

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program

Fact Sheet

The LWCF Program is administered nationally by the U.S Department of the Interior- National Park Service. Annual appropriations of federal funds are made to the states to provide 50% matching grants for general public outdoor park, recreation and conservation projects. DCNR uses its LWCF appropriations for state parks and forests and for grants to political subdivisions. The Department will determine which grant projects will be funded through this funding source.

Projects funded through the LWCF Program must be identified in or further a specific goal of the (2009-2013) Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – “Pennsylvania Outdoors- The Keystone for Healthy Living”.

Eligible Applicants – Only political subdivisions (municipalities, municipal agencies), counties and school districts are eligible to receive LWCF funding. [Non profit organizations are **not** eligible applicants.]

Eligible Projects – LWCF funding may be used for development and/or land acquisition:

- **Development** – Grants may be made for any public outdoor recreation project. An eligible project such as a large scale recreation complex may include: swimming pools, tot lots, playfields and paved courts, as well as, the installation of utilities, park roads, landscaping, comfort stations and other support facilities related to the outdoor use of the project site. The applicant must own the site to be developed.
- **Land Acquisition** – Grants may be made for the acquisition of municipal park, recreation, conservation and open space lands, as well as, acquisition of natural and scenic resources, such as streams, floodplains, steep slopes, wetlands, forest lands, water resources, watersheds and botanical sites.

A Good LWCF project is:

- Previously funded LWCF site
- Single site development project with a total project cost of \$400,000 or more.
- Land acquisition project with a total project cost of \$400,000 or more.
- No environmental/historical/archeological issues
- Sites to be developed or acquired for public outdoor park and recreation must be maintained in public recreation in perpetuity.

Applicants must have demonstrated good grant administrative capacity and be able to provide additional application documentation as required for National Park Service approval.

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