

**Land and Water Conservation Grants for State Parks
Upgrades**

**FY2003 Request: \$1,000,000
Reference No: 35732**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance
Category: Development
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Jim Stratton
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)269-8701
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2004

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

More than any other state in the Union, Alaskans recreate outdoors. Outdoor recreation provides a wide variety of benefits including improved physical and mental health, activities for children to prevent delinquency, leadership and teamwork development, and economic opportunities for individuals and local communities. LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant program that provides funding for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities in state parks such as campgrounds, boat launches, trails, picnic areas, and public use cabins.

Funding:	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$500,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000		\$7,000,000
G/F Match	\$500,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000		\$7,000,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$14,000,000

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
50% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This 50/50 federal matching grant program was established through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) in 1965 to provide a nationwide legacy of high quality outdoor recreation. Projects ranging from wildlife viewing areas to neighborhood parks; from downhill ski areas to handicapped accessible trails; projects located in Alaska's most urban areas to our most rural have been funded through this program.

Project Description/Justification:

Whether park users are from Alaska or Outside, local communities benefit greatly from the economic impact of these people buying groceries, gas, fishing tackle, souvenirs, restaurant meals, showers, guidebooks, fishing guides, and sightseeing tours. But many campgrounds and other facilities were designed decades ago and are now worn out. Some campgrounds are simply too small for today's recreational vehicles. Resource damage is occurring because today's hikers, bikers and campers have developed different use patterns than the original park develop was intended. The need to fix or replace outdoor recreation facilities in state parks continues to grow as the existing park infrastructure gets older. A detailed summary of park deferred maintenance and ADA needs topped \$42 million last year. Land and Water Conservation Grants for State Parks Upgrades (LWCF) is a tremendous opportunity to provide up to 50% of the cost of projects that are important to the state park system.

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To continue attracting visitors, park facilities must be updated to meet the needs of today's users. The improved facilities will provide park visitors with safer and more enjoyable opportunities to benefit from the recreational aspects of the site. In addition, each project provides funding for local suppliers of materials needed for these improvements. Improved sites will increase user fee revenue to the state.

Specific Park Upgrades:

Lower Chatanika SRA Campground Improvements: This 1980's facility is heavily used by local Fairbanks residence for picnicking, camping, swimming, and river access. The project would upgrade the parking and road circulation, improve the swim beach area, expand the camping facilities, replace older toilet, provide interpretation signs, and construct a host cabin for site management. (\$350.0).

Kasilof River State Recreation Site Improvements: This site consists of a boat launch area with small, inadequate day-use parking area and an old campground loop. It is heavily use as the put-in point for drift boat salmon fisherman on the Kasilof River. This project would relocate the camping loop and entrance road, provide interpretation signs, and use the existing camping loop area for expansion of the day-use parking area. (\$350.0).

Eagle Beach SRA Upgrades: A TEA-21 transportation enhancement project is currently constructing a day-use facility at this site. Since transportation enhancement funds cannot be used to develop camping facilities, this project will provide a 15-unit campground adjacent to the day-use facility. The campground will provide facilities for smaller vehicle and tent campers. This site will be heavily used by local Juneau campers as well as visitors to the community. (\$125.0).

Nancy Lake SRA Toilet Replacement: Many of the toilets in Nancy Lake State Recreation Area were constructed in the 1970's and 1980's. They have exceeded their intended lives, are not accessible, smell bad, have leaky roofs and sagging floors, and need to be replaced. This project will replace six toilets with new accessible toilets. (\$125.0).

Parks Design & Construction - To facilitate this work, the Parks Design & Construction provides site planning, design, environmental work, and construction oversight. (\$50.0).

Project History:

Since it's inception, LWCF has provided over \$28 million dollars for 371 acquisition, development and planning projects located in approximately 60 communities & 45 state parks across Alaska. Matched with sponsor monies, this translates to over \$56 million dollars of improvements throughout the state. These improvements positively impact the health and well-being of Alaska's residents and natural resources, and also provide both short-term and long-term employment opportunities.

\$355.0 was provided to the program in FY01. \$790.0 was provided to the program in FY02. This was the first funding of this program since 1995.

Project Support:

LWCF projects are currently located in approximately 45 parks throughout the state – all of which benefit from prior LWCF spending. These improved facilities benefit the economy of local communities which, in turn, support park improvements. Specific groups include state park advisory boards, local convention and visitor bureaus, and chambers of commerce.

Project Opposition:

None known.