

Maryland

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

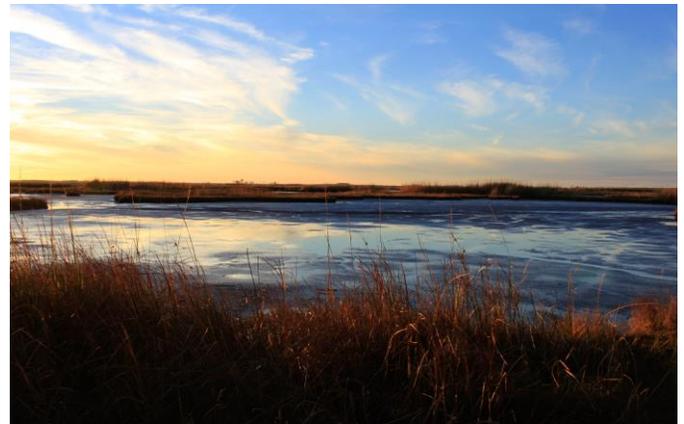
America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$222 million to protect Maryland's outdoor places, preserve historic sites, increase sportsmen's access, and to build close to home parks. From wildlife refuges and historic sites to ball fields and community parks, LWCF has protected Antietam National Battlefield, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Leakin Park in Baltimore, and Seneca State Park.

Maryland's \$14 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 109,000 jobs which generate \$4.4 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$951 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge & Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was established in 1932 as a waterfowl sanctuary, and is now a critical economic engine to the local economy, offering hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities to over 180,000 annual visitors. Its adjacent marshes and waters are one of the Chesapeake Bay's most important and productive estuarine assets, boasting one of the largest breeding populations of American bald eagles on the East Coast, and has been protected by more than \$11 million in LWCF investments. Established in 2013, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument encompasses a portion of Blackwater NWR. The landscape and historic sites tell the story of one of America's most inspiring figures, who escaped slavery in Maryland and returned to guide scores of others to freedom in the North. LWCF state grant funding was used to build the park's new state of the art visitor's center in partnership with the Maryland State Park Service.



Blackwater NWR, Credit: The Conservation Fund/Whitney Flanagan

“Ongoing conservation efforts at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge demonstrate a continued, long-term commitment to preserving not only the natural legacy but also the cultural heritage of the Eastern Shore. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is critical to ensuring that the Refuge and other natural lands in Maryland remain viable wildlife havens into the future.” – Bill Crouch, Maryland Director of The Conservation Fund.

Piscataway Park

The view across the Potomac from Mount Vernon was first targeted for protection as a pilot project to safeguard parklands from suburban sprawl. Piscataway Park was conceived in 1952 to preserve the river view as it existed during George Washington's day. Since that time, numerous organizations have joined in partnership with the NPS to ensure the protection of the historic viewshed. Federal LWCF funding provided to Piscataway Park has allowed the NPS, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, private conservation groups, willing landowners, and other partners, to protect 232 acres of critical shoreline since 1995. Other area properties have been protected but several remain vulnerable to development.



View from Mount Vernon, Credit: The Trust for Public Land

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Maryland!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/