



**Governor-appointed administrators  
of the federal  
Land & Water Conservation Fund  
State Assistance Program**

## **Land & Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program**

The United States Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to help preserve, develop and ensure access to outdoor recreation facilities. With earnings from offshore oil and gas leases – zero taxpayer dollars - the Act provided funds for the primary purpose of creating outdoor recreation opportunities on state, local and federal lands for all, directing 60 percent of LWCF into the State Assistance Program to be invested closest to where Americans live.

In the first 50 years, over 42,000 LWCF grants to states and localities built a nationwide system of parks in rural, suburban and urban areas, comprised of parks close-to-home, county recreation areas, state parks, and conserved natural treasures. \$4.2B in LWCF leveraged match from state, local and private sources representing at least an \$8.4B total investment in public outdoor recreation resources. These extraordinary partnership investments have resulted in public parks in every geographic region of the United States, every county, nearly every city or town, and territory.

Research in every state and territory found on-going investments in public outdoor recreation to be a fundamental community need. Demographic changes; shifts in population centers; health, wellness, and fitness issues; and facility rehabilitation point to the urgency of meeting outdoor recreation priorities. States and localities alone cannot keep up with these challenges.

In 1976, an Act amendment eliminated the 60 percent stateside/local guarantee, shifting appropriations to not less than 40 percent for federal land acquisition. With the 1998 introduction of other non-recreation facility programs, LWCF for State Assistance side further decreased.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act expired in 2015 and subsequently reauthorized by the Budget Bill through FFY18. Over FY2005-2014 decade, stateside LWCF averaged 12% - from a low of \$19M (FY09) to a high of \$91M (05). In FY16 Congress allocated \$94M for state/local assistance.

NASORLO and our partners are the principal advocates seeking equitable funds for the LWCF State Assistance Program, a longer program authorization, funds to address rising urban recreation needs, and program modernization.

With no predictable program timeframes and lack of stable funding, cities, counties and states are tested to create momentum meeting today's requirements for the close to home outdoor opportunities in the places where most Americans live.

### Contact Us:

Douglas Eiken, Executive Director, [Nasorlo@gmail.com](mailto:Nasorlo@gmail.com)

Susan Moerschel, President, [Susan.Moerschel@state.de.us](mailto:Susan.Moerschel@state.de.us)

Lauren Imgrund, Vice President, [LImgrund@pa.gov](mailto:LImgrund@pa.gov)

Tim Hogsett, Past President, [Tim.Hogsett@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Tim.Hogsett@tpwd.state.tx.us)

(over)

## Our Partners

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) members are park and recreation professionals and citizen advocates are 50,000 strong representing public spaces in urban communities, rural settings and everything in between. <http://www.nrpa.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Platform/>  
Contact: David Tyahla – [dtyahla@nrpa.org](mailto:dtyahla@nrpa.org)

National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) – composed of fifty state park directors guiding management and investments in America’s State Parks. <http://www.naspd.org/about-us/we-support/legislative-priorities/> Contact: Lewis Ledford – [Lewis@naspd.org](mailto:Lewis@naspd.org)

National Governor’s Association (NGA) - The nation’s governors urged Congress to establish full and long term funding from LWCF, and, establish certainty and stability for the stateside funding assistance.  
<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2015/GovernorsRecommendationsforReauthorizingLWCF.pdf> Contact: Alex Whitaker – [awhitaker@nga.org](mailto:awhitaker@nga.org)

City Park Alliance (CPA) – dedicated to urban parks serves a growing network of hundreds of civic and community leaders, government agencies, park authorities and funders.  
<http://www.mayorsforparks.org/> Contact: Julie Waterman – [jwaterman@cityparkalliance.org](mailto:jwaterman@cityparkalliance.org)

American Planning Association (APA) – the world’s largest planning organizations represents 40,000 professionals. <https://www.planning.org/policy/priorities/> Contact: Kirsten Holland – [kholland@advocacyassociates.com](mailto:kholland@advocacyassociates.com)

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) – equips struggling communities with capital, strategy and know-how to become places where people thrive. <http://www.lisc.org/> Contact: Abby Santos – [asantos@lisc.org](mailto:asantos@lisc.org)