

# Land and Water Conservation Fund *Giving Back to You and Your Community*



Gas Works Park, Seattle, Washington.  
Photo: Courtesy of Markus Wierzoch, [www.postindustrialdesigner.com/blog/seattle-tour-guide](http://www.postindustrialdesigner.com/blog/seattle-tour-guide).

## Vibrant Parks, Vibrant Communities

### Gas Works Park, Seattle, Washington

Protecting public outdoor spaces in urban areas – city parks, urban forests, wildlife refuges – provides an oasis to bustling city life. Urban green spaces offer kids safe places to play outdoors and people of all ages close-to-home recreational opportunities. Since 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program has provided more than 40,000 grants to local communities to protect and develop outdoor recreation projects.

*“LWCF funding for Gas Works Park is an investment in Seattle’s quality of life that has paid dividends. ... Without LWCF funding, the City would have been unable to develop the 2-acre northwest portion of the park, which had been inaccessible and vacant for many years.”*

- Ken Bounds,  
Former Superintendent, Seattle Parks and Recreation

In 1974, LWCF helped fund the transformation of an abandoned industrial gas complex into one of Seattle’s signature public open spaces. Gas Works Park, site of the former Seattle Gas Company gasification plant, encompasses 19 acres of fields, waterfront, historic industrial infrastructure, and public art. A beloved local gathering place perched at the north end of Lake Union with an unmatched view of the city skyline, each year the park hosts hundreds of thousands of concertgoers, kite flying enthusiasts, picnickers, bicyclists and other active and passive recreationists. An award-winning example of the creative reuse of a former urban industrial site for public open space and recreation, the park is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**880,000 JOBS**  
are created through  
recreation activities on  
your federal lands <sup>1</sup>

For every **\$1** spent on the  
LWCF, communities receive  
**\$4** in **ECONOMIC**  
**BENEFIT** <sup>2</sup>



The LWCF has invested in  
community projects for  
**EVERY COUNTY**  
in the United States <sup>3</sup>

The LWCF uses **ZERO**  
**TAXPAYER DOLLARS**



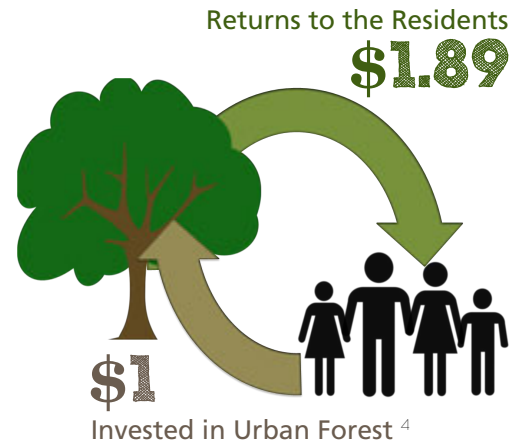
### ABOUT Land and Water Conservation Fund

Using zero taxpayer dollars, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) uses earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help preserve our history and protect our lands. The LWCF is a balanced approach between using and preserving our natural resources, while giving back to American communities.



Forty years after the initial Land and Water Conservation Fund investment, Land and Water Conservation Funding still plays a significant role in the life of this unique park, helping to activate an unused portion of the park for neighborhood recreation. Recent Land and Water Conservation Fund grants funded partial removal of a concrete barrier wall, landscaping and connections to the Burke Gilman Trail, a multi-use recreational trail that connects dozens of Seattle neighborhoods on its 19-mile route from Puget Sound to Lake Washington.

A study conducted in the Central Valley town of Modesto, CA, found that:



## LWCF at Work for Your Parks

Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio



Who's Hiding discovery at Cuyahoga Valley National Park.  
Photo: National Park Service

In the industrial heartland of the Midwest, Cuyahoga Valley National Park lies between the great lakes port city of Cleveland and the old rubber capital of the world, Akron. The park serves to protect and preserve the open space of a glacial valley and river bed and to interpret the historic pioneer culture. Since the 1870s, the Valley has been a prominent escape from urban areas for the local population.

Recently, the largest undeveloped private inholding in Cuyahoga Valley National Park was acquired (644 acres) and saved from development with support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The park sought to protect this land to maintain the integrity of the outdoor experiences that the park provides.

Today, the park is surrounded by 3.5 million people who call this area of northeast Ohio home. Its more than 20,000 acres provide habitat for plants and animals indigenous to the area, recreational access to rivers, trails, and significant historical sites. In 2013, the park received 2.3 million visitors.

**Did You Know?**

- Cuyahoga Valley National Park is 15 miles from downtown Cleveland.
- The park offers 140 miles of biking, hiking and horseback riding trails.
- Each winter the park hosts the Ohio Special Olympics

<sup>1</sup> The Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation, Outdoor Recreation: Jobs and Income Economy, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> The Trust for Public Land, Return on the Investment from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> LWCF NPS Grant Program, <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/history.html>, retrieved 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Benefit-Cost Analysis of Modesto's Municipal Urban Forest, Journal of Arboriculture 25(5), September 1999.