

Meeting the Needs of New Jersey:

Providing Access to Public Places for Recreation & Health

State-side Land and Water Conservation Fund is A key component to the solution.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a visionary program established by Congress to preserve, develop and assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources for active participation in recreation and “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States. “

New Jersey has received \$116,006,324 for 304 projects to assist state and local park and recreation facilities over the past 40 years.

In New Jersey the state has identified an unmet need for state LWCF dollars of \$726,210,000, which is a gap of 100% from what the state will receive out of the 2005 LWCF dollars.

Source: National Park Service –State Assistance Program 2005 Annual Report as reported by each applicable State.

Zeroing out the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund this year will create an even bigger gap for New Jersey in the years to come.

New Jersey continues to grow in population in 2004 and saw an 8.9-percentage growth in the last decade according the U.S. Census Bureau, creating new demands for places to recreate.

Centers for Disease Control reports are showing New Jersey residents are above average in physical inactivity rates. New Jersey ranked 40th in the U.S. in highest rate of adult obesity at 20.3 percent, according to *F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies are Failing in America, 2005*. It ranked 37th in the U.S. in highest rate of obese and overweight adults combined at 57.8 percent.

Support for the stateside of LWCF will help provide safe accessible places for New Jersey residents to become more active and start on a path of reversing the downward health trends. LWCF is a proven program with broad support and plays a valuable role in strengthening community public health.

Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program



Rigorous scientific studies from across different age groups, communities, and across a variety of park and recreation services are documenting how important park and recreation services play in creating active and healthy communities.

Findings show:

- Those active users of public parks have a lower body mass index than did people who use parks passively or not at all.
- Citizens who had better access to parks, visited parks more frequently and engaged in physically active park behaviors also made fewer visits to the doctor.



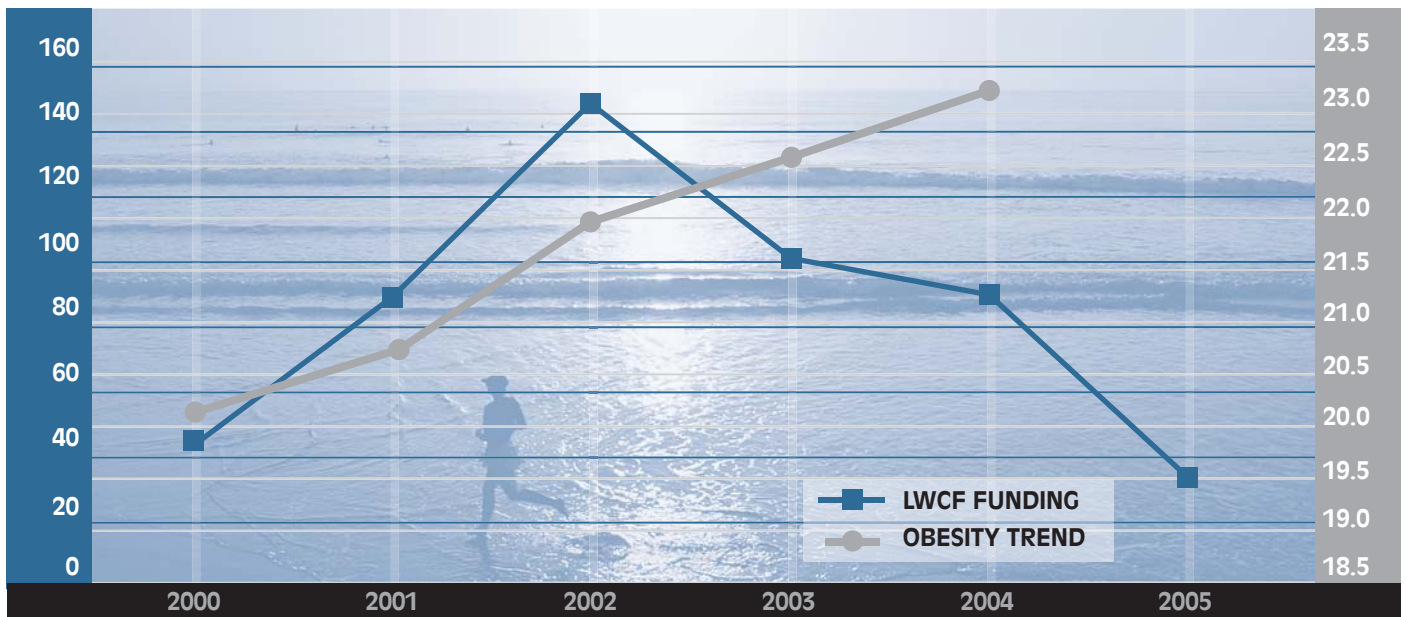
PHOTO: National Park Service

“The good news is that obesity and its co-morbidities are preventable through healthy eating — nutritious foods in appropriate amounts — and physical activity... we are working together to reduce barriers to physical activity at the community level and to provide opportunities for increased physical activity. We need parks and recreational facilities within a short walk or ride from people’s homes.”

—Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H, FACS
 United States Surgeon General
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

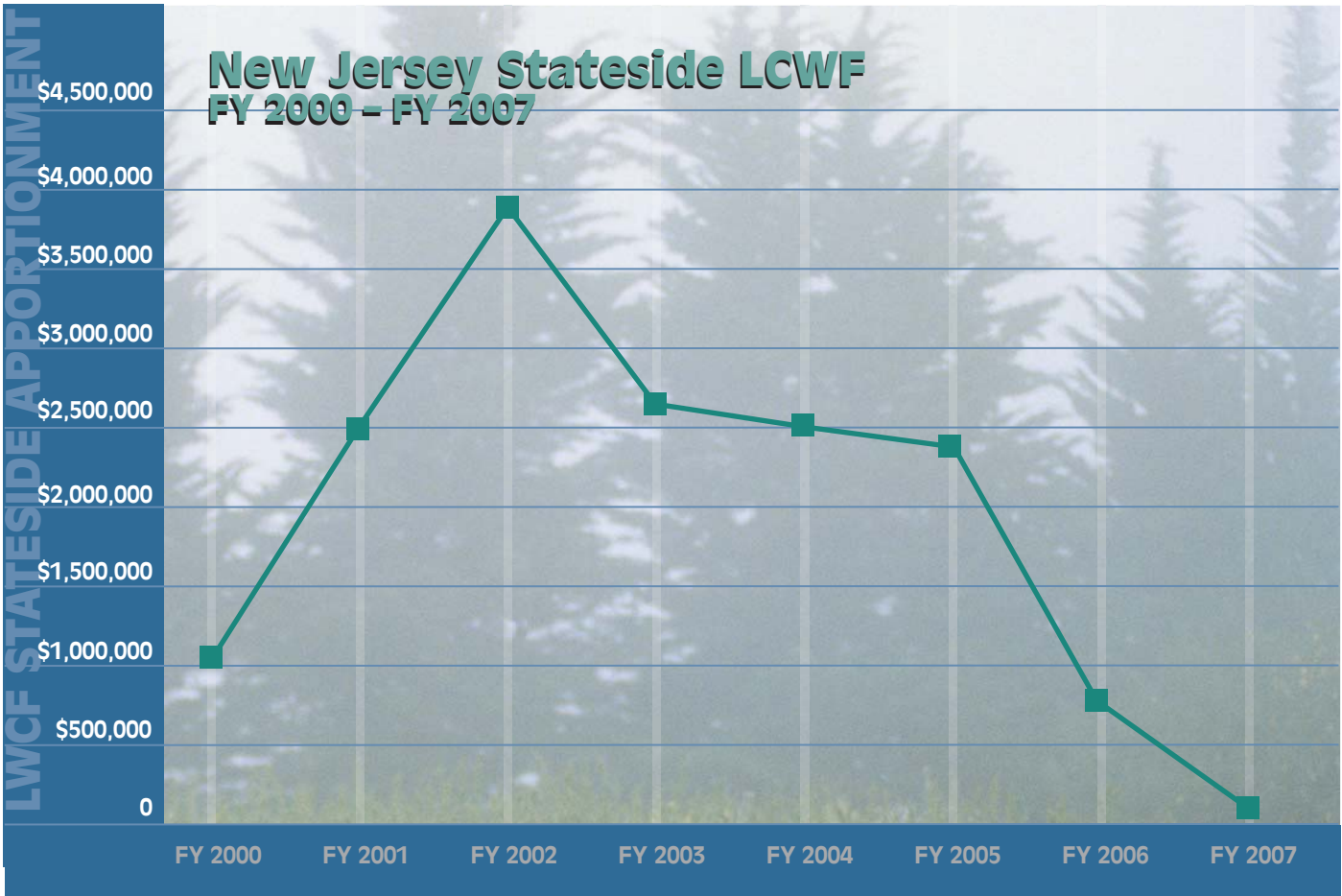
Health statistics demonstrate a greater need for citizens to become more active and health conscious. The need to provide accessible public state and local park and recreation facilities becomes even more important. For over 40 years the statewide of LWCF has provided parks, trails, baseball and soccer fields from urban to rural communities.

The chart below illustrates that the nation is headed up in bad health trends, and down in providing LWCF resources that can assist our state and local communities in providing public places for our citizens to become more active.



Source: LWCF statewide funds are represented in millions of federal dollars provided by the National Park Service.

Source: CDC Adult Obesity Rates Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey



State-Side Land and Water Conservation Benefits

Provides Communities with Recreation & Physical Activity Spaces

“Outdoor Recreation offers a solution to the pressing problems of obesity and inactivity... Traditionally, outdoor recreation was synonymous with the backcountry. But as Americans battle the inactivity crisis, and outdoor enthusiasts increasingly seek activities that can be done before dinner, close to home recreation opportunities are more important than ever,” Frank Hugelmeyer, President of Outdoor Industry Association.



PHOTO: National Park Service

Protects Parks Forever

In 2005, a total of 19,300 new acres were made available through acquisition and donation for recreation use and enjoyment. In many communities these acres mean brand new parks and recreation facilities. In 2005 350 new and existing park sites received LWCF protection for the first time.

New Jersey projects funded by stateside LWCF dollars in 2005

- Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area, Cape May, (2)
 - Long Meadow Unit – Highlands Preservation, Morris, (11)
 - Mountain Top Unit – Highlands Preservation, Morris, (11)
 - Pepperidge Tree Unit – Highlands Preservation, Morris, (11)
- (Projects lists by county; number in parentheses refers to congressional district.)

13 projects for a total of \$15,706,997 have been apportioned to New Jersey out of stateside LWCF funds since FY2000.

National, State, and Local Elected-Officials Call for Access to Parks and Trails through LWCF

U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senators

152 Congressional Representatives and 50 United States Senators have pledged support in 2006 for restoring \$100 million — average appropriation for the past five years — to the stateside grant program. The elected-officials note “Because the LWCF has been so effective over its 40 year history in creating new opportunities for parks and recreation, and continues to be essential to improving the health of the American people. We urge you to restore \$100 million to the LWCF stateside grants program. April 7, 2006

Governors

The National Governors Association opposes the elimination of the stateside portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and has adopted a new agenda- Healthy America to promote environments that support physical activity and healthy eating. The governors support full funding of stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund, and providing access to safe local resources such as parks and trails.

Mayors

The National Conference of Mayors supports Congress restoring funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund’ stateside program at no less than the \$100 million and that Congress fund the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program at no less than \$30 million. To view the full resolution adopted, 2005, visit www.usmayors.org.

NASORLO (Liaison officers appointed by state governors)

National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers NASORLO Resolution of Support for the stateside Land and Water Conservation Program includes:

Whereas, in 2004 the Land and Water Conservation Program assisted the states in creating 87 new parks, and developing new outdoor recreation facilities in 420 parks, protecting in perpetuity an additional 14,610 acres for public outdoor recreation, and enhancing 572 local and state parks and;

Therefore be it resolved, NASORLO supports, through unanimous affirmation, the continuation of funding for stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program at a level not less than the 2005 allocations awarded by the National Park Service.

Approved in 2006-2006.

For Further Information about the State-side Land and Water Conservation Fund please contact:

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The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), a nationwide non-profit organization composed of citizen and professional members, has advocated for the Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program since its inception more than 40 years ago, which coincidentally was the same year that the modern NRPA was chartered. NRPA has been a staunch supporter of the LWCF stateside program and has led a nationwide campaign to ensure that this valuable program annually receives full funding.

Yvonne Ferrell, Executive Director
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL LIAISON OFFICERS (NASORLO)
208-384-5421

NASORLO The National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Officers is an organization of fifty-six gubernatorial appointed state and territorial officials working across the nation to provide places for outdoor recreation through the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

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Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) was founded in 1989 and provides trade services for over 4000 manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, sales representatives and retailers in the Outdoor Industry.

The O'Brien Group and NMO Design, Inc. assisted in the 2006 Meet the Need project.

The project is funded through a generous grant by the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Officers.