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Utilizing the Great American Outdoors Act/Land and Water Conservation Fund for Outdoor Recreation Access, Public Health, Improved Equity and Economic Development

Executive Summary

On June 17, 2020, S.3422—the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), sponsored by Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Joe Manchin (D-WV), and co-sponsored by a bipartisan coalition of 59 other Senators—passed the Senate by a broad bipartisan vote of 73-25. On July 22, H.R.1957, the House version of the same bill, passed with another bipartisan vote of 310-107. Signed by the President on August 4th, GAOA will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at a level of \$900 million annually and address the approximately \$20 billion maintenance backlog on federal public lands through a new "National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund." GAOA enjoys widespread support outside the federal government with 850 outdoor companies, conservation and recreation organizations, local and state governments [supporting the passage](#) of GAOA.

The Benefits of Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation is a major force in the American economy. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that outdoor recreation generates \$778 billion in economic output and supports 5.2 million jobs—many of which are in rural communities. This research shows that outdoor recreation comprises 2.2 percent of the United States GDP, and on the indicators of real gross output, compensation, and employment, grew faster than the U.S. economy as a whole during the time period measured.¹ In 2018, over 318 million national park visits led to \$20.2 billion in direct spending at hotels, restaurants, outfitters, and other amenities in gateway communities, supporting over 329,000 jobs and generating over \$40.1 billion in total economic output.² The benefits of outdoor recreation extend to the state, regional and local levels. Research from Headwaters Economics shows that outdoor recreation amenities draw visitors

¹ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. [Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and Prototype for States, 2017](#). September 20, 2019.

² RV Industry Association. [Support for the Great American Outdoors Act](#). May 11, 2020.

who spend money at local businesses, help recruit and retain talent for all businesses,³ attract new investments, increase property values, and improve quality of life and public health, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.⁴

Supporting Deferred Maintenance Projects

The Great American Outdoors Act revitalizes America's conservation and outdoor recreation heritage by establishing the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund to address an estimated \$20 billion maintenance backlog on federal public lands. The backlog includes \$11.92 billion at the National Park Service, \$5.2 billion at the U.S. Forest Service, \$1.3 billion at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and \$960 million at the Bureau of Land Management in FY2018.⁵ Eligible projects include paved roads, buildings, trails, water and wastewater systems, housing, unpaved roads and campgrounds. GAOA will deposit into the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund an amount equal to 50 percent of all federal revenues from the development of oil, gas, coal, and alternative or renewable energy on federal lands and waters, and not exceed \$1.9 billion for any fiscal year.⁶ These appropriations would bolster outdoor recreation opportunities across the United States by improving both accessibility and user experience on diverse, publicly-owned outdoor assets.

Fully Funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund

While the restoration fund component of GAOA is a novel mechanism, LWCF—funded through offshore oil and gas lease revenues for over 50 years—is one of America's most powerful tools to protect and provide outdoor recreation access in every country in the country.⁷ GAOA guarantees the full

³ Rasker, Ray. [West is Best: How Public Lands in the West Create a Competitive Economic Advantage](#). Headwaters Economics, March 11, 2019.

⁴ Lawson, Megan. [How Outdoor Recreation Supports Rural Economic Development](#). Headwaters Economics, February 19, 2019.

⁵ Congressional Research Service. [Deferred Maintenance of Federal Land Management Agencies: FY2009-FY2018 Estimates and Issues](#). April 30, 2019.

⁶ U.S. Congress. [S.3422 - Great American Outdoors Act](#). March 09, 2020.

⁷ [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#), U.S. Department of the Interior.

capability of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to protect outdoor recreation assets and increase access across the United States. LWCF was established by an Act of Congress in 1964 to provide conservation and outdoor recreation grants at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. The primary income source for the fund is fees and royalties on offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters, paid to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. LWCF is authorized to disburse up to \$900 million annually for conservation and outdoor recreation projects, though this cap has only been met twice in the program's history.⁸ GAOA would direct \$900 million to be spent solely on LWCF's intended purpose each year, rather than allowing diversions of funding towards other purposes, which has been the norm.

The broad conservation and outdoor recreation impacts of LWCF can be attributed to its two main funding channels - federal land acquisition at public land areas and state and local grant programs - that are administered through nine separate programs at the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service. LWCF funds for federal land acquisition flow through four federal land management agencies - Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service - to acquire lands, waters and interests therein necessary to protect their natural, cultural, wildlife, and recreation management objectives. The recently-passed Dingell Act, which permanently reauthorized LWCF, included language highlighting the need for focused recreation access investments, and the GAOA includes a set-aside of three percent of LWCF's total \$900 million dedicated funding that each agency must use to enhance outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing. Federal land acquisition accounts for roughly 60 percent of the \$18.9 billion appropriated since the inception of LWCF. These funds have helped protect many of the country's most iconic land- and waterscapes, including Great Sand Dunes National Park (CO), Flight 93 National Memorial (PA), and Everglades National Park (FL), and protected innumerable recreation access for the public all across the nation.

