

LWCF Program's FAQs

Answers are intended as general guidance to applicants. Some information may change with upcoming LWCF grant cycles.

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

Eligible project types are addressed in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2023-2027. Please refer to the region where your proposed project would occur and refer to the Public Land Managers & Tribal Survey Needs – Prioritized and Regional Needs: Prioritized links

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

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

What are the minimum and maximum grant awards for these 1:1 matching grants?

The minimum award for local projects in this grant cycle is \$25,000 (project at least \$50,000), and the maximum award is \$125,000 (project at least \$250,000).

How much match is required?

LWCF is a 1:1 matching, reimbursable grant program. Project sponsors do not receive grant funds at the 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 by submitting documentation of incurred costs and 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, if each is adequately documented. However, donated land or any other federal funding sources are rarely eligible as match.

What long-term commitments are associated with LWCF?

If awarded an LWCF grant, the recipient agrees to dedicate and maintain the park or facility for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. 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 and photographs to the State.

What is an LWCF boundary map?

This map, created by the sponsor, shows the area being placed under protection of the LWCF Act and dedicates it to public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. The area within the LWCF boundary normally covers an entire park or viable public outdoor recreation unit. The LWCF 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 LWCF protection. The LWCF boundary map becomes part of a permanent grant file within the SOA and NPS records.

Can we factor Contingency costs into our grant application budget?

If your budget includes a line item for contingency costs, you must include justifications, such as explaining the amount of 5-10% for escalating costs to purchase and ship materials to remote locations. Stating that a contingency line is included simply for unexpected or unforeseen circumstances is not acceptable.