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Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grants

Round 7 Competition Expected Requirements



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Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF)



State Formula Grant
Program

ORLP Nationally
Competitive Grant
Program



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Basics of LWCF State Assistance Grants



- State and Federal *Partnership*
- Projects solicited and selected by State Lead Agencies.
- Subgrants to eligible subgrantee (aka project sponsor).
- Dollar-for-dollar non-federal cost-share, reimbursable grants

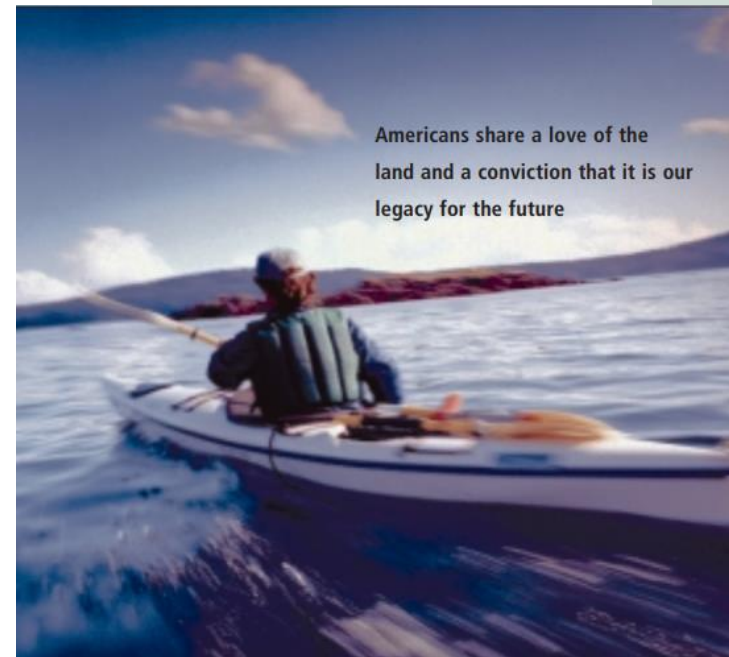


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Basic Requirements for LWCF Funding

- State must have an approved State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Projects must align with SCORP priorities.
- All must be maintained and accessible for public outdoor recreation use **in perpetuity.**



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ORLP Program Goals and Purpose



Directly connect people in **URBAN, DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**, with outdoor recreation by creating new or rehabilitating parks and other outdoor recreation areas.

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Outdoor Recreation Project Types

Allowable

Hiking, biking, camping, swimming, fishing, paddling, field & court sports, **pools**, playgrounds, outdoor exercise courses

Support facilities: restrooms, concession stands, parking sidewalks/paths if part of larger recreation project.

Unallowable (ORLP)

Community centers

Farmer's markets

Transportation corridors

Projects solely for support facilities



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ORLP Project Eligibility Requirements:

- Urban – Incorporated city/town with a population of 30,000+ per 2020 US Census.
- Disadvantaged – Census tracts identified as such by the Community Environmental Justice Screening Tool.



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Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool

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← ↻ 🏠 <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5> 🔍 ⭐ 📄 ☆ 🗂 🌐

🇺🇸 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) 🌐 [English](#) [Español](#)

This tool has been updated. The 1.0 version of the tool was released on Nov 22, 2022.

 Climate and Economic Justice
Screening Tool

[Explore the map](#) [Methodology & data](#) [About](#) [Contact](#)

[Share data sources with CEQ](#)

Get the data ↓

Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the [downloads](#) page.



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CEJST – Burdens

- Climate
- Energy
- Health
- Housing
- Legacy Pollution
- Transportation
- Water/Watershed
- Workforce
- Development
- Tribal Lands

Housing

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

Experienced [historic underinvestment](#) OR are at or above the 90th percentile for [housing cost](#) OR [lack of green space](#) OR [lack of indoor plumbing](#) OR [lead paint](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