⁸ Ducks Unlimited. [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)

State Side grants are managed by the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program and have provided billions in funding to state, tribal and local governments for a variety of outdoor recreation purposes, including acquisition, development, and/or rehabilitation of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites. State Side grants most often target community-level needs and can be used to rehabilitate and improve outdoor recreation infrastructure like parks, trails, bike paths, ball fields, recreation centers, pools and bathhouses, cultural interpretation sites, and other areas as well as analytical studies on recreation potentials, needs, opportunities and policies.⁹ While these projects often lack the name recognition of federally managed assets, they solve for community needs by increasing quality of life, improving access to outdoor recreation, addressing equity and health disparities, and enhancing economic opportunities in diverse communities across the country.¹⁰

Importantly, state grants are 50/50 matching grants, meaning the federal government supplies up to 50 percent of the project cost, and the state project sponsor bears the remaining cost. It should be noted, however, that meeting match requirements can be exceedingly difficult for smaller communities. This can lead to an over-representation of funded projects in larger communities. The ongoing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy may further restrict communities' abilities to guarantee match requirements until budgets stabilize, particularly in regions with restricted budgets prior to the economic shutdown.

State grants can be further subdivided into two categories: traditional (formula) and competitive. The traditional grant program provides matching grants to states for outdoor recreation planning and facility development, while competitive grants (i.e. "Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program") are used to develop outdoor recreation projects in areas lacking sufficient close-to-home parks, as well as

⁹ National Park Service. [State and Local Grant Funding - Land and Water Conservation Fund \(US National Park Service\)](#)

¹⁰ [U.S. Department of the Interior, September 5, 2019.](#)

promote the development of new or enhanced partnerships to support outdoor recreation in densely populated cities with populations of 50,000 or more.

Targeted Economic Development via Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure

LWCF State Side grants provide a tool for states to invest in community outdoor recreation amenities and build more resilient local economies. In FY2019, the State and Local Assistance Program awarded grants ranging from \$8,000 to \$4.4 million to a diverse array of projects that support outdoor recreation including public parks, community pools, bathhouses, visitor centers, parking lots, ballfields, splash pads, golf courses, equestrian centers, water treatment plants, campgrounds and many others.¹¹ Among the largest state side grants in 2019 were the 11th Avenue Community Pool Development in Delano, CA (\$2.8 million), the Hollofield Bathhouse Replacement in Ellicott City, MD (\$1.9 million), and Rendezvous Beach Renovation near Laketown, UT (\$1.5 million). These outdoor recreation-focused projects improve quality of life for locals and attract economic activity from tourists. According to Headwaters Economics, "recreation counties" (i.e. those with greater share of employment in entertainment and recreation, accommodations, eating and drinking places, and real estate) experience various economic benefits, including short-term support for tourism-related businesses, longer-term support by recruiting new residents who may be business owners, entrepreneurs, or workers, and by growing earnings per job across a community.¹² In the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program competitive grant selection process, NPS staff are cognizant of these benefits. Staff favorably evaluate projects that create jobs, directly connect people to the outdoors, engage community members, and involve public-private partnerships.

¹¹ National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers. *2019 LWCF State Side Grant Report*.

¹² Headwaters Economics. [*Recreation Counties Attract New Residents and Higher Incomes*](#). January 2019.

Improved Outdoor Recreation Access, Equity and Health Outcomes

By investing in outdoor recreation infrastructure that can be used by a diverse array of constituents close to home, LWCF state side grants also improve access to outdoor recreation and increase equity and health outcomes in communities.¹³ According to the National Park Service, 75 percent of total funds obligated through state and local grants have gone to locally-sponsored projects to provide close-to-home recreation opportunities that benefit America's youth, adults, senior citizens, and the physically or mentally challenged.¹⁴ When looking specifically at the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, the grant selection process also prioritizes communities that are underserved in terms of outdoor recreation opportunities, and that have economically disadvantaged populations.¹⁵ These opportunities are particularly important given the context of a 2020 report from the Outdoor Foundation which estimates that just under half of the United States population did not participate in outdoor recreation at all in 2018, and that Americans went on one billion *fewer* outdoor outings in 2018 than they did in 2008.¹⁶ There are equity issues embedded in these statistics as well: when focusing on racial/ethnic groups, African American/Black in-group participation rates have declined from a high of 55 percent to around 38 percent.¹⁷ Additional research indicates that communities of color are three times more likely than white communities to live in nature deprived places.¹⁸ These statistics fit within the context of broader research from the Trust for Public Land that suggests that 100 million Americans do not have a park or green space within a 10-minute walk from their home.¹⁹ When considering that outdoor recreation is linked to increased fitness and better cardiovascular function, and reduced blood pressure, obesity, and

¹³ Vincent, Carol Hardy. [Land and Water Conservation Fund: Overview, Funding History, and Issues](#). Congressional Research Service.

