

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Grants for
Local Governments**

**FY2004 Request: \$675,000
Reference No: 32552**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development

Project Type: Construction

Location: Statewide

Contact: Nico Bus

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)465-2406

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2008

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

More than any other state in the Union, Alaskans recreate outdoors. Outdoor recreation opportunities are very important for Alaskans. This 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 to state and local governmental entities for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities such as soccer fields, campgrounds, tennis courts, boat launches, hiking trails, picnic areas, and outdoor hockey rinks.

Funding:	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$675,000	\$700,000	\$800,000	\$875,000	\$950,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000
Total:	\$675,000	\$700,000	\$800,000	\$875,000	\$950,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000

<input 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
0% = 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	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

- SSSLA02/CH1 - \$500,000
- SLA01/CH61 - \$1,600,000
- SLA00/CH135 - \$900,000
- SLA95/CH103 - \$500,000
- SLA94/CH4 - \$500,000

Project Description/Justification:

The need for outdoor recreation facilities in local and regional parks continues to grow with the population. LWCF is a tremendous opportunity to provide up to 50% of the cost of projects that are important to local governmental entities. 50% matching grants provide crucial funding that can make the difference between build/no build and acquire/not acquire valuable outdoor recreation sites. These projects benefit the people of Alaska by providing both facility development and open space. Projects range from close-to-home playgrounds to remote and undeveloped wildlife habitat. Each development project provides short-term jobs for planning, construction and management during the construction phase as well as continued long term positive economic impact from the ongoing operation of the park site.

Why is this Project Needed Now:

To continue to meet the growing recreation and open space needs of Alaskans, existing park facilities must be updated, new facilities developed and in some cases, property acquired to expand existing recreational opportunities. This program will help provide Alaskans with more plentiful opportunities to recreate in safe close-to-home facilities.

Prior Funding History and Status:

This 50/50 federal matching grant program was established through the LWCF Act 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; project located in Alaska's most urban areas to our most rural have been funded through this program.

Since it's inception, LWCF has provided over 29 million dollars for 375 acquisition, development and planning projects located in approximately 60 communities across Alaska. Matched with sponsor monies, this translates to over \$58 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.

\$394.5 was provided for local government grants in FY02 and \$619.5 in FY03.

Specific Spending Detail:

Various, dependent on applications. Spending is restricted to costs associated with the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation and open space.

Project Support:

LWCF projects are currently located in approximately 60 communities throughout the state – all of which benefit from prior LWCF spending. These communities, other governmental entities that would like to participate in the program, as well as the user groups they serve support LWCF.

Project Opposition:

None Known

State Match Required:

No. Match provided by local government grant winners.

Annual Ongoing Operating and Maintenance Costs:

Local government grant winners assume all M&O responsibilities.