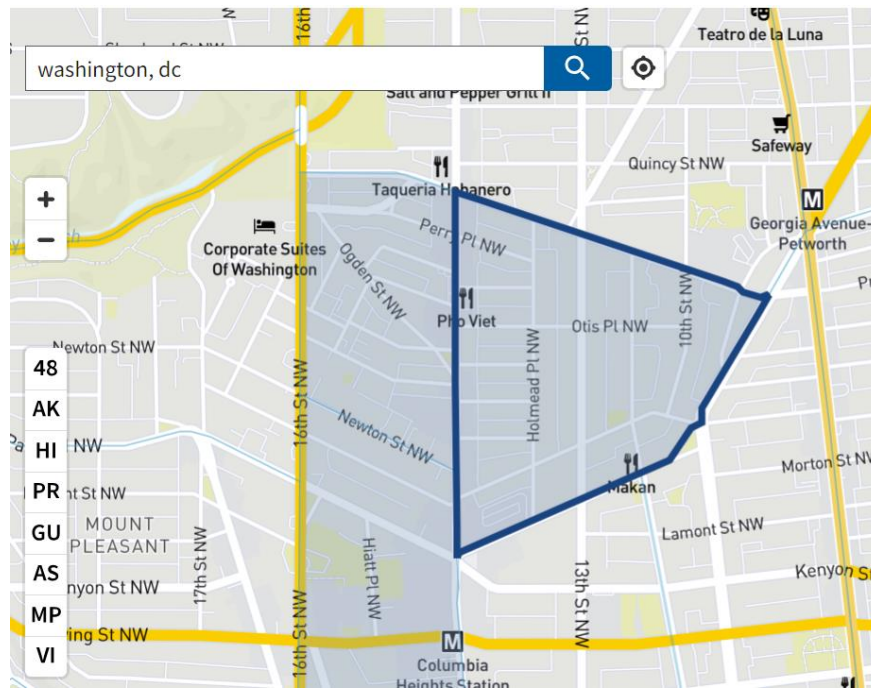


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CEJST – Disadvantaged Communities Map

- Disadvantage census tracts shown in gray on Map



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CEJEST – Categories of Burden

Tract information

Number: 11001002900
County: District of Columbia
State: District of Columbia
Population: 4,416

Tract demographics

Race / Ethnicity ([Show](#) ▾)
Age ([Show](#) ▾)

Identified as disadvantaged?

 **YES**

This tract is considered disadvantaged because it meets 1 burden threshold **AND** the associated socioeconomic threshold.



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ORLP: Grant Round 7 Basics

- Funding opportunity posted on <https://www.grants.gov/> and on ORLP website <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/outdoor-recreation-legacy-partnership-grants-program.htm>
- Due date in funding opportunity is date State application is due to NPS. State's deadline to select projects will be earlier.

Contact your State's lead agency for information on their solicitation process and requirements.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/contact-list.htm>



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ORLP: Grant Round 7 Expected Funding

- Total amount available depends on Congressional actions.
- It's expected that applicants may request between **\$300K and \$15M** in federal funds to match at least an equal amount of non-federal share.



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Subgrantees/Project Sponsors

- Only eligible project sponsors may submit a proposal to the state for consideration as part of national competition.
- A project sponsor must be a public agency (city, county, special purpose district).
- Other groups should partner with the state or an eligible project sponsor on projects.



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ORLP Priority Round 7 – Natural Based Parks

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Because green and blue spaces, and tree canopy help to cool the air, reduce pollution, and have positive effects on mental and physical health, it's expected that **nature-based park projects will earn a 5-point bonus.**



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ORLP Round Criteria:

100 Points

Each applicant must respond to two criteria, each worth 50 points. The review panel will use the responses to score the application. Applicants should respond to **every** criterion priority listed in the funding opportunity.

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ORLP Round 7 – Merit Criteria Focus

- Disadvantaged Community outreach and involvement in development of project.
- Collaboration among the public and private sectors.
- Strong initiatives, policies, and/or incentives, to protect the area from gentrification.



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ORLP Round 7 - Technical Excellence Criteria:

- Alignment with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- Ability to break ground within one year of grant and completion project 2 to 3 years after.
- Detailed, reasonable, justified budget estimate.
- Management of grant and project by qualified, experienced teams.



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ORLP Round 7 Application Process

- State Liaison Agency solicits proposals for ORLP projects.
- State Agency selects and submits an abbreviated LWCF proposals to the NPS national competition.
- NPS review panel evaluates and makes recommendations for selection to NPS Director for final approval.
- State works with selected project sponsor(s) to prepare and submit a full and final application package for NPS final review. **Funding determination is not final until the full, final application is reviewed by NPS.**



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Completed Project: Comiskey Park, Dubuque, IA - \$508,000



- Full rehabilitation including splash park and all-inclusive playground
- Multiple funding sources including \$508,000 ORLP grant, \$100,000 Wellmark Foundation Large MATCH grant, and a \$25,000 from a Ground Up grant.

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Completed Project Thomas Cully Park Portland, OR \$500,000

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- New 25 Acre Park on former landfill
- restore habitat, scenic overlooks, off leash dog area, accessible playground, walking trail with exercise equipment, scenic overlooks, off leash dog area, inter-tribal Gathering Garden (open to the public), and a youth soccer field



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In Progress Project

Soldier's Park Aquatic Center, Rochester, MN - \$5,000,000

Funding for:

- Lap pool
- Diving pool
- Toddler pool
- Splash area
- Pool house
- Playground
- Trail connections
- Picnic shelter



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Recap - State Formula vs ORLP, Part 1

State Formula	ORLP
<p>Funding Max/Min</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Determined by State based on their annual allotment	<p>Funding Max/Min</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Est. \$15,000,000 Max, \$300,000 Min
<p>Community Served</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">No requirements	<p>Community Served</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be disadvantaged per Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool
<p>Population Requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">None	<p>Population Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Must be, or represent, a city of 30,000 or more per 2020 Census

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State Formula vs ORLP – Part 2

State Formula	ORLP
Competition <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Competition	Competition <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Competition
Community Involvement/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not required	Community Involvement/Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integral from initial planning through implementation
Limit # of grants per site: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No limit	Limit # of grants per site <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 ORLP grants per site/park

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How to Write a Good Proposal

- **Read the funding opportunity**
- Focus on the ORLP funded project work
- Use application templates & checklist
- Be clear and honest, support declarative statements
- Provide consistent information throughout the application
- Keep reviewers in mind
- Submit all docs as PDFs



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Document Good Community Planning and Support

- Public Hearings?
- Community engagement, partnerships, coordination
- Get letters of support.
- Planning should be far along.



