut was \$583,868 which barely funded smaller local needs for projects and met less than one percent of the total need.



What would a 40% Allocation to the State Assistance Program Accomplish?

If in FY 2010, 40% of total LWCF funds had been allocated to the State Assistance Program, Connecticut would have received \$2,277,085 for local and state grants. When matched would provide \$4,554,170 in parks and open space improvements, addressing 5 % of the total annual need. Over the long term, with this level of funding and the matching requirement applied, much of the backlog of projects identified in Connecticut would be have been addressed. This graph demonstrates the level of funding that was provided to the states and how much more would have been available for state grants throughout the nation if a 40 % state share had been required in the past three fiscal years. It is essential to restore equity, so that outdoor recreation needs close to home can be addressed.



What benefits would be gained in Connecticut from requiring a 40% allocation in LWCF?

1. Locally based projects support economic activity through equipment sales and tourism in Connecticut.
2. Local LWCF projects provide access for citizens for active lives which have community health benefits.
3. LWCF park projects in Connecticut increase the value of adjacent property and the tax base.
4. Research shows that parks funded with LWCF are key components in community development revitalization.
5. LWCF projects in Connecticut provide places for local and regional sports and community events.
6. LWCF projects provide direct benefits providing jobs and contracts for local businesses and employees.

Where can I find a listing of Connecticut projects and the communities that have benefitted from this program?

Data from the NPS shows that, on a national basis, 98% of all communities in our country have utilized state and local LWCF grants for projects in the past. You can find the projects for each county in Connecticut by going to the National Park Service State Assistance website at:

<http://waso-lwcf.nrc.nps.gov/public/index.cfm>.



(or scan this)

The LWCF has an impact in Connecticut by providing economic benefits and jobs

A 2012 study by the Outdoor Industry Foundation showed that Outdoor recreation is an economic powerhouse in the United States. Each year the data shows that these activities generate \$646 billion in consumer spending and 6.1 million direct jobs in the industry. You can find more information on this study at:

<http://www.outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/recreation/economy.html#sthash.xlbKYJvK.dpufin>

These data demonstrate the development of facilities and areas using the LWCF State Assistance program pays off in Connecticut.