

#I Can See LWCF FROM MASSACHUSETTS



The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is America's premier federal program that reinvests offshore energy revenue into conservation to ensure that we all have access to the outdoors. Whether it is a local community park or playground, or the vast expanses of our federal public lands, Congress created the LWCF over a half-century ago to guarantee America's natural, historical and outdoor recreation heritage.

TELL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ABOUT YOUR CONNECTION TO THESE LWCF PLACES NEAR YOU.

Project overviews courtesy of the LWCF Coalition. lwcfcoalition.com

Project Name/Unit: Cape Cod National Seashore (NPS)

LWCF Contribution: \$39.1 million

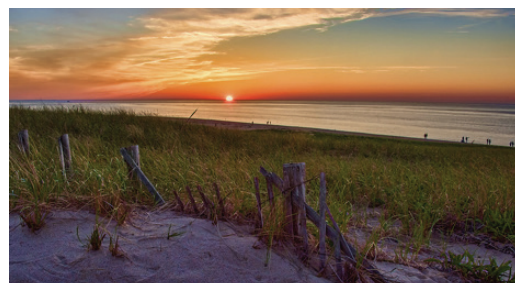
Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): recreation access, historic preservation, development pressure

Short Description: With over four million visitors a year, Cape Cod National Seashore is one of the most heavily visited units in the National Park system. The Seashore offers six swimming beaches, over 11 miles of self-guided nature trails, a variety of picnic areas, scenic overlooks, historic building tours, and many fishing opportunities. Due to the Seashore's tremendous popularity, privately owned and in this area faces significant development pressures.

Recently, with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the National Park Service was able to acquire an easement on the 58-acre North of Highlands Campground and purchase the historic Biddle Property. The purchase of the easement on the North of Highland campground will ensure that this pristine, privately owned, 58 acre primitive campground will remain available to the public forever. Fully surrounded by the Cape Cod National Seashore, the easement on this parcel filled one of the last large privately held inholdings, greatly easing management of the park and ensuring public access forever. In recent years, similar campgrounds have been sold for private homes, eliminating the public access forever.

The 10-acre Bound Brook property had been owned by the Biddle Family for generations but was being considered for subdivision and the development of large vacation homes. Thanks to an FY10 appropriation of the LWCF, the parcel and its historic homes were acquired by the NPS to complete the final inholding of the National Seashore and its 40 miles of beaches and coastline.

These acquisitions aren't just important for their own sake, they serve to strengthen the already powerful economic engine that is the Cape Cod National Seashore. Just a day-trip away from Boston, Providence, and millions of people on the east coast, the Cape Cod National Seashore is visited by more than 4.5 million people every year who spend more than \$185M per year at the seashore and in the surrounding communities and support more than 2,200 jobs.



Cape Cod NS
Credit: NPS/Karen Regan

Project Name/Unit: Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

LWCF Contribution: \$17 million

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): habitat conservation, water resource protection, recreation access

Short Description: Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is just 20 miles west of Boston and provides recreation access, as well as a critical stop for migrating birds. About 85% of the refuge's almost 4,000 acres is comprised of wetlands stretching along 12 miles of the Concord and Sudbury Rivers. The diversity of plant and animal life visible from refuge trails provides visitors with excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. Over \$17 million in LWCF funding has helped protect this resource for its annual bird visitors and nearby residents of the Boston metropolitan area.



Project Name/Unit: Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain Forest Legacy Project (Forest Legacy Program — state grant)

LWCF Contribution: \$7 million

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): working forests, habitat conservation, recreation access, drinking water protection, development pressure

Short Description: Quabbin to Wachusett (Q2W) is a landscape-scale vision to conserve a twenty-mile forested corridor from the shore of the Quabbin Reservoir to the peak of Mount Wachusett. Building on 4 previous Forest Legacy efforts, the FY14 Q2W projects secured 4,198 acres of exemplary managed forests, providing key linkages among 130,000 acres of existing conservation land located within the Interior Department's first and only "National Blueway" - a designation to protect natural resources of national importance. Q2W protected forests that play the primary role in a nationally recognized system providing clean drinking water for 2.5 million people of Metro-Boston. Forests in Q2W were prioritized for conservation in state and national assessments as critical for wood production and for supporting rural employment and sustaining a viable forestry economy. With a commute of 90 minutes or less to urban areas with over 7 million people, US Forest Service reports warn that these exceptional forests are highly threatened with residential development. A unique collaborative of 25 landowners, 7 towns, 4 land trusts, 1 watershed group, 2 state agencies and 1 university rallied to conserve 28 strategic Q2W tracts primarily with conservation easements.