¹⁴ [State and Local Grant Funding - Land and Water Conservation Fund \(US National Park Service\)](#)

¹⁵ National Park Service. [National Park Service Announces Grants for New Park Development and Improvement Projects in 18 Cities](#). December 27, 2019.

¹⁶ Outdoor Foundation. [2019 Outdoor Participation Report](#)

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Rowland-Shea, Jenny, Doshi, Sahir, Edberg, Shanna, and Fanger, Robert. [The Nature Gap: Confronting Racial and Economic Disparities in the Destruction and Protection of Nature in America](#). Center for American Progress July 2020.

¹⁹ Trust for Public Land. [ParkServe® - About, Methodology, and FAQ](#)

resting heart rate,²⁰ it is evident that disadvantaged communities would experience health benefits from improved outdoor recreation opportunities. LWCF state side grants are a pivotal tool to enable such outcomes.

Breakdown of FY2019 LWCF State Side Projects

The LWCF State and Local Assistance Program disbursed over \$130 million in LWCF state side grants to a variety of projects that improve outdoor recreation opportunities in diverse counties across the United States.²¹ FY2019 grants covered 46 states, and supported projects in state and local parks like:

- Acquisition
- Amphitheaters
- Archery/Shooting Ranges
- Ballfields/Ball Sports (surface upgrades and rehabilitation, lighting, running tracks)
- Beach/Harbor/Marina (boathouses, beaches piers/pavilions, boat launches)
- Camping/Lodging (cabins, campgrounds)
- Dog Parks
- Equestrian
- Fishing/Boardwalk
- Golf Courses
- Ice Rinks
- Infrastructure (parking areas, electrical, roads, ADA accessibility, shelters, water treatment, waste management)
- Parks/Trails Development/Renovation (park development, trail resurfacing, bridge construction, multi-use paths, fitness stations)
- Planning (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) and Master Plans)
- Playgrounds (including ADA accessibility)
- Pool/Aquatic Centers
- Restrooms/Bathhouses
- Skate Parks
- Splash Pads
- Tennis Courts (including pickleball)
- Visitors Centers

The distribution of grants by project type can be found in Figure 1. The grants ranged in size from \$8,000 to \$4.4 million, with median grant size of \$200,000. Distribution of grants by size can be found in

²⁰ Eigenschenk, B. et. al. [*Benefits of Outdoor Sports for Society. A Systematic Literature Review and Reflections on Evidence.*](#) March 15, 2019.

²¹ National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers. *2019 LWCF State Side Grant Report.*

Figure 2. The diversity of projects demonstrates the wide utility of LWCF state side grants to support outdoor recreation amenities and community needs. These projects grow outdoor recreation economies in both urban and rural communities, increase quality of life, improve access to outdoor recreation, and address equity issues.

Achieving Funding Match

As mentioned, LWCF state side grants require a 1:1 funding match from the project sponsor to receive a grant. A project sponsor must have total project costs committed at the time of application, as the sponsor must make full payment on all project expenses before being reimbursed for up to 50 percent of allowable costs.²² While each state sources funding for LWCF match from different partners, a grant manager from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources²³ pointed to the following sources of funding that are most often utilized for local projects, generally from most to least common:

- Cash from the grant recipient
- Force account (i.e. in-kind services from the grant recipient)
- Cash donations from private partners (e.g. local businesses)
- Donated labor (non-recipient)
- Donated materials
- State stewardship grants
- Donations/grants from local private foundations or organizations
- Cash donation or in-kind from partner jurisdictions (e.g. a county contributing to a city project)
- Grants/donations from land trusts (uncommon)
- Grants/donations from national nonprofits or private foundations (uncommon)
- State economic development, tourism, or office of outdoor rec grant programs (uncommon, but gaining interest)

This grant manager noted that contributions from national-level organizations are very rare, and that grantees cannot use other federal dollars to match LWCF, with limited exceptions. The likelihood of acquiring the funding listed above is made greater by designating a broadly representative stakeholder group to unite around the potential for outdoor recreation in a given community. Additionally, a hired

²² [Land And Water Conservation Fund State-side Grant Program | Utah State Parks](#)

²³ Jennifer Gihring, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

grant/funding coordinator for a town, region or state can help uncover sources of funding, act as a messenger to potential funders on the benefits of outdoor recreation for a given community and assist with sometimes-burdensome LWCF grant requirements for a project sponsor.

