

Highlighted LWCF Recreation Projects

About these projects

Putting LWCF Dollars to Work

The passage of the Great American Outdoors Act guarantees \$900 million in mandatory annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a critical tool for funding outdoor recreation access in the United States. To help put these funds to work, the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) put out a call for projects from around the country, including land and water management agencies, state departments of natural resources, outdoor businesses and outdoor partners. Funding these projects will engage more people in outdoor recreation in communities across the country, grow local outdoor recreation economies, and support the \$689 billion outdoor recreation industry for years to come.

From the complete list, **ORR has identified twelve outstanding projects from across the country.**



These projects showcase ORR's priorities for use of LWCF dollars:

- **Increasing recreation access for everyone, across all outdoor activities**
- **Promoting rural economic development by adding value and jobs to nearby communities**
- **Enhancing opportunities for underrepresented groups (e.g. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, Low-income, Disabled, Immigrants, etc.)**

ORR looks forward to engaging with agency partners and elected officials at the federal and state levels, as well as members of Congress, over the next year to ensure that these LWCF projects and more can deliver the greatest impact on the ground through conservation, access, economic development and equity.



Skull Hollow Trailhead

Location: Prineville

State: Oregon

Program: State and Local Assistance

Hiking
Horseback Riding
Mountain Biking
Off-road Motorized
RV

Skull Hollow Trailhead is the gateway to the Crooked River National Grassland (CRNG) located in the Center of Oregon which has experienced significant growth over the last 10-15 years and serves many under represented populations. This trailhead is the busiest on the CRNG with the least amount of infrastructure that is woefully inadequate. It has year around access less than 30 minutes from five towns between two state highways.

This project will construct parking for hikers and mountain bikers as well as a separated parking for horse trailers and larger RV's. It will include the installation of a kiosk and several picnic tables accessed by paved accessible paths from parking.

This trailhead serves a very popular 25 mile trail loop with the potential of many more shorter trail loops being considered for future development. It is also located adjacent to the busiest CRNG (Skull Hollow) campground and in close proximity to Smith Rocks State Park.



Klauer Trail

Location: Rio Del Grande National Monument

State: New Mexico

Program: BLM Land Acquisition

Hiking
Canoeing
Fishing
Kayaking
Rafting
Hunting
Camping

The acquisition of the private Klauer property within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument will provide an opportunity to protect a national significant landscape which is seen throughout Rio Grande del Norte. These additions would expand the area to the south side of NM Highway 68, allowing more recreational areas, trail system expansions, and connections to the Carson National Forest south, while also providing an improved public overlook of the iconic Rio Grande Gorge. BLM has already made significant investments in this area and this project would be the fourth with the same landowner. This expansion will protect land which is at high risk for commercial development which would negatively impact the view shed and watershed of the Monument, and improve wildlife connectivity.

This expansion would be beneficial to the recreational values of the area, which annually receives millions of visitors from around the world. The unique setting of the Monument provides a wealth of recreational opportunities such as whitewater rafting, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and camping. Recreation is a large economic driver throughout the state, making this project in particular of the utmost importance.



Pike County ATV Trail System

Location: Pike County

State: Kentucky

Cost: \$500,000-\$750,000

Program: State and Local Assistance

Hiking

Horseback Riding

Mountain Biking

Off-road Motorized

The Pike County Fiscal Court in Pike County, Kentucky is developing an ATV trail system that will loop the entire county. The trail system has currently over 700 miles mapped and identified. This will be the first leg of the trail spine to be developed and once served the mining industry. This area that has been reclaimed and preserved can now serve as a tourism destination with its beautiful trails and overlooks.

The project has invested more than \$500,000 of LGEDF Single County Coal Severance funds in the project so far for construction of the trails, consultant for an ATV Trails Masterplan, and purchase of property, and is seeking grants from the Economic Development Administration for other infrastructure.

The Flatwoods Recreational Park will be the centerpiece of Pike County's ATV Hillbilly Trails System. It will offer diversity in outdoor activities such as Zip Line Courses, Disc Golf Course, Mountain Bike Courses, ATV Trails, Amphitheatre for music and the arts, Ropes/Obstacle Course, Horse Trails and Arena and multipurpose venue. Hillbilly ATV Trails will be connected to a regional off-road riding network and provide great opportunity for rural economic development.