Project Name/Unit: West Quabbin Woodlands Forest Legacy Project (Forest Legacy Program — state grant)

LWCF Contribution: \$2.8 million

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): working forests, drinking water, recreation access, habitat conservation

Short Description: The largest private landowner in Massachusetts nearly doubled the amount of their forestland under permanent conservation — adding 3,122 acres located west of the Quabbin Reservoir in the Connecticut River Valley and surrounding their conservation easement at Brushy Mountain. The West Quabbin Woodlands Project tracts, all owned by this single 9th generation landowner, promotes sustainable forestry, protect wildlife habitat, and guarantee public access for hiking, hunting, and fishing. The project also protected significant tracts of forest for drinking water supply, including approximately 1,250 acres within Amherst's municipal watershed and 640 acres within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, which supplies drinking water for 40% of the population of Massachusetts, including the City of Boston.

Project Name/Unit: Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) (includes CT, MA, VT, NH)

LWCF Contribution: \$33.6 million

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): recreation access, drinking water, connectivity

Short Description: This four state refuge encompasses the entire Connecticut River watershed, the longest river in New England. The refuge contains a wide variety of plant and animal diversity, with a particular focus on protecting habitat that benefits migratory fish, including the only freshwater fish in New England on the endangered species list, the shortnose sturgeon. Since 1998, more than \$33.6 million in LWCF funding has protected freshwater fisheries and clean air and water within the refuge.



Since it was created in 1997, the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge has conserved 834.58 acres in Massachusetts. From the beginning, the Conte Refuge has had a deep and abiding belief in working in partnership with the surrounding communities within all four states in the Connecticut River Watershed. They work in partnership with a wide variety of individuals and organizations to provide environmental education, to encourage and support appropriate habitat conservation and management on public and private lands, and to protect habitat. Land acquisition activities have resulted in the protection of key habitats for neotropical migratory birds, waterfowl, and threatened and endangered species. Through partnerships, the Service has reached across the watershed to support and encourage conservation and environmental education efforts by others. Additionally, the refuge has conducted conservation, education, and interpretation activities since the refuge was established, including the establishment of one partnership-based visitor center, a visitor contact station, and a variety of visitor contact points.

Project Name/Unit: Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NPS, USFS)

LWCF Contribution: \$10,889,000 across the entire trail

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): recreation access

Short Description: The “granddaddy” of the National Trails System is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail envisioned by Benton MacKaye in the 1920s and 1930s and stretching 2,180 miles from Georgia to Maine. The Appalachian Trail (AT) is a centerpiece of conservation efforts throughout the East. Acting as a spine that connects large tracts of forests, wilderness and more developed parkland, it traverses 14 states, runs through 88 counties, connects more than 75 public land units (federal, state and local) and has upward of 2.5 million visitors each year. The trail is managed and maintained by volunteers, providing substantial cost savings to federal agencies. To date, LWCF has helped protect nearly 200,000 acres of the highest valued lands within the Appalachian Trail corridor, from the birthplace of the AT in New York’s Bear Mountain State Park, to Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee, up the Blue Ridge Parkway to George Washington National Forest in Virginia and beyond. Recent trail protection projects at Crocker Mountain in Maine and Rocky Fork in Tennessee were funded in part through LWCF. Future projects are targeted in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Vermont to protect the remaining unprotected miles of trail and lands along its corridor.

Project Name/Unit: Minute Man National Historical Park (NPS)

LWCF Contribution: \$12 million

Keywords/Characteristics (eg. rec access, drinking water, consolidating maintenance): historic preservation, recreation access

Short Description: Commemorating the opening battle in the American Revolutionary War, Minute Man National Historical Park has received \$12 million in LWCF funding to preserve this important time in our history.

The acquisition of Barrett’s Farm by the National Park Service helped complete a process of several years. In 2009, legislation was passed to expand the boundaries of the Park to include Barrett’s Farm, the site of an arms cache that the British Soldiers were marching to confiscate as the Battles of Concord and Lexington broke out, heralding the start of the American Revolution. One of the strengths of the federal Land and Water Conservation fund is that not only is it important for conserving local parks, for trails, for beautiful pristine habitats, but it is the best tool we have for preserving our nation’s critical historical places. Massachusetts is in many ways the birthplace of our great nation and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a large player in ensuring that history is not lost. Minuteman National Historical Park is visited by more than one million people each year. Total visitor spending in the area is approximately \$52 million per year, supporting about 700 jobs in the local area.



Living History at Minute Man NHP
Credit: NPS

LWCF EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

TELL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS WHY THE FUND IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND HOW PROTECTING PLACES TO PLAY OUTSIDE DIRECTLY FUELS YOUR BUSINESS. #SAVELWCF