Ensuring Efficient Spending on Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure through Partnerships

The return on investment for outdoor recreation infrastructure through LWCF is even greater when considering utilization of existing structures like youth service corps or university extension services for their implementation. Corps are locally-based organizations that engage young adults (generally ages 16 – 25) and veterans (up to age 35) in service projects that address recreation and conservation, among other desired outcomes.²⁴ More than 230 active member organizations are currently recognized as part of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, which saw bipartisan support in Congress in the 2019 John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. Corps work on all types of conservation, restoration and resilience, and disaster response work, and provide outstanding quality of service at a fraction of the cost compared to traditional government contract workers.

Through the cooperative extension system, land-grant colleges and universities provide vital, practical information to agricultural producers, small business owners, consumers, families, and young people.²⁵ For example, the West Virginia University Extension Service entered a cooperative partnership with the USDA Forest Service and local communities around the Monongahela National Forest to conduct gateway community assessments, develop asset maps, design public spaces and market the region, while efficiently utilizing government funding. Both corps and university extension services can play a valuable role in cost-effective implementation of LWCF-sponsored projects.

²⁴ The Corps Network. [What is a Corps?](#)

²⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Extension](#).

Next Steps for Outdoor Recreation Community

Now that GAOA is enacted, the outdoor recreation business community stands ready to play an integral role in the prioritization and implementation of outdoor recreation infrastructure projects that would enable environmental, community and economic benefits across the United States. Examples of potential projects are listed in the appendix, as identified by state outdoor recreation directors across the country. In the face of simultaneous acute crises across America—COVID-19, public health disparities and inequities in outdoor access, to name a few—these stakeholders should make the case that outdoor recreation infrastructure provides holistic benefits to communities. Dollars spent on outdoor recreation infrastructure provide a strong return on investment through improved public health and decreased healthcare costs,^{26,27} increased property values and tax revenues,²⁸ improved air and water quality,²⁹ reduced crime rates,³⁰ and small business development and revitalization,³¹ among many other outcomes. It may be wise to develop new language to emphasize these benefits— for instance, the term "front door" outdoor recreation could be used to describe accessible local opportunities (i.e. within ten minutes from one's front door), versus "backcountry" outdoor recreation as that which takes place a significant distance from home, often removed from cell service and rapid medical care. Additionally, the outdoor recreation community can help address the challenging difficulties in LWCF local match requirements for rural communities by offering cash or in-kind support to project development, with emphasis on projects that provide access to historically underserved populations. By passing the Great American Outdoors Act, the

²⁶ Gies, Erica. [*The Health Benefits of Parks: How Parks Help Keep Americans and their Communities Fit and Healthy*](#). Trust for Public Land. 2006

²⁷ Wang, F. et al. *BMI, Physical Activity, and Health Care Utilization/Costs Among Medicare Retirees*. 2005.

²⁸ Nicholls, S., and J. Crompton. 2005. *The Impact of Greenways on Property Values: Evidence from Austin, Texas*. *Journal of Leisure Research* 37(3): 321-341.

²⁹ Denchak, Melissa. [*Green Infrastructure: How to Manage Water in a Sustainable Way*](#). Natural Resources Defense Council. March 04, 2019

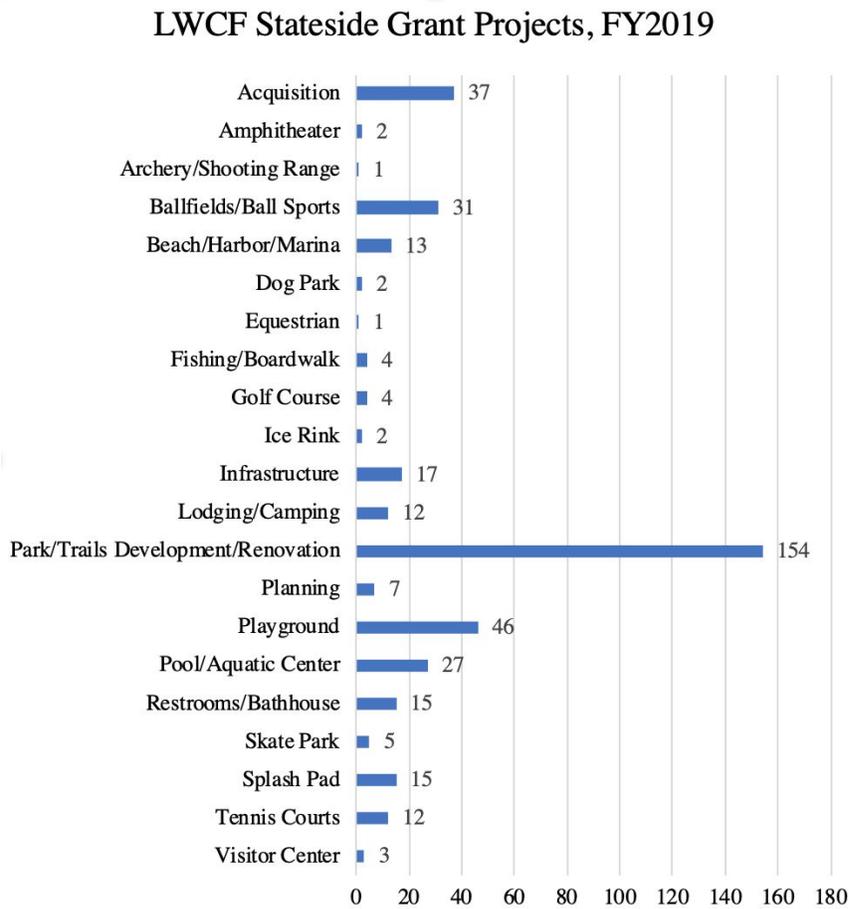
³⁰ Weinstein, Netta et al. *Seeing Community for the Trees: The Links Among Contact with Natural Environments, Community Cohesion, and Crime*. *BioScience*, 2015.

