

Land and Water Conservation Fund *Giving Back to You and Your Community*



Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia.
Photo: National Park Service

Preserving our History

Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia

Preserving America's heritage by protecting the sites where American stories of personal struggle and hope have unfolded is the central mission of many National Park System units, from Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site to Gettysburg National Military Park. Although these historic and cultural landmarks are widely valued by the American public and welcome millions of visitors each year, many more important historic and cultural sites remain unprotected and at risk.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the main legislative funding tool available to preserve these special places. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been active in preserving our nation's history through investment in projects, including the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho, one of the ten Japanese internment camps that tell the story of the single largest forced relocation in United States history. In addition to these and other important sites that capture the story of 20th century history, Land and Water Conservation Funds have supported the protection of sites important to preserving and interpreting early American history, including the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and our most wrenching conflict of brother against brother, the Civil War.

In 2014 in the heart of Virginia, 285 acres were preserved using Land and Water Conservation Fund at Richmond National Battlefield Park, which figured prominently in the 1862 Seven Days Battles. This property marked the site of Robert E. Lee's first major victory as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia and radically shifted the strategic initiative in Virginia in favor of the Confederacy. Had Land and Water Conservation Fund not become available to enable the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the property, development of this hallowed ground was an imminent threat. Bringing this land under the care and management of the NPS will protect these historic resources for generations to come.

 **Keeping Our History Alive**



880,000 JOBS
are created through
recreation activities on
your federal lands ¹

For every **\$1** spent on the
LWCF, communities receive
\$4 in **ECONOMIC**
BENEFIT ²



The LWCF has invested in
community projects for
EVERY COUNTY
in the United States ³

The LWCF uses **ZERO**
TAXPAYER DOLLARS



ABOUT Land and Water Conservation Fund

Using zero taxpayer dollars, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) uses earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help preserve our history and protect our lands. LWCF is a balanced approach between using and preserving our natural resources, while giving back to American communities.



Telling the American Story

Telling the American story through our cultural and historic sites helps preserve our heritage for future generations. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a vital tool in preserving the resources fundamental to our rich and storied history, from Native Americans to the Civil Rights movement.

Nez Perce National Historical Park, Montana

Following the outbreak of war in Idaho, nearly 800 Nez Perce spent a long and arduous summer fleeing U.S. Army troops. Forty miles short of the Canadian border following a five-day battle and siege, the Nez Percé ceased fighting at Bear Paw, where Chief Joseph gave his immortal speech: "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever." In 2005, Land and Water Conservation Fund preserved this historic site that helps tell the story of the Nimiipuu people.



Nez Perce participant at Big Hole Battle Memorial. Photo: © KL Heagen Photo

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Texas

Four of the five Spanish frontier missions in San Antonio are home to this park. The last remaining piece of the Mission Concepción was purchased in 2013 with Land and Water Conservation Funds. Working with a friends group and other interested parties, a new walking trail network will be constructed on this property linking the mission and the river, improving access for the local community and protecting the viewshed of this historic place. Four churches within San Antonio Missions National Historical Park are active Catholic parish churches. Many parishioners today are direct descendants of the mission Indians who built the churches.



Mission Concepción
Photo: National Park Service

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, Kansas

The story of Brown v. Board of Education, which ended legal segregation in public schools, is one of hope and courage. When the 13 Topeka parents on behalf of their 20 children agreed to be plaintiffs in the case, they never knew they would change history. In 1992 President Bush signed legislation establishing the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. The Land and Water Conservation Funds were used to purchase the school that now operates as an interpretive center illustrating the integral role that the Brown v. Board of Education decision played in the civil rights movement.



Nettie and Nikie Hunt on steps of U.S. Supreme Court in 1954. Photo: Library of Congress

The National Park Service has identified more than **1,900** sites where cultural and historic resources are at risk and in need of protection. The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to protect these national treasures.



¹ Federal Interagency Council on Recreation, Fact Sheet on Outdoor Recreation: Jobs and Income, 2014.

² The Trust for Public Land, Return on the Investment from the Land & Water Conservation Fund, 2010.

³ LWCF NPS Grant Program, <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/lwcf/history.html>, retrieved 2014.

⁴ Secretary Jewell Announces Historic Expansion of Richmond National Battlefield Park Utilizing Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Park Service Press Release, July 10, 2014.