Bill Dance Signature Lakes

State: Tennessee, Statewide

Cost: \$15,000,000

Program: State and Local Assistance

Canoeing
Fishing
Kayaking
Motorboating
Rafting
Sailing

Bill Dance Signature Lakes includes eighteen lakes with a proven track record for quality fishing for a variety of fish. In partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority, reservoirs will receive new or upgraded best-in-class ramps to improve public access for both recreational and tournament anglers. Each of the eighteen lakes will see such above-water upgrades as courtesy docks, ample parking, additional access points, fishing piers and signage, to name a few. Several smaller lakes, many of which are located within Tennessee State Parks, will be managed intensively by TWRA for Bill Dance approved family fishing with regular stockings to ensure the best chance for success.

Tennesseans will benefit from increased stocking, habitat and fisheries management, as well as improved access for fishing and boating. The collaborative effort between Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee State Parks, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, and Governor Bill Lee seeks to solidify Tennessee as the heart of fishing in the southeast and drive economic activity across the state.



Governor Bill Lee (L) and Bill Dance (R)



Patuxent River State Park Trail System

Location: Gaithersburg

State: Maryland

Cost: \$1,000,000-\$1,500,000

Program: State and Local Assistance

Backpacking
Campground

Canoeing

Kayaking

Fishing

Hiking

Horseback Riding

Mountain Biking

Rafting

Rock Climbing

Wildlife Watching

The Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiast Inc. (MORE) intends to build 25 miles of sustainable, multi-use, public natural surface trails in Howard and Montgomery Counties. This will be a world-class trail system for hiking, biking, and equestrian use, in an underserved area for natural surface trails.

The trail system is intended to put nearby towns like Damascus, Mount Airy, Woodbine, and Laytonsville on the map for visitation and economic development. To date they have raised over \$300k in funds through a combination of Recreational Trails Program grants, member funds, donations from other clubs, and businesses including REI, Shimano, Competitive Power Ventures, and Wells Fargo Bank. They have hired professional trail builders, and to date have engaged volunteers in over 1800hours of trail work. This park also offers hunting and angling and the project enjoys the support of a diverse community of recreation advocates in the surrounding region.





Gallinas River Park Revitalization

Location: Las Vegas

State: New Mexico

Cost: \$4,000,000

Program: State and Local Assistance

Archery

Birding

Fishing

Hiking

Mountain Biking

Playground

The Gallinas River provides Las Vegas with 90% of its drinking water and is the source of life for local flora and fauna. The population of surrounding community Las Vegas is approximately 13,000 (almost 80% Hispanic) with a poverty rate of over 36%. Honoring the exceptional quality of the Gallinas River and its riparian area is vital for the community of Las Vegas to sustain its unique cultural and historical identity and improve overall quality of life. The Gallinas River Park, extending through the center of Las Vegas, is an exceptionally rich outdoor space that is easily accessible to Las Vegas and surrounding rural communities.

The project has been in the works for a few years. The City of Las Vegas has recently completed shovel-ready design for the first phase of the river park in the city center, funded by the City, San Miguel County and NM State Capital Outlay funds. Because of the high poverty rate in Las Vegas, developing one of its key attributes, such as the Gallinas River Park, to cultivate community pride and encourage tourism is an important part of the city-wide strategy to be a vibrant community.





Lost Trail Conservation Area

Location: Flathead and Lincoln Counties

State: Montana

Program: USFWS Land Acquisition

Hunting

Fishing

Hiking

Wildlife Watching

The purchase of conservation easements on 100,000 acres of privately owned timberland in Flathead and Lincoln counties would help protect the parcels from private development while also ensuring continued public access and sustainable logging harvests, as well as a wildlife corridor spanning the Kootenai and Flathead national forests.

The proposed project lands currently form a checkerboard of ownership surrounding the FWS' Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge, a 7,876-acre mosaic of wetlands, streams, prairie grasslands, forested hillsides, and rock outcroppings overlooking the Pleasant Valley near Marion.

Federal resource managers are currently submitting funding proposals through LWCF to enable the agency to secure grant money to acquire the easements from Southern Pine Plantations, the current owners of the land. Once funding is secured, the newly approved Lost Trail Conservation Area would be established as a new unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.





PWS Marine Trail

Location: Prince William Sound

State: Alaska

Cost: \$800,000

Program: State and Local Assistance

Backpacking
Camping
Fishing
Hiking
Kayaking
Motorboating

Partners are working to create an established marine trail for boating in Prince William Sound. This project has been discussed since 2007, and with current funding opportunities is receiving renewed attention. The PWSEDD is leading coordination of a partnership to move it forward.