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Avoid Common Unallowable Costs

- Acquisition appraisals, title work
- Operations and maintenance activities
- Facilities for semi- or professional teams
- Indoor facilities supporting non-outdoor purposes
- Equipment and supplies made outside of USA (BABA)
- Work outside the proposed project boundary
- Preservation of historic resources
- Pre-award costs (except some project planning costs)

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Sample Project Planning Costs

- Site Investigation and Selection
- Site Planning
- Feasibility Studies
- NEPA and Historical/Cultural compliance
- Architectural/Engineering Plans
- Community Engagement
- Pre agreement costs may not have been incurred more than 3 years prior to submitting a final application.



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Additional ORLP Restricted Costs – May Not Exceed 25% of Budget

- Overall management of activities directly related to finance, and
- General grant administration costs.

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Federal Share As Match

Rarely allowable but exceptions exist:

- HUD - Community Development Block Grants
- DOT-Federal Highway Administration's Recreation Trails Program.
- DOD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (**REPI**)

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Budget Narrative Reminders

- Be very detailed
- Justify costs – use tools & experienced estimators
- Cost increases
 - No additional federal funds can be awarded
 - Contingency funds should be included for cost increases



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Prepare a Proper Timeline:

SMART Objectives & Milestones and Measures

- **S - Specific**
- **M - Measurable**
- **A - Attainable**
- **R & T - Relevant Time-bound/Milestones**



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Project Timeline: Milestones

Sign grant agreement	Jan 2026
Complete 100% plans	Feb 2026
Bid project	March 2026
Sign Contract	Apr 2026
Construction begins	July 2026
Construction completed	Aug 2026
Final Inspection completed	Aug 2026
Project/grant closeout	Sept 2026
Park grand opening	Oct 2026



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Performance Measures – Ex: Trail Project

Executed grant agreement	1
No. of contracts signed	2
Total sq. ft. of new path paved	2,400
Total sq. ft. of path repaired	3,600
Number of picnic shelters installed	8
Acreage. of native landscaping laid	3
Annual reports submitted	1
Final reports submitted	1



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ORLP Project Site Boundaries

- Entire site within boundary must be protected for outdoor recreation use in perpetuity and must encompass the entire recreation area, not a lesser area (such as the project area).
- Area within boundary must be self-supporting
- Area within boundary must result in a recreation area.



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Sample Boundary Map

LWCF Park Boundary Map



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Provide a Clear Map of All Site Features

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SITE PLAN

SLIVER BY THE RIVER
BRIDGEPORT, CT



Must:

- Do not submit large plan files
- Must align with other application documents



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General Letters of Support

Disadvantaged community and partners.

Letters from Congress and State officials must be included with application.

Discuss benefits of the ORLP specific project.

Letters of Match Commitment

Dated and on letterhead.

State value and type of donation.

State date funds will be available for use or when in-kind will be used.

Must align with what it is the project budget and narrative.

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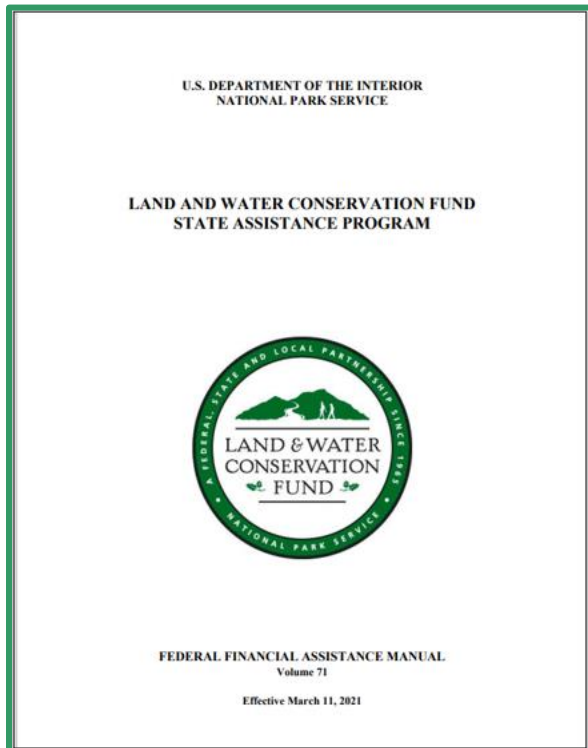


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Where to find Answers to Questions for Many Questions:



- LWCF Manual - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/upload/LWCF-FA-Manual-Vol-71-3-11-2021-final.pdf>



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QUESTIONS?

Contact Your State Lead Agency

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/contact-list.htm>

ORLP_Inquiries@nps.gov

Ginger Carter, Grant Mgmt Specialist

Susan Broeksmit, Financial Assistance Lead

