

Developing and ensuring access to quality public outdoor recreation areas and facilities is a growing need for 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.

LWCF’s mission is to provide citizens with high quality public outdoor recreation opportunities in perpetuity. Each project provides short-term jobs in planning, construction and management during the development phase, and long-term positive economic impacts with ongoing utilization of the park site. Fifty percent matching grants 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.

DPOR is requesting both the receipt authority to utilize the State’s annual federal LWCF apportionment and the necessary State match for indirect and project costs. The State match funding would be spent over the next five years. Only State, regional, and local government agencies are eligible to apply for LWCF grants. With Alaska’s short construction season, barge and delivery delays, a granting cycle which takes almost a year, and various other factors, three to five years is typical to complete a project such as this.

Current and future budgets are affected to the extent that Alaska State Parks or local sub-grantees incur expenditures and bill the National Park Service for reimbursements.

The FY23 Capital Budget Request for LWCF seeks \$2,600,000 in federal receipt authority, \$300,000 in required State match for indirect administration costs, and \$1,300,000 in required State match for State project grants, for a total request of \$1,600,000 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 deferred maintenance at \$70 million for Alaska State Parks, LWCF is an important tool that leverages limited State funds to better address rehabilitation and code compliance of State infrastructure and improving access to State parks.

The federal LWCF apportionment amount may fluctuate unexpectedly year-to-year. States do not receive prompt notification of the expected amount until many months after the federal fiscal year has begun. So, planning for the funding is difficult. With the passage of the 2020 Great American Outdoors Act, which mandates funding of the LWCF State assistance program, Alaska can anticipate an annual allocation of approximately \$2.5 million of funding in the foreseeable future.

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

Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Grant Program FY2023 Request: \$4,200,000
Reference No: 32552

			existing perimeter drainage.
City of Bethel	Pinky's Park Improvements	125,000	Develop high tunnel, boardwalk, trails, and 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, and ADA and diverse disability equipment.
State of Alaska: Div. of Parks	Chilkat State Campground Upgrade	60,000	Rehab campsites, campground roads, and 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, and 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 feet of new trail, create outdoor amphitheater, install interpretive signage.
State of Alaska:	Matanuska Lake	141,025	Convert overflow parking

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Div. of Parks	Campground		area into additional camping spaces.
State of Alaska: Div. of Parks	Captain Cook Shelter	22,500	Replace picnic shelter in Discovery Campground.
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 (ERNC)	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	\$350,000
2000 Travel	
3000 Services	
4000 Commodities	
5000 Capital Outlay	\$2,650,000
7000 Grants	\$1,200,000
Total Request	\$4,200,000