Project sponsors anticipate submitting a funding request to the Economic Development Administration's Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program funding opportunity. This project has great regional significance and stands to benefit water taxi operators, kayak rental and outfitter guide businesses, and lodging and restaurant businesses in the three larger communities in PWS. Available to guided or self-guided boaters, this kind of recreation resource will draw independent travelers to our remote, coastal communities, creating direct and "multiplier effect" economic benefits.





Cinnabar Mountain Trail

Location: Aleknagik

State: Alaska

Cost: \$250,000

Program: State and Local Assistance

Hiking
Mountain Bike
Off-road Motorized
Snowmobiling
Snowshoeing
XC Skiing

The City of Aleknagik seeks to provide improvements to trail corridor by improving tread, cutting and clearing brush, adding signage, pit restrooms and benches, and drainage for 1.3 miles of rough terrain for subsistence activities, hikers and ATVs.

57.5 % of the community of Aleknagik, a community of 237 and growing, identifies as low-or-moderate-income. Aleknagik is the gateway to the largest State Park in the United States, Wood Tikchik, and many surrounding businesses provide and offer tourism activities including fishing. The city recently signed an agreement with NOAA to identify weather implications to help them observe climatic changes occurring in their community.





Northeast Iowa Backbone Trail

Location: Guttenberg

State: Iowa

Program: State and Local Assistance

Boating
Hiking
Horseback Riding
Mountain Biking
Snowmobiling
Snowshoeing
Wildlife Watching
XC Skiing

This project will develop 77 miles of new trail and resurface 20 miles of existing trail to complete the “Northeast Iowa Backbone Trail”. Sponsored by Northeast Iowa RC&D, this project will connect trails in 3 states and 4 Iowa counties, with dozens of city, county, state and federal public natural areas, and dozens of communities.

Outdoor recreation tourism is one of the main economic drivers in the region. Existing land and water trails in this multi-county region follow state and nationally recognized rivers, scenic byways, and trout streams.

The “Northeast Iowa Backbone Trail” will link popular existing trails to each other and to trails in the adjacent states of Minnesota and Wisconsin, accelerating and expanding economic impacts. Economic Impact studies conducted by independent 3rd parties confirm that implementation of this project/creation of the Northeast Iowa Backbone Trail, which will be the main stem of a diverse, high quality regional trail system, will stimulate economic development, foster business creation and expansion, and create jobs. Further maximizing short and long-term job creation, economic impact, and outputs for the project.



Yonkers Greenway

Location: Yonkers

State: New York

Cost: Approx \$5 million

Program: State and Local Assistance

Walking
Road Biking

This project would support a railbed greenway and on-street bike lanes in SW Yonkers, a diverse lower income neighborhood with limited access to nature. The area has a population of about 200,000, which is about 42% Hispanic and 17% Black. An estimated 14.2% of the area population live below the poverty line.

About half of the trail will be on the right of way of the long abandoned Putnam railway. The rest will be an on street bike lane. The project will connect Van Cortlandt Park to the south (NYC) with downtown Yonkers, New York's 3rd largest city.

Nonprofit project partner Groundwork Hudson Valley has prioritized climate change mitigation through urban green spaces.





Southern Tier Trail

Location: Buffalo

State: New York

Cost: \$130,000,000

Program: State and Local Assistance

Hiking
Horseback Riding
Mountain Biking
Road Biking
Snowmobiling
XC Skiing

The proposed 80-mi Southern Tier Trail will connect tourists and residents of more than 20 towns, cities, and villages, including Seneca Nation Allegany Territory, to environmental resources and scenic destinations in the WNY region.

This regional loop connects underserved low-income rural communities. Because much of the proposed facility is rail-to-trail, it gives the economic opportunity to reconnect many historic downtowns, spur investment to preserve historic depot buildings, and promote regional tourism. The Southern Tier Trail is broken-out into 23 multi-use trail project segments of varying priority and accommodating a variety of user types, including cyclists, pedestrians, equestrians, and snowmobilers. Proposed project segments accommodate seasonal use as well as popular use types, which vary from horseback-riding to hiking to bicycling, making this a truly multi-use trail.

By linking many towns, cities, and villages, the Southern Tier Trail will provide an alternative for local trips between rural town centers and suburban towns and cities, reducing trips by personal automobile and providing safe transportation alternatives for children and households with limited vehicle access.

