

PARKS Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Grant Program **FY2022 Request: \$5,652,655**
Reference No: 32552

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Parks / Recreation
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Cheri Lowenstein
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal 50-50 matching grant program for development or acquisition of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Each project provides short-term jobs in planning, construction and management during the development phase, and long-term positive economic impacts. The State of Alaska typically uses half of its annual federal appropriation for state park projects, while the other half is granted to competing local governments (cities, boroughs or tribes) for public outdoor recreation projects within their jurisdictions. Recently, the apportionment for LWCF and a related fund through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) have increased dramatically.

| Funding: | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1002 Fed Rcpts | \$3,500,000 | \$3,500,000 | \$3,500,000 | \$3,500,000 | \$3,500,000 | | \$17,500,000 |
| 1003 G/F Match | \$2,152,655 | \$2,152,655 | \$2,152,655 | \$2,152,655 | \$2,152,655 | | \$10,763,275 |
| Total: | \$5,652,655 | \$5,652,655 | \$5,652,655 | \$5,652,655 | \$5,652,655 | \$0 | \$28,263,275 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <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"/> Ongoing |
| 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 |

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P8 L5 SB142 \$600,000
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P6 L16 SB23 \$600,000
 Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P124 L26 SB160 \$600,000
 Sec1 Ch17 SLA2011 P92 L19 SB46 \$3,000,000
 Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P31 L6 SB230 \$600,000
 Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P15 L28 SB75 \$600,000

Project Description/Justification:

The need for developing and assuring access to quality public outdoor recreation areas and facilities continues to grow with Alaska's population. The Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides an opportunity for local, regional, or state applicants to receive up to 50 percent reimbursement of eligible costs for developing or upgrading outdoor recreation areas or facilities. Grant funds are also available

to the state for fulfilling the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation planning requirements of the program.

This federal grant program administered by the National Park Service (NPS) was established by Congress under the LWCF Act of 1965 to provide a national legacy of high quality public outdoor recreation for current and future generations. In Alaska, LWCF assisted projects include downhill ski areas, ADA compliant trails, neighborhood parks, rifle ranges, soccer and softball fields, and skate parks. Projects in urban as well as remote areas (e.g., Bethel, Hoonah, Barrow) have received LWCF assistance.

Fifty percent matching grants (1 to 1 match) provide crucial funding that can make the difference between build/no build for important outdoor recreation opportunities. These projects benefit the people of Alaska by providing both facility development and open space. 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 utilization of the park site.

The outdoor recreation industry is an important component (4.2 percent) of the overall Alaskan economy, contributing \$3.2 billion in spending that supports 22,500 jobs. 81 percent of Alaskans participate in outdoor recreation activities (tied for first with Montana), with 58 percent saying opportunities for outdoor activities are a reason they live here.

The FY 22 Capital Budget Request for LWCF seeks \$3,500,000 in federal receipt authority, \$402,655 in required state match for indirect administration costs, and \$1,750,000 in required state match for state project grants, for a total request of \$2,152,655 in state funding. Typically, one half of LWCF projects grants are state projects, and the remaining half is allocated to city, municipal, borough and tribal government project grants.

With the passage this summer of the 2020 Great American Outdoors Act, which mandates funding of the LWCF state assistance program, Alaska can anticipate an annual allocation of approximately \$3.5 million of funding in the foreseeable future. Access to the project grant funds requires federal receipt authority, 1 to 1 state match for indirect administration costs that includes a state LWCF grant administrator and current statewide comprehensive outdoors recreation plan (SCORP), as well as 1 to 1 match for state project grants. Other local government applicants have to provide for the 1 to 1 match funds for project grants.

Sample of recent Alaska based LWCF Project Grants for State and Local Governments, with LWCF federal match indicated.

| Grantee | Project Name | Federal Share \$ | Grant Scope |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough | Dudley Tennis Courts: Rehab | 52,250 | Resurface tennis courts and pedestrian walkway with asphalt. Improve existing perimeter drainage. |
| City of Bethel | Pinky's Park Improvements | 125,000 | Develop high tunnel, boardwalk, trails, and |

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| | | | multi-use field. |
| Metlakatla Indian Community | Cedars Trail Extension | 50,000 | Extend trail from new housing area to Yellow Hill. |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | Tanana Lakes Rec Area, IV | 91,550 | Install new play equipment, ADA and accessibility upgrades, etc. |
| Municipality of Anchorage | Duldida Park Upgrades | 133,023 | Install new play equipment, ADA upgrades and accessibility, safety surfacing, walkways, landscaping, etc. |
| Metlakatla Indian Community | Cedars Trail, Phase 2 | 37,485 | Add 1.5 miles of trail to existing 4 miles of trail. Connect with other trails. Use raised board walk or gravel as necessary. |
| Municipality of Anchorage | Jewel Lake Playground | 125,000 | Add new play equipment, safety surfacing, seating, ADA and diverse disability equipment. |
| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | Chilkat State Campground Upgrade | 60,000 | Rehab campsites, campground roads, improve drainage. |
| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | Izaak Walton Water Well | 35,000 | Replace water well in SRS in Kenai River Spec Mgmt. Area. Include signage about water safety. |
| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | South Denali Trails | 168,268 | Develop several miles of new trails in South Denali State Park. |
| City & Borough of Sitka | Crescent Harbor Playground | 124,998 | Add new play equipment, safety surfacing, ADA and diverse disability equipment. |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough | Grandstand Cover & Booth | 107,100 | Install grandstand cover & scorekeeper's booth at Drencey Dudley Ball Field. |
| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | Denali State Park Interp Trails | 148,000 | Add 1,800' of new trail, create outdoor amphitheater, install interpretive signage. |
| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | Matanuska Lake Campground | 141,025 | Convert overflow parking area into additional camping spaces. |
| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | Captain Cook Shelter | 22,500 | Replace picnic shelter in Discovery Campground. |

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| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | Eagle River Campground | 124,175 | Improve boat retrieval site; bank restoration; add fire place for use in group shelter. |
| State of Alaska: Div. of Parks | Eagle River Nature Center Trailhead | 157,150 | Improve and increase parking at ERNC. Design for future expansion in this popular and highly used area. |

| Line Item | Amount |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| | (use whole dollars) |
| 1000 Personal Services | \$850,000 |
| 2000 Travel | \$100,000 |
| 3000 Services | \$60,000 |
| 4000 Commodities | \$15,000 |
| 5000 Capital Outlay | \$2,857,655 |
| 7000 Grants | \$1,770,000 |
| Total Request | \$5,652,655 |