**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

**Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP)**

**Funding Opportunity**

In 2014, in coordination with Congress, the Secretary of the Interior, State lead agencies, and interest groups, the National Park Service created the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, a competitive grant program administered under the authority of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act as a compliment to the formula grant program. On July 29, 2022, the NPS released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for Round 6 of the ORLP. The NPS announced the availability of funding appropriated by Congress totaling up to $192 million dollars.

The purpose of the ORLP Program is to provide new or significantly improved recreation opportunities in economically-disadvantaged communities, consistent with the purposes and requirements of the LWCF Act and LWCF Manual, and that:

* meet recreation goals as identified in, and align with, at least one priority of, the State’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (<https://adeca.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021-Alabama-SCORP.pdf>).
* are located within or abutting an incorporated city (or town) having a population of 30,000 or more, and
* serve the specific needs of a community(ies) that is (are) severely lacking in walkable, publicly accessible, outdoor recreation (park deserts\*), and that has a poverty rate of at least 20% or that is at least 10% higher than that of the project city, county, and state rates.

\* For the purposes of this competition, for a community to be considered a “park desert,” there must be:

1. no existing parks within a .5-mile radius of the community(ies) to be served by the park (not the radius of the proposed park); or
2. one or two small parks within a .5-mile radius of the community(ies) that is/are not large enough to support the size of the population of the service area, or otherwise unable to provide a variety of recreational opportunities; or
3. one or two existing parks (potentially of adequate size), including the park that is being addressed in this project, that is/are so obsolete or underdeveloped that a major redevelopment or rehabilitation is necessary to be able to significantly increase the number of people or user groups who could be served in a way that would be equivalent to a new park; or
4. existing parks that are inaccessible to the target community due to physical barriers such as transportation infrastructure, rivers, etc.

The competition will prioritize the selection of projects that:

* provide new recreational opportunities, particularly those that will increase access to nature’s benefits, such as green spaces, shady areas (via tree cover), and natural landscapes that help cool the air and reduce urban heat island effects, reduce pollution, and have positive effects on mental and physical health;
* empowered and engaged members of the target community in the project development and design of the plans for the park;
* create or expand public-private partnerships that leverage matching share resources (e.g., money or donations of land, supplies, or services, etc.);
* benefit from a high degree of coordination among the public, multiple levels of government, and the private sector; and
* advance goals of, or meet, priority recreation needs identified in numerous local, regional, state plans and/or initiatives.

For a project to be eligible the sub-recipient must be an incorporated city (or town) of at least 30,000 people. If the subrecipient is a county or special purpose district, the project must be serving a city or town of 30,000 or more people. The park or recreation area must be within, or abutting, the city or town.

Recipients with an active ORLP grant may apply for one additional grant to supplement the existing active project or another project at the same park. A recipient who has been awarded an ORLP grant for a project at one park may also submit additional applications for ORLP projects at different parks.

**In the interest of ensuring a wide distribution of LWCF-ORLP funds and addressing the needs of communities that are under-served due in part to financial constraints, parks that are currently receiving or received an LWCF formula grant that closed within the last seven years may not apply for an ORLP grant at the same park, even if the scope of the project is different.** Additionally, ORLP projects that were awarded and terminated during the grant period may not reapply for funds.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs’ (ADECA) Recreation and Conservation Programs will be accepting applications for funding through 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. It will be necessary to submit a notice of intent to apply for funding to ADECA no later than 12:00 P.M. on Friday, January 27, 2023.

**Please note that this program is a completely separate program and application process from the annual Land and Water Conservation Fund program.**

**Eligible Applicants:** State agencies, local units of government, and Federally

recognized Indian Tribe representing a jurisdiction of at least 30,000 people

**Eligible Projects:**       Acquisition and/or development of public parkland

**Available Funds:**      $192 million dollars available nationwide

**Grant Amount:**         Applicants can request between $300,000 and $10,000,000

**Required Match:**      Grants require a minimum of 1:1 match from state, local, or

Private sources.

**Proposal Deadline:  12:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 1, 2023**

**Anticipated Award Date:** January 1, 2024

**How to Apply:**          State ORLP Grant Application link can be found at <https://adeca.alabama.gov/lwcf/>

**Questions:**               For more information, contact Joseph Ponder at (334) 242-

5612 or joseph.ponder@adeca.alabama.gov.