³¹ Davis, Lindsey, King, Frank-Paul, and Wooden, John. [*Commentary: Outdoor recreation small businesses are the new frontier for rural communities*](#). The Salt Lake Tribune. November 9, 2019.

United States has an outstanding opportunity to revitalize outdoor recreation's role as a driver of economic, environmental and social benefits in diverse communities throughout the country.

Appendix

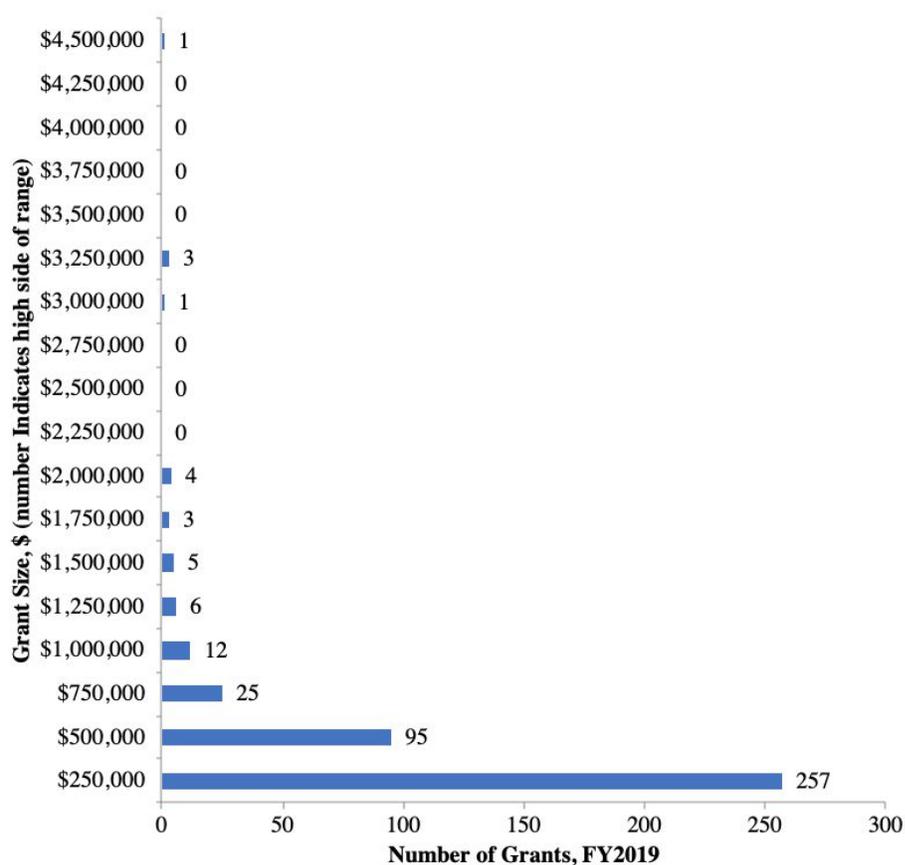
Figure 1. Distribution of LWCF State Side Grant Projects by Project Type³²



³² Data from National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO)

Figure 2. Distribution of LWCF State Side Grant Projects by Grant Size³³

Frequency of LWCF Stateside Grant Size, FY2019



³³ Data from National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO)

Table 1. Potential Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Projects for LWCF State Side Funding

