

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Land and Water Conservation Fund

State of Alaska  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation



Answers are intended for general guidance to prospective grant applicants. Some of the information may refer to a specific grant cycle or may change with upcoming Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant cycles.

- **Who may apply for an LWCF grant?**

Eligible applicants include state, local, and regional entities (cities, boroughs, state and tribal governments) which have legal authority for public parks and recreation facilities.

- **What types of projects are eligible for LWCF grants?**

Projects which meet local and state priorities, as shown on page 53 of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) will be considered. See link to [Funding Priorities](#).

- **How much funding is available?**

Approximately \$1.2 million is available for award in combined LWCF allocations for FY15-16. Half may be used on eligible local projects, and the other half on eligible state projects. If the state project requests are insufficient, remaining funds may be used for additional local projects.

- **What are the minimum and maximum grant awards for these 50-50 matching grants?**

The minimum award for this grant cycle is \$25,000 (project at least \$50,000). The maximum award is \$125,000 (project at least \$250,00).

- **How many grants will be awarded?**

It depends on how many applications are received for eligible projects, as well as the amounts requested for each. In the past, as many as a dozen have been awarded statewide.

- **How much match is required?**

The LWCF program is a 50-50 matching reimbursement program. Project sponsors do not receive grant funds at time of approval. For example, if the sponsor requests \$50,000 in LWCF grant funds, they must "prove up" on \$100,000 of eligible costs. The sponsor may request reimbursement as often as quarterly, though, by submitting documentation of incurred costs.

- **What can serve as match?**

Cash, in-kind labor, goods and services, as well as volunteer time and donations may count as match, as long as each is adequately documented. However, donated land or other federal funding sources are rarely eligible as match. Check with the Division of Parks for further info.

- **When are applications due?**

Postmark or deliver by 5 pm on Monday, October 31, 2016 one hard copy and one electronic copy (on CD, DVD, or flash drive) of the application and all required attachments. Incomplete applications or those posted after the deadline will not be considered. E-mailed apps will not be accepted.

- **Which long-term commitments are associated with LWCF?**

If awarded an LWCF grant, the recipient/project sponsor agrees to dedicate and maintain the park or facility for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity, per Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act of 1965. Dedication may consist of placing such language on the real property title or deed. Recipient also agrees to conduct inspections at least once every 5 years and forward the inspection report to the State.

- **When are LWCF projects inspected?**

At least once every 5 years, the site which received LWCF investment shall be inspected by the grant recipient. This inspection may also be conducted by or in conjunction with State of Alaska or National Park Service staff. Inspection reports shall be forwarded to the State of Alaska LWCF grants administrator for compliance monitoring.

- **How does Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act affect a project?**

Section 6(f)(3) states: *No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall without approval of the Secretary [of the Interior] be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses.* Sometimes, though, there is no feasible alternative to converting a portion of an LWCF-protected property. In that case, the project sponsor must coordinate with State of Alaska and NPS LWCF staff to process a conversion of that property in whole or in part. Among myriad requirements in this process, the sponsor must locate, appraise and dedicate a “replacement” property of equal or greater current appraised value and recreational value.

- **What is a 6(f) boundary map?**

This map, developed by the sponsor, shows the area being placed under protection of the LWCF Act of 1965. The area within the 6(f) boundary map normally represents an entire park, and ensures that the area is and will remain a viable recreation unit. The 6(f) map should depict the following: North arrow, signature and date, defined boundary, acreage within the boundary, GPS corner points, latitude and longitude, or include legal descriptions, street names, mileposts, entrances into the park; any rights-of-way, easements, utility corridors, or non-public or non-recreational uses that should be excluded from 6(f) protection. The 6(f) map becomes part of the permanent grant file record within the State of Alaska and NPS. [See example here.](#)