

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program

Fact Sheet

The LWCF Program is administered nationally by the U.S Department of the Interior's 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 currently uses its LWCF appropriations 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 land acquisition or development.

- **Land Acquisition** – Grants may be for the acquisition of public municipal park, recreation, conservation and open space lands, as well as for acquisition of natural and scenic resources, such as streams, floodplains, steep slopes, wetlands, forest lands, water resources, watersheds and botanical sites.
- **Development** – Grants may be 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.

A Good LWCF project is:

- A previously funded LWCF site.
- A land acquisition or single-site development project with a total project cost of \$400,000 or more.
- One with 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.
- One where the grantee can accept financial reimbursement after the project is completed.
- One where the applicant is not required to start the project immediately as there is additional time and paperwork involved.
- One where applicants have demonstrated good grant administrative capacity.

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