Project Title	ST	Description	Total Project Cost	Grant Request Amount
Bear Creek Trail— City of Lakewood	CO	Improvements to the Bear Creek Trail include the addition of a crusher fines parallel trail, widening and realigning the concrete trail in certain sections and adding striping and signage to enhance safety and wayfinding. This will help alleviate congestion along the trail by providing an alternative natural surface for walkers and runners.	\$2,032,480	\$750,000
Legacy Loop, Rock Island Trail Segment— Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services	CO	The planned Rock Island Trail, the northern connector of the Loop, will link more than 121,000 residents living within a 2-mile biking radius and 21,861 residents within a one-half mile walking radius of the Legacy Loop to nearby parks, educational institutions, hospitals, business districts, and areas of employment. Investment in trail infrastructure in the project area is critically needed as many residents are economically disadvantaged with 25% of households living in poverty and 20% having no access to a personal vehicle.	\$1,523,100	\$750,000
St. Vrain Greenway Trail— St. Vrain State Park	CO	This 1.2 miles of greenway trail connects Longmont and Firestone Trails. This project will connect the St. Vrain Greenway trail under Highway 119 to the Firestone Trail under I-25 as the Front Range Legacy trail and is a key connection linking the community greenway trails through the state park.	\$1,100,000	\$550,000
City of Boyne City/Charlevoix County--Open Space Pathways	MI	Construct non-motorized pathways at the Boyne City Open Space Park property. Property is approximately 4.6 acres with 600 feet of shoreline on Lake Charlevoix. The site is used as an open space park available for general public use and enhances the economic development opportunity for adjacent properties including the public boat launch, commercial and residential properties in the immediate area.	\$376,600	\$188,300
Fraser Township/Bay County-- Linwood Scenic Access Improvements	MI	The project will create new physical and visual access and shore-based fishing recreational areas for the public by improving an existing underutilized parking lot on Saginaw Bay. These targeted improvements will significantly expand regional ADA public recreational opportunities and provide direct access to Saginaw Bay where none currently exists in over 130 miles of shoreline. Improvements include 1) creation of a linear green space park area for passive, non-motorized public recreation by combining a narrow portion of the existing parking lot with a new, narrow expansion at the site for a designated, safe, non-motorized viewing area outside the traffic	\$300,000	\$150,000

		flow/parking lot. 2) Provide ADA recreational amenities, benches, picnic tables, viewing scopes and kayak launch, ADA pedestrian pathways 3) Seasonal, ADA accessible 50' roll-in fishing dock for shore-based fishing.		
St. Joseph Charter Township/Berrien County--Carronde Park Water Trail Connection & Fishing Platform	MI	Development of the 19 acre Carronde Park to add a water trail connection point on the St. Joseph River, an ADA compliant fishing platform, accessible kayak launch, accessible walkways, and parking. This development will provide the only ADA accessible public kayak launch along the St. Joseph River water trail in Michigan. All improvements will support existing recreation at the site and further Township goals of providing a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens regardless of ability.	\$400,000	\$200,000
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Livingston County--Lower Huron Metropark - Walnut Grove Campground Development	MI	Development of the Lower Huron Metropark campground with improved features and accessibility using universal design principles, to comprise: 1) six new campsites; 2) seven ADA campsites with concrete pads; 3) water and electric hookups to all sites; 4) accessible picnic tables throughout; 5) firewood storage shed; 6) playground upgrades; 7) wi-fi; 8) landscaping including fifty native tree plantings; 9) two drinking fountain/water bottle filling stations; and 10) parking lot improvements including removal of excess parking areas. Lower Huron Metropark is one of thirteen Metroparks owned and managed by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA). It is a 1,256-acre park located in Wayne County and situated on the Huron River. The project will provide improvements to a campground utilized by those traveling on the National Huron River Water Trail and the Iron Belle Trail, both of which have direct access to the campground. It is only one of two public campgrounds in Wayne County.	\$600,000	\$300,000
Town of Easton – Rehabilitation of the Easton Recreation Area.	ME	Their plan is to rehabilitate the site to more of a waterside park instead of public beach type park, adding playground components and improving the site overall. Their application was selected for funding in the last grant round but is awaiting design and engineering plans before submitting to NPS for review / approval and a project agreement. The rehabilitation of this site should improve quality of life, and given an added anti goose component, improve public health and water quality.	\$273,429	\$136,714
Town of Boothbay – Rehabilitation of Clifford Park	ME	The project includes rehabilitation of an existing park. The demand for playing fields for soccer and lacrosse is growing. Therefore, one field that is currently a combined baseball/multi-purpose field will be rehabilitated into a multi-purpose field. The current location of the playground will be rehabilitated into a new Little League field. A new pad for the playground will be built and the existing equipment will be relocated by the public works department. A new multi-purpose field will be built on land that is already cleared and graded. A pavilion will be built (new development) to serve as a concession stand and bathrooms. Water and sewer lines will be installed to serve the bathrooms and concession stand. Walkways will be paved around the playing fields to improve accessibility. There are bleachers at the baseball field now. The old bleachers will be replaced with new bleachers at all three of the playing fields so that spectators can watch games or other events taking place on the fields.	\$500,000	\$250,000
Town of Howland – Tannery Park	ME	The town vision for the larger site includes relocating the fire station and town offices to the site (town bonds to be issued); maintain a parcel along	\$552,658	\$270,500

		the road for retail development (private investment); extending and expanding the park up along the bypass channel; and building additional amenities including handicapped accessible paths, benches, lighting, a pavilion and bathroom facility (LWCF, PRRT, private foundations). Successfully implemented, the site will become the centerpiece of the Town of Howland's effort to re-invigorate local pride and ownership as well as attract more regional use of the area.		
Gorges State Park— Transylvania County	NC	Development of the Frozen Creek Access including parking, picnic area and trail connection.	\$1,076,661	Not specified
Chimney Rock State Park— Buncombe/Henders on/Polk/Rutherford Counties	NC	World's Edge Development including parking, picnicking and trail access.	\$650,000	Not specified
Bob's Creek State Natural Area— McDowell County	NC	Initial access including parking, restrooms and trails.	\$600,000	Not specified
Bluewater Trail and Trailhead project	NM	Would help complete one of the best mountain bike trail networks in the state – the Zuni Mountains Trail System.	Not specified	Not specified
City of Farmington-	NM	Expand outdoor recreation and lake access around their municipal lake.	Not specified	Not specified
Fisher Peak Area	NM	Shovel-ready trail system that would connect with another system that Colorado is building from the Trinidad side.	Not specified	Not specified
Capital to Tahoe Trail	NV	Capital City (Carson City, NV) to Tahoe Trail Construction of approx. 12 mi of new non-moto, multi-use, single-track trail connecting Carson City to Spooner Backcountry.	Not specified	\$247,368
Lamoille Summit Trail System	NV	Lamoille Summit Trail System Assist with the planning, design & flagging of a new, approx. 50 mi trail system between Elko & Spring Creek.	Not specified	\$47,325
City of Lebanon Old Mill Trail	OR	This project will build a fully accessible, concrete, public trail 4,100 feet long and 11 feet wide. Amenities include lighting, benches, natural play areas, interpretive signage, universal design standards.	\$ 923,573	\$ 261,065
Bend Park & Recreation District Drake Park Enhancement Project	OR	This project will create: A beach, ADA path to beach, ADA ramp into river, Fencing, ADA plaza, Seatwalls and bench, ADA trails and boardwalks, Stairway, Lighting, Riparian rehabilitation and protection	\$ 1,499,544	\$ 749,772
North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District Milwaukie Bay Park Project	OR	This project will develop 3 acres to complete Milwaukie Bay Park in Milwaukie with an interactive water feature, seat & retaining walls in amphitheater & throughout site, stage, site clearing/excavation/fill and landscaping	\$ 2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Jaycee Park— Manheim Township	PA	Rehabilitation and further development of Jaycee Park Manheim Township, Lancaster County. Work to include construction of a playground with	\$500,000	\$250,000

		required safety surfacing; ADA access, landscaping, site amenities, project sign and other related site improvements.		
Barrett Playground— Philadelphia City	PA	Further development of Barrett Playground, Philadelphia City. Work to include reconstruction of tennis and basketball courts, playfields; installation of playground equipment with required safety surfacing, exercise stations, ADA access, site amenities, landscaping project sign and other related site improvements.	\$1,605,360	\$750,000
Nall Field— Ridley Township	PA	Description: Rehabilitation of Nall Field, Ridley Township, Delaware County. Work to include renovation of ballfields; installation of lighting, fencing, dugouts, batting cages, rain gardens, ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.	\$500,000	\$250,000
Willoughby Acquisition	VT	The VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has the opportunity to acquire a critical inholding surrounded by Willoughby State Forest located at the southern end of Lake Willoughby. The approximately 20 acres will improve public access to the State Forest and the public's experience along the lake. The land connects to public land available for hunting and fishing and the more than 20 miles of recreational trails within and around the State Forest. The level of visitation and use is challenging the capacity of the land and infrastructure at one of the state's most treasured and iconic places. Adding this acreage with frontage along Route 5A will enable the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to better manage public access and sustainably buffer the lake.	\$800,550	\$387,500
Healthy Children, Healthy Community Playground Replacement	VT	Fair Haven is a rural community of 2900 residents with a per capita income of only 68% of the national average. The current equipment is approximately 30 years old and has become a hazard to children due to broken steps, severely corroded bridges and a broken slide. By partnering with the school, local businesses, and the PTO, the community as a whole are committed to replacing the equipment and are actively fundraising.	\$150,000	\$75,000
ADA Trail Development and Replacement	VT	Develop new ADA trails and make improvements to existing ADA trails in multiple locations throughout Vermont.	\$800,000	\$400,000
North Rainier Land Bank--City of Seattle	WA	The North Rainier Land Bank (NRLB) site is a development project that will create a 1-acre park in the Rainier Valley of Southeast Seattle: one of the most demographically diverse regions in the nation. In support of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) research (2017 Parks and Open Space Plan) SPR places a high priority on NRLB for its limited proximity to parks resources, limited walkability feature, and low representation within the equity, health, income, and poverty parameters of Seattle. The project goal is to enhance this dense urban, under-represented, residential and commercial neighborhood by create a community recreation and gathering space. The SPR has engaged in extensive community outreach efforts as it relates to NRLB and is enthusiastically responsive to these community and equity needs. This collaborative park will provide multi-use and generational activities, including picnicking, exercise and play: a Fitness Zone with exercise equipment for teens and adults, and will incorporate ADA access. The park will have open space in the form of a lawn, paths, planted areas, and trees that will provide some habitat, heat island mitigation, and climate resiliency. Green stormwater infrastructure will be incorporated in the park. NRLB represents an enormous community effort and responsive public process to the under-represented needs of Seattle's most diverse community in providing a well-rounded, multi-use park that serves the highest number	\$3,443,733	\$500,000

		of park users.		
Key Central Forest Parking--Pierce County	WA	Key Central Forest (KCF) is owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and managed by Key Pen Parks (KPP). The property was leased to KPP on a 50-year term in June 2011, with an option to extend the term another 50 years. KCF is a passive recreation area with soft/natural surface trails through a forested landscape that is home to an abundance of wildlife including black bear, deer, fox, cougar, very few invasive plant species and salmon species in Vaughn Creek. In September 2012, KPP purchased a long, narrow 4.89-acre property located along a public right-of-way abutting Wright Bliss Rd. The parcel runs along the KCF property line and was acquired with the intent of developing it into a future parking area. Current parking is only along the narrow 2-land Wright Bliss Road. The KCF is popular with hikers and a robust local equestrian community and over the last couple years, a group of dedicated volunteers have been developing an extensive trail system including several loops and two culvert bridges. The 480-acre KCF currently has no off-street parking and the new paved parking area on the KPP-owned parcel will include a one-way pull around and six trailer parking stalls, along with six car parking spaces. The plans also include trail head improvements such as a pit toilet facilities, where there are currently no restrooms of any kind.	\$350,000	\$175,000
Eagle Ridge Park Development— Snohomish County	WA	The Eagle Ridge Park development project comprises a portion of a 27.9 acre park in the north end of the city (2302 Soper Hill Road) -- just two miles from downtown Lake Stevens and easily accessible from State Route 9 and Soper Hill Road. Lake Stevens will use this development grant for an amphitheater/outdoor classroom, pedestrian circulation routes, lighting, interpretive learning, nature-themed playground, restrooms, parking (including buses for students), and landscaping. With the completion of this project, primary uses within the park will be recreation, education, hiking/walking, and the playground. An extensive planning effort with public input informed a 2010 master plan for the site. Proposal includes preservation and protection of wetland habitat that supports vital ecological resources and breeding nests for eagles. The park is home to protected areas including eagle habitats, riparian areas, mature forests and wetland complexes with native vegetation. The outdoor classroom brings a unique educational opportunity for students to learn about the natural environment while interacting with it. The installation of frontage improvements allows for increased walking access for the community and nearby Stevens Creek Elementary.	\$925,200	\$393,210
Burnham Park— Milwaukee Public Schools, Dept. of Recreation	WI	This project includes a large-scale renovation of Burnham Park, the only significant green space in a very low-income neighborhood on the south side of Milwaukee (44% of children in the neighborhood live in households with income below the poverty line). Scope components include conversion of degraded asphalt to green space, construction of a splash pad, new playground equipment, lighting, and other park amenities.	\$798,000	\$399,000
City Riverwalk Connector— City of Oshkosh	WI	This project includes construction of a trail along the Fox River, connecting the Eisenbahn State Trail, Tribal Heritage Crossing Trail, and the City of Oshkosh Riverwalk. The LWCF grant was part of a larger public-private partnership between the City and Oshkosh Corporation to renovate a closed municipal golf course into a joint public outdoor recreation amenity and corporate headquarters.	\$1,586,000	\$483,000
City of Sauk City— August Derleth Park	WI	This project included renovation of existing public parks along the Wisconsin River to include soccer fields, accessible restrooms, and other park amenities. August-Derleth Park connects with the Great Sauk Trail, also developed with LWCF assistance, which runs for ~8 miles, linking local communities and one of Wisconsin's most popular state parks (Devil's Lake).	\$1,374,000	\$458,000

