

DELAWARE

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Need for LWCF State Assistance in Delaware

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.

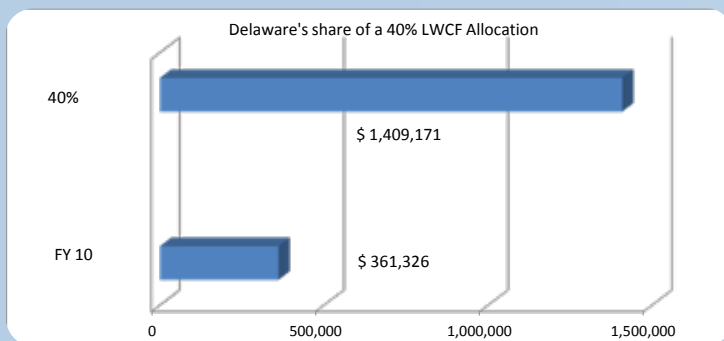
LWCF State Assistance Program in Delaware

Delaware has grown in recent years and so has the need for outdoor recreation. The National Park Service reported the average annual need for recreational facilities development in Delaware over the last three fiscal years was \$17,688,333. 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 Delaware was \$361,326 which barely funded smaller local needs for projects and met only 2.04% 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, Delaware would have received \$1,409,171 for local and state grants, which when matched would provide \$2,818,342 in parks and open space improvements. This would have addressed 16 % 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 Delaware would have been addressed. This graph demonstrates the level of funding that was provided to the states in FY 10 and how much more would have been available for state grants if a 40% state share had been required. It is essential to restore equity, so that outdoor recreation needs close to home can be addressed.



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

1. Locally based projects support economic activity through equipment sales and tourism in Delaware.
2. Local LWCF projects provide access for citizens for active lives which have community health benefits.
3. LWCF park projects in Delaware 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 Delaware 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 Delaware 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 Delaware by going to the National Park Service State Assistance website at:



(or scan this)

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

The LWCF has an impact in Delaware 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 Delaware.