

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant Program **FY2024 Request:** **\$4,200,000**
Reference No: **32552**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40) **Contact:** Theresa Cross
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)269-6398

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The need for public outdoor recreation facilities continues to grow with Alaska's population. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides an opportunity for local, regional, or state applicants to receive up to 50 percent reimbursement of eligible costs for developing or upgrading such areas or facilities. This federal grant program was established by Congress under the LWCF Act of 1965 to provide a national legacy of high quality public outdoor recreation for current and future generations. In Alaska, LWCF-assisted projects include downhill ski areas, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant trails, neighborhood parks, rifle ranges, soccer and softball fields, and skate parks.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000		\$13,000,000
1003 GF/Match	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000		\$8,000,000
Total:	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$0	\$21,000,000

☐ State Match Required
☐ One-Time Project
☐ Phased - new
☐ Phased - underway
☒ Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required
☐ Amendment
☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec11 Ch1 SLA2022 P91 L9 HB281 \$4,200,000
Sec11 Ch1 SLA2021 P106 L3 HB 69 \$4,400,000
Sec8 Ch1 SLA2021 P75 L8 HB 69 \$5,652,655
Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P8 L5 SB142 \$600,000
Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P6 L16 SB23 \$600,000
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P124 L26 SB160 \$600,000
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2011 P92 L19 SB46 \$3,000,000
Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P31 L6 SB230 \$600,000
Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P15 L28 SB75 \$600,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal 50-50 matching grant program for development or acquisition of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) typically uses half of its annual federal appropriation for state park

projects, while the other half is granted to competing local governments (cities, boroughs, or tribes) for public outdoor recreation projects within their jurisdictions.

The mission of LWCF is to provide citizens with high quality public outdoor recreation opportunities in perpetuity. Each project provides short-term jobs in planning, construction, and management during the development phase, and long-term positive economic impacts with ongoing utilization of the park site. Fifty percent matching grants provide crucial funding that can make the difference between building or not building important outdoor recreation opportunities. These projects benefit the people of Alaska by providing both facility development and open space.

The DPOR is requesting receipt authority in order to utilize future annual federal apportionments statewide. The funding would be spent over the next five years. Most of these LWCF apportionments go toward local construction projects. With Alaska's short construction season, barge and delivery delays, a granting cycle which takes almost a year, and various other factors, three to five years is typical.

Current and future budgets are affected to the extent that Alaska State Parks or local sub-grantees incur expenditures and bill the National Park Service for reimbursements.

Due to the Alaskan economy, the federal LWCF apportionment amount may fluctuate unexpectedly year to year. States do not receive prompt notification of the expected amount until many months after the fiscal year has begun which makes planning for funding difficult.

The National Park Service's LWCF apportionment for Alaska is five times greater than the amount just a couple years ago. LWCF apportionments for public outdoor recreation projects are in-hand; grant opportunities for state or local communities are imminent, pending approval of additional receipt authority.

If this funding is not approved, both state and local entities will be denied the opportunity to receive federal financial grant assistance in developing or rehabilitating public outdoor recreation facilities such as children's playgrounds, boat launches, outdoor basketball courts, hiking trails, etc... The funding will lapse, and the state will lose out on these federal investments.

Line Item Detail

Line Item	Amount
1000 Personal Services	\$350,000
2000 Travel	
3000 Services	
4000 Commodities	
5000 Capital Outlay	\$2,650,000
7000 Grants	\$1,200,000
Total	\$4,200,000