



Frequently Asked Questions

Land and Water Conservation Fund



State of Alaska
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Answers are intended as general guidance to applicants. Some 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 (city, borough, state and tribal governments) that have legal authority for public parks and outdoor recreation facilities. Applicants must demonstrate control and tenure over the site and facility which will receive grant funding.

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

Eligible project types are addressed and prioritized in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), pages 48-51. [SCORP](#)

- **How much funding is available?**

Approximately \$1,500,000 is available for award during this grant cycle. Typically, half is designated for eligible local projects, and the other half for state projects. If state project requests are insufficient, remaining funds may be used for additional local projects and vice versa.

- **When are applications due?**

By 4 pm on Friday, November 9, 2018 postmark or deliver one hard copy and one electronic copy (on CD, DVD, or flash drive) of the application and all required attachments. Incomplete applications or those postmarked after the deadline will not be considered. E-mailed apps will not be accepted.

- **Are we allowed to request funding for more than one project?**

Normally we advise communities to select one project and put that forward. However, a community may put forward more than one, and state their priority. Each project would need a separate application package, and each would compete independently against any other proposals we received.

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

The minimum award for local projects in this grant cycle is \$25,000 (project at least \$50,000). The maximum award is \$250,000 (project at least \$500,000).

- **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?**

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

- **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 any other federal funding sources are rarely eligible as match. Check with the Division of Parks for further info.

- **What 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) of the LWCF Act of 1965. Dedication consists of placing such language on the real property title or deed. The recipient also agrees to conduct inspections at least once every 5 years and forward inspection reports to the State.

- **What does *in perpetuity* mean?**

It means forever. Accepting an LWCF grant obligates the sponsor to perpetual responsibilities.

- **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 be conducted by or in conjunction with State of Alaska or National Park Service (NPS) staff. Inspection reports shall be forwarded to the State of Alaska LWCF grants administer for compliance monitoring.

- **What is a “conversion” and 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, buy, and dedicate “replacement” property of equal or greater recreational utility and appraised value at current-day cost.

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

This map, created by the sponsor, shows the area being placed under protection of the LWCF Act of 1965 and dedicated to public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. The area within the 6(f) boundary normally covers an entire park or viable public outdoor recreation unit. The 6(f) map should depict the following: North arrow, legend, sponsor signature and date, defined boundary, acreage within the boundary, GPS corner points, latitude and longitude, street names, mileposts, and entrances into the park. It must also depict 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 a permanent grant file within State of Alaska and NPS records. ([See example map.](#))

- **What is a Letter of Commitment?**

A Letter of Commitment is a document from a willing seller of property or donor of materials, goods or services. The document demonstrates intent to perform a specific action on behalf of this project.

- **Why does the State of Alaska include an Administrative (Indirect) Cost in the project budget?**

The indirect cost, a percentage of the total project, helps defray the cost of administering LWCF projects, especially since the federal LWCF Act requires ongoing compliance and monitoring of these grant-assisted projects in perpetuity. The award, and an applicant's budget, must factor in the State's